



# Newcastle Children's Services Newsletter

October—November 2007

Volume 1, Issue 3

**This is your newsletter. To contribute please see details on the back page. We rely on your input to ensure content is interesting and informative.**

## Executive Director of Children's Services Update

Dear Colleagues

When our Annual Performance letter is published by Ofsted later this month I hope that you will see that all of our hard work is being recognised; that in many areas we have made a difference to improving outcomes for children and young people.

We are now working towards achieving a good grade for all outcomes and if we concentrate all of our energy on the delivery of our plans and services, I am sure we will get there.

We are also going to start looking forward to what we need to do to achieve excellence.

At the same time we have engaged in a debate across the region about what we are going to do differently to tackle child poverty. We do this because we hold the highest aspiration for our young people we will accept nothing less.

Best wishes and thanks to all as always

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Catherine Fitt'.

## Inside this issue ...

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Catherine Fitt,  
Executive Director of Children's Services

## Latest directorate structure news

Following approval of the directorate restructure proposals by Constitutional Committee, the 2 new Director posts have now been advertised with a closing date of 9 November 07.

**Ruth Rogan** has been appointed as Acting Head of Children and Young People in the Community. She will be responsible for Early Years and Childcare, Parenting Support and the Integrated Youth Strategy. **Karen Simmons** will be Acting Head of Children's Social Care.

We would like to welcome back to the City Council **Helen Woods-Waters** who will be taking up the position of Early Years and Childcare Manager within the Children's Services Directorate. Since leaving the authority in 2003, Helen has been working for NCH delivering the Children's Fund Programme in North Tyneside. During that time Helen has completed both a degree in Law and a Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice from Northumbria University.

As Early Years and Childcare Manager Helen will have responsibility for Children's Centres, the Community Nurseries and the Play Service and the delivery of the Childcare, Children's Centre and play strategies and responsibilities under the Childcare Act 2006. Helen starts with the authority on 5 November and can be contacted by email at [helen.woodswaters@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:helen.woodswaters@newcastle.gov.uk)

The Play and Youth Service are currently disaggregating into separate services. **Una McDermott** has been appointed as Head of the Play Service and **Don Irving** becomes Head of Youth Service.

**Paul Brownlee**, will be joining the Young Offenders Team as YOT Operations Manager from 1st December 2007. **James Anderson** has taken up a secondment to the Transformation Programme in Children's Services to support the development of the Integrated Youth Strategy. He also has responsibility for mapping out what Newcastle needs to do to meet the requirements of the new 10 year strategy for young people's services 'Aiming high for young people' and will be supporting the transition process of Connexions coming into Children's Services.

**Michael Kingsland** has moved to the Childcare Safeguarding and Compliance Service with effect from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October. He has taken the post of Admin Manager, and oversees the day to day running of the service.

Colleagues will be saddened to say farewell to **Caroline Thomas**, Head of Performance in Adult Services, who leaves the authority in December to take up a post in South Tyneside in January. We wish Caroline and **David Clegg**, Head of Education, who is also leaving in the New Year, all the best for the future.

**Children's Services restructure:** Following agreement by the constitutional committee on 28 September 2007, an update on the Children's Services restructure has been provided by the Executive Director of Children's Services, Catherine Fitt. Two Letters from Catherine Fitt to all staff, the senior manager structure and areas of responsibility have been uploaded onto the staff intranet: [http://194.61.175.175/core.nsf/a/csi\\_childrensservicesrestructure2007](http://194.61.175.175/core.nsf/a/csi_childrensservicesrestructure2007)

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## Be Healthy

D'n'A (Drug and Alcohol Team) is Newcastle's integrated drug & alcohol service for young people and was officially launched in October 2006. The D'n'A team includes substance misuse workers from CAMHS, Youth Offending Team, EAHST, Education Welfare and NECA, a service manager and administrator.



D'n'A works with children and young people under the age of 19 who live in Newcastle. For further information log on to the website [www.dnanewcastle.com](http://www.dnanewcastle.com) or contact D 'n' A on 0191 277 1233 or Email: [dna@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:dna@newcastle.gov.uk).

## Partnership Working in Health

Children's Services have a good working relationship with Health services. Children's Services will be looking at ways to develop these working relationships to contribute towards both our priorities and Health Service priorities.

For further information on Partnership Working with Health in Newcastle, please open the following link to a PowerPoint presentation:

[http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs\\_bhimproved](http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs_bhimproved). For Internal Staff with restricted internet access: [http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs\\_bhimproved](http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs_bhimproved)

## Stay Safe

### Corporate Parenting Activities

The C&YPSP Executive received the overview report of how the City Council and its partners are meeting their corporate parenting responsibilities to children who are looked after.

Key developments include the establishment of the Multi-Agency Looked After Partnership (MALAP) which has a lead role in developing policy and service delivery in this area, including developments from the white paper "Time for Change". The Aspire initiative is bringing together three existing teams: CAMHS LAC Team, LAC Education Team, and the Educational Achievement and Health Support Team.

The Members Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee is established with cross party membership. The LAC Participation Steering Group has received training and is working with young people on their priorities. A "turn the curve" event on 12.11.2007 will inform the corporate parenting strategy.

### Turning the Curve

**Date:** Monday 12 November 2007  
**Venue:** Main Hall, Springfield Centre 09:30-16:00  
**Contact:** [danielle.jeffries@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:danielle.jeffries@newcastle.gov.uk)

## Stay Safe continued

### Foster a Future Campaign:

Foster a Future is part of Newcastle City Council Children's Services Directorate. We recruit, train and support foster carers to look after children and young people who, for any number of reasons, are unable to live at home.

Fostering placements can be for a short time or could be for much longer depending upon circumstances. Through these placements we hope to enable looked after children to fully achieve their personal and social development and educational and employment potential. Our aim is to provide a good quality service that people have confidence in.

More information is also available at [www.newcastle.gov.uk/foster](http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/foster) or by contacting the Fostering Team on 0191 277 2430 or email us at [fosterafuture@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:fosterafuture@newcastle.gov.uk)

For internal staff with restricted internet access:

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

### Make your mark on a child's future

That's the message at the heart of a new television advertising campaign launching Newcastle City Council's search for 50 new foster carers. To find out more:

<http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/press.nsf/newsbyid/88A63AD68D62D8A080257375002F36DE?opendocument>

## Enjoy and Achieve

**Science City means £300,000 Lottery Cash boost for children**— The ambitious plans of Newcastle Science City project has led to a £300,000 lottery boost for a project bringing families together and bringing science to life for city children. Read more about Science City at: <http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/press.nsf/newsbyid/C2312F998DE419F28025737F002ED017?opendocument>

**School Attendance Initiative**—10,000 pupils received certificates for attendance, including 6,000 100% attendees in the summer term. Read more <http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/press.nsf/newsbyid/525FFD5A1B7413518025737D004CA951?opendocument>

**Wonderful Ambassadors for Newcastle**—Two Newcastle students have been hailed by their head teacher as “wonderful ambassadors for the city” after the pair visited the official residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Find out more by accessing this link: <http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/press.nsf/newsbyid/5DC407CDC22366538025737D004D4060?opendocument>



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## Enjoy and Achieve continued

**1000 Voices launched National Parents Week**—A DVD featuring the voices of 100 Newcastle Mums, Dads and Carers was launched on Monday 15 October 2007 at the start of National Parents' week. For more information on the success of this event take a look at the following webpage: <http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/press.nsf/newsbyid/76CD5DDCAF576185802573720057E3F7?opendocument>

For further information on the Parenting Support Strategy, and to take part in the consultation go to [http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs\\_parent\\_strat](http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs_parent_strat)

**SureStart North Moor—Kids go WILD!** - With schools closed for the October Half Term it was the perfect opportunity to introduce young children in the North Moor area to a host of animals both domestic and exotic!

The children showed no fear when given the opportunity to handle the animals, showing as much enthusiasm for the jungle variety as they did for the cute and furry garden varieties. Much learning took place about the habitats, diet and physiology of the animals. For more information about any of the services that Sure Start North Moor Children's Centre provide please give us a call on 0191-2134100 or visit [www.northmoor.surestart.org](http://www.northmoor.surestart.org)

For internal staff with restricted internet access all these stories can be found on the press office pages of the intranet: <http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/press.nsf/pressoffice?openview>

## Make a positive contribution

### Young Children—Big Decisions

Colleagues may be aware of '**U decide**' - the award winning participatory budgeting project in Newcastle. You may even know that there is a U Decide for young people. (If not, see [www.alreet.com/udecide](http://www.alreet.com/udecide) for more information). What's probably less well known is that there has also been a U decide pilot for under 5s in Newcastle.

**Participatory budgeting** is a process designed to give decision making over budget and resources to the community as a whole. The Investing in Children Co-ordinator has been involved with colleagues in piloting this process with young people. Part of our commitment is to cover the full Children's Services age range of 0-19, and there is already an outstanding track record of innovative work with under 5s in the city. So we agreed to work with a partner in early years and see how the youngest children in the city could be involved in making decisions about a budget and resources.

The U decide steering group invited **Walkergate Children's Centre** to develop a model of participatory budgeting practice for the early years. Information can be found on the Make a Positive Contribution: What are we doing section of the Practitioners site. [http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs\\_mapcimprove](http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs_mapcimprove)

To find out more, contact Nick Brereton on 277 1250, email: [nick.brereton@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:nick.brereton@newcastle.gov.uk)

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## Make a positive contribution continued

### "Children & Young People Have Their Say in the Outer West of the City"

200 children and young people from 31 projects came together to inform the Play & Youth Service about their projects and clubs following weeks of preparation. Colourful drawings from these young people decorated Galafield Play & Youth Centre on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

Children and young people enjoyed participating in a range of activities including video diaries, t-shirt printing, human table football, sports circuits, nail and body art, crafts and dancing. Lots of 'mint' ideas and observations came forward including: *'My Youthy is a great place to meet mates and socialise'*, *'Youth Workers take us on trips'*. Some of this information will go to the Youth Service Annual Conference in December to help develop the work over the next year.

### Local Democracy Week

As part of a national Local Democracy Week initiative, Newcastle City Council hosted an enjoyable and successful event at St. James' Park on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> October 2007. It was organised by the Children and Young People's Engagement Team, Newcastle Play and Youth Service, in partnership with other Departments from the Council, and attended by younger and older people invited from local schools, universities, play and youth centres and the Elders Council.

It was a successful and hugely enjoyable coming together of different generations to debate and discuss issues of mutual interest and an apt demonstration of how closely we share the same concerns irrespective of age. Support from Newcastle City Councillors during a lively session of political 'speed dating' saw them join the audience and answer whatever questions came their way. The event was challenging and enjoyable, and offered a unique view of the democratic process.

For further information contact: Louise Appleby, [louise.appleby@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:louise.appleby@newcastle.gov.uk)

## Achieve Economic Wellbeing

### Tellus Survey

As part of the Joint Area Review (JAR) of Children's Services in Newcastle, 821 young people between the ages of 10 and 15 years in 21 Newcastle Primary and Secondary schools responded to the Ofsted Tellus questionnaire (600 requested).

Children and Young people were asked the question "How would you rate the area around your school"? To find out the response from children and young people in Newcastle log on to our website after 17 November 2007 and view the results of the Tellus Survey of Children and Young People [http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs\\_aecowellb](http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs_aecowellb)

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## All Outcomes

### Building Schools for the Future Update

Work is progressing well with the rebuilding and refurbishing of several of our schools as part of the Building Schools for the Future and PFI 2 project! The Aura Learning Environments Consortium in partnership with Sir Robert McAlpine have been working hard on the construction of several of our new schools.

To find out which schools are involved in this project and also to see photographs of building work progress keep checking the BSF/PFI2 WebPages:

[http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/core.nsf/a/bsf\\_pfi?opendocument](http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/core.nsf/a/bsf_pfi?opendocument)

### Implementing the Community Engagement Protocol in Children's Services

The Council has recently introduced a policy which will help to streamline the community and stakeholder consultation that is undertaken in the City. For further information try the following webpage on the Children's Services Practitioners Site:

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

Alternatively contact Janette Brown for more information:

[janette.brown@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:janette.brown@newcastle.gov.uk)



### Transition Strategy

The C&YPSP Executive approved the focus of the draft Transition Strategy on the key vulnerable groups identified:

- Young people with disabilities
- Young people with long term health conditions
- Young people who are looked after
- Young people who are at risk of offending
- Young people with problems with substance misuse
- Young people who are mentally ill
- Young Carers

The C&YPSP Executive requested that the remit of the strategy be extended to consider young people who are NEET (not in employment, education or training), Homeless or gay, lesbian or bisexual. The action plan with identified resources will be considered by the C&YPSP Executive in Dec 2007.

Contact: [ruth.rogan@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:ruth.rogan@newcastle.gov.uk) for further information

# CS Staff News

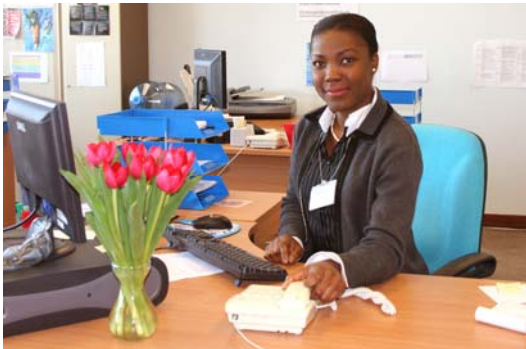
## Refugees Into Sustainable Employment (RISE)

Can your team help? RISE offer placements to people who are allowed to stay and work in the UK. Placements are for six months, during this time they are paid directly by RISE with no cost to the organisation they are working with.

Candidates are contracted to work 37 hours per week, these hours can be worked at anytime, dependant on the job requirements of the role they undertake. All RISE Candidates can be fully CRB checked before commencing their placements. Currently candidates are working in education and care settings.

**Further Information:** [http://www.refugeevoices.org.uk/subs/download/external/rise\\_info.pdf](http://www.refugeevoices.org.uk/subs/download/external/rise_info.pdf)

## First Hand: A RISE Candidate in Children's Services: Ruffine Apudu Athom



“RISE encourages and helps refugees to find a six month placement. For me, this was a great opportunity to gain work experience within the UK and improve my skills.

I would like to say that all of the staff I have met have been nice, helpful and encouraging, they have involved me and made me feel comfortable. In the future I would like to get a permanent job and one day to hopefully set up my own business”.

## Congratulations to Dorothy Gregory , Teaching Awards 2007 Winner.

Dorothy has won the The Ted Wragg Award for Lifetime Achievement, sponsored by the Innovation Unit in North East and Cumbria for her work at the Walkergate Early Years Centre.



To read more about Dorothy's success, log onto the <http://www.teachingawards.com/winners>

**THE TEACHING AWARDS 2008** —Don't forget, Nominations are now open for the 2008 National Teaching Awards. If you would like to say thank you log on

<http://www.teachingawards.com/nominations/awardcategories.ikml>

**School support staff celebrate success at Civic Centre** - the success of 100 school staff will be celebrated for the first time at a special ceremony. For more information:

<http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/press.nsf/latestbyid/9F93A6EBE9DB760D80257386003FE23B?opendocument>

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## CS Staff News continued

### Updates:

**Locality Events**—Area Locality Managers are arranging a series of events for week commencing November 26th, 2007. The event will aim to achieve a number of outcomes including starting the process of identifying needs drawing upon knowledge, expertise and anecdotal information provided by practitioners and organisations. For further details of times and venues take a look at our latest news : [http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs\\_news](http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs_news)

### CYP Scrutiny Panel

This year the Panel will be taking over the responsibility for scrutinising Health Services for children in Newcastle and are also looking at some key themes - (1) the role of fathers, (2) the accessibility of extended schools' services, and (3) avoiding the growth of gang culture and the role of youth work. For further information please click here: <http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/scrutiny>

**SCARPA Launch on the 22nd November 2007**—SCARPA (Safeguarding Children At Risk - Prevention & Action) is a new project, which will shortly be opening in Newcastle City Centre to work with young people involved in running away, sexual exploitation, and trafficking. For Further information [http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs\\_calendar](http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs_calendar)

**Email, Calendar and Archive Project** - FAQs, tips, presentations and training <http://194.61.175.66/cityserv2004.nsf/a/email>

**Schools directory 2007**—Update your records by downloading the latest copy of the Schools Directory [http://194.61.175.175/wwwfileroot/intranet/csi/Schools\\_Directory\\_2007\\_2008.pdf](http://194.61.175.175/wwwfileroot/intranet/csi/Schools_Directory_2007_2008.pdf)

**Springfield Centre, room hire and catering**— From a breakfast meeting for 20 business delegates to a conference for 200, we can provide a cost effective solution:  
<http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/core.nsf/a/springfield?opendocument>

**Springfield Shuttle Bus** - Check the revised shuttle times from the Civic Centre to Springfield site. To book a place on the shuttle bus email TRAVEL OFFICE or call 0191 2777109:  
[http://194.61.175.175/eecpheap.nsf/a995f08678e0882f80256688005190dd/441c890b895a4087802573450037ea85/\\$FILE/Shuttle%20Vehicle%20Timetable.pdf](http://194.61.175.175/eecpheap.nsf/a995f08678e0882f80256688005190dd/441c890b895a4087802573450037ea85/$FILE/Shuttle%20Vehicle%20Timetable.pdf)

### Staff Questions and Answers

Please find link for Questions and Answers raised at the July Children's Services Briefings below.  
[http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs\\_faqs](http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs_faqs)

For internal staff with restricted internet access, please use the following link  
[http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs\\_faqs](http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs_faqs)

**Staff Survey**—The closing date for the staff survey is the 07 November 2007. Have your say on what it is like to work for Newcastle City Council: <http://forms2.newcastle.gov.uk/formserver/live/Staff%20survey%202007.form>

## CS Staff News continued

**Customer Service Pathway Training Places are now available:** If you are interested in attending any of these courses please check with your line manager for approval first and book direct. All these workshops are funded from the Corporate Customer Service Budget so there is no cost to directorates, unless of course delegates don't turn up and directorates will be charged.

[http://194.61.175.175/core.nsf/a/csi\\_td](http://194.61.175.175/core.nsf/a/csi_td)

### CS Newsletter—Online Survey

To give us your feedback on this newsletter please access our online survey at:

<http://forms2.newcastle.gov.uk/formserver/live/ChS%20Newsletter%20Feedback.form>

To quote the poet and playwright Maya Angelou:

*"If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude."*

We need your honest feedback about the newsletter to make it a completely inclusive and informative resource for Children's Services. We cannot do this without your input and dedication.



### E Bulletin

**Are you getting yours?** - If you are not getting your E bulletin perhaps your contact details are out of date. Please email [children.services@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:children.services@newcastle.gov.uk) to amend.

### Latest Web trends

Latest web trends from September and October are now available on the Children's Services Website

[http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs\\_webtrends](http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs_webtrends)

### How do I submit something for Children's Services Newsletter?

Please let us know what you think of this newsletter by emailing [childrens.services@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:childrens.services@newcastle.gov.uk). What would you like an update on in a future edition?

Information & Communications Team

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Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE1 8PU  
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## Events Diary

Date	Event
02 November 07	Children & Adolescent Mental Health Service Partnership (CAMHS)
05 November 07	Regeneration Strategy Board
07 November 07	Primary Head Teachers' National Strategies update
12 November 07	Corporate Parenting Event
14 November 07	Corporate Managers Communication Session (MCS)
15 November 07	Children's Services Equality and Diversity Conference
16 November 07	MALAP (Multi Agency Looked After Partnership)
19 November 07	Children & Young People Strategic Partnership Executive (C&YPSP)
19 November 07	Youth Offending Team (YOT) Board
21 November 07	Council Executive
22 November 07	Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel
22 November 07	SCARPA (Safeguarding Children At Risk—Prevention and Action) Launch Event
26-30 November 07	Locality Events
30 November 07	Children & Young People Strategic Partnership Development Day
01 December 07	Youth Service Annual Conference
03 December 07	Regeneration Strategy Board
07 December 07	Children & Adolescent Mental Health Service Partnership (CAMHS)
11 December 07	Citywide Integrated Service Steering Group (CISSG)
12 December 07	Improving Services, Improving Outcomes Event
12 December 07	Managers Communications Session (MCS)
17 December 07	Children & Young People Strategic Partnership Executive (C&YPSP)
19 December 07	Council Executive
20 December 07	Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel

The events diary is held on the Children's Services Practitioners Site and is updated regularly: [http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs\\_calendar](http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs_calendar) .

For internal staff with restricted internet access, please use the following link : [http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs\\_calendar](http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/core.nsf/a/mcs_calendar)

The Children's Services work plan lists the main city council and partnership meetings and events attended by senior managers and key partners. To view the latest copy of the work plan on the staff intranet: [http://194.61.175.175/core.nsf/a/csi\\_childrens\\_services\\_workplan](http://194.61.175.175/core.nsf/a/csi_childrens_services_workplan)

To see who the Directorate representatives are at these meetings and events log on to the staff intranet [http://194.61.175.175/core.nsf/a/csi\\_directorate\\_reps](http://194.61.175.175/core.nsf/a/csi_directorate_reps)

