

Summary of Key Issues 16th April 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).

Early Intervention and Prevention Approach paula.smith@newcastle.gov.uk

The C&YPSP Executive approved the approach to early intervention and prevention outlined in the report. The approach uses the "windscreen model" to illustrate the relationship between levels of need and services. The commitment to early intervention was established in the Newcastle Plan for Children and Young People and will be delivered through locality working.

Workforce Reform becky.dunn@newcastle.gov.uk

The C&YPSP Executive received an update on the progress of the workforce reform strategy which is being delivered via the Transformation Programme. Progress includes the first phase of implementation of the Common Assessment Framework, a pilot of an integrated induction course involving staff from a variety of agencies, development of a database to identify training available in the voluntary sector and good practice guidance for involving young people in the recruitment of staff. Resources to deliver the workforce strategy will be subject to further discussion between partners. The priorities for 2007/8 include further roll out of integrated processes such as the common assessment framework and information sharing, ensuring all staff and volunteers who work with children have the necessary skills (known as the common core of skills and knowledge) and strengthening safeguarding practice by, for example, delivering the on-line safeguarding course.

Anti-Social Behaviour in Schools mick.dunn@newcastle.gov.uk

A draft Anti-social Behaviour Strategy and a protocol for managing anti-social behaviour in schools were considered by the C&YPSP Executive prior to further consultation with practitioners and young people. The strategy and protocol have been developed in conjunction with Northumbria Police following piloting in schools. The C&YPSP Executive identified further work to ensure that both documents demonstrate a positive approach to young people and the engagement of young people directly in their development.

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

The C&YPSP Executive received the report "Learning the Lesson" from the Children's Fund In Newcastle. Ring fenced funding for the Children's Fund, which provides preventative services for children aged 5 to 13 years in Newcastle will end in March 2008. All projects will experience a significant loss of capacity and may be threatened with closure unless funding is provided from other sources. Projects are exploring alternative funding sources. Funding for the whole of children's services in 2008/9 is not yet known but the C&YPSP Executive confirmed that the report will inform the commissioning decisions that are made later in the year.

Connexions s.morgan-evans@connexions-tw.co.uk

A progress report on the transition of Connexions to the Local Authority by March 2008 highlighted the progress made by the local steering group but that no decisions had yet been reached about services that are currently delivered centrally to the five Tyne and Wear Authorities. The Connexions Team in Newcastle has exceeded the target for the number of young people not in education, employment or training.

Aiming High for Children: Supporting Families

The above report which describes how services for children and young will develop is available at www.hm-treasury.gov.uk and follow links for spending review or contact Carol Hambling. The report outlines the action Government will take to raise the life chances of all young people by building resilience and providing support at an early stage when problems arise and assesses the most effective ways to support families with the poorest outcomes. The reviews of support for families with children disabilities and for youth services will report later this year.