

Children's Services Newsletter

MARCH 2008

Please consider the environment
before printing

Working in Partnership

A message from the Executive Director

Happy Easter to all!

Thank you for your recent attendance at the staff briefing sessions and your subsequent comments. All questions and answers will be carefully considered and our responses will be published on the Newcastle Children's Services Practitioners site: www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk



Catherine Fitt
Executive Director of
Children's Services

At some of the sessions we tested out how many individuals were accessing and keeping up to date with developments through reading this newsletter. The numbers were disappointingly low! In order to help us address this could you please forward comments, ideas and suggestions to childrens.services@newcastle.gov.uk in order that we can ensure that all staff and our partners are able to appreciate its contents. If you know of any obstacles existing preventing access that we can address please let us know. My thanks go to the Information and Communications Team who go to great lengths to ensure that deadlines are met so that we are informed of Children's Services news on a regular basis. Those of us who read the newsletter really appreciate the hard work that goes into it.

Best Wishes, Catherine

CYPSP and NSCB Annual Conference

To view agenda's, presentations and reports from the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership and Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board Annual conference that took place on 7 March 2008 log onto: http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs_cypsp#annual

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Do you have an article that you would like to include in the April edition of the Children's Services newsletter? Then please email it to : childrens.services@newcastle.gov.uk. Many thanks to those who submitted articles, photographs and other key information in this month's edition.



Be Healthy:

Child Health Commissioning Group

The C&YPSP Executive have agreed that the Child Health Commissioning Group (CHCG) will act as the lead partnership for the Be Healthy outcome. Partnerships with a health focus will be accountable to the CHCG and CHCG will report on the Be Healthy outcome at six monthly intervals to the C&YPSP Executive with exception reports on specific issues.

For further information contact: andy.roberts@newcastle.gov.uk

National Drug strategy 2008-18

The Government has published a new drug strategy for the period 2008-18. It focuses more on families, gives a stronger role to communities and proposes to target money and effort where it will make the most difference. The strategy emphasises joint working on shared problems across institutional boundaries, and highlights the role of local authorities and partners in its delivery.

For more information log on to: www.drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk

Stay Safe:

Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA)

The main aim of the ISA is to prevent unsuitable people from working with children and vulnerable adults. It will do this by placing these people on one of two ISA Barred Lists. The ISA will make decisions about who should be on these lists. The ISA will work in partnership with the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB), to deliver the new scheme.



A public information road show explaining the role of the ISA is taking place in Newcastle on **24 April 2008** at the Newcastle Gosforth Park Marriott Hotel. To register and attend or for more information log on to <http://www.isa.gov.org>

Common Assessment Framework

The C&YPSP Executive have recently reinforced the message that all organisations should have incorporated the Common Assessment Framework into their assessment process and integrated working in Service Plans. Ending the “referral culture” in Newcastle was key to establishing Early Intervention and Prevention.

To view more information on the Common Assessment Framework log on to the practitioners site http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs_is_homepage#caf

Contact: john.brown@newcastle.gov.uk

Enjoy and Achieve:

The “Wednesday Project”

This project works with parents & carers of asylum seeker and refugees and is funded one day per week until the end of the 2008 academic year. The project is working in partnership with Byker and East & Fossway Children's Centres and Canning Street, Moorside and West Riverside Children's Centres in the West of the city.

If you work in these areas and would like to be involved please contact:
Paramjeet Singh Bhogal, Educational Psychology Service; Tel: 0191 2774577
paramjeet.bhogal@newcastle.gov.uk

New Sure Start Children's Centres designated for the city

Six new Sure Start Children's Centres were officially designated for the city by the government. The new centres will cover Dinnington, Denton, Westerhope, Newburn, Ouseburn and South Heaton.

Newcastle already has ten successful Sure Start Children's Centres offering a range of services to families and young children. The new centres mark a significant milestone towards the target of ensuring every child in Newcastle has access to a Sure Start Children's Centre by 2010.

More information about these centres is available from;

Cowgate and Blakelaw	Anne Armstrong	2142460
East and Fossway	Sam Hood	2759636
Fenham	Lesley Wood	2748616
North Fenham	Mary O'Sullivan	2750951
Newbiggin Hall	Paul Court	2142460
North Moor	Chris Forrester	2134100
Walkergate	Gail Jamieson	2632411
West Riverside	Lin Simmonds	2727824

Or log onto <http://newcastle.cyp-directory.org.uk>

Congratulations to the Building Schools for the Future Team

The Building Schools for the Future team is part of the Newcastle City Council Major Projects Team and has been nominated to the Public Private Finance Magazine and short listed for the award for “**Public Sector Team of the Year**”.

The Awards results will be announced in London on 29th April 2008.



Make a positive contribution

Speak 4 Yourself – Young Advisors Network

The Children and Young People's Engagement Strategy Team produces a monthly newsletter to go to young people who have signed up to become part of our Young Advisors Network. The young people involved have expressed an interest in having their say and get invited to take part in activities, events and projects. The newsletter features a number of articles aimed at young people living in Newcastle to inform them of a range of opportunities to get involved and will list events happening across the city.

If you have anything you would like us to include in the newsletter, please email peter.ross@newcastle.gov.uk or vicky.hartley@newcastle.gov.uk or contact us on 0191 2771247 Ext 21247.

Targeted Youth Support

Locality Managers have been given the task of working with Training and Development Agency to facilitate locality based Targeted Youth Support self assessment and planning processes. Locality partnerships will be fully consulted on how this work progresses and the process will be inclusive in respect of engaging all stakeholders, including those in the Voluntary and Community Sector. More information will be shared with colleagues in due course. For further information on these developments please contact the Area Locality Managers on (0191) 277 4488.

100% Attendance Awards

Over 120 pupils with 100% attendance celebrated alongside their parents and families at the annual 100% Attendance Awards at St James Park.

To view the names of the award winners and photos of the event log onto <http://www.chroniclive.co.uk/north-east-news/todays-evening-chronicle/2008/03/14/yes-they-re-the-great-attenders-72703-20623073/>



Young People give Chapter and Verse on City's Libraries

Children and young people were thanked for their help in transforming the city's library service at a special reception hosted by the Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Councillor Peter Arnold. During the event young people were presented with their Investing in Children Membership for work at Gosforth Library.

Achieve Economic Wellbeing

New Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

The LSC has updated the EMA leaflet and posters with new images and have requested old leaflets and posters are removed and replaced with the new ones. Download the new information at <http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/>

14-19 Learning Partnership

The annual progress report on 14-19 Learning Strategy and Action Plan was presented to the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) Executive in February. Discussion took place on targets, in particular those on young people entering Higher Education (HE) and achieving Level 2. The CYPSP Executive have requested that the 14-19 Learning Partnership consider how its actions will impact on "narrowing the gap" on achievement and progression in different areas of the city.

Further information: melanie.bear@newcastle.gov.uk



To view the events calendar to find out which key events are happening in March and April log on to the practitioners site at www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk

Strategic Management and Transformation

Narrowing the Gap

Newcastle is now part of this key national project. 'Narrowing the Gap' is concerned with improving outcomes for vulnerable children and those who are most at risk, with a view to reducing the differences/deficits in outcomes between these groups and children and young people as a whole – whilst improving outcomes for all.

Within the Newcastle Children's Services website you will find more details about the 'Narrowing the Gap' pack which contains all the material produced during the first phase of the project. This pack has been designed to be used by everyone working with or for children and young people and their families across the children's sector – locally, regionally or nationally. http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs_ntg

Reshaping- Parents and Carer Participation

The C&YPSP Executive in February approved a proposal to reshape the existing Parent and Carer Participation post to focus on Children with Disabilities. The wider strategy of Participation with Parents and Carers will be reshaped to be delivered within existing resources.

For further information contact: janette.brown@newcastle.gov.uk

Strategic Management and Transformation

Newcastle Plan for Children and Young People (NPCYP) Annual Review and 2008/9 Priorities

The annual review of the Newcastle Plan for Children and Young People is currently underway. The City Council and partners (through the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership) have reviewed priorities and are updating progress in delivering key areas of the plan.

The review of progress is informed by:

- Changes in indicators reflecting important outcomes for children and young people
- Identifying what we have done to date – progress in delivering strategies, transformation programme and outcome improvement plans
- The results of external inspections, evaluations and self-assessment

The review of the plan also requires a review of the priorities. The regulations require that this should take into account whether:

- The priorities and actions to achieve better outcomes need updating to reflect the strengths and weaknesses identified in the last APA, JAR, Priorities Meetings and other internal/external reviews
- Additional needs analysis has identified any specific priorities or any gaps that need further analysis – for example, on tackling child poverty and improving economic wellbeing

On the basis of the above, there are currently 22 proposed priorities for 2008/9 incorporating all appropriate inspection recommendations. These priorities will each have an Improvement Plan. View these priorities at : http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs_planning_commissioning_performance

The draft annual review of NPCYP will be circulated to all schools and partners for consultation in May 2008 prior to its finalisation and submission to Ofsted on 26 June 2008.

Partnership Handbook

The C&YPSP Executive in February approved the Partnership Handbook as a tool to support partnership working. The handbook includes guidance on setting up partnerships, developing Terms of Reference, managing and dissolving partnerships.

The handbook is for use by all partnerships and a short training programme in effective partnership working will also be developed. Electronic copies of the handbook are available online at: http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/wwwfileroot/microsites/childrenservices/Fit_for_purpose_handbook_2008.pdf

Strategic Management and Transformation

Newcastle Children's Services Commissioning Framework

The Commissioning Framework for Newcastle Children's Services has been agreed by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership for use by all partner agencies in the public, private and third sectors, and seeks to clarify the commissioning process by:

- defining commissioning
- establishing a set of common commissioning principles
- setting out a model of commissioning for Newcastle

The Commissioning Framework is being piloted in 2008-09 by all partners involved in commissioning activity. Commissioners are expected to follow the commissioning model outlined in the framework, and incorporate the commissioning process into relevant action plans.

An interim review of the implementation of the framework will be carried out in September 2008, and a full review in December 2008. The framework can be accessed at: http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs_commissioning

Working in Localities: Children's Fund Commissioning Timeline

The four Locality Partnerships have set up a task group to focus on needs and priorities in each locality and how best to use funding available to provide Children's Fund preventative services. This funding will be used to tackle the priority areas of increasing levels of school attendance, reducing the number of first time entrants to the criminal justice system and improving self-esteem.

The groups developed draft specifications for this funding and consulted with the wider Partnerships. Locality Managers are working with colleagues to develop the evaluation process for proposals from prospective providers. This will include the involvement of Children and Young People. To view the draft timeline log on to: http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs_planning_commissioning_performance

Transforming Outcomes Programme

February's C&YPSP Executive noted the Annual Review Process for the Transformation Programme. Key challenges are the engagement of all partners including schools in locality developments and the contribution from partners to the delivery of the workforce strategy.

The C&YPSP Executive have recently noted the progress in implementing integrated working in some parts of Children's Services but a lack of progress in other areas meant this part of the Transformation Programme was a red risk.

For further information contact: sarah.jackson@newcastle.gov.uk