

# Children's Services Newsletter

April 2009

Issue 16

## Introduction from John Collings, Director of Delivering Outcomes

Last month I had the privilege of attending a celebration event at St James Park in honour of those children and young people who had sustained a 100% school attendance record over at least three years. It was an excellent occasion with nearly 140 children being recognised for their achievement. Amazingly five young people had eleven consecutive years of full attendance. An important message which resonated throughout the evening from nearly everyone there was the importance of good attendance at school, not only for improving achievement but also for helping children to prepare for the disciplines and realities of adult life. Improving attendance in our schools is a key priority not only for Children's Services but for the City Council too and it is everyone's responsibility to play their part – as parents, carers, council employees and partners. It is not often understood that what appears to be relatively small amounts of time away from school, for example 10 days in an academic year, can have a significant impact on a child's outcomes at school. Ten days a year for eleven years of compulsory education represents a full year away from school.



**John Collings**  
Director of Delivering  
Outcomes

Newcastle children, like those who were celebrated last month, who are sustaining very good attendance are giving themselves the best chance of a good education from which they can go on to bigger and better things. Thank you to all of those staff across Children's Services, the Council, parents and carers who work tirelessly to help improve attendance in our schools and to others who promote and champion excellent attendance. You are doing a great service to our children and young people.

*John Collings*



2009-2010  
Preventing and tackling child poverty

[www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk](http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk)

# Be healthy

## Inclusion Quality Status (IQS) awards

At this year's annual SEN conference 28 schools, including four special schools, were awarded Inclusion Quality Status. This is for meeting the highest standards in making their buildings and lessons accessible to pupils with special educational needs. Awards were presented by Paralympic gold-medalist Stephen Miller.



The Inclusion Quality Standard is gained by schools using the Inclusion Quality Framework to assess themselves against 9 areas of inclusive policy and practice. Eight schools have already achieved the 'advanced' level and Newcastle Bridges have moved from 'developing' to 'established' level. Linhope have also achieved the IQS status this year.

Stephen Miller said: "The awards show just how much wonderful work is going on in Newcastle's schools to make sure that not just the schools themselves but also their lessons and activities are fully accessible to children with different educational needs, and it's an honour to have been invited to this event."

Other achievements recognised at the annual conference were:

- 12 primary schools were recognised for the academic progress made by pupils with SEN
- 3 schools were commended for their work over the past three years
- 40 school received certificates from the DCSF for completing the government's National Programme for School Leaders in Behaviour and Attendance programme.

## New sexual health centre for Newcastle

A new sexual health centre has opened in the centre of Newcastle, based at New Croft House, near the Laing Art Gallery. The newly-integrated sexual health service will provide patients with free and confidential sexual health services and will also house the Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Chlamydia Screening Programme and Cervical Screening Training Office.

The New Croft Centre offers all aspects of sexual health advice and telephone support, including:

- Contraception service (including emergency contraception)
- Screening for infections (including chlamydia screening, which is a urine test)
- Pregnancy decision making
- Cervical smear test
- Teenage pregnancy support team
- Counselling

For more information visit

<http://www.newcastlepct.nhs.uk/services/community-health-services/sexual-health>

## 'The Truth' production about the tobacco industry

Newcastle Primary Care Trust, working in partnership with Newcastle City Council, have arranged for theatre group Gibber to visit 16 secondary schools across the city to discuss how the tobacco industry markets its products to attract young people to smoke. Almost 80% of adult smokers begin smoking at or before the age of 18 making targeted youth education a priority for reducing the number of smokers across the region.

# Be healthy

## 'The Truth' production about the tobacco industry

Gibber will stage 'The Truth' which looks at issues such as smoking in the movies, additives in cigarettes, third world marketing and the environmental impact of smoking before holding interactive workshops with the pupils to follow up the production.

Danny Ruta, director of public health for Newcastle PCT said "Smoking remains the number one cause of preventable ill health and premature death in Newcastle. Considerable progress has been made to date to reduce the number of people smoking in the city and the work going on in schools across Newcastle is a key part of that. By communicating with young people in a way that is both informative and fun we are working toward a long term goal to prevent young people from starting smoking at all"

## Disabled Children's Register - parent carer participation

We now have a Disabled Children's Register within the Children with Disabilities Team which will record the number of disabled children living in the city and give families the opportunity to get involved in shaping services. It is a way for families to tell us what they think could make a difference, and pass on their views to service planners and decision makers. This is something Aiming High for Disabled Children is monitoring.

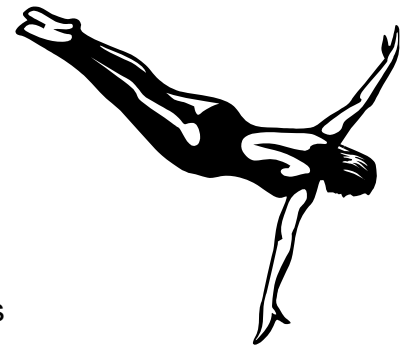
Joining the register is voluntary for parents and carers but the more families that join, the more accurate the information. Families will also receive a copy of the parent carer participation newsletter. More information can be found on the Children's Services website:

[www.newcastle.gov.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs\\_1dd](http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs_1dd)

## Free swimming for under 18's

One of the 12 priorities identified through the 'What matters to us' survey indicated that cost was a barrier for children and young people wanting to access leisure facilities in Newcastle.

From 1 April all children under the age of 18 will be able to swim for free in public sessions at Gosforth, East End, City and Outer West Pools. Elswick Pool is closed for refurbishments, but when it re opens in September, it will be free as well. This is part of a national campaign to provide free swimming for under 16's and over 60's. It will now be extended to under 18's to fit in with the existing "Fusion" programme. Children and young people will need a "Fusion" card to get free swimming, but that's free as well. Jesmond and Fenham Pools are offering free swims, but have chosen to keep their offer to under 16's only.



For more information visit the website [www.newcastlefusion.co.uk](http://www.newcastlefusion.co.uk).

## Draft Overweight and Obesity Strategy consultation

Newcastle Primary Care Trust and Newcastle City Council have produced a revised Overweight and Obesity Strategy which is currently out for consultation. The draft strategy can be found on the Newcastle JSNA website [www.newcastlejsna.org.uk/jsna/node/758](http://www.newcastlejsna.org.uk/jsna/node/758). Any comments can be sent by 24 April 2009.

# Be healthy

## Draft Overweight and Obesity Strategy consultation

The key goals of the strategy are to increase the general awareness of obesity, increase the understanding for a balanced diet and increase the number of people exercising and the frequency at which they exercise.

The strategy has several projects which aim to improve physical activity levels and healthy eating for children and young people. Whilst the strategy itself is quite short, the action plan is large, because the subject matter is complex.

## SEAL resources for visual impairment

Two members of the SENTASS Children's Vision Team, in collaboration with the Behaviour Support Service have recently completed an extensive resource to help children with visual impairment to learn social and emotional skills.

This resource which adapts the social and emotional aspects of learning (SEAL) has been trialed successfully within the city's resource bases for visual impairment and is now readily available for practitioners. It can be accessed without the need for usernames and passwords, on the National Strategies website: <http://nationalstrategies.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/node/152375>

For more information you can contact Phil Thornton: [philomena.thornton@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:philomena.thornton@newcastle.gov.uk) or Clare Podhajecki: [clare.podhajecki@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:clare.podhajecki@newcastle.gov.uk).

# Stay safe

## Forced marriage and honour based violence

Forced Marriage is recognised as a child protection issue. On 16 March Government Office for the North East held a ground breaking conference in Newcastle that saw women with direct experience of forced marriage meet education professionals and others involved in child protection to discuss how to protect potential victims, many still at school.

This is the latest in a series of actions being taken in our region to deal with forced marriages. Delegates heard first hand survivor's perspective on forced marriage. Shazia, British-born, was taken out of school at the age of 15 and kept at home for 9 months before being taken to Pakistan, where she was forced to marry her cousin, under duress, before being allowed to return to England. She eventually escaped from her home and has since re-built her life.

The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) has produced guidelines, in conjunction with the Department for Children Schools and Families, on how to identify and support young people threatened by forced marriage. The guidelines are available on the every child matters website: [www.everychildmatters.co.uk](http://www.everychildmatters.co.uk) or on the links below:

- Awareness raising materials for schools and young people  
[www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/\\_files/8E724DAD18244F2EA649F00FB4160C7D.pdf](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/_files/8E724DAD18244F2EA649F00FB4160C7D.pdf)
- Guidance for education practitioners  
[www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/\\_files/FMarriageGuidanceEducation.pdf](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/_files/FMarriageGuidanceEducation.pdf)
- Guidance for social workers  
[www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/\\_files/FMGuidanceSocialWorkers.pdf](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/_files/FMGuidanceSocialWorkers.pdf)

# Stay safe

## Forced marriage and honour based violence

More information on the forced marriage conference held can be found on the Government Office for the North East website: [www.gos.gov.uk/gone/news/forcedmarriageconference/](http://www.gos.gov.uk/gone/news/forcedmarriageconference/)

If you would like further local information relating to Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence please contact Natasha Rattu on 0191 277 7881.

## Protection of Children in England: Progress Report Lord Laming March 2009

Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board have prepared a summary paper highlighting some of the key issues identified within the Lord Laming's progress report. In November 2008, as a response to the tragic death of baby P, the Children's Minister requested an urgent report of progress to be made across the country to implement effective arrangements for safeguarding children.

The progress report can be downloaded from the Children's Services website: [www.newcastle.gov.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs\\_nscb](http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs_nscb)

## Parenting Early Intervention Programme (PEIP)

Changing Trax and Barnardo's have been commissioned to deliver evidence based parenting programmes through PEIP funding provided by DCSF. The three programmes that will run in Newcastle are Strengthening Families, Incredible Years and Triple P.

- **Strengthening Families** is a programme for young people and their parents/carers between 10 and 14 who are experiencing difficulties within their relationships.
- **Incredible Years Programme** is designed to promote social competence and prevent, reduce and treat aggression and related conduct difficulties in pre-school and school-aged children.
- **Triple P (Positive Parenting Programme)** aims to prevent behavioural, emotional and developmental problems in children by enhancing the knowledge, skills and confidence of parents.

For more information about the programmes visit the Children's Services website: [www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/peip](http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/peip)

## NSPCC guidance – helping practitioners to spot head and spinal injuries

The NSPCC have launched an advice leaflet to help doctors, social workers, police officers and other professionals recognise signs of inflicted head and spinal injuries in children.

Each week at least three babies and toddlers are hospitalised due to deliberate head injuries including bruises, burns, fractures of the skull and facial bones and brain injuries but others may remain hidden. Many children with head and spinal injuries have also suffered previous physical abuse. Injuries to the brain or internal bleeding are among the most serious form of physical child abuse.

For more information visit [www.nspcc.org.uk/core-info](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/core-info)

# Stay safe

## Changing Trax update



Changing Trax is a short-term crisis intervention service that aims to create a positive change by working intensively with families where substance and/or alcohol misuse is an issue. Early indications suggest that the programme is having a positive impact on the way other professionals approach and assess families. It is also helping to reduce the number of children becoming looked after and subject to child protection plans.

A parent whose children were at risk of being removed commented, "We are now quite happy as we know where we stand with each other and our family is not going to get broken up". An area team social worker described the service that they provided: "Encouraging families to communicate and work as a go between at times when they had fears. Gave praise and encouragement and help families see the positives in the whole process."

For more information about Changing Trax, you can visit the Option2 website:  
[www.option2.org/Changing%20Trax.htm](http://www.option2.org/Changing%20Trax.htm)

## ContactPoint 4 update

Countdown to ContactPoint 4 is now available and can be viewed on the online news section of the Children's Services website <http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/news>

In the latest update you can read about:

- Sending practitioner details to ContactPoint – what we are doing?
- ContactPoint organisational accreditation
- Shielding – policy and form for nominated shielder
- ContactPoint training for users
- What happens next?

For further information about ContactPoint visit the Children's Services website:  
[www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/contactpoint](http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/contactpoint)

## Heaton Manor recognised for anti-bullying work

Heaton Manor this week becomes the eighth school in Newcastle to be acknowledged for their efforts to stamp out bullying.

The school will be awarded accreditation by Newcastle City Council's RESPONSE anti bullying team for their efforts to tackle this issue, before celebrating with a special event where students will give a presentation on the work they have done to rid their school of bullying in front of parents, pupils, local community groups and a range of schools (4pm, Thursday April 23 2009).

To read the full article visit the Newcastle City Council website:  
[www.newcastle.gov.uk/press.nsf/latestbyid/44F9E9FADB79224E802575A0002C01E8?opendocument](http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/press.nsf/latestbyid/44F9E9FADB79224E802575A0002C01E8?opendocument)

## Stay safe

### British Association of Social Workers conferences

The following events may be of interest. Further details can be found at: [www.basw.co.uk/](http://www.basw.co.uk/)



- The first gathering of frontline workers undertaking child protection work, 20 May in London.
- The first annual BASW conference for social work students, 26 June in Derby

## Enjoy and achieve

### St Oswald's is outstanding!

Congratulations to St Oswald's RC Primary in Gosforth who have been graded as "outstanding" by Ofsted.

"This is an outstanding school. It ensures excellent pupil achievement both academically and personally".

They also found that pupils describe lessons as "fun and easy to understand" and that parents feel that the school is a "warm, friendly and enjoyable place" where "all the staff are willing to go the extra yard".

They celebrated their achievement on Friday March 20 with a "Stand Out day for an outstanding report". The children were asked to "stand out" by wearing bright and creative clothes to school

### School support staff – raising standards in our schools

177 school employees have been congratulated for their achievements at a recent event, including teaching assistants, lunchtime supervisors, technicians and administration staff. They have been working towards a number of qualifications including higher level teaching assistant (HLTA) status, diploma and certificate of school business management, A1 assessor and V1 verifier awards, NVQs in business and administration and support work in schools.

Catherine Fitt, Executive Director of Children Services handed out the awards,

"These staff have given up many hours of their free time to gain these qualifications, all with the aim of serving their schools and students better, and this event recognises and rewards all their hard work and shows them how proud we are of them.



"Helping staff develop their professional skills is just one of the many ways we're raising standards in our schools, and we're also committed to supporting their professional development in any way we can."

# Enjoy and achieve

## Reducing exclusions

Exclusion from school has a potentially damaging impact on outcomes for children and young people, and can result in significant pressure on vulnerable families and communities.

By working closely with schools and other colleagues through the Behaviour and Attendance Partnership we will explore a number of options that will lead to a reduction in exclusions. The Behaviour and Attendance Strategy 2009 – 2012 has now been written and is currently in the consultation process, this identifies a number of key actions to be implemented.

One key action is to create a new Senior Advisor post for Alternative Curriculum. This will be a challenging role, but will hopefully work towards ensuring that young people requiring an individualised or alternative education package, are identified and supported, avoiding the need to permanently exclude.

## Celebrating attendance

The annual outstanding school attendance event took place at St James' Park on 12 March, celebrating the achievements of almost 140 children reaching 100% attendance over a 3 year period. The breakdown on 100% attenders can be seen below.

No. of years 100% attendance	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
No. of pupils	56	26	24	10	5	4	4	4	5

In addition to this, 241 children and young people achieved 2 consecutive years and received attendance certificates via their schools.

There was a super evening of entertainment laid on including a Metro radio road show, Newcastle United Football academy players participating in a sports quiz and parents of the children taking part in a pop quiz. Fantastic prizes included tickets to see Newcastle United versus Arsenal, Girls Aloud and Walking with Dinosaurs. And every pupil attending received a certificate in recognition of their achievements, a goody bag and a £5 Asda gift voucher.



## Young people become movie makers - Playing for Success project

Year 5 pupils from English Martyrs Primary School became mini-movie makers after producing a series of short films featuring important topics such as anti-bullying, anti drugs and anti social behaviour.

The Newcastle Falcon's learning centre provides pupils with professional film-making software, which also sharpens literacy, numeracy and ICT skills. The centre opened in January 2006 as part of the national Playing for Success project, where schools and local sports teams have worked together to use sport to raise achievement. For more information about the centre, please telephone 0191 214 558.

# Enjoy and achieve

## KS2 2008 results - sustained progress in Newcastle

Newcastle schools have improved on last year's record primary school test results. 2008 results show that 77% of 11 year olds achieved the expected standard of Level 4 or better in English.

Two schools have particular reason to celebrate as every single pupil at St John Vianney Catholic Primary and St Teresa's Catholic Primary reaching the expected Level 4 in the core subjects of English, Maths and Science.

Walbottle Village Primary and Cheviot Primary have celebrated the best year on year improvements, Beech Hill Primary figures have risen, taking the school within the top 10 in the city, and St John's Primary and Cheviot Primary have also seen figures rise.

## Make a positive contribution

### Youngsters don't miss out on leadership support

Young pupils at St Michael's RC Primary School have benefited from the leadership skills of their peers for out of school activities. It has been identified by the Newcastle School Sport Partnership (NSSP) that essential funding and resources for after school activities are often directed at older rather than younger children.



Year 5 students at St Michael's have been working with KS1 pupils during an out of hour's games club. This has developed their communication and organisational skills and given them a sense of responsibility.

For more information contact Joyce Matthews, Partnership Development Manager for the Newcastle Schools Sports Partnership on 07920 453 690 or 0191 265 6091.

### Youth Parliament and Schools at Council Meetings

Children's Services Participation unit is keen to raise the awareness and understanding of the democratic process amongst young people and two projects demonstrate how this is being done. UK Youth Parliament and Schools at Council Meetings show that young people will take up opportunities if they are worthwhile, relevant and interesting.

**Newcastle UKYP** elections were held in January 2009 and saw 6,000 young people voting online or by ballot box to elect four candidates. They now represent the views and opinions of young people by meeting councillors, politicians and decision makers and promote a range of issues raised by Newcastle's young citizens.

Another positive outcome of the election has been the talent and enthusiasm of those candidates not voted on to the UKYP this time round. They have agreed to help set up the Young Advisory Groups to get the views and opinions of young people to feed through to UKYP members.



UKYP successful candidates (pictured left to right) Scarlett Milligan; James Bartle; Jack Wonnacott and Oscar Clarke

# Make a positive contribution

## Youth Parliament and Schools at Council Meetings

To start this process the Participation Unit held a residential weekend at Kielder Activity Centre. Young people tested their skills at abseiling and canoeing and also got down to the serious business of setting out priorities for the next twelve months and discussed how the Young Advisory Group and UKYP members will work together as an effective team.

**School visits to council meetings** offer further engagement opportunities to support the local democracy curriculum in schools. A member of the Lord Mayor's Office meets students and teachers to provide a tour of the Silver Gallery, tea with the Sheriff and reserved seats in the Council Chamber for the Council meeting. It has proved a very popular project and more and more schools are using this opportunity to give their students a first hand experience of how local democracy works.

For more information visit the participation section of the Children's Services website:  
[www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/cyp\\_participation](http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/cyp_participation)

# Achieve economic wellbeing

## Aimhigher initiative

Since 2002, the Aimhigher initiative has helped our schools to increase awareness about the benefits of higher education. It has also helped to widen the students' horizons by giving them the opportunity to visit universities in the local area and beyond, contributing to the 21.2% increase, between 1999 and 2007, in the number of young people in the city going on to higher education.

The target groups for Aimhigher funding and activities include:

- People from lower socio-economic groups
- People from disadvantaged socio-economic groups who live in areas of relative deprivation where participation in higher education is low
- 'Looked after' children in the care system
- People with a disability or a specific learning difficulty

In the coming term the programme will include:

- Sport and Science masterclasses at Newcastle College for year 12 students
- Two health related conferences for year 8 – 13 students at Sunderland University and Usworth 6<sup>th</sup> Form College
- A year 10 theatre production at Newcastle College about foundation degrees
- Apprentice students on Campus Days for over 180 primary pupils and up to 60 parents/relatives at Northumbria University
- Aimhigher roadshow for year 9 students at 5 secondary schools
- A two day visit to Jesus College, Cambridge for 30 year 10 students
- A two day residential to Lancaster University for 50 Y11 students
- A multi sport day for year 12 students and a year 10 law taster day both at Northumbria University
- Over 140 summer school places have been offered to all secondary schools for a mixture of year 10 – 12 summer schools across all of the 5 North East Universities.'

# Achieve economic wellbeing

## Beacon Status update

We have a busy time ahead as a Beacon council, or 15 months as the year is from April 1 2009 to 30 June 2010. The child poverty theme will be launched nationally in June and Newcastle will be contributing to two of the workshops at the convention. The Government bill to end child poverty by 2020 will have a first reading this summer and this is likely to focus on the three Child Poverty Beacons.

All Beacons will host local learning events, contribute to national events and work with the other Child Poverty Beacons. We have already met with Cornwall and Tower Hamlets to start to plan how we will work together and share our learning.

An early product will be the story of how each Beacon ensured that child poverty really is everybody's business in their local area – how we engaged all the partners and the opportunities we took to join up activity. Beacon Open Day is likely to be in the autumn so watch this space.

We will continue to develop our local action plan for preventing and tackling child poverty and the Beacon award has confirmed that the building blocks we set out for achieving the vision are key to:

- Increasing opportunities for parents to enter employment, education or training
- Tackling financial exclusion
- Regenerating our local communities and housing and tackling fuel poverty
- Improving services to families particularly parenting support
- Raising the attainment and aspirations of young people and families
- Addressing health inequalities

## Strategic management and transformation

### Assess and Decide project – next steps

Children's Services directorate have been asked to identify what assessment processes and activities that support service delivery, currently exist in Children's Services. With support from colleagues in the Corporate Transformation Programme team, the next step of the project will involve further analysis of these processes. This will enable a better understanding of where there may be opportunities to review and reshape how services operate.

Following this analysis, the next stage will focus on the potential to streamline processes across the whole of Children's Services.

A number of colleagues from within the directorate will be trained to participate in and deliver this work alongside managers and their teams. You may have the opportunity to be involved in these workshops and meetings to ensure that the expertise held within teams is central to how we better deliver services that meet the needs of children, young people and families in Newcastle.

If you have any questions you'd like to ask on the project Newcastle city council colleagues can do this by completing the feedback form on the staff intranet: [http://194.61.175.66/cityserv2004.nsf/cs\\_feedback?OpenForm](http://194.61.175.66/cityserv2004.nsf/cs_feedback?OpenForm) or by sending an e-mail to [A&D@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:A&D@newcastle.gov.uk). Newcastle city council colleagues that have not yet had an opportunity to look at the Assess and Decide project Intranet page, please use this link to get background information: <http://194.61.175.175/stratsuppv2.nsf/a/transformaupdate2?opendocument>

# Strategic management and transformation

## Assess and Decide project – next steps

The project manager is working with corporate communications to develop the best means of communicating about this project with external partners for example schools, voluntary sector and health as this project will affect how integrated working develops in Newcastle. In the meantime colleagues from partner agencies can contact the project manager using the email address above.

## Locality review update

The fieldwork for the review of locality working in is now complete. The Office of Public Management (OPM) who are carrying out the review held a stakeholder day where they shared some possible delivery models with representatives of a range of organisations involved in locality working.

The models were drawn from all of information that OPM have collected during the wider review. The comments from stakeholders who included headteachers, representatives of the voluntary sector, council officers and other statutory partners will be used to frame some recommendations for moving forward. We expect the full report at the end of April.

We would like to thank everyone who has participated in the review through staff briefings, on-line surveys, completing questionnaires, focus groups and one to one interviews. OPM tell us the response has been impressive.

## General News

### Children's Services briefing sessions - July 2009

Dates for the July briefing sessions are now available. The sessions provide an opportunity to find out about the latest developments in Children's Services and are open to all Children's Services staff and colleagues from our partner organisations. You can e-mail Kirsty Benton to book a place at [childrens.services@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:childrens.services@newcastle.gov.uk) stating which date and session you would like to attend.

Date	Venue	Session 1	Session 2
Wednesday 1 July	Springfield	9:00am - 10:30am	11:00am - 12:30pm
Thursday 2 July	Springfield	1:30pm - 3:00pm	3:30pm - 5:00pm
Tuesday 7 July	Springfield	9:00am - 10:30am	11:00am - 12:30pm

### Newcastle parenting - The Guardian article 'the insiders'

Sue Miller, Parenting Commissioner for Newcastle City Council was recently featured in an article in the Guardian newspaper. The article titled, "The insiders" gives a valuable insight into her parenting work in this area. For more information read the full article on the guardian website: [www.guardian.co.uk/education/2009/mar/24/insiders](http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2009/mar/24/insiders)

# General News

## Proposal for the federation of Moorside Community Primary and Westgate Hill Primary School

Both schools have been working together for some time now. Governors at Moorside Primary and the Interim Executive Board at Westgate Hill Primary believe continued collaboration is the best way forward for these schools. The proposed basis for this formal collaboration is called 'Federation'.

A consultation document explaining what a federation is and how the schools' believe the federation will work has been sent out to over 600 families in the area affected by the possible federation and neighbouring schools and councillors. The Governing Body of Moorside Primary and the Interim Executive Board of Westgate Hill will come together on 15 June 2009 to consider comments received and decide whether or not to go ahead with these proposals.

For a copy of the consultation document or more information contact Helen Richardson on 277 7424 or [helen.richardson@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:helen.richardson@newcastle.gov.uk)

## New DVD - Organising events and promoting participation

An exciting DVD has been produced by the Riverside community health project to share their experience of working with parents and carers and to show how families can participate in events. The DVD can be used by those working with families to learn how to organise events, plan and implement project work. You can contact the project on 0191 226 0754 or email [all@riversidechp.co.uk](mailto:all@riversidechp.co.uk)

## Inspiring Communities Grant

The Inspiring Communities programme is setting out to test and develop a radical new approach to partnership working at a neighbourhood level around raising aspiration and educational attainment. The focus will be the 11-14 year age group and attainment at key stage 3 and key stage 4 with interim measures such as school attendance. Each application will be from a single neighbourhood of high deprivation with a population of 5-10,000 residents. Neighbourhoods should be large enough to support strong partnership working but small enough to have a strong local identity. Newcastle is one of the areas which is eligible to apply for the grant as more than 10% of the Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are in the 10% most deprived nationally. Neighbourhoods will receive up to £450,000 over the period 2009/11.

The C&YPSP is leading on identifying an appropriate neighbourhood as a Delivery Partnership of the Newcastle Partnership. The guidance recommends that the Director of Children's Services is the appropriate sponsor for a bid. It was agreed at the meeting of the C&YPSP Executive on 20 April that a bid should be closely aligned with the work that is already being undertaken to narrow the gap in attainment. The neighbourhood partnership must have a core membership of the local secondary school, local authority and third sector.

The selected neighbourhoods will receive specialist support during the design phase over the summer ready for implementation of the programme in Autumn 2009. The deadline for applications is 3 June.

### How to submit an article for the next edition.....

The Children's Services newsletter is published monthly. If you have news or information on successful initiatives to share with staff and partners please email us at [childrens.services@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:childrens.services@newcastle.gov.uk) or phone 0191 2777410.