

Developing Integrated Working in Localities

During the week of 26th November the Area Locality Managers organised a series of Locality Network Events. The events were held in four venues across the City covering the East, Central Riverside, North Central and Outer West and North localities. Over 360 people attended and participated as practitioners from a variety of backgrounds and services came together. These included schools, health services, neighbourhood services, education welfare, police, arts development, family learning, educational psychology, community development, children's centres, libraries, regeneration and a wide range of voluntary sector organisations amongst others.

The main focus of the event was to think about some of the main barriers that prevent children and young people from achieving their full potential and to look at the contribution that the agencies involved can make, together, to overcome these barriers. With a focus on early intervention and prevention, the aim was to allow organisations and agencies to work together at the events to consider how we can work collectively to prevent problems and issues emerging in the lives of children and young people. Workshops at each event looked at data and information related to a number of key Every Child Matters outcome indicators and delegates had an opportunity to decide on priorities and shape a set of locality specific action plans. The results of these 'Turning the Curve' sessions will be used to inform the work of Locality Partnerships.

The first meetings of Locality Partnerships will take place in January 2008 and this represents the start of locality based arrangements for joint needs assessment, service planning, decision making and consultation through the participation of children, young people, parents and carers.

Full reports and evaluations from the events are currently being collated and will be disseminated in the New Year. Initial feedback from the events has been largely positive and demonstrates a huge enthusiasm amongst practitioners and partners to work collaboratively to improve outcomes for children and young people in Newcastle.

The Area Locality Managers would like to thank all Children's Services and external colleagues that assisted in events organisation, workshop facilitation and other roles at the events, and everyone that participated and contributed.

To find out more about developments in integrated working and locality partnerships please contact the Area Locality Managers:

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