

Children's Services Newsletter

December 2009

Introduction from John Collings, Executive Director of Children's Services (acting)

As the year comes to a close, I am delighted that Ofsted have recognised the good progress that is being made in Children's Services and the improving outcomes for children and young people in Newcastle.

The Children's Services Annual Assessment outlines some very positive stories – a very large proportion of childminders and childcare settings are good or better; an above average proportion of secondary schools are good or better compared with similar areas and nationally; and performance against national indicators is much improved and are in line with or above similar areas and national averages, most significantly in Staying Safe and Enjoy and Achieve. Fostering and adoption agencies are good and the Authority has successfully reduced the proportion of 16 to 18 year olds not in education, employment or training.



As a Children's Trust we still have some important challenges ahead if we are to further improve the lives and achievements of children and young people. However, with such a strong commitment from all partners to achieve better I am sure we can continue to go from strength to strength.

We are already working on those areas that Ofsted identified for further development and we are well-placed to build on this rating in the coming year.

I would like to personally thank all of you for your efforts in the last twelve months and invite you to join me at a seasonal 'mince pie' reception on Friday 18 December. Our festive celebrations will be held in the Main Hall at Springfield Conference Centre from 12.15 pm to 1.30 pm. Please let Tina Lisle know if you are able to attend - by phone 0191 277 7481 or email: tina.lisle@newcastle.gov.uk.

Seasons greetings to you all and best wishes for a relaxing break over Christmas and New Year.

John Collings

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities strategy 2010-13

The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) strategy 2010-13 sets out a vision and range of practical actions centred around 5 Priority aims:

- 1) To improve outcomes for vulnerable groups of children and young people
- 2) To ensure the early and timely identification of children and young people's needs.
- 3) To deliver services for children and young people in an inclusive way.
- 4) To ensure there is a range and choice of local, high quality accessible provision.
- 5) To provide services in a way that is consistent with best value principles and which match resource to defined need.

The SEND strategy builds on the previous SEN / Inclusion strategy. It has been informed by an extensive process of consultation with parents / carers, children and young people and other key stakeholders. This work was undertaken between January and December 2009. The strategy has been validated by the following partnerships and stakeholders.

- Children's Trust Board
- Schools
- SEND Outcomes Partnership
- Children with Disabilities and SEN management Partnership
- Enjoy and Achieve Partnership
- Be Healthy Partnership
- Voluntary Services Partnership

The strategy is currently being consulted upon including with those parents/carers and children and young people who were instrumental in its preparation. Once approved by the Children's Trust Board the strategy will be communicated to all schools, settings, and relevant partners and parents / carers.

For more information contact Jonathan Caswell, Lead Specialist practitioner (Additional Needs) and Principal Educational Psychologist. Deadline for final comments in 17 December.

www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk

HPV immunisation update

After the successful rollout of the HPV immunisation programme in September 2008 to all 12- to 13-year-olds in school, further young women in Newcastle are being offered opportunities to get a vaccine to protect them against cervical cancer.

17 and 18 year old young women are being asked to make their appointments now for clinic sessions taking place at St James' Park. And the vaccine is now also being offered to girls born on or after 1 September 1991 and before 31 August 1997. The majority of girls who fall within this age group will be receiving their vaccinations in school, for those who are no longer in school they can receive their vaccines at St James' Park football ground or at local vaccination clinics.



For more information visit: www.immunisation.nhs.uk

Be Healthy

Who am I? Introducing Dee

Dee (Denise) Ford is the Project Manager in Children's Services who has been appointed to promote and roll-out two online questionnaires called the 'NHS Baby LifeCheck' and the 'NHS Teen LifeCheck' across the Newcastle area.



What is NHS Baby LifeCheck?

This is an on-line questionnaire that can be accessed through the 'NHS Choices' website: www.babylifecheck.co.uk by parents and carers of babies aged between 5 to 8 months. It provides information and support that helps them to keep their babies happy, healthy and safe. The toolkit covers baby's development, talking and playing together, feeding and healthy teeth, baby safety, sleep routine, immunisation and becoming a parent/carer.

What is NHS Teen LifeCheck?

This online questionnaire can be accessed through the 'NHS Choices' website: www.teenlifecheck.co.uk by young people aged between 12 and 15 years. The toolkit covers topics such as being active, healthy eating, drugs and solvents, alcohol, smoking and safe sex. It also includes a range of topics relating to feelings - about self, bullying, being healthy, someone to talk to, home life, feeling safe and crime.

How do you make a difference?

LifeChecks can offer support to parents/carers as they sometimes just need reassurance that they are 'doing things right'. For young people it can offer support on adopting positive life style choices by being healthy, active and raising their self-esteem. The LifeChecks also offer a range of useful information by signposting people to national and local services that can give further help and support where needed. On a local level it does this by directing them to the Newcastle Family Services Directory: www.newcastlefis.org.uk

How did you get into this role?

I had worked as a Project Manager in the NHS for over 10 years mainly within an Information Technology remit and this involved rolling out technical projects for GP surgeries, Primary Care Trust and Hospitals. In conjunction, quite some years ago I qualified as a Part-Time Youth & Community Worker and for 17 years I really enjoyed working with young people. Unfortunately due to family commitments and full time work responsibilities I eventually had to give up my Youth work job to concentrate on home life and my career. When this job came along it really appealed to me as it afforded the opportunity to combine both experiences of which ideally I had wanted to do for some time. So I took the opportunity to move back into a project management post that had more of a people orientated work focus and was really pleased when I got the job.

What are the challenges?

Partnership working needs a lot of drive and commitment that involves key stakeholders from various organisations. These may have different ways of working and cultural backgrounds, however generally my experience of working within a strategic partnership has been very positive. Parents and carers can feel very isolated when their baby reaches 5 months as many of the service providers have 'done their job'. Also young people can often be stereotyped by a minority of bad press and be subject to peer pressure by friends to 'just join the gang'. It's hugely rewarding to be in a position that may help support these people through key changes in their life styles.

Be Healthy

How will LifeChecks develop?

We want to promote, provide access to and embed both the NHS Baby and Teen LifeChecks (where feasible) across as many local service providers as we can in the Newcastle area. We hope to achieve this in collaboration with the Sure Start Children's Centres, Health Visiting, Midwifery, Libraries, Schools, Youth Service and voluntary services such as Streetwise. As we progress we hope to further develop the signposting and uptake of our local services to be able to support parents/carers and young people.

Newcastle Schools Sports Partnership Awards

Teachers from across Newcastle came together on 19 November at the Gosforth Park Marriott to recognise and celebrate the achievement of individuals and schools that have worked tirelessly to meet and in most cases, exceed government targets to improve participation in PE and sport.

- Voted 'School Of The Year for Innovation' Gosforth High runs an inclusive programme of Playground Activities to guarantee participation from all pupils, which makes a significant contribution to the extra hour of activity each week
- St Catherine's Catholic Primary School was voted 'School of The Year for Sporting Opportunities' for its wide variety of extra curricular sporting clubs including football, netball, badminton, unicycling, running, hockey, kickboxing and multiskills
- 'School of the Year for Community Based Sport' was awarded to St Alban's RC Primary for increasing participation through club links, dual facility use and pupil pathways with Wallsend Boys Club
- Individual awards went to Eunice Ferguson, from Broadway East First School, who won 'Primary Link Teacher of The Year', Chris Lee from Kenton School who won SSCo of the Year and Mike Donnelly from St Albans RC Primary who won the new category of Headteacher of the Year
- Individual pupil awards went to Louis Storey of St Cuthbert's School, Matthew Loftus of Gosforth High, Andrew McDonald from Kenton School, Emma Kenny from St Albans School and Kieron Harland of Walbottle Campus for participation, leadership skills and competitive performance

Exploring Tobacco Issues with Young People: A free course for youth workers - 23 February 2010

For further information on this course and other smoking prevention training contact Judith MacMorran 0191 229 2903 or see: www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk

Consultation - New and improved guidance for schools on the dangers of drugs and alcohol

DCSF has launched a consultation on new guidance for schools to ensure that teachers, parents and the Government are working together to send out a clear message that drug, alcohol and tobacco misuse among young people is unacceptable and could damage their futures.

While this guidance is not statutory, and schools are able to determine their own drugs and alcohol curriculum, this proposed new version gives examples of areas that teachers could explore with pupils to get them thinking about how substance misuse could affect them or their families. Heads and governing bodies are required by law to have regard to the guidance.

To view the full consultation go to: www.dcsf.gov.uk

Legislation and strategy updates

- Personal Social Health and Economic Education (PSHE) is to become a statutory part of the national curriculum at primary and secondary level for all young people from September 2011. Parental rights to withdraw their children from Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) are to be maintained but the age limit lowered from 19 to 15.
- Provisions in the new Health Act 2009 will strengthen tobacco control to protect children and young people from the harm caused by smoking. Shops will no longer be allowed to display tobacco products, and enable the prohibition of sales of tobacco from vending machines.
- The new 'Guide to Delivering the Five Hour Offer' outlines the vision for the national PE and Sport Strategy for Young People strategy and the five hour offer in particular. It brings together existing information on the aims of the strategy and the roles and responsibilities of those involved, for everyone involved in delivering five hours of PE and sport to young people in England:

www.sportengland.org

Children, young people and alcohol

The two research reviews below look at children, young people and alcohol:



- the influences on how they learn, including family processes and structures, peers, marketing and cultural representation, and other major forces such as religion, school and community; and
- what interventions have been attempted to try to prevent excessive use of alcohol by young people and suggestions on how a universal prevention programme might be delivered.

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/children-alcohol-use-partone.pdf>

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/alcohol-prevention-progs-parttwo.pdf>

New national sexual health campaign launched

The campaign aims to promote more open and honest discussions about sex, relationships and contraception among 16 to 24 year olds and their parents. The first phase of the campaign, Contraception Worth Talking About, will increase young people's awareness of the different types of contraception and remind them that they won't be protected against STIs unless they use a condom.

The campaign is backed-up by polling released earlier this month, showing:

- 92% of people cannot name the 15 types of contraception options available to them
- nearly half of younger women (44% of 16-24 year olds) are not aware they might not be using contraception that is the best 'fit' for their age and lifestyle
- one in five feel awkward discussing contraception with friends
- more than a quarter (26%) never discuss contraception with their partner and choose to opt for their current contraception without asking about the potential alternative options

Be Healthy

The campaign will:

- give people the facts about sexual health
- encourage people to talk about sex and contraception - research shows that open and honest conversations about sex and relationships can stop young people having sex too early
- raise awareness of the range of contraception that can fit with different people's lifestyles
- encourage people to take a chlamydia test

Stay Safe

Mind the Road! Road safety resources for child minders

The Child Accident Prevention Trust has launched a website containing downloadable resources for child minders to use with the children and families they work with.

Visit the Mind the Road website for more information:
www.mindtheroad.org.uk

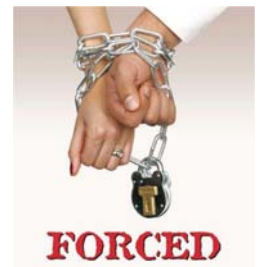


Forced marriages

Local authorities can now seek a protection order for vulnerable adults and children without first having to seek leave of the court, under new powers which came into force on 2 November.

Forced Marriage Protection Orders can help vulnerable victims in a range of situations depending on what is needed most. These include orders to:

- prevent anyone entering into any arrangements for engagement or marriage
- hand over passports to stop someone from being taken abroad
- stop intimidation and violence
- reveal the whereabouts of a person.



Failure to comply with an order could lead to imprisonment. Courts are also able to initiate steps to return those already forced into marriage back to the UK.

Forced marriage guidance is online at:
www.justice.gov.uk

Newcastle's Laming Audit

NSCB has undertaken a review of the 58 recommendations in the Laming Report and identified 29 key recommendations where a local response can be made. Agencies in Newcastle have been contacted and asked to give a self assessment of where they were in relation to recommendations relevant to their agency. The NSCB having considered the responses and the overall Laming report considered the responsibility for future work lay with The Children's Trust Board and asked the NSCB report be shared with the CTB. Representatives from each organization on the CTB will now work with the NSCB on each recommendation and identify actions specific to their service that will be required in order to meet the requirements of the recommendations. The Laming Action Plan will be reported quarterly to the CTB.

Stay Safe

Safeguarding children and young people: a new scrutiny guide

The Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) and Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) have published a new guide to support overview and scrutiny committees in fulfilling their critical role in relation to safeguarding children.

Safeguarding in this context is used to mean both child protection services and other activities designed to make children safer at home, at school, in their communities or using public services:

www.idea.gov.uk

Children's messages to the Minister

“Listen to us, check if we need anything, help us stay in contact with our family, keep us safe, remember we are people.”

The Children's Rights Director has carried out a report to find out how well services are supporting children in care and care leavers. The Director has asked children and young people in care, and care leavers, for their views and messages. Some of the concerns voiced by children in care were:

- Being separated from siblings and losing touch with them
- Not being adequately supported by social workers
- Often moving from one carer to the next

The full report is available at: www.ofsted.gov.uk

Publication of violence against women and girls strategy

The Government's strategy to tackle violence against women and girls (VAWG) was published on 25 November. It is a co-ordinated approach to combat all forms of VAWG and support its victims.

The strategy has three main aims:

- 1) to help prevent violence
 - 2) to improve provision of services for those affected
 - 3) the protection of victims
- The prevention work addresses social attitudes and myths about violence, changing attitudes over the long-term and stopping violence happening in the first place. Part of this work will include an awareness raising campaign for teenagers aged 13 - 18
 - The provision work focuses on ensuring women and girls have access to the right help and support for example counselling and access to specialist services, when violence does occur
 - The protection work looks at how we can provide end-to-end support for all victims through the criminal and civil justice systems, from reporting the crime to going to court. It will also focus on bringing more offenders to justice by improving reporting and conviction rates, as well as working to rehabilitate offenders and manage the risk they may present to women and girls

www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Stay Safe

Updated guidance for schools on preventing violent extremism

The DCSF published a toolkit for schools with guidance on preventing violent extremism - Learning Together to be Safe in October 2008. A lot of good practice and new resources for schools have been developed around the country since then. One year on, DCSF has launched an updated toolkit website with new tools and links to useful resources for schools and local partners:

www.dcsf.gov.uk

Enjoy and Achieve

Top class results for Newcastle primary schools

Figures released this month show some top class results for Newcastle's primary schools in the national tests for 11-year-olds.

Byker Primary has particular reason to celebrate with 83% of pupils reaching the government target of Level 4 or better at Key Stage 2 - a 48 percentage point rise from last year. St John Vianney School in Denton are celebrating 100% of pupils reaching Level 4 or better in English, Maths and Science for the second year on the trot, while St Cuthbert's in Walbottle and St Bede's are also celebrating every single pupil reaching the target in the core subjects.

10 more schools saw 20 percentage points or more increases in the number of students achieving Level 4 or better in both English and Maths - Lemington Riverside (+30%), St Anthony's (+28%), Broadwood (+26%), Our Lady and St Anne's (24%), West Walker (+23%), St George's (+22%), Atkinson Road (+21%) St Joseph's (+20%) and Wingrove (+20%).

Overall the number of 11-year-olds in the city achieving the key government target of Level 4+ in both English and Maths rose by 1% to 70% - 8% higher than 2005.

Congratulations to staff and pupils at Throckley primary school

Throckley Primary School has been told that it no longer requires special measures to improve standards. The school was told that it needed to improve last year after an inspection by Ofsted concluded "the majority of pupils do not reach the standards they are capable of". An inspection last month concluded that "a well formulated plan of action has been implemented and good progress has been achieved" and as a result the school "now offers a satisfactory and improving standard of education" and "no longer requires special measures".

The school could have been moved to the next level up from special measures and given Notice to Improve, but the inspectors decided that they had improved so much they could move out of these categories all together, which was terrific news.

Local school gets high tech accolade

Children at Archibald First School in Gosforth are at the forefront of using information and communications technology (ICT) to enhance their work, and that's official.

Enjoy and Achieve

Following an extensive external assessment Archibald has been awarded the prestigious ICT Mark by Becta, the government-funded body responsible for promoting the use of ICT in Britain's schools and colleges. The award recognises the school's success in developing the strategic use of ICT in both administration and across the curriculum. Parents will have proof that their children are attending a school at the forefront of modern technology.



100% school attendance nets basketball reward

1300 Newcastle pupils who achieved 100% school attendance last year were rewarded at a special event at the Metro arena ahead of the Newcastle Eagles match on 13 November. The pupils and their families were invited to the annual party and enjoyed a Metro Radio roadshow with presenters Kenny D and Marky Mark before watching the Eagles defeat the Worcester Wolves 87-63. They also had the chance to win tickets to see Newcastle United, passes for the Blue Reef aquarium and gift vouchers.



Two young reporters from Walker Technology College were appointed to write an article for the Evening Chronicle's Top Class section:

www.chroniclelive.co.uk

100% attendance for a full academic year is a marvellous achievement and it is hoped the families enjoyed this chance to celebrate.

Building schools for the future update

Four new schools for Newcastle have been given the go-ahead in the final part of the biggest investment in schools in the history of the city. Contracts have now been signed for the second phase of the city's Building Schools for the Future project, which will see new state of the art facilities for 6500 students at four schools - St Mary's RC Comprehensive, Gosforth Junior High, Sir Charles Parsons Special School and Walker Technology College.

Walker Technology College is relocating to a £25m new home alongside Sir Charles Parsons Special School in the Waverdale area of the city. The other two schools will be rebuilt on existing sites.

Work will begin on site later this month, with improvements already underway at the other schools involved in the latest part of the project - Trinity Oakfield, Trinity Dene View, St. Cuthbert's High and Gosforth High. All work will be completed by November 2012.

Building Schools for the Future is giving our students the very best facilities to help them excel at school, but it's also about transforming the way our children and young people learn and the way they feel about their schools.

Enjoy and Achieve

Reminder: Behaviour and Attendance Strategy consultation

This draft strategy document and action plan seek to clearly define the activity the Newcastle Behaviour and Attendance Partnership is involved in, as well as describing the actions we will take to enable us to meet our targets over the next three years.

Comments to Mick Dunn, Lead Specialist Practitioner Behaviour and Attendance by **18 December**:

The full strategy is available at: www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk

Bouncing Back from Oz: an International Study Tour to Schools in Melbourne

Over the past half-term holiday, nine teachers from Newcastle took part in a British Council Teacher International Placement Scheme for one week in Melbourne in Australia. The theme of the visit was to look at the Melbourne's (& state of Victoria) approach to developing Aspiration, Optimism and Resilience (ARO) for both children and young people and future aspirant school leaders.



The group visited schools which covered the spectrum from low socio- economically disadvantaged to private schools. In particular, the group was inspired by the extent to which they saw children in each primary school who:-

- Were curious and motivated by an education system which promotes enquiry- based and personal learning, as well as thinking processes, backed up by excellent use of IT resources.
- Knew the language and could identify in self and others, positive characteristics such as perseverance, gratitude, self-regulation, kindness, curiosity and creativity, even in the Early Years.
- Set their own goals, confident to have a go and make a difference for others.
- Given opportunities to show leadership, work independently, alongside and in teams.
- Were able to take responsibility for their own learning and choices.
- Were happy, optimistic, respecting and respectful through kindness.
- Were learning how to overcome adversity.
- Were encouraged to 'make a difference' as part of the every day curriculum.

Findings of work undertaken in Newcastle, funded by TDA, will be presented in January 2010, and again in July 2010. Please contact Helen Walker for further details – helen.walker@newcastle.gov.uk .

Improving Educational Outcomes for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Pupils

A new research report from NFER explores some of the issues and strategies that may influence pupil achievement:

www.dcsf.gov.uk

Enjoy and Achieve

Schools and parents: a new partnership

Misunderstandings, a lack of confidence and unclear communication channels are putting children's education at risk, according to this report. Four key issues have emerged – Invisible parents, confidence, lack of information and lack of effective communication channels. Key findings were that:

- Over half (59%) of parents admit to little contact with their child's school
- 60% of school staff say parents feel their job stops at the school gates
- Almost half (48%) of teachers believe that whilst parents are a great source of support, they don't always know the best ways to get in contact.
- Over a third (39%) of teaching staff say they would welcome ways to show parents how they might communicate differently.
- The research revealed the vast majority (89%) of parents say technology helps them get involved in their child's education, or it could play a more powerful role if they better understood how to use it.

To see the full report visit: www.nextgenerationlearning.org.uk

Make a Positive Contribution

Young Achiever Awards

60 of Newcastle's young achievers have had their successes celebrated at an Oscar-style award ceremony at St James Park on 18 November.



The annual Newcastle Schools Achievement Awards recognised pupils aged 4 to 19 from all corners of the city who have overcome obstacles to academic achievement, excelled in the classroom or on the sports field and who have made their communities better places to live.



Fabulous Flournoy, player coach of Newcastle Eagles, was on hand to present them with certificates and gift vouchers marking their achievement. He said: "It's fabulous to get the chance to meet so many inspirational kids and hear so many fantastic stories of young people achieving against the odds. "As a city I have always thought that Newcastle can be very proud of its young people, and these awards prove it".



Awards – nominated by teachers - were made in seven categories:

- Music and performing arts
- Services to the community
- Young Carer
- Young Volunteer
- Personal achievement
- Academic achievement
- Sporting achievement



The photos show some of the winners.

Make a Positive Contribution

A Framework for improving the local delivery of support for the families of offenders – “Reducing reoffending: supporting families, creating better futures”

Families can play a significant role in supporting an offender to make and sustain those changes which reduce re-offending. Research suggests that having family ties can reduce the likelihood of re-offending by 39 per cent. Children’s futures are heavily influenced by family circumstances and 63 per cent of boys with a convicted parent go on to offend in later life.

This Framework sets out how ‘Think Family’ philosophy and practice can be implemented to improve support for offenders’ children and families in the community and through intervention at each stage of the Criminal Justice System.

It outlines what can be done by the different agencies to work with offenders’ families and children. Practitioners will find it especially useful as it brings together in one place the tasks that should be followed in regard to offenders’ families and children.

Please see the full framework document:

www.justice.gov.uk

Youth Rehabilitation Orders

In November 2009, the Government’s new youth community sentencing structure came into force. The Youth Rehabilitation Order (YRO) will offer sentencers greater flexibility, giving them a range of requirements that address a child or young person’s offending and aim to respond to victims’ needs as well.

The YRO will be the new generic community sentence for children and young people who offend. Replacing nine existing sentences, it will combine 18 requirements into one generic sentence. Having 18 requirements within one Order will simplify sentencing, providing clarity and coherence while improving the flexibility of interventions.

To support the YRO, the Youth Justice Board, in partnership with youth offending teams (YOTs), has developed a new model of working for youth justice practitioners. Known as the Scaled Approach, this will match the intensity of a YOT’s work to a young person’s assessed likelihood of reoffending and risk of serious harm to others. The Scaled Approach will be used when a young person is on a Referral Order, a YRO or during the community element of a custodial sentence.

Currently YOTs can spend significant amounts of time working with young people who commit very low-level offending. The Scaled Approach will use quality assessment to determine the likelihood of reoffending and risk of serious harm to others. This, alongside professional judgement, will help establish which intervention level a young person needs: standard, enhanced, or intensive. The intervention level determines the minimum statutory contact a young person will have with the YOT or other assigned professionals.

Download more information on Youth Rehabilitation Orders (YROs) here:

www.yjb.gov.uk

Make a Positive Contribution

Trinity students fundraising

Students at Trinity College have been busy collecting donations from staff and students in aid of the People's kitchen in Newcastle. Some of Trinity students are going to the kitchen to present food stuffs and toiletries before Christmas.

Achieve Economic Wellbeing

Child poverty beacon open day

26 January 2010

9.30am to 4.30pm

Great North Museum

- Learn about how Newcastle gained Beacon status for its work on tackling child poverty
- Prepare for the Child Poverty Bill

To book a place or for further details of the programme contact Tina Lisle, phone 0191 277 7481 or email: tina.lisle@newcastle.gov.uk

Donate your old motor to help Trinity Solutions

Trinity Solutions are based at Trinity School Newcastle. The project works in partnership with the Learning Skills Council providing 16 - 18 year-old learners with the opportunity to develop the skills, knowledge and experience to prepare them for Further Education, Apprenticeships or Entry to Employment (E2E).

The project is seeking free donations of unwanted vehicles and motorised plant of all types; it doesn't matter if they are no longer roadworthy, failed MOT etc. The vehicles and plant will only be used in a controlled environment in the workshops to develop the skills of our city's 16 - 18 year-olds.

The government's car scrappage scheme has had an adverse affect on the availability of vehicles so we are widening the appeal to employees and industry. If you can support this worthwhile cause by offering your unwanted vehicle / motor plant please contact Kieran McLaughlin, Quality & Development Manager:

Telephone: 0191 2133670

Mobile: 07812104638

Fax: 0191 2133679

Email: kieran.mclaughlin@trinitysolutions.co.uk

New website launched for Muslim women

The National Muslim Women's Advisory Group has launched a new website and booklet on careers for Muslim women:

www.ourchoices.org.uk

Strategic Management and Transformation

The future of the Children's Trust Board (CTB)

The Bill that establishes the CTB has gained royal assent and therefore structural changes regarding membership will be discussed at a future meeting of the CTB. Discussions also need to be held on how the NSCB and CTB work together, roles and responsibilities, as well as how the CTB works alongside and relates to the Council.

Development of the Newcastle Children and Young People's Plan 2010-13

Last month we outlined the timescales for development of the Newcastle Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2010-13 and described some of the processes being undertaken.

Activity continues which will establish our priorities. Priorities in the CYPP are based on:

- What the data tells us (analysis of need)
- What children and young people tell us
- What parents and carers tell us
- What other stakeholders tell us

Some of our current priorities are long term and likely to remain, such as:

- Reducing child poverty and its impact
- Reducing rates of child obesity
- Reducing teenage conceptions
- Raising aspirations and attainment
- Reducing inequalities in outcomes for vulnerable children and young people
- Ensuring early intervention and support are available to prevent needs or problems getting worse
- Reducing the numbers of young people who offend
- Increasing young people's engagement in education and training

Young people are actively engaged in the CYPP process and have identified their priorities:

- We want to feel safe and happy in our environment
- We want to live in a city where everyone is respected for who they are
- We should all have the chance to do activities we choose to do
- We are experts in our own lives and issues – this should be recognised
- We need someone who is there for us

Parents and carers have responded to a citywide consultation and their draft priorities are:

- Affordable childcare
- Clean and safe parks and play areas
- Earlier intervention and help for families that are struggling
- Better quality of teaching in schools
- Cheaper public transport
- Council should show it puts children first
- Consistent services from the council
- Teach values/respect for others in schools
- Help to stop young people drinking and smoking
- Teach children how to be parents themselves

Strategic Management and Transformation

We have also gathered the views of practitioners attending Children's Services briefing sessions and at a consultation event with voluntary and community sector partners. Some of the comments include:

- Improve joint working mechanisms between different parts of the council and engage with the full breadth of the third sector including non-funded provision
- Encourage **all** agencies to "Think family" so that, for example, green spaces are designed to be family friendly
- Raise aspirations and self esteem - of children **and** of parents
- Break the cycle – provide mentoring, coaching, support to develop lifeskills
- Accommodation - quality and availability of good quality and affordable housing for young people
- Develop sustainable communities in which people want to be a part of and live in – safe places to meet, local activities

Over the coming weeks we will bring these and all the other evidence and information together to establish a common set of shared priorities, and work with partners across the Children's Trust to produce a draft CYPP for full consultation by end of February 2010.

If you have any comments, information, reports or plans you want to share with us, e-mail to: childrens.services@newcastle.gov.uk

Award winning Families Information Service

Congratulations to Newcastle FIS who have become a Pathfinder FIS after becoming one of the first in the country to achieve Families First accreditation.



Families First is a quality assurance scheme developed by the National Association of Family Information Services (NAFIS) on behalf of DCFS. The Families First Standards are the national standards for local authority delivery of the information services requirements of the Childcare Act 2006 and provide evidence that we are meeting the needs of parents, carers and practitioners within our area.

Newcastle FIS have successfully demonstrated they meet 10 standards including:

- Clients have the information they need to make informed and realistic decisions about services available
- Staff providing information, advice and assistance services are appropriately trained and qualified and participate in continuous professional development
- Information is effectively managed and quality assured
- FIS will encourage and guide clients in locating and navigating the information available to them and support those who may otherwise not access services on their own

Parental engagement

There is overwhelming evidence to show that parents' engagement in their child's learning is the most important influence on attainment, wellbeing and life chances.

The DCSF is undertaking research on what practitioners and settings can do to support and encourage stronger parental engagement. This will inform guidance and materials to help practitioners in schools, colleges, children's centres and early-years settings to improve their work with parents.

Strategic Management and Transformation

To feed into this research the Department would like to hear about your experiences and those of parents with children across the full age range (i.e. from 0 to 19 years). The DCSF is currently funding research to identify which qualities and behaviours of childcare and early-years providers are effective in supporting parents to enrich their home learning environment.

Send your comments by email to: parental.engagement@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk

Raising and realising aspirations through parenting support in Newcastle

29 January 2010

St James' Park

If you believe that parents and families are a major influence on how children grow and develop then this event is for you.

This important conference, to be opened by John Collings, Acting Executive Director of Children's Services, is an opportunity for service managers and headteachers already working closely and building relationships with mothers, fathers and carers to hear from internationally renowned speaker Charles Desforges from the University of Exeter. Delegates will then see a film and hear from parents, carers and young people who have already taken part in some of the evidenced based parenting programmes being delivered across the City, and hear about the difference they are making to outcomes for children.



The conference will be highly interactive with opportunities to find out more about what is available already to support your work with parents and families, to share information about what 'works' and to identify how you want to be part of and help to shape this agenda in Newcastle. Everyone will be invited as part of the event to identify how the Parenting Team can support you to take this work forward in your area and for your families.

At a time of significant change in Children's Services, this conference is a key opportunity to hear how we are ensuring that we get the right support at the right times for parents and families across the City, and how we want to build this into the work of our emerging area based integrated teams.

If you would like to attend please contact Jan Milner by email: jan.milner@newcastle.gov.uk

This newsletter is produced to keep you informed of developments across Newcastle Children's Trust to improve outcomes for children and young people. This includes local and national news, initiatives and achievements.

This is only a snapshot of what's happening across the city. For up to the minute news and events for children's services practitioners, log on to: www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk

If you have any comments or contributions please contact us:

- Online via the website: www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk
- By email at childrens.services@newcastle.gov.uk