

## **Children's Trust Monthly update – October 2010**

### **Children's Trust Officer in post!**

I finally started as Children's Trust Officer on 6<sup>th</sup> September after coming back from maternity leave. Prior to this I worked with the Youth Service and the Connexions Service in Newcastle. I'm slowly getting round to meeting and catching up with people that are important in the world of the Children's Trust and will be continuing to do this for some weeks to come. If you want to get in touch with me directly I am available on 0191 2115304 or [louise.appleby@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:louise.appleby@newcastle.gov.uk).

### **Update on national changes to Children's Trust**

In April this year Children's Trusts were given statutory status, meaning that each Local Authority was obliged to have a formal set of arrangements that promoted cooperation between agencies working with children, young people and their families. We also had to have a single outcomes led vision for children and young people, and had to develop integrated delivery, strategy, planning and commissioning.

With the arrival of the new coalition government this year came the announcement that Local Authorities were no longer obliged to have Children's Trust arrangements, schools were no longer obliged to cooperate with any Children's Trust and the Children and Young People's Plan no longer had to be produced.

### **The future of Children's Trust in Newcastle?**

Members of the Children's Trust Board have indicated, as have wider members of the Children's Trust, that they are keen to continue with a partnership focussed around improving outcomes for children and young people, despite the removal of the Children's Trusts' statutory status. There is a belief in the legacy of positive work and strong relationships in the city, which is important to retain and build upon.

The removal of the statutory status and national governance dictating how partnerships should look and work has not deterred us from the review of Children's Trust Governance that has been happening this year. There will be a Performance Management and Resources Group, and instead of 5 Every Child Matters outcome groups there will be 3 groups reflecting Children and Young People Plan priorities of Safe, Equal and Achieving. Once finalised this information will be distributed.

### **Children's Trust Board – September 2010**

- Climate Change Strategy – Adrian McLoughlin, Climate Change Advisor, spoke about the Strategy and what it means for Newcastle. Specifically within the 'Newcastle Climate Change Declaration' there is a statement around 'Giving all our children the opportunity to learn about the causes and impacts of climate change and encourage them to take positive action to reduce carbon emissions and help create sustainable local communities'. At a later meeting it was acknowledged that the Enviro Schools programme was

delivering against this statement. For more information please contact [Adrian.mcloughlin@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:Adrian.mcloughlin@newcastle.gov.uk)

- Achieving Economic Well Being – Ian Lane, Head of School Improvement, gave an update of progress against Achieving Economic Well Being National Indicators. Progress has been made against a number of indicators, and Newcastle is pleased with the continuous improvement in Level 3 performance Post 16, and Level 2 performance at Key Stage 4 in schools and Newcastle College. One risk area is the number of 16 – 18 year olds not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), where improvements have been made locally but where Newcastle is performing poorly against other Local Authorities. There is also still concern that the NEET figures show numbers relating to young people educated in Newcastle rather than those who were resident. Achieving Economic Well Being currently incorporates 11 National Indicators, however it is proposed to incorporate a further 12 local indicators. It was noted that the National Indicators are likely to be rationalised in the next few weeks. For more information please contact [ian.lane@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:ian.lane@newcastle.gov.uk)
- Domestic Violence – Lesley Storey, Domestic and Sexual Violence Co-ordinator, updated the Board on the development of the ‘Together we can end Violence against Women and Girls Strategy’. This is being progressed in Newcastle with a focus on prevention, and a Strategy will be ready for consultation in April 2011. It was acknowledged that there is good work in this area in Newcastle, particularly around protection of high-risk victims and the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). Lesley also spoke about restructuring the Domestic Violence and Abuse Partnership (DVAP) which will become a Strategy Delivery Group within the Safe Newcastle Governance arrangements. John Collings as Chair of the Children’s Trust volunteered to sit on this group. There has been some awareness raising work done around Domestic Violence issues and young people as perpetrators as well as victims however it was felt that more work was needed. It was also acknowledged that 70% of referrals into Children’s Social Care are linked to Domestic Violence. For more information please contact [Lesley.storey@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:Lesley.storey@newcastle.gov.uk)
- Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS – Consultation. Andy Roberts, Joint Health Commissioner, spoke about the White Paper and has begun formulating a response as part of the Children’s Be Healthy Partnership. For more information please contact [Andy.roberts@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:Andy.roberts@newcastle.gov.uk)