

Children's Services Newsletter

January 2009

Issue 13

Introduction from Catherine Fitt, Executive Director of Children's Services

Dear Colleague,

I would be interested to hear from anyone who has any information, however anecdotal about the impact of the current economic climate on children and young people.

I commend another very impressive and informative newsletter to you and encourage you to send us content for next time especially about how we are narrowing the gap in outcomes for young people in different parts of the city.

Best wishes as always



Catherine Fitt

Inside this issue:

Teenage Pregnancy Strategy	Page 2
NSCB safeguarding procedures Updated and online	Page 3
Child Poverty co-ordinator job	Page 7
APA update	Page 7

Be Healthy

Targeted mental health in schools programme

Newcastle has been successful in our bid to become a Phase 2 Targeted Mental Health in Schools (TaMHS) pathfinder from April 2009. This DCSF led pathfinder programme will enable local authorities and Primary Care Trusts to work together to develop evidence-based models of therapeutic and holistic mental health support in schools for children aged 5-13 and their families. The funding for this project will be over 2 years 2009 - 2011 with around £220,000 and £150,000 per respective year.

Further updates on this topic will be included in future editions of the newsletter. For more information take a look at the Targeted Mental Health in Schools website www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/health/tmhsproject and the TaMHS Research (Me and My School) www.MeandMyschool.info

Newcastle School Sports Partnership celebrations

The Newcastle School Sport Partnership (NSSP) has been awarded a national kite mark, the Sport Partnership Mark 2008, in recognition of their fantastic achievements. 92% of Newcastle pupils now participate in a minimum of two hours of high quality PE and sport each week, beating the Government's target of 85%.

The following three schools celebrated winning local awards at the end of last term. The NSSP awards acknowledge the good work by teachers in creating new and exciting ways of using PE and school sport to engage young people and help them develop the life skills for a healthy and happy future.

- Voted 'School of the Year for Innovation', **Trinity Deneview** runs an inclusive programme of activities in Outdoor Education to guarantee participation from all pupils.
- **Walbottle Campus** was voted 'School of the Year for Sporting Opportunities' for using enhancement days each term targeting new sports such as judo, golf, Frisbee and rowing.
- **All Saints College** was voted 'School of the Year for Community based Sport' for increasing participation through club links, dual facility use and pupil pathways.

For more information on NSSP visit their website www.newcastlessp.com

Teenage Pregnancy Strategy

A new Teenage Pregnancy Strategy (2009 -2011) has been approved by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership in December 2008.

This new strategy will focus on five key areas: Coordination and Performance Management; Communications and marketing; Sex and Relationship Education, Access to Sexual Health Services and Support for Teenage Parents. Each of these key areas has an associated action plan. The strategy can be found on the Children's Services Website at: www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/strategies

Stay Safe

NSCB safeguarding procedures updated and online



Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) procedures for safeguarding and protecting children in Newcastle have been revised and published in a new searchable web-based database. The procedures can be accessed through www.newcastle.gov.uk/lscb. Go to the 'procedures' page and click on the huge 'Newcastle Safeguarding Children Procedures' text.

The web procedures replace all hard copy child protection procedures (i.e. blue manual) therefore we recommend that these are recalled and destroyed. Please ensure all relevant staff are made aware of this, have a copy of the link and know where to access the procedures.

The procedures will be subject to continuous improvement therefore comments are welcome. The NSCB will officially launch the procedures at the Annual General Meeting in June 2009. Additional supplementary guidance is currently still on NSCB website www.newcastle.gov.uk/lscb

Common Assessment Framework (CAF) Update

In preparation for the CAF target date, this months CAF Practitioner Groups will be held on the following dates and times:

Outer West-21/1/09 at 4pm at Throckley Primary School
East – 26/1/09 at 10am at East and Fossway Fire Station
Central-30/1/09 at 09:30am at Hadrian School

You can use the groups to receive updates on CAF and Integrated Working, problem solve and get advice and support around difficult case issues. If you have been CAF trained and have not yet completed a CAF, the groups will be a good way of helping you move forward and maximise the range of services you can link with to support the work you do with children and families. Please contact Emma Chrisp to book places for Practitioner Groups and CAF training.

We are planning Practitioner Groups for the next year and are keen to set up a programme where services can share and promote information about their work to support practitioners understand each others roles and responsibilities. If you have any ideas of roles, services and agencies you would like to find out more about, please forward your suggestions to Emma Chrisp at emma.chrisp@newcastle.gov.uk or Phone 0191 2461850 ext 146.

ContactPoint Update – your questions answered

When will ContactPoint be available?

ContactPoint will be available to the Newcastle ContactPoint team in January in order to ensure that any child's record that requires 'Shielding' will have their address details hidden.

- In May, the ContactPoint Helpdesk will be available.
- In June, the Newcastle ContactPoint Team will be trained to use it.
- In July, data from local sources will be sent to ContactPoint.
- In October, the training of practitioners will start.

Stay Safe

Continued.

What is shielding?

Shielding is a safeguarding process to ensure that a child or family's address is concealed on ContactPoint. Shielding is only applied where there are strong reasons, for example, where a practitioner has reason to believe that not doing so is likely to:

- place a child at increased risk of significant harm;
- put a child's placement at risk (in the case of adoption);
- place an adult at risk of significant harm, and/or
- prejudice the prevention or detection of a serious crime

Who will have access to the system and how?

Access to ContactPoint will only be given to formally 'accredited' organisations. Once an organisation has met the 28 ContactPoint Accreditation conditions, it can then supply the specific names for all the expected ContactPoint practitioners to the Newcastle ContactPoint Team in order to set them up with training and user access rights. An organisation can be as big as a hospital or as small as a GP Practice or a school. We expect that it will take about 2 years to train all the 4,000 users and to give them access to ContactPoint.

Where can I find out more information?

Copies of key documents such as ContactPoint Guidance and the Accreditation conditions that each organisation needs to meet are available on the Newcastle Children's Services practitioners' website at: www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/contactpoint. If you receive queries about ContactPoint from parents and carers there is information available on the city council website at: www.newcastle.gov.uk/contactpoint

Newcastle Holocaust Memorial Day: Stand Up To Hatred

Children and young people are at the heart of Newcastle's commemorative event for Holocaust Memorial Day 2009. Responding to the theme, Stand Up To Hatred, a wide variety of young groups are coming together to create what will be a thought-provoking and inspiring event at 3pm on **Sunday 25 January 2009** at The Journal Tyne Theatre.



Performances will include speeches from young people from All Saints College and St Cuthbert's RC High School who visited Auschwitz in October 08, as part of the Lessons from Auschwitz project. Mongrel UK, a music theatre group run by The Sage Gateshead in partnership with North East Refugee Service, has created a new piece of theatre especially for the event. Young people from Byker and Walker YMCA have also created a piece of theatre commemorating the 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht (The Night of Broken Glass), where Jewish synagogues, homes and businesses were attacked across Germany marking the beginning of the Holocaust.

If you want like to attend this free event, please book your tickets by contacting: 0191 211 5612 or email: sue.livesley@newcastle.gov.uk

Enjoy and Achieve

Primary school transformation strategy

The government has approved the first stage of Newcastle City Council's plans for the transformation of 36 city primary schools over the next 14 years. Last summer, the Council submitted its Primary Strategy for Change to the government, requesting over £10m of investment every two years to spend on a major modernisation programme. The Council will now receive its requested funding allocation for 2009-10, with funding for 2010-11 expected to be confirmed early this year.

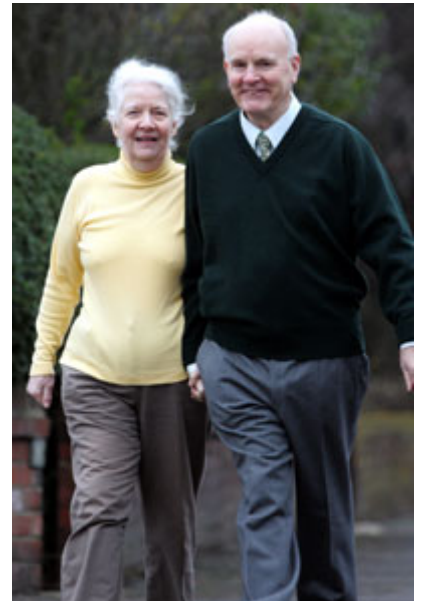
The City Council Executive have agreed the initial investment priorities as the rebuilding of Westgate Hill and Hawthorn Primary Schools, and the proposed replacement of Wharrier Street and St Anthony's CE Primary Schools in Walker with a single purpose-built school to support the ongoing regeneration of the area. The Primary Strategy complements the existing BSF and PFI Programmes in Newcastle.

New Year honours celebration

Two of our recently retired governors have been honoured in the Queens New Year Honours List! Former teachers Ronald and Susan Eunson have devoted more than 30 years to education in Newcastle.

Ronald, 70, and Susan, 64, from Brunton Park, Gosforth, have collectively notched up 33 years' service as school governors and will be made MBEs in recognition of their mammoth efforts. Ronald, who was chair of governors at Broadway East First School and Gosforth Central Middle School before retiring last September said "We were stunned when we received our letters".

Congratulations to them both.



Ofsted success for our schools

A recent report by Ofsted found the Knoplaw Primary School "outstanding" in 18 assessment areas, with standards "consistently and exceptionally high". Ofsted also found standards at Broadway East Primary School to be "exceptionally and consistently high" in 10 assessment areas, and judged the school to be "good with many outstanding features" overall.



Fantastic news for both schools, both Ofsted reports can be found at www.ofsted.gov.uk.

Enjoy and Achieve

National Storytelling Week – 31 January to 7 February

During National Storytelling Week, 31 January to 7 February, Newcastle Library Service will be at the Laing Art Gallery to tell stories to children from Atkinson Road Nursery and Newburn Manor Primary. Laing Art Gallery staff will be joining in with craft activities and tours of the exhibitions.

Storytime sessions for 0-4 year olds take place in Newcastle Libraries regularly. These are popular with parents and carers. For more information please call 0845 002 0336.

Nominate now for the annual school awards

Make sure everyone knows about the excellent work going on in our schools! Nominate a school, Headteacher or hardworking member of school staff for an award by entering either the new TES Schools Awards www.tes.co.uk or the annual Teaching Awards www.teachingawards.com.



Make a Positive Contribution



Free 'How to...' Guide out now from Participation Works

"How to involve children and young people in applying for funding" offers participation workers guidelines on effective youth participation in funding applications. To download your free copy log onto the Participation Works website www.participationworks.org.uk

Update on festive charitable work

As mentioned in the last issue, our Drug and Alcohol Team, D'n'A asked for donations towards festive hampers for young vulnerable people, substance misusers, those over 16 years old and unaccompanied minors.

Thanks to everyone's generosity, over 300 were prepared and distributed over the Christmas holidays! Any remaining hampers were taken to Skylight, which is a company trying to prevent homelessness in the North East. Many thanks to all who contributed.

New young people's DVD available

An interesting new DVD by young people called "All about Life" has been produced by 'Skills for People' in order to give a group of young people the chance to talk about what's important to them. If you would like to view the DVD please contact Nick Brereton to arrange for a copy to be sent to you by calling 0191 260 6518 or emailing directly nick.brereton@newcastle.gov.uk

Achieve Economic Wellbeing

Child Poverty co-ordinator job opportunity– closing date 30 January 2009

The Child Poverty Co-ordinator post is a 1 Year Fixed Term Contract or Secondment (with option for flexible working patterns). The salary will be up to £40,000 p.a.

The Co-ordinator will support the Child Poverty Champion's work in raising the profile of child poverty as a regional priority and developing projects on behalf of the multi-agency Child Poverty Strategy Group. Read the full advertisement text and download an Association of North East Council's application form at: www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/childpovertycoordinator

Strategic Management and Transformation

APA update

Thank you all for your continued hard work and commitment to improving the lives and outcomes of children and young people in Newcastle, you may be aware that Ofsted published their Annual Performance Assessment (APA) for all local authorities in England in December and have assessed Newcastle as follows:

Assessment judgement area	APA grade
Overall effectiveness of children's services	2
Being healthy	3
Staying safe	2
Enjoying and achieving	2
Making a positive contribution	3
Achieving economic well-being	3
Capacity to improve, including the management of services for children and young people	2

There is more hard work ahead of us, but we are well-placed for even more positive assessments in the future. We will be discussing with you in the near future how we can build on our progress to date in order to address our areas for development. We have undertaken further analysis of our performance against comparator authorities and a key group to compare our assessment with is the Core Cities group of authorities

- We have improved from being joint fifth best in grading terms amongst core cities to third best
- We are the most improved core city in grading terms between 2007 and 2008.

The data associated with this analysis is attached to the end of this newsletter as an appendix. Full copies of Ofsted's Annual Performance Assessments of all local authorities in England can be found at www.ofsted.gov.uk

Keep up to date with changes...

In our schools:

We have several new Headteachers joining us, please amend any records you have accordingly:

- Gill McKay at the soon to open Brunton First School
- Jane Sutton at Simonside Primary School
- Samantha Robson at Bridgewater Primary School
- Lynn Ackland at Heaton Manor School
- Susan Quicke is acting Headteacher at Regent Farm First School

A full A-Z list of schools is available on the Newcastle City Council website www.newcastle.gov.uk/schools

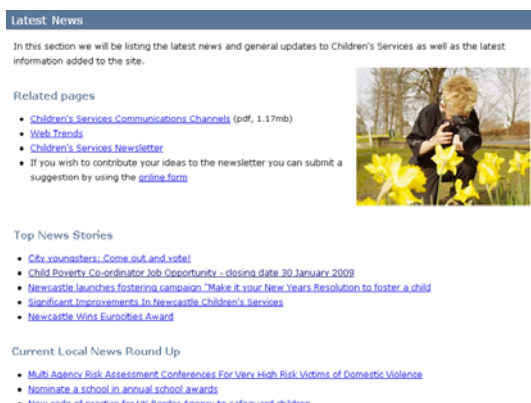
Online:

Keep up to date with the latest news stories locally by logging onto www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/news

Do you know that if you right click on the news webpage and select create shortcut it will add a handy link from your desktop directly to the online news page? Now you can keep up to date with the latest stories with only one click of a button!

Current top stories include:

- City youngsters: Come out and vote!
- Child Poverty Co-ordinator Job Opportunity - closing date 30 January 2009.
- Newcastle launches fostering campaign 'Make it your New Years Resolution to foster a child'.
- Newcastle Wins Eurocities Award.



The screenshot shows a webpage titled 'Latest News'. It contains a paragraph: 'In this section we will be listing the latest news and general updates to Children's Services as well as the latest information added to the site.' Below this is a 'Related pages' section with three links: 'Children's Services Communications Channels (pdf, 1.17mb)', 'Web Trends', and 'Children's Services Newsletter'. There is also a note: 'If you wish to contribute your ideas to the newsletter you can submit a suggestion by using the [online form](#)'. To the right of the links is a photograph of a child sitting in a field of yellow flowers. Below the photo is a 'Top News Stories' section with five links: 'City youngsters: Come out and vote!', 'Child Poverty Co-ordinator Job Opportunity - closing date 30 January 2009', 'Newcastle launches fostering campaign "Make it your New Years Resolution to foster a child"', 'Significant Improvements In Newcastle Children's Services', and 'Newcastle Wins Eurocities Award'. At the bottom is a 'Current Local News Round Up' section with three links: 'Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences For Very High Risk Victims of Domestic Violence', 'Nominate a school in annual school awards', and 'New code of practice for UK Border Agency to safeguard children'.

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

The Children's Services newsletter is published monthly. Do you have an article for the next edition that colleagues in Children's Services would like to read? If so, please email it to us at childrens.services@newcastle.gov.uk.

Many thanks to those who submitted articles, photographs and other key information in this month's edition.

Children's Services APA Further Information

	Overall	Overall	Be Healthy		Stay Safe		Enjoy and Achieve		Positive Contribution		Economic Wellbeing		Direction of travel by overall grade	Direction of travel within grade	5 Outcomes average score 2007	5 Outcomes average score 2008
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008				
Birmingham	3	2	2	2	2	1	3	2	3	3	3	3	Down		2.6	2.2
Bristol	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	Same	Up	2.2	2.4
Leeds	3	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	Down		2.8	2.4
Liverpool	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	Same	Same	3	3
Manchester	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	Same	Same	2.2	2.2
Nottingham	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	Same	Up	2	2.2
Sheffield	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	4	3	Same	Down	3.2	2.8
Newcastle	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	Same	Up	2.2	2.6