

Summary of Key Issues 20th August 2007
Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Executive

The Children and Young People's Partnership Executive meets on the third Monday of every month. Minutes of the meeting are available from the Partnership Co-ordinator Carol Hambling (tel: 0191 2777481 or email carol.hambling@newcastle.gov.uk).

Participation with Children and Young People nick.brereton@newcastle.gov.uk

The C&YPSP Executive received a progress report about the participation strategy with children and young people. There are now 46 organisations with membership of Investing in Children including new membership for Walker Technology College and Newcastle Independence Network. A participation group has been established with social care to assist in reshaping services. Evidence of young people participating in decision making is growing stronger with examples such as the U Decide participatory budgeting pilot which is cited as good practice in the national strategy: Aiming High for Young People. Kids Can Choose gave children a voice in deciding the portfolio of play projects for the Big Lottery Fund. A group of young people are working to extend the leisure opportunities for young people with a disability have agreed a pilot with the City Council to increase access to integrated leisure activity. Further information is available in the "Participation Matters" newsletter.

The Economy and Leith Report alan.wallace@lsc.gov.uk

A presentation about the recent report into the long term skill needs of the UK economy suggested that UK prosperity is driven by high rates of employment rather than high productivity levels. The skills base is weak by world standards and there is to be a renewed emphasis to improving the skills of people who are already in the workforce. Although there has been improvements young people's participation in education and training it still lags behind that of OECD partners.

Neighbourhood Renewal Funding kerry.corbett@newcastle.gov.uk

The C&YPSP Executive discussed the arrangements for NRF which included 33 projects with a focus on young people in Round 3 and an investment of £5,676,506. An announcement about NRF Round 4 will be made in October 2007. The NRF team are currently undertaking succession planning which will develop a priority ranked list of current NRF projects to help to define future funding needs to sustain those projects. The C&YPSP Executive agreed that all commissioning for children including NRF should be authorised by the C&YPSP Executive.

Children's Fund Shirley.chambers@barnardos.org.uk

The C&YPSP Executive received the report of the Children's Fund Manager re future funding. The Executive Director of Children's Services has received confirmation of the extension of the Children's Fund for a further 3 years at the existing level of £987,075 per year for Newcastle. The funding will be directed at early intervention and prevention with particular emphasis on improving school attendance, improving children's self esteem and preventing young people becoming involved in offending. The locality managers will lead the commissioning process for the grant and will work with the Children's Fund Partnership to commission services for the full 3 year period of April 2008 to 2011.

Interim Funding Overview Shirley.chambers@barnardos.org.uk

The C&YPSP approved the overview report which details funding streams that are ending or significantly changing in March 2008 and the potential impact this will have on services. The total funding identified was £8,493,057 and most is dependent on the decisions reached in the Comprehensive Spending Review. The information will be shared with commissioners for early intervention and prevention, children's centres, parenting support, youth services and health to assist their decision making.