

# Services Newsletter

June 2009

Issue 18

## Introduction from John Collings, Director of Delivering Outcomes

This month's newsletter celebrates some significant achievements across Children's Services which help to underline the progress we are making in improving outcomes for the children and young people of Newcastle.

I am delighted to see that the Streetwise Young People's project has won the coveted national GlaxoSmithKline IMPACT award pocketing £35,000 in the process which will be used to improve services to children. We have also been successful in being selected to run the national 'Well Fit' pilot project which will see 1000 young people given a chance to attend a local gym and improve their fitness for just £5 per month.



It is also lovely to see that the Little Angels Fun Club and Nursery have been awarded the 2009 Nursery of the Year Award with the nursery being described as 'magical' by the judges. Well done to everyone involved. Some of our hardworking teachers had their work recognised in the national College for School Leadership regional awards this month. Sarah Moore (Sacred Heart) and Dominic Martin (Beech Hill) were commended and June Foster, Headteacher of Moorside Primary School was awarded Primary Headteacher of the Year. June has also been acting Headteacher at Westgate Hill Primary since January and when the two schools come together in a formal federation in September will lead the new Arthur's Hill Federation of schools.

There are many more examples I could go through of Newcastle's ongoing success and our progress. The capacity of people like yourselves to work with and on behalf of children and young people never ceases to amaze me. Can I thank everyone who has contributed – no matter how large or small, to our continued success. As we enter a period of change which will further transform Children's Services in terms of how we manage, run and organise our work we will need all of our resilience and expertise to make sure we remain focused on improving the life chances of our children and young people.



2009-2010  
Preventing and tackling child poverty

[www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk](http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk)

## Introduction from John Collings, Director of Delivering Outcomes

Continued..

Finally, I could not let this opportunity go by without saying something about Catherine Fitt, Executive Director of Children's Services who leaves us at the end of July after four years in Newcastle. Catherine is moving on to the National College for School and Children's Services Leadership to take charge of their national implementation programme for the training and development of Directors of Children's Services. It is a high profile national role and we know she will do a great job but will be sadly missed. As Executive Director Catherine has presided over a period of considerable change and improvement in outcomes for children and young people in Newcastle. Over the last four years children are healthier, they are safer and are achieving better outcomes at school. They tell us they enjoy their lives and are making a positive contribution to the lives of those around them. On behalf of everyone I'd like to thank Catherine for the leadership role she has taken and for her contribution to Newcastle's success story.



## Current consultations

### Newcastle Plan for Children and Young People 2009/10

The draft Newcastle Plan for Children and Young People 2009/10 (NPCYP) is now available: [www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/mcs\\_review2](http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/mcs_review2). The consultation deadline for comments has been extended to: **3 July 2009**

The NPCYP 2009/10 incorporates our final review of the NPCYP 2006/09 and our priorities and plan for 2009/10. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) Executive agreed to produce a one year interim plan for 2009/10 prior to developing a three year plan for 2010/13 that will meet new statutory requirements for Children's Trusts.

- Section 1 contains a summary and our context achievements, progress and self-assessment.
- Section 2 contains information about outcomes for children and young people in Newcastle.
- Section 3 contains our cross-cutting strategies that are changing how we work together more effectively and how we are changing the structures, processes and systems that enable this to happen.

Please forward your comments to [childrens.services@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:childrens.services@newcastle.gov.uk)

## Be healthy

### Streetwise Young People's Project - national award winning service

Congratulations to Streetwise Young People's Project which has been awarded overall winner in the GlaxoSmithKline IMPACT Awards.



These well-established awards provide community healthcare charities with both recognition and funding. At the ceremony held on 7 May 2009 ten winning charities were awarded £25,000, with Streetwise receiving an extra £10,000 as overall winner. Applications for the 2010 IMPACT Awards will be launched on 1 July 2009.

# Be healthy

## Streetwise Young People's Project — national award winning service

Continued..

“Being a small organisation in the northeast we sometimes feel overshadowed by national projects. These awards are an incredible acknowledgment and validation of the pioneering work we undertake, and an important opportunity for us to look back into our services and improve on what we do” Heidi Douglas, Project Manager, Streetwise.

For further information on the award and to see a short video on Streetwise visit the website: [www.gsk.com/community/impact\\_awards\\_uk.htm](http://www.gsk.com/community/impact_awards_uk.htm). For further information about Streetwise visit the streetwise website: [www.streetwisenorth.co.uk](http://www.streetwisenorth.co.uk)

## Access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in Newcastle

With immediate effect the Newcastle Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) will require a completed CAF (Common Assessment Framework) to accompany any referral to their service.

This move is in line with an overarching multi-agency approach to service delivery for Children's Services in Newcastle. It seeks to ensure that young people and their families within the city receive the most appropriate support and intervention in a timely and accessible manner and from the most appropriate Service Provider.

As you are aware the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service provided by Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust is a Specialist Service and, except for emergency situations, will usually be referred to only when targeted support from universal services has been implemented and has unfortunately not achieved the desired outcome for a child and their family.

Should you be in the position of carrying out a CAF and feel that support from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services may be useful, then please do not hesitate to contact the CAMH Service. Wherever possible they will seek to ensure that somebody is available to discuss your case and attend a Team Around The Child meeting.

Read more information on the Children's Services practitioner news pages at: [www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/news](http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/news)

## Chlamydia screening

Newcastle has been really successful this year and exceeded the target for 2008/9 for Chlamydia screening 15 to 24 year olds. We achieved a fantastic 19.6% against a target of 17%. Thanks go to all partners for their dedication and support for the programme.



The focus of the Chlamydia Screening Programme in 2009/10 is to continue to embed Chlamydia screening within the core primary care services i.e. general practice, community contraception and sexual health services (CASH), termination of pregnancy, antenatal service and community pharmacies. As well as focus on the valuable work carried out by those services that support young people. Our challenging target for 2009/10 is to screen 25% of the cohort.

A celebration event is planned for 13 July. To find out more, log on to: [www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/news](http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/news)

# Be healthy

## Well Fit

'Well Fit' is a new pilot project to give 1,000 young people aged 16 to 22 a chance to go to a local gym and get fitter. Spread the word and help recruit participants.

Newcastle is one of only five areas selected to run the programme nationally. The overall aim is to increase levels of physical activity in the following areas: Westgate, Lemington, Newburn, Elswick, Benwell, Scotswood wards, Fenham, Wingrove, Denton, Walker, Byker and Ouseburn.

Eligible participants can have a year's Well Fit gym membership for just £5 a month at a range of facilities across Newcastle with no time or activity restrictions. For more information visit: [www.wellfitnewcastle.co.uk](http://www.wellfitnewcastle.co.uk) or phone 07833048094.

## NHS Life Checks update

Newcastle City Council in partnership with other agencies continue to work together to look at innovative ways of encouraging families to access the NHS LifeChecks on-line screening questionnaires. The questionnaires help people assess and manage their own health. There are two LifeChecks available now:

- NHS Early Years LifeCheck for parents of babies aged 5-8months: [www.nhs.uk/earlyyearslifecheck/](http://www.nhs.uk/earlyyearslifecheck/)
- NHS Teen LifeCheck for young people aged 12-15: [www.teenlifecheck.co.uk](http://www.teenlifecheck.co.uk)
- NHS Mid-Life LifeCheck for those aged 45-60 years is currently in development

You may have already seen the new-look marketing campaign on local bus shelters highlighting a question that is at the forefront of teenagers minds "Am I normal?" A national roadshow will arrive in Eldon Square on 19 and 20 August giving young people the opportunity to try out the new-look Teen LifeCheck with the possibility of winning a Nintendo Wii.

Following evaluation a revamped version of the NHS Early Years LifeCheck will be launched in August which will be more appealing for fathers and male carers.

For further information visit:

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthimprovement/NHSLifecheck>

## Great North children's hospital update

Due for completion in Spring 2010, the new £100m Newcastle children's hospital will offer the very highest level of care to all youngsters, from toddlers to teenagers.

Children and young people have helped with the design, which includes a 50-seat cinema that will screen the very latest films. The state-of-the-art auditorium, which will hold around 55 people, will enable access for patients in beds and wheelchairs and their families.

# Be healthy

## Great North children's hospital update

Continued..

Three out of four of the hospital's 245 beds will be in private rooms, with en suite bathrooms and sleeping areas for parents in their child's bedroom in order to create more privacy and improve conditions for both patients and their families.

The Teenage Cancer Unit will be enhanced to provide more social space for patients (and their friends) who often have to spend long periods of time in hospital. The extension to the Unit will be in the form of a 'penthouse suite' on the roof of the Children's Hospital. The penthouse will benefit from some of the best views of the Newcastle skyline.



# Stay safe

## NSCB safeguarding procedures

The Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) procedures for safeguarding and protecting children in Newcastle have been revised and published in a web-based database:

To access the database directly, visit the NSCB website:  
[www.newcastle.gov.uk/lscb](http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/lscb)



## CAF – Frequently asked questions

**Q.** Practitioners have asked whether a CAF Assessment should be completed on children who will be moving from a child protection plan to a Team around the Child Plan.

**A.** The CAF Assessment form does not need to be completed, as Social Care will have already assessed the child's needs and have a plan in place. The Social Worker should share any appropriate information from these documents to inform the Team around the Child Plan. A Lead Professional should be agreed and the Team around the Child should meet to agree the new plan and set a review date. The Lead Professional should then contact the CAF team and log the child's information so that we know a Team around the Child Plan is now in place.

**Q.** Another query has been around nominating a Lead Professional.

**A.** Prior to the meeting it is helpful to have a discussion with members of the team and the family to agree who may be the appropriate Lead Professional. Leaving it until the meeting has raised some issues, if people feel that they are not in a position to carry out the role and it is uncomfortable to have the discussion in front of the family. It is important that the family have a say around who their Lead Professional will be, but depending on workload issues it may not always be the first choice.

## Cyber bullying and e safety work in Newcastle

Cyberbullying is the theme for anti-bullying week, 16 - 20 November 2009. Figures show that 30% of teenagers have been bullied or harassed through the use of digital media. There are two fairly distinct areas of risk - strangers and peers.

## Stay safe

### Cyber bullying and e safety work in Newcastle

Continued..

A cyber bullying awareness event is planned in Newcastle in conjunction with the Young Anti-bullying Alliance (YABA), which will be informed and facilitated by young people.

Response is currently delivering 'Think u know' training to all 11-16 year olds across Newcastle. This training has been developed by the national Child Exploitation Online Protection centre (CEOP).

Response is also qualified to deliver CEOP training to professionals. It is important that adults working with young people have the knowledge of the impact of digital media in the lives of those young people. As well as 'Think u know' resources, those from Childnet International are also recommended. Please contact Fraser Gill to discuss customised training for young people, staff or families by email: [fraser.gill@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:fraser.gill@newcastle.gov.uk) or phone: 0191 2774514. For more information visit:

- [www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/](http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/)
- [www.thinkuknow.co.uk/](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/)
- [www.childnet-int.org/](http://www.childnet-int.org/)

## Enjoy and achieve

### Bounce Back, Be Happy

The third 'Bounce Back, Be Happy' masterclass is to be held on Monday 6 July at Northumbria University.

Key speakers include Mary Gordon who is the founder of 'Roots of Empathy' in Canada, an evidence-based classroom programme that has shown dramatic effect in reducing levels of aggression among school children by raising social and emotional competence and increasing empathy.

The event will also feature a recap of the previous two conferences in the series, plus examples of youth projects in South Tyneside using Martin Seligman's 'Learned Optimism' and developments with North Tyneside schools using their 6th ECM Strand: 'Be Spirited'.

For more information visit the Children's Services online news section: [www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/node/465](http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/node/465) or contact Helen Walker: 0191 211 5391 or email: [Helen.walker@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:Helen.walker@newcastle.gov.uk)

### Nursery of the year 2009

Congratulations to Little Angels Fun Club and Nursery who were awarded 2009 Nursery of the Year at the recent National Day Nursery Association Annual Awards. The nursery was described as a 'magical place' by one of the NDNA assessors.

Although the actual assessment was carried out at their Cramlington nursery the ethos and values they aspire to are upheld at their other sites, including Little Angels at Sure Start Fenham Children's Centre.

# Enjoy an Achieve

## Schools Minister praises Newcastle primary schools

Schools Minister Jim Knight MP has written to five primary schools in the city to personally congratulate them for being in the top 100 of over 17,000 English schools for the progress made by pupils and their performance in recent tests.

The schools are Thomas Walling, Hawthorn, Tyneview, Canning Street and Beech Hill.

Overall, figures published in April showed Newcastle's average primary school aggregate score for 2008 rising to 239, the highest ever achieved in the city.

Aggregate scores are calculated by adding the percentage of pupils reaching the Level 4 of Key Stage 2 in tests in English, Maths and Science - making the maximum aggregate score 300.

## Prize winners in regional teaching awards

Congratulations to June Foster, Headteacher at Moorside Primary School, (pictured) who has been awarded the North East and Cumbria National College for School Leadership (NCSL) Award for Primary Headteacher of the Year.



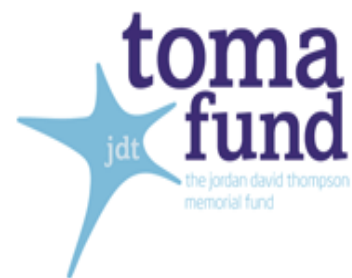
Teachers, Sarah Moore, Sacred Heart High School and Dominic Martin, Beech Hill Primary School also won commendation awards.

# Make a positive contribution

## Young people music showcase raises £115 for the Tomafund

A group of young people have held a fundraising band showcase at Brunswick Church Hall to raise funds for the Teenage Cancer Unit at the RVI hospital.

The young people asked everyone who attended to donate one pound to the Tomafund in memory of Jordan Thomson, who at 13 was diagnosed with Acute Myloid Leukaemia and tragically died at 14.



The money raised will go towards the regional appeal to raise £1 million towards the new teenage cancer unit in the new children's hospital. The young people were supported in organising the event by youth workers, Bill Ely and John Farrer.

For further information on the Tomafund visit the website: [www.tomafund.org](http://www.tomafund.org)

# Make a positive contribution

## Integrated Youth Strategy update

The Integrated Youth Strategy (IYS) forms part of our overall plan to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families in the City.

We want to bring together **all** partners involved in the delivery of services for young people, including young people and their parents, to plan and deliver their work in cooperation and collaboration with each other.

This will help us to make sure that the resources we have to deliver services to young people in Newcastle are used effectively to promote the highest quality services without duplication. By including young people in the design of services we will make sure that resources are used to provide what young people want in ways and at places they are happy with.

The strategy is about showing how we in Newcastle can all work together to make sure all services for young people and their parents are easy to find out about, easy to contact, easy to get involved with, easy to understand and offer a mix of opportunities and challenges.

The strategy has 3 projects which work towards this aim:

- Volunteering Project (led by Louise Appleby)
- Targeted Youth Support Project (led by Jamie Spence)
- Positive Activities Project (led by Khalid Malik)

In addition to this there are 3 theme areas:

- Information, Advice and Guidance (led by Melanie Bear)
- Progression (led by Melanie Bear)
- Participation (led by Nick Brereton)

The IYS is responsible for the successful £5million MyPlace bid. The next stage of this process is the submission of a full business plan; this is being led by Sara Morgan-Evans.

The IYS has also undertaken the 'What matters to you?' questionnaire. The questionnaire asked 500 young people across the city what worries them, what kind of support they feel they need, their experiences of going from primary to secondary school and their hopes for the future. The information will influence the way Newcastle City Council and its partners support young people particularly around Targeted Youth Support. The results were presented to young people at an event at Eldon Leisure on 28 May.

Money, education and getting a good job are the three things young people living in Newcastle worry about the most, while their aspirations for the future included things like getting a good job, having money and having their own home.

The questionnaire has also provided some really valuable information about how the young people of Newcastle feel services can support them to achieve their very best, so these young people have already had a huge impact on the way we and our partners will be looking to organise the services we provide.

For more information visit the Engagement webpage:

[http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/mcs\\_engagement\\_children\\_young\\_people](http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/mcs_engagement_children_young_people)

# Achieve economic wellbeing

## Sports Enterprise Challenge 2009

Young people from four Newcastle secondary schools have been working with the events management team at Newcastle Eagles to plan and run a home game at the Metro Radio arena. The aim of the 6-week programme was to equip young people with invaluable inside knowledge of the sport and leisure industry to help to improve their opportunities for future employment.

Benfield School was assigned the event management, which involved learning about budgeting planning health and safety venue liaison. Corporate hospitality was assigned to Walker Technology College who looked after up to 60 guests with a 3 course meal and match night entertainment, putting into action what they had learned about event catering, developing menus and guest liaison.

Kenton School took charge of media and PR using the time leading up to the event to prepare for a post match press conference. All Saints school were given the task of merchandising, going head to head in an 'apprentice' style competition.

## Extended telephone support for parents pilot

Newcastle is one of a number of local authorities taking part in a project funded by the Department of Children, Schools and Families to work with Parentline Plus to pilot new ways of improving parents' access to telephone services. This is an exciting opportunity to continue to improve the services we can offer any parent.



Many parents have told us that they want to see more one-to-one advice services available in relation to a range of parenting issues that worry them such as: their children's behaviour; dealing with bullying; risky behaviours; addressing worries about school and learning etc. This collaborative project will be fully evaluated by an independent evaluator and project findings will help inform future commissioning of parent support services.

Parentline Plus is the largest independent provider of parenting support in the country. A national charity, they deliver quality assured, responsive parent to parent services aimed at enabling parents to meet their own and their children's needs in order to secure good outcomes for children.

Extended telephone support is an individual, one-to-one service with up to six 45-minute long telephone calls, delivered at a time negotiated with and convenient to the parent. The parent will have the same worker giving continuity and providing them with in-depth support to enable them to focus on difficulties and successes in a task focused way.

The Extended Telephone Support service is designed to work with parents holistically on three key areas:

1. Parenting and family relationships
2. Looking after themselves, finding and making use of help
3. Support outside the family (from both statutory and informal agencies)

# Achieve economic wellbeing

## Extended telephone support for parents pilot

Continued..

Parents are encouraged to set small manageable goals for themselves to help them move forward in their life. This service is a short term intervention designed to help parents by:

- Identifying areas they wish to work on
- Helping parents think of ways of changing the situation
- Providing an opportunity to test these out with support

For more information including the referral process visit the extended telephone support webpage: [www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/mcs\\_extendedsupport](http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/mcs_extendedsupport) or contact Newcastle Families Information Service by phone on 0191 277 4133, or by email: [fis@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:fis@newcastle.gov.uk)

## General news

### Newcastle Children and Young People Strategic Partnership and Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board conference

All presentations and reports from the 1 June event are now published online and available from: [http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/mcs\\_cypsp](http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/mcs_cypsp)

### Children's Services July briefing sessions: final chance to book a place

This is your final reminder and invitation to the next round of briefing sessions on developments in Children's Services. These are open to all Children's Services staff and colleagues from our partner organisations.

The agenda items will include Managing Allegations, Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence, Laming Briefing and Prevention from Eviction Protocol.

Date	Venue	Session 1	Session 2
Wednesday 1 July	Springfield	9:00am - 10:30am	11:00am - 12:30pm
Thursday 2 July	Springfield	1:30pm - 3:00pm	3:30pm - 5:00pm
Tuesday 7 July	Springfield	9:00am - 10:30am	11:00am - 12:30pm

Email: [childrens.services@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:childrens.services@newcastle.gov.uk) to book a place.

Log on to our new look [www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk](http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk) website for practitioners in Children's Services across Newcastle. Check out the latest news and calendar of events.

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

The Children's Services newsletter is published monthly. If you have news or information on successful initiatives to share with staff and partners please email us at [childrens.services@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:childrens.services@newcastle.gov.uk) or phone 0191 2777414.