

# Children's Services Newsletter

October 2008

Please consider the environment

Working in Partnership



## A message from the Executive Director

Dear Colleagues

You really are a wonderful bunch of people, deeply committed to the future of our children, and it shines through!



Catherine Fitt  
Executive Director of Children's  
Services

I was only sorry I could not be a fly on the wall as you told our inspectors all that you have achieved. Those meetings have become a pleasure now. I never thought I'd say that I enjoyed a Standards Meeting!

Thank you to everyone who has stepped up to the mark in recent weeks, in all sorts of ways helping each other out and making sure that the business gets done.

Best wishes as always.

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Catherine Fitt".



### In your Children's Services newsletter this month.....

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## General News

### Farewell to our colleague Helen Cavanagh



Most practitioners who have come into contact with Newcastle Children's Services Directorate will have met or worked with Helen Cavanagh.

A familiar figure at briefing sessions, conferences or for those working directly with her, from the smell of her porridge and honey drifting down the corridor each morning and that distinctive and extremely contagious laugh!

Helen has enjoyed a varied career with us as a teacher, Headteacher, ICT Adviser, Primary Director for Newcastle Education Action Zone and Senior Adviser (Early Years).

When the Government published the Every Child Matters: change for children agenda it meant a further 'change for Helen' as she took on the responsibility of being the Every Child Matters Lead for Education, moving on to become Head of Transformation for Children's Services, facilitating the creation of the Newcastle Plan for Children and Young People and its implementation through the transforming outcomes programme.



*Helen says "My time with Newcastle City Council has been extremely challenging but it has also been tremendously fulfilling. I will always be grateful for the opportunities I have been given over the years. I want to say a huge thank you to all those I have worked alongside in my various roles. It has been an amazing journey and one that has demanded more than 100% effort at all times but above all I have had such great fun along the way. Many more thanks to you all".*

Helen will be leaving Children's Services on 31 October 2008 and we all wish her well in her new career coaching others in leadership and management skills. Helen will be having a farewell reception at the Springfield Centre on 23 October from 12:00 to 1:30pm and everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to Jennifer Brown, Tel 2115303

### NEEC 2009 (formerly the North of England Education Conference)

Wirral and Chester 7-9 January 2009.

Directors and senior children's services managers from Newcastle have been invited to attend this inaugural event with senior politicians and education colleagues. Speakers include Baroness Estelle Morris and Dame Gillian Pugh.

You can find out more from [www.neec2009.co.uk](http://www.neec2009.co.uk) or call the conference hotline 0151 346 6737

An early bird rate of **£555.00** is available for bookings prior to 31 October 2008.

## Be Healthy

### Fantastic Health Care Commission news

You may have heard that the Health Care Commission released their judgements on Health Organisations on Thursday 16 October. The North East did particularly well. To view the results log onto <http://2008ratings.healthcarecommission.org.uk/informationabouthealthcareservices/overallperformance.cfm>

	Quality of Service	Use of resources
Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals Trust	Excellent	Excellent
Northumberland Tyne Wear Trust	Excellent	Good
Newcastle PCT	Fair	Fair
North Tyneside PCT (now merged with Newcastle)	Good	Fair
North East Ambulance Service	Excellent	Good

### Hawkhirst Activity Centre



Work has recently been completed on a new 44-bed residential lodge at the Hawkhirst Scout Activity Centre at Kielder – 50 miles North West of Newcastle.

The joint project involving Newcastle City Council, The Scout Association and the Big Lottery Fund gives children and young people from across Newcastle more opportunities to get out of the city and have a go at outdoor activities including assault courses, canoeing, dinghy sailing and orienteering.

For more information contact the activity centre on 01434 250217 or email [Hawkhirst.activitycentre@scout.org.uk](mailto:Hawkhirst.activitycentre@scout.org.uk)

### Together we can make a difference – parent carer conference

A big thank you goes out to all the parent carers and paid workers from across Children's Services who attended the first Parent Carer Conference for parents of disabled children and young people on Tuesday 30 September. The day was a great success with people already talking about what to do next year. The full day was attended by 35 parent carers. Positive evaluations were received from both parent carers and paid workers who attended as stallholders.

Several parent carers signed up to be more involved in service planning for specific areas including developing Aiming High for Disabled Children, Short Breaks and appropriate childcare for disabled children and young people. If you would like more information or know of parent carers who would like to be involved please contact Jacqui Adams Parent Carer Participation Worker 2774605 or email [jacqui.adams@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:jacqui.adams@newcastle.gov.uk)

## Stay Safe

### Foster a future update

Newcastle fostering service continues to go from strength to strength. The marketing campaign began in October 07 with an initial target of 50 new carers a year.

To date there have been **30+** fostering households approved across the approval categories enabling greater placement choice however this is only a start and everyone is aware that we need to continue to move forward which is exactly what is being done. Pre-approval training courses continue to be full to capacity and currently there are a particularly high number of assessments ongoing.

In addition BME recruitment continues to be positive with subsequent new approvals assisting with appropriate cultural matches and therefore enabling greater placement choice. The marketing campaign is in place for the next twelve months and continues to be innovative in its approach to reaching target audiences.

Senior managers are delighted with the campaign and it's success and look forward to an increasing interest in fostering in the next phase of the marketing campaign. Read more about our campaign at [www.newcastle.gov.uk/foster](http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/foster)



### Guidance for writing child protection policy and procedures

Children and young people from every community can be hurt, put at risk of harm or abused, regardless of their age, religion or ethnicity. In our work and contact with children we all have a responsibility to keep them safe from harm. Safeguarding is about trying to make sure that children do not get harmed, and knowing what to do if anyone in your group is worried about a child. Making sure your group has safeguards in place:

- Protects children and young people from harm and abuse
- Enables staff and volunteers to know what to do if they are worried
- Shows that your group / service is responsible

This guidance will assist in formulating a child protection policy for any group or service who is responsible for the welfare and well being of children and young people.

To view the guidance document, visit the Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board website

<http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/ssacpc.nsf>



## Stay Safe

### Anti bullying week



Anti Bullying week runs from the 17 – 21 November. The theme this year is **'Being different, belonging together'** As is acknowledged in the Anti Bullying Alliance materials – differences – whether real or perceived – are often at the heart of bullying.

A lot of the work of RESPONSE Anti Bullying Team, is about challenging this type of bullying and the training and workshops we have available for staff, governors, parents, children and young people reflects this.

All of the training is relevant to the anti bullying week theme but especially workshops around addressing homophobia and gender inequality, disability and bullying and racist bullying. We already have some activities for this week planned in schools which include assemblies which will be delivered by young people around bullying and more specific training planned around anti racist work and cyber bullying.

We would be happy to get involved in anti bullying activities schools or services have planned for this week and can assist in the planning or facilitation of ideas for addressing the issue of bullying – not just in this week but throughout the year.

### Disability and special educational needs bullying conference

On the last day of anti bullying week (21 November) we are hosting a 'Disability and Special Educational Needs Bullying' conference at the Assembly Rooms in Newcastle. Young people will lead the way in presenting this ground breaking conference which aims to develop good practice for professionals in schools, social care, and health services.

If you would like further information or would like to find out more about Anti Bullying support available please contact the Team by phone 0191 2774500 or email [response@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:response@newcastle.gov.uk)

### Congratulations and good luck!

The RESPONSE team have been short listed for a **Children and Young Peoples Now Award** in recognition of our work around anti bullying. A panel of young people will now judge the entries and we have been invited to attend a gala dinner award ceremony to be opened by Children's Secretary Ed Balls in London on the evening of 20 November. Read more about the award at [www.cypnow.org.uk](http://www.cypnow.org.uk)

## Stay Safe

### Moving towards integrated working in Newcastle

As most of you will be aware, the implementation of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) has a target date of **31 March 2009** in Newcastle. This means that use of CAF, the allocation of a Lead Professional and the move to a Team around the Family approach (from a referral approach) will be the way services work together to support children, young people and families in the city.

To support practitioners to develop their skills and move towards Integrated Working, monthly CAF Practitioner Groups are held in the 3 localities in the city. The groups are very informal and give people the opportunity to ask any questions they have, share practice tips and work through difficult case issues. There are also regular CAF training sessions for practitioners and managers in place throughout the year.

The dates, times and venues for the next CAF Practitioner Support Groups are;

Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	9.30am – 11am	Cowgate and Blakelaw Children's Centre (Central)
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	3.30pm – 5pm	West Denton Community Association (Outer West & North)
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	9.30am – 11am	Byker Fire Station (East)

To book a place on the practitioner groups or the CAF training please email [emma.chrisp@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:emma.chrisp@newcastle.gov.uk) or call 0191 2461850 ext 146.

Further information on training dates, CAF, the role of Lead Professional and Integrated Working can be found on the Children's Services website at [http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs\\_is\\_homepage](http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs_is_homepage)

## Enjoy and Achieve

### Science City photography competition

School children from 7 – 16 years old are being encouraged to take photos of science and nature in the North East in a Newcastle Science City photography competition.



The aim of the competition as described by the Chief Executive of Science City, Peter Arnold is "For the students to be inspired by their own environment and to think about science in this real world, so they appreciate it is all around them, not just in a laboratory."

Details of how to enter and some photography tips are on the Newcastle Science City website [www.newcastlesciencecity.com](http://www.newcastlesciencecity.com) and the closing date is **Monday, 27 October 2008**.

## Enjoy and Achieve

### Half term fun squeezed into Juice festival

NewcastleGateshead has launched its first festival for children and young people showcasing a mouth-watering range of performances, events, activities and workshops with something for all ages from 0 to 18.

During October half term, **Juice** will really come alive with a host of events involving many of NewcastleGateshead's award-winning family attractions and cultural venues as well as activity happening in some exciting and unexpected locations.

Highlights include

- Winged Tales of the North, a brand new David Almond inspired exhibition
- a treasure hunt for all the family around the 'city of stories'
- Stretch, an incredible, interactive performance piece involving more than six miles of elastic stretched across an immense space

- The Kurdish Garden, a magical, multi-sensory carpet in the Castle Keep

Also during October half term, look out for *The Squeeze*, an information point, chill out space, mobile cinema, interactive hub and a car – this multi talented **Juice**-mobile will be making pit stops around Newcastle and Gateshead.

Juice festival (27 September – 30 November) is a highlight of NewcastleGateshead's world-class programme of festivals and events for 2008, developed by culture<sup>10</sup>.

See [www.juicefestival.co.uk](http://www.juicefestival.co.uk) for full event listings and details of how to book.

### Families to celebrate outstanding attendance

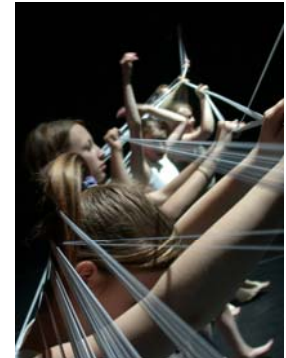
The recent review of the Newcastle Plan For Children And Young People identified improving attendance and reducing persistent absence from schools as a key priority for development during 2008/9.

The annual event to celebrate excellent school attendance is taking place on Friday 24 October where over 1320 pupils have been invited to celebrate 100% attendance in the academic year to July 2008.

The event will take place at the Metro Radio Arena where the students and their families will watch the Newcastle Eagles basketball team take on Sheffield Sharks.

Peter Beardsley has helped promote the importance of regular school attendance in a number of visits to school assemblies this term with more planned over the next few weeks.

For further information, contact Gillian Sanders on 0191 277 4502.



## Enjoy and Achieve

### Newcastle teachers are award winners

No less than five of our teachers were honoured in this year's North East Teaching Awards.

'The Platos' - the Oscars of the teaching world - celebrate excellence in schools and the North East awards took place at the Sage Gateshead, earlier this year. Judith Reed of West Jesmond Primary was named Special Needs Teacher of the Year and Winner of the Excellence in Professional Development award.

Hugh Robinson of Gosforth High, and Pat Wager of Sacred Heart RC High received distinctions in the Headteacher of the Year in a Secondary School award.

Diane Murray from Broadway East First School, was commended in the Teacher of the Year in a Primary School award. Lastly, Atkinson Road Nursery School head Lynn Robinson was commended in the Lifetime Achievement category. Lynn retired this July after 23 years at Atkinson Road.

Well done to all, and perhaps its time to start thinking about next years nominations!

### Diana Award Honour for our schools



The School Councils of **St Mary's Catholic Comprehensive School** and **St Catherine's Primary School** have won the prestigious Diana Award for a piece of outstanding research work which they carried out in their schools and then presented to a national adult audience at a conference in Birmingham.

The work involved consulting students in both schools and some of the staff on issues and ideas around the themes of personal safety and self esteem. The project was supported by RESPONSE anti-bullying team.

St Mary's School Council presented its findings to the senior management of the school. The quality of their presentations was outstanding. The school instantly took their comments on board and began to incorporate students' ideas into future planning.

Subsequently, the pupils were invited to make a further presentation to a National Conference in Birmingham and as a result of their success there, they were nominated for the National Diana Award and subsequently won receiving silver medals, certificates and a letter of commendation from the Chair of the Diana Trust, the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown.

Well done to all involved. For further information log onto the Diana Awards website [www.diana-award.org.uk](http://www.diana-award.org.uk)

## Enjoy and Achieve

### Exciting reading activities coming up this Autumn



- Young Cultural Creators: a project involving children from Linhope School working with Outer West Library and the Hatton Gallery.
- Creating Chances: a project with the Newcastle United Foundation, involving a football and literacy afternoon in Cruddas Park Library.
- Half Term activities for children which includes special Trick N Treat sessions in some of our libraries.
- Booked Up project will see two authors, Tom Palmer and Cathy Cassidy visiting students from All Saints College and Walbottle High School.
- Northern Children's Book Festival Fortnight: 10 authors and illustrators will visit Newcastle schools and libraries during the fortnight.
- Northern Children's Book Festival Gala Day: At Newcastle Civic Centre and at venues across the city, 15 authors and illustrators will celebrate Gala Day.
- Children from Sir Charles Parsons School will be visiting Walker Library on 28 November to take part in Story-Go-Round. This is a project offering multi sensory storytelling for children with severe learning difficulties and profound and multiple learning difficulties.

## Make a Positive Contribution

### What is Myplace?

**Myplace** is a multi million pound government programme to deliver world class places for young people to go, the vision behind the fund is to improve youth facilities in response to demand from young people, parents and communities for more and better places for young people to go.



The funding is delivered on behalf of the Department for Children, Schools and Families by the BIG Lottery. Newcastle City Council has submitted a bid for almost £5m to redevelop the old Vine Street School which is in the city-centre and behind the City Pool. The new facility would house first class facilities for young people and a range of support services operated by our key partner, Streetwise. The state of the art youth centre would have a café, internet suite, performance space for up to 200 young people, a music editing suite and also house a range of sexual health and support services operated by Streetwise with Children's Services.

Our bid was submitted earlier this month and we expect to hear back from the BIG Lottery in the coming weeks – we'll keep you posted but for more information contact James Anderson, CYPES Coordinator on 277 7427 or Don Irving, Head of Youth Service on 277 7426.

## Make a Positive Contribution

### UK Youth Parliament Elections

Any young person aged between 11 and 18 years old who lives in Newcastle can nominate themselves to become a member of the Youth Parliament for Newcastle. The steps below shows the process that young people have to go through.

1. Fill in a **nomination form** and book onto a briefing session which will take place on Sat 29 November and Mon 1 December.
2. **Attend** a briefing session to learn more, ask any questions and get guidance on writing manifestos.
3. Monday 8 December is the **deadline** for completing manifestos to be handed in so information can be distributed to voting centres (see info below)
4. 12-16 January 2009 is **election week** in voting centres. Young people across the city use ballot boxes or can vote online.
5. Friday 23 January The **results** will be announced at an election event. This will also involve a celebration of current reps work. Young people who nominated themselves will be expected to attend to hear the results.

In addition to this the Children and Young Peoples Engagement Team is asking any school, venue or centre that runs sessions with young people to register as a voting centre. This is to give as many young people as possible the opportunity to vote for their favourite candidates and get involved in the process.

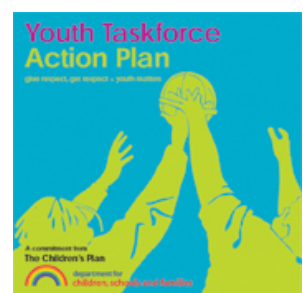
If you register as a voting centre you will be provided with all the materials you need including portable ballot boxes and voting slips. All we ask is that you display the required materials, allow young people to vote in election week between 12-16<sup>th</sup> January and return the completed voting slips to us by Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January to allow counting to take place.

For more information, to register as a voting centre or to get nomination forms please contact Vicky Hartley on 0191 2606513 or by email [vicky.hartley@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:vicky.hartley@newcastle.gov.uk)

### DCSF Youth Taskforce Roadshows – 6 November 2008

Do you want to find out more about the government's vision for tackling youth crime and anti-social behaviour? Do you want to hear about practical examples of good practice, air your views and share your ideas with multi-disciplinary colleagues?

Attend the **free** Youth Taskforce Roadshow in Newcastle on 6 November 2008 at the Newcastle Gosforth Park Marriott Hotel. This event is free and will run 10am - 4pm.



Please logon to the [online news section](#) of the Children's Services website for details of how to register and also further information regarding the workshops.

## Make a Positive Contribution

### Local Democracy Week

Local Democracy Week 2008, took place between 13 and 17 October 2008 with many exciting and interesting activities. The Children and Young Peoples Engagement Team, along with Democratic services, Ward Coordination and Community Development organised a week long programme of activities to celebrate the week.

There were a number of activities which happened in wards involving young people to increase their awareness of politics and democracy in their local areas and making it fun. Some of the activities included:



- 'Pizza and Politics'
- Question Time sessions in schools
- Young peoples ward committee meetings
- Political Literacy activities including, quizzes and workshops

On Friday 17 October schools and youth groups were invited to take part in an event to celebrate the end of local Democracy week. Young people took part in an interactive political Blankety Blank and Political Call my Bluff to increase their awareness of the local council and political processes.

The young people from schools across the city also took part in mini debates to discuss statements such as 'The voting age should be decreased to 16' and 'voting should be made compulsory.' Young people were also asked to build and take charge of their own city.

For more information please contact Vicky Hartley on 0191 2606513 or by email [vicky.hartley@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:vicky.hartley@newcastle.gov.uk)

### Web based information for children and young people

As part of an ongoing review of City Council websites, you will be aware that alreet.com, was taken offline earlier this year. We are now in early stages of designing and developing a new broader citywide website for children and young people.

Newcastle has been confirmed as a pilot local authority for the 'Information and Signposting Project' – a project that will support us to use new and innovative technologies to promote information to young people about positive activities.

We also have the Families Services Directory providing a web-based resource on things to do and places to go in Newcastle. And information about engagement activities, including all the news and guidance for young people about the UK Youth Parliament elections, is available on [www.newcastle.gov.uk](http://www.newcastle.gov.uk)

What we plan to do is bring everything together through a young people led, young people friendly website and related media. We'll tell you more and ask for your comments in future editions of the newsletter.

## Achieve Economic Wellbeing

### Child Poverty Pilot Schemes

Following submitted expressions of Interest in the local authority led child poverty pilots, Newcastle City Council have been requested to submit full bids to deliver the Local Authority Innovation Pilot and the Improved housing Support For Teenage Parents Pilot.

The Innovation Pilot is a £20 million scheme to be delivered by at least 10 local authorities between 2009 and 2011. The Improved Housing Support For Teenage Parents will be delivered by 5 or 6 local authorities with funding of £2.75 million.

Ian Stratford (Chief Executive), Catherine Fitt (Executive Director of Children's Services) and Paul Rubenstein (Assistant Chief Executive) would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Expression of Interest stage of the bid.

Newcastle City Council have also been short listed for Beacon Status for "Preventing and Tackling Child Poverty". Beacon status is granted to those authorities that demonstrate a clear vision, excellent services and a willingness to innovate within a specific theme. The feedback received stated we submitted:

"A strong application providing good evidence of cross-cutting leadership and use of local and comparative data to inform a child poverty strategy. There is good evidence of a link between strategy, actions and outcomes. Customer and community engagement is well addressed with some innovative approaches. The needs of particularly disadvantaged groups are considered"

More information can be found on the Latest news page of the Children's services website [http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs\\_news](http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs_news)

## Strategic Management And Transformation

### Newcastle City Council's Voluntary and Community Sector Grant Aid 2009/10

Each year Newcastle City Council provides grant aid to the voluntary and community sector in the city through a variety of different budgets. The bidding process for funding for 2009/10 is now open. The closing date is 5 December 2008.

As part of our grant applications it is now a requirement that organisations have in place suitable policies for safeguarding the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults. We are providing a workshop on 26 October 2008 where groups can receive advice about safeguarding from city council officers.

Application packs and further information about the workshops can be found on the City Council Grant Aid pages of the Newcastle City Council Website at <http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/core.nsf/a/volofunding>

## Strategic Management and Transformation

### A special visit to Newcastle

A high level visit took place to Newcastle by the Secretary General for Education, Justin Nsengiyumva, Secretary General in the Ministry of Education, Rwanda. This is part of the Department for International Development's (DFID's) support to the Government of Rwanda following the Genocide which ended in 1993 but the impact from this remains in many ways.

Justin's visit began in Newcastle with a visit with Catherine Fitt, Director of Children Services. They discussed the comparison between the implementation of 'Every Child Matters' and the issue in Rwanda for coping with children unable to attend school because many children are the head of the family and have to find food to support their younger siblings or they are found roaming in groups on the streets.

Justin also visited St John Vianney Primary School to sample a lesson. He was able to contrast the highly participative teaching and learning taking place with the direct teaching methods predominant in his own country.

He was able to see the new Walbottle Campus Technology College in its first weeks of operation and learn how this building is part of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. At both schools he was able to identify how schools managed their own budgets and recruitment and how this contrasted with area districts in Rwanda directing teacher placements and other resources.

In Rwanda there is a scarcity of professional adults available to teach. Justin was able to talk about developing collaboration between teachers and teacher educators in Rwanda and the School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences at Newcastle University and our own Childrens Services.

### Keep up to date



The latest Children's Services news will be updated onto the Latest News page as it becomes available so make it a part of your daily routine to check the page for the latest information.  
[www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/news](http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/news)

**Handy Hint:** by clicking on the link to to the [latest news page](#) and 'right click' anywhere on the news page and select 'create shortcut' puts a shortcut on your desktop which means you can keep up to date with a click of a button!

Have you missed an edition of the Children's Services Newsletter? Don't worry, there are archive copies also on our website [www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs\\_childrenservicesnewsletters](http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs_childrenservicesnewsletters)



## Strategic Management And Transformation

### Corporate Transformation Programme – Update On Progress

The work informing the [Corporate Transformation Programme](#), as described in the Children's Services Newsletter in Sept, is moving on at pace, and we wanted to keep you posted about where we are in the process and what will be happening next.

Some of you may have been involved in, or been aware of, the recent Value Chain Analysis (VCA) exercise, (forming a view of staff time spent on different types of functions across the Council). The bulk of this exercise is now complete. KPMG, our transformation partners, are now busy analysing the data to spot any trends emerging which will enable us to make the most of the skills and resources we have, in order to deliver the best possible services for the public.

KPMG and senior directorate officers have also been involved in some structured interviews, exploring opportunities managers can see for working more smartly.

All this information, being collated at present, is building a big picture of how effectively the organisation works as a whole. This will also highlight areas where we may be able to make improvements. Members of directorate DMTs will be involved in discussions about these emerging themes in the coming weeks.

The patience, co-operation and support from everyone has been fantastic in responding to requests for information, and is critical as it is our opportunity to inform and shape the areas of work the programme will take forward.

Many thanks to all who have contributed, for your help with these areas of work, and we will keep you up to date with developments and the next stages of the process.

Nicky Ramanandi, Unison Branch Officer said: "Unison and its members have a key role in helping the council to respond to the challenges it faces. This is particularly significant at a time when the council are looking at various ways to make efficiency savings. Our members have an important role in both the development and then implementation of any transformation proposals.

This programme does have a potential to bring about significant changes to the services our members deliver and Unison understand how important it will be to maintain morale and staff commitment during this time."

### How to submit articles for future newsletters

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](mailto:childrens.services@newcastle.gov.uk).

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