

Children's Services Newsletter

July and August 2008

Please consider the environment
before printing

Working in Partnership

Newcastle
City Council 

A message from the Director of Delivering Outcomes

Some people may think that when the so called 'holiday season' is upon us that work in Children's Services in some way slows down. On the contrary, for many people this time of year is just as busy and exciting as the rest.

Schools may be closed for a summer break but work with thousands of children and young people goes on. For example, holiday periods can be a stressful time for some of our most vulnerable children and young people so our Social Care staff continue to provide the best possible support to them and their families. In addition, a range of short breaks are available for children and young people with disabilities including overnight stays in our new purpose built provision.



John Collings
Director of Delivering
Outcomes

Furthermore there is a vast array of activities available for all Newcastle children and young people right across the city. These include play centre activities, drop in sessions at local libraries for arts and crafts and also cinema clubs! Street performers have entertained children around Newcastle and free activities at the Grainger market have been on offer for all the family to take part in. Many families in Fenham are looking forward to the 20th Fenham Association of Residents Anniversary Street Party on the 16 and 17 August.

Two popular youth theatres have been holding drama sessions for young people over the summer holidays and the Laing Art gallery has opened its doors to families to join artist Simon Terry for watercolour lessons. Many thanks to Tyne & Wear Museums as both the Discovery Museum and Segedenum have held fun and educational events throughout the summer including an Egyptian festival and also an Ugly Bug Ball!

We are also very proud that two of our young people have had the opportunity this summer to represent Newcastle at the International Youth Summit in Germany, which you can read more about within this month's newsletter.

Can I therefore thank everyone who is involved in this kind of work which is absolutely crucial in providing support and enrichment opportunities for our children and young people, especially those who are most vulnerable.

John

Submission of APA Self Assessment

Newcastle's Annual Performance Assessment (APA) self-assessment has been submitted to Ofsted as part of our statutory responsibility to review performance on an annual basis. The content of the APA self assessment has been incorporated in the review of Newcastle Plan for Children and Young People that is published on our website. www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk

The self-assessment is generally very positive and acknowledges improvements on last year's performance. Overall this year we are assessing ourselves as grade 3 (Good / performing above minimum requirements) compared to grade 2 (adequate) last year.

This shift reflects the many improvements made in outcomes for children and young people in Newcastle in 2007/8 across all outcome areas (please note that grade 4= Outstanding and Grade 1= Inadequate which is opposite to the Ofsted grades for schools).

The APA Visit

We will be visited by two Ofsted inspectors on 25 October 2008 as a further part of the APA process when evidence will be scrutinised and we will no doubt be challenged about our judgements. We are confident that our self assessment will be confirmed. More details about these visits will be published in the newsletter closer to the Inspection.

Newcastle Children's Services Briefing Sessions—July 2008

The slides and presentations from the July briefing sessions are now available online on the Newcastle Children's Services Website. If you would like to download the slides or handouts please log onto www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk

Newcastle Children and Young People Plan – Two Years On

The draft version of the [annual review of the Newcastle Children and Young People's Plan](#) is now available. This Plan is our strategy to improve outcomes for children and young people in Newcastle. This review is our opportunity to look back and assess our progress and to look forward at what we will do next.

If you have any comments on this document which is to be published at the end of August 2008 please forward them to debbie.tyler@newcastle.gov.uk as soon as possible. We would like to extend a big thank you to everybody who contributed to the improved performance that underpins the self assessment this year across all of the five outcomes and service management.

Be Healthy

New Health Website

Easyhealth is a new website by the Department of Health which has been designed to make it easier for people with learning difficulties to access health information, it includes a wide range of downloadable leaflets plus some short films and is also available in audio for those with limited literacy skills. It is a key tool for practitioners working with parents with learning difficulties as it includes resources that are free and accessible. www.easyhealth.org.uk

Keeping fit at the Newcastle Schools' Paralympic Games

Held at Newburn Activity Centre, the games were hosted by the School Sports Partnership and Sports Development, in conjunction with Select Education and Newcastle City Council's [FUSION scheme](#).

85 young disabled athletes from both special and mainstream schools across the city, joined together to test their sporting prowess in a variety of inclusive events. The indoor programme aimed to introduce young people to the joy of athletics, whilst the outdoor activities were specifically designed to cater for Special Educational Need (SEN) pupils.

Hopefully some of these young athletes will be taking part in the prestigious UK School Games in 2010 which Tyne and Wear have been chosen to host. Up to three thousand athletes are expected to compete over a three-day period in the summer of 2010. [Find out more](#) on the UK School Games Website



Bags Of Fun with Teenage Kicks

This summer, Teenage Kicks are distributing gift bags to all of the young people who they work with. The gift bags include Frisbees, blowing bubbles and lollipops, as well as information on staying safe in the summer, local sexual health services, condoms and booklets full of advice on love and relationships.

The Teenage Kicks project hope that by distributing the bags to young people, it will spread the safe sex message. To read more details on the project [click here](#). To read the Teenage pregnancy strategy and to find out what we are doing in Newcastle to reduce teenage conception rates, [click here](#).

Tackling health of teenage nation

The Chief Medical Officer, Sir Liam Donaldson produces an annual report "On the state of Public Health" in England highlighting current and future issues facing the nation. In his 2007 report he highlights the issues for young people with a section on "[Tackling the health of the teenage nation](#)". This reflects the situation in Newcastle and details a number of the issues we have to tackle if we are going to improve health outcomes for children and young people.

Stay Safe

Safeguarding Children Report

The *Safeguarding children* report produced by Ofsted on arrangements to safeguard children has been published. The report assesses how well agencies are working at both national and local levels to safeguard children and young people. View the [report here](#) on the Safeguarding Children website



Don't forget—log onto the Newcastle [Safeguarding Children Board](#) website for procedures and guidance on safeguarding children.

Contact Point

ContactPoint will be a tool to facilitate coordination and discussion between Children's Services, where this is appropriate. To [keep up to date](#) with the latest updates around Contact Point keep checking the webpage: www.newcastle.gov.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs_is_index

Enjoy and Achieve

Newcastle Celebrates National Play Day

Newcastle celebrated children's right to play with adventurous and old-fashioned play activities in Exhibition Park and games and activities on Northumberland Street



The events, organised by Newcastle City Council's Play Service and sponsored by Northumbria Water, saw outside activities such as campfire cooking and den building in Exhibition Park from 10am, alongside a climbing wall, assault courses, other challenging play activities, and arts and craft activities.

Councillor Nick Cott, Executive Member for Children's Services for Newcastle City Council, said: "Play is a crucial part of a child's development. It helps them develop skills for life, to live healthily and to understand the environment around them, and it brings families, friends and even whole communities together.

"Being able to enjoy playing out is a fundamental right of every child and we're really pleased to be celebrating National Play Day in Newcastle and hope families from across the city can join us in marking the day."

The Newcastle Play Service provide year round and holiday activities for children aged 5 to 12 at play-centres in Nunsmoor, Benwell, Scotswood, Byker and Walker, and at community centres, church halls and schools.

To read more log onto the Newcastle City Council News webpage at www.newcastle.gov.uk/press or [click here](#) to go directly to the story

Enjoy and Achieve

Finding Nemo Attendance Project

One winner in each of the 66 schools participating in this attendance project has received a family ticket to see the Disney on Ice spectacular Finding Nemo at the Metro Radio Arena in October.



The sixty six winning 100% attendees will go forward into a super draw with one extra lucky pupil meeting the cast at a VIP pre-show party.

Summer Reading Challenge

Reading is being promoted across the city this summer when youngsters sign up to [Newcastle's Summer Reading Challenge](#) at their local library. If they read just six library books during the summer holidays they have the chance to win laptops, mp3 players, signed books and t-shirts. Enjoy, Achieve and Win!

Thomas Bewick opens its doors to the 21st Century

The brand new Special needs school for pupils with autistic spectrum disorders is now open! The school will be attended by 90-100 pupils from the ages of 3 to 19.

National Leader in Education and National Support School

Congratulations to Moorside Community Primary School, after national recognition as an example to other schools being the first school in Newcastle named a *National Leader in Education and National Support School* – placing the school in the top 150 of over 20,000 schools across the country. Log onto the NSCL website to see the full list: www.ncsl.org.uk/nle.htm

Northern Grid Awards

Congratulations go to Walkergate Primary who are the 2008 winners of the [Northerngrid](#) ICT awards for using ICT to support the personalised learning agenda. To view examples of their winning work access them on the [Northern Grid Portal](#)

'Susan's Garden'

[Moorside Community Primary](#) school have opened a garden named in tribute to lunchtime supervisor Susan Wilkinson, who died suddenly earlier this year after serving the school for 23 years. June Foster, head teacher of Moorside Primary said: "We all miss her very much and I think this is a lovely way for everyone concerned with the school to remember her"

Enjoy and Achieve

Juice—Children and Young People’s Festival Sun 28 Sept - Sat 29 Nov,



A first for 2008 is Juice, the region’s new children and young people’s festival celebrating the strength of children’s cultural activity in NewcastleGateshead. A festival for 0 to 18 year olds, the fun and interactive programme is all about doing, not just viewing, and features the first visit by inspirational young artists from the poorest communities of Rio de Janeiro, AfroReggae, who will collaborate with local young people to create an energetic, colourful opening performance.

A jam-packed programme of events, activities and workshops across NewcastleGateshead will take place during October half term. Highlights include a brand new exhibition inspired by the work of award-winning local author David Almond at Seven Stories the Centre for Children’s Books, an interactive, role play trail with Live Theatre, a treasure hunt for all the family around the ‘city of stories’, and exciting new child-friendly installations in the city’s heritage buildings: an amazing sculpture made from six miles of elastic and a magical, multi-sensory carpet in the Castle Keep will offer young visitors an unforgettable experience.

Creators of You Tube phenomenon Pour Quoi, a short film by the Suggestibles comedy troupe that poked fun at ‘Free Running’ and became an instant hit all over the internet, will even offer a fun and frivolous workshop with tips for young comedy film-makers of the future. And the newly commissioned, contemporary opera of David Almond’s award-winning novel, Skellig, will premiere at The Sage Gateshead in November providing an enchanting festival finale.

Juice is part of NewcastleGateshead’s world-class programme of festivals and events managed by culture10 at NewcastleGateshead Initiative. For the latest information log onto www.NewcastleGateshead.com/Juice

In our recent newsletter questionnaire , **You said... “We want more project updates”**

We say... No problem! A further update about Juice will be included in the September edition of the newsletter!

A Level and GCSE Results

We are all eagerly anticipating the announcement of the A Level and GCSE results for Newcastle! Keep checking the Newcastle Childrens Services Website news pages for the results www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/news



Good luck to all our young people awaiting their results!

Make a positive contribution

Getting Parents and Carers Involved in Newcastle

Parent and carer involvement in children's services in Newcastle is critical in improving outcomes for children and young people.

We are creating an infrastructure that enables parents and carers to get involved through the groups and activities that they attend or do regularly; this will be through work with those already involved in participation activities. Meetings will be held over the coming months with some of these workers to set up virtual or real networks. The first of these meetings was held in the East locality on 12 August 2008, and will be followed by meetings in the other 3 localities.

All parents and carers need to know that they have a voice and that they are supported in having their voice heard,. Some parents and carers require additional support these include parents and carers who have substance misuse issues, learning difficulties mental health problems and those from the BME communities whose first language may not be English.

The first **Annual Parent and Carer Conference** for parent carers of disabled children and young people is to be held in Newcastle on **30 September**. The whole day event is for parents and carers but there is an opportunity for practitioners to call into the Market Place between 2.40pm and 6.00pm.

There are currently three staff involved in the co-ordination of parent and carer work in Newcastle and they can be contacted as follows:

Val Chadwick

Parent and Carer Participation Co-ordinator
0191 260 6512 07971 263075
Val.Chadwick@Newcastle.gov.uk

Julie Innes Nelson

Parent and Carer Participation Co-ordinator
0191 2772459 or 07768 77314
Julie.Innes.Nelson@Newcastle.gov.uk

Jacqui Adams

Parent and Carer Participation Worker (Disabled Children)
0191 277 4605
Jacqui.Adams@Newcastle.gov.uk



Make a positive contribution

Newcastle—City for Peace

City for Peace is a citywide scheme promoting peace, tolerance and respect launched on 10 July 2008 at Newcastle Civic Centre. The main aim of the Newcastle - City for Peace initiative is to establish Newcastle as a city committed to working for understanding, respect and harmony among all its people and communities.

Some of the main tasks of City for Peace are to encourage communities, individuals and organisations in our city to get to know each other better, and also safeguard vulnerable people and groups by giving support where it's needed. The initiative also aims to reduce inequalities and promote social justice as well as encourage better citizenship.

City for Peace will also tackle concerns about racism, homophobia, bullying and other hate offences and of marginalised and excluded people in all communities in Newcastle.

Monkchester Road Nursery has created their own booklet on peace, and a fantastic display was put together by all children within the nursery school.

Monkchester Road are also working hard to gain their [DCSF International School Award](#). Good luck to everyone at Monkchester Road Nursery!"

The **Play Service** also took part in the celebration of Newcastle's launch as a City for Peace with events taking place all over the city involving hundreds of children. Events included:

- The Peace tree at Galafield play centre;
- Shandon Way Community Centre made peace links and books; and
- Shandon Way also joined in a show by Amabutho (a Zimbabwean drum and dance troupe) who did gumboot dancing and drumming.



Make a positive contribution

International Youth Summit in Neuberg, Germany



On 30 July two UK Youth Parliament representatives from Newcastle were given a unique opportunity to attend an International Youth summit in Neuberg Germany. The summit brought together delegates from places called Newcastle' from across the world, including Youth Parliaments. Newcastle was joined by delegates from Newcastle Under Lyme (England), Japan, Indiana, South Africa, Switzerland and of course Germany.

Laura Barrett and Beth Thomas had an enjoyable experience as they networked, celebrated their city, discussed shared youth priorities and took part in workshops.

There was also plenty of time for sightseeing and visits to Munich, BMW and Audi as well as a boat trip on the Danube and the Closing Ceremony in Neuberg Castle were some of the highlights.

Laura Barrett aged 16 says, "Although the programme was busy and tiring, we met lots of people, had a great time and learnt a lot about young people in other Newcastle's around the world."

Choices Presentation at St Michael's Church Byker

An exhibition with a difference took place at St Michael's Church in Byker called "Who Am I?" The exhibition showcased beautiful and inspirational work produced by young people who have used creative activity to think about their own lives.

Working with arts partnership organisation Helix Arts, the young people aged between 12 and 18, are required by the courts to undertake the Intensive Supervision & Surveillance Programme (ISSP) – an alternative to youth custody. Compliance with their programme is compulsory and enforceable.

The art work on show was created by young people formally in conflict with the law who have taken part in the "Choices" programme as part of a community sentence programme. These examples were designed by young people on the programme and were displayed last year at Chillingham Road Metro.



Achieve Economic Wellbeing

Science City Update: Inspiring Seas

Young pupils from Gosforth have no fear of being shipwrecked on a desert island with their new lifesaving skills learnt as part of Newcastle Science City's education work, learning how to find food on a beach and get drinking water from sea water.

Devised by Newcastle University's Dove Marine Laboratory the practical science lessons have been designed to inspire pupils to study science through real-life examples of theoretical aspects of the National Curriculum.

Their website; www.inspiringseas.co.uk will be launched late September 2008 and hold a suite of similar marine-themed teaching resources which teachers can freely download and use within the classroom environment.

Participating Parents: A model student



Three years after Elizabeth Oyibo came to England from Nigeria with her husband and young daughter she has worked through a series of Family Learning courses. Juggling the responsibilities of motherhood, a new culture and country, combined with trying to understand a different school system and do the best for her children,

Elizabeth's achievements were truly recognised when she won first prize at the adult learning service annual awards ceremony. Elizabeth won the prestigious 'Learner of the Year' award out of 12,000 other learners. [Read more here.](#)

Alan 'takes care' of family learners

Congratulations to Alan Garner, Caretaker at Tyneview Primary School who has supported Family Learning for many years whenever he can, encouraging parents into school.

Alan's award comes as a personal thank you from Family Learning to someone who just makes the job a little bit easier. For more information [click here.](#)



School Term Dates 2009-10

To view School Term Dates for 2009-2010 log onto the Newcastle City Council website

<http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/core.nsf/a/schoolterms?opendocument>

Strategic Management And Transformation

Transforming Outcomes Programme – Latest News – July 2008

A summary of some of the quarterly updates in advance of the next Transforming Outcomes Board can be found on the [Transforming Outcomes page](#) of the Children's Services Practitioner Website.

These include:

- Adoption of the Common Assessment Framework as the assessment tool for all agencies across Children's Services;
- Information relating to the completion of the CWDC (Children's Workforce Development Council) Integrated Working Self Assessment Tool;
- Preparations for ContactPoint Implementation in March 2009;
- Review of the Newcastle Early Intervention and Prevention Model.

C4EO Launch



The Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services (C4EO) was launched on 10 July 2008 at the Association of Directors of Children's Services conference in Manchester

C4EO will identify and coordinate local, regional and national evidence of 'what works' to create a single and comprehensive picture of effective practice. Using this information, we will offer support to local authorities and their Children's Trust partners. For more information about C4EO please visit our website at www.C4EO.org.uk

Dads needed for a research project on 'meeting and greeting' by early years staff...

The University of Derby and the Pre-school Learning Alliance are keen to hear from fathers from around the country on their experiences in early years settings.

If you have stories to share and would be interested in contributing, please [click here](http://ciadweb.derby.ac.uk/limesurvey/index.php?sid=68273&lang=en) (<http://ciadweb.derby.ac.uk/limesurvey/index.php?sid=68273&lang=en>) to fill in the short questionnaire on the Derby University website. Confidentiality is assured and please feel free to pass this on to other fathers who may like to take part.

Voluntary Sector Update

The latest edition of [CHYP IN](#) includes updates on the changes in statutory bodies and structures, implementation of Every Child Matters and local voluntary sector involvement. Read it on the CVS Website www.cvsnewcastle.org.uk

Forthcoming Training and Events

'Managing Change: A professional role'

This training, initially procured by the PCT for staff in health working with children and families is available for all staff working with Children and Families and will be of particular interest to Health Visitors, School Health Advisors and staff in GUM and CASH.

This training is open to anyone in Children's Services and the Voluntary Sector. For more information log onto our [events calendar](#) for dates and a link to the booking form.

Basic Awareness In Safeguarding Children Online Learning

Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board has developed an e-learning training module in Safeguarding Children; this course is the Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board's preferred method of delivery for this level of training.



The training is hosted by Virtual College, one of the UK's leading e-learning colleges who have worked closely with Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board and other Local Safeguarding Children Boards to develop the course.

The online courses are ideal for everyone who comes into contact with children, young people, their parents or carers through their work in either the statutory or voluntary sector, are endorsed by Newcastle Local Safeguarding Children Board, and are in line with the NSCB Training Strategy. These courses are mandatory within Local Authority Children's Services and the Primary Care Trust.

For further details and to register [click here](#).

Early Years Training Programme October 2008 - March 2009

The new edition of the Early Years Training programme has now been published and is available to read at <http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/wwwfileroot/educationlibraries/core/ProgApril08.pdf>

The training is open to local authority staff a staff working in private, voluntary or independent early years or childcare settings. Booking forms for courses can be found on the Newcastle City Council [website](#)



To view the events calendar to find out which key events are happening this autumn log on to the practitioners site at www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk

Forthcoming Training and Events

Participation Works Conference

Participation Works will be delivering an exciting full-day conference in Newcastle on **Friday 19 September**.

The training will offer practical tools to support you and your organisation to further develop its work to involve children and young people and a range of practitioners and managers from the Children's Services, Community Development, Ward Co-ordination and the Voluntary Sector are being invited to take part.

We have pre-allocated 10 places to Children's Services Officers and Practitioners at a significantly subsidised charge of £40 per place which includes lunch and training materials. Other statutory sector colleagues are welcome to attend but are requested to note that a charge of £40.00 will apply.

Further information can be found [online](#) on the events calendar which includes a booking form to be used to reserve a place at the Participation Works Conference. Alternatively, contact Peter Ross, peter.ross@newcastle.gov.uk

Locality Network Events

The next Locality network events are to be held on the following dates (Arrive at 9am for 9.30am start until 3.30pm)

Outer West & North: Tuesday 9 September, Venue is Falcon's Rugby Club
Central Riverside: Thursday 11 September, Venue is in the Discovery Museum.
North Central: Tuesday 16 September 2008, Venue is the Springfield Centre
East: Thursday 18 September 2008, Venue is Castle Gate in Newcastle.

If you would like to discuss the event, or would like to attend but have not received an invitation please contact one of the Area Locality Development Officers on **0191 277 4640**:

- [Jill Blight](#) (Central – North and Riverside);
- [Patrick Docherty](#) (Outer West and North);
- [Ed Whitby](#) (East)

To learn more about Locality Working log onto the [Localities webpage](#)



News just in.... Locality project portfolios - information for partners

Following the recent Children's Fund open and competitive tendering process twelve projects have been recommended for award of contract.

Some of these projects will be delivered across all localities in Newcastle and others have a more defined locality focus. To find out more about these projects log onto our Children's Fund webpage at www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs_childrensfund