

Children's Services Newsletter

May 2010

Introduction from John Collings, Executive Director of Children's Services

Dear Colleague,

I am delighted to be sharing this newsletter with you as Executive Director of Children's Services, having been appointed from 1 April following a period in an acting role after Catherine Fitt left last year. It's a great honour to have such a responsible position and I look forward to working with all of you in the future as we continue to improve outcomes for the children and young people in Newcastle.



We face uncertain and challenging times ahead. The economic climate and state of the public finances mean that funding will be tight over the next few years. Our priority has to be protecting front line services to children and families whilst at the same time saving money and working more efficiently. One of the ways we can do this is by working even more closely together, pooling and aligning our resources and jointly commissioning the services we really need. We will also need to make sure we target our resources towards those who are most in need if we are to continue to narrow the gaps in health, educational and social outcomes.

I am confident we can do this in the months and years ahead because we have a strong track record of success to build upon.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Collings". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Be Healthy

Training: Reducing children's exposure to secondhand smoke

Secondhand smoking (SHS) means involuntarily breathing in other people's tobacco smoke. Exposure to SHS imposes serious risks to health and a major new report launched in March 2010 from the Royal College of Physicians says that children are particularly vulnerable to passive smoke exposure, most of which occurs in the home.



Learn more by attending this free course - for any professional who works directly with parents or carers of children and young people in Newcastle or North Tyneside.

Friday 21 May 2010, 9:00am - 4:00pm (for all staff not familiar with the effects of SHS)

Monday 21 June 2010, 1:30pm - 5:30pm (The half day course is suitable only for those who are very familiar with the effects of secondhand smoke, the cycle of change behaviour change model and motivational interviewing)

For more information and the booking form see:
<http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/node/12450>

Training: Exploring tobacco issues with young people

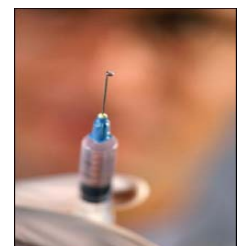
Almost 80% of adult smokers began at or before the age of 18. The tobacco industry targets young people with advertising and positive marketing in order to engage them as future clients.

This course will introduce youth workers to a range of interactive methods to engage young people in the tobacco agenda and raise awareness of the negative practices of the tobacco industry. It is most suitable for those working with young people aged 12- 18 years.

To register your interest in the next course see:
<http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/node/12453>

Teenagers and young people urged to get MMR vaccine

North of Tyne health experts are keen to encourage take-up of the MMR vaccination after a significant increase in the number of cases of mumps and measles across the North East. There were 1283 clinically diagnosed cases of mumps in the North East last year and NHS North of Tyne accounted for approximately 50% of them – 662 cases.



Teenagers and young people are being urged to ensure they have had two doses of the MMR vaccine, otherwise they are vulnerable to mumps which is particularly prevalent in student populations. If you work with young people, please encourage them to get the vaccine.

For more information see: www.immunisation.nhs.uk/Vaccines/MMR

Safe Newcastle drug training programme 2010

Safe Newcastle offer training in drug and alcohol related areas as part of the Safe Newcastle Partnership. They are open to anyone aged 18 or over living or working in the Newcastle City Council area.

Be Healthy

The latest drug training programme offered through Safe Newcastle Drug Support Unit, offers a range of **free** training to anyone working or living in Newcastle, including:

- Drug Awareness including specific training around crack/cocaine
- Alcohol Awareness – including brief interventions
- Dealing with abusive and aggressive behaviour
- Safeguarding Adults (provided by Newcastle City Council).

The training programme can be found on the Children's Services website:
www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/mcs_train

Me and my school: preliminary findings from the evaluation of TaMHS

In the last issue Suzanne Payne told you about the TaMHS project in Newcastle which aims to transform the way Mental Health Services are delivered to children and young people between the ages of 5 and 13 years.

This report presents preliminary findings from the first year of the national study (2008-09) in relation to levels of emotional and behavioral health and difficulties in school, and what schools and their partners are doing or planning to do to try to help.

View the full report: <http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-RR232.pdf>

One Year On: The first report from the National Advisory Council for Children's Mental Health and Psychological Wellbeing

The CAMHS Review, published last year, focused on improving children's emotional wellbeing and mental health. This report reviews examples of progress, as well as the many challenges that need to be tackled if targets are to be reached.

View the full report: <http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/00333-2010DOM-EN.pdf>

Mint magazine for city's young men

A new pocket-sized publication, Mint, will make it easier for Newcastle's young men to ask for important and confidential information.



Mint is already available for young women but this is the first time a version for young men has been printed. The main issues covered in this first edition will highlight advice on sexual health, relationships and contraception options along with information about the dangers of alcohol and its affects, and staying safe. There are also tips and help on topics such as body image, information about drug use plus help and advice if you are being bullied.

The magazine was launched on 24 April by youth workers handing out condoms in and around Exhibition Park's skating park and Old Eldon Square. It is available from some of the city's schools and a wide range of organisations for young people or by phoning Newcastle City Council on 0191 211 5063.

Mint has been produced in partnership with the Newcastle PCT and Newcastle City Council.

Stay Safe

Missing Persons Protocol

To see the presentation from the March 2010 Children's Services Briefing Sessions by Detective Inspector John D Watts: www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/node/12320

Deprivation and risk: the case for early intervention

This report, by Action for Children, argues that cycles of deprivation and neglect that trap many vulnerable families can be broken if families, and children, are supported early enough. Key findings include:

- Early interventions with young children can break long term negative behavioural patterns.
- Parenting is the most critical influence on children's lives.
- Children living in deprived families have less support and resources from outside the family and struggle to build up resilience and self-esteem.

View the full report: www.actionforchildren.org.uk/uploads/media/36/9432.pdf

Enjoy and Achieve

School attendance celebrations

Five Newcastle students have recently celebrated an incredible 12 years of perfect school attendance each, which equates to 60 years of perfect school attendance between them.

The students (pictured), from Walker Technology College, Sacred Heart High, and former students of Heaton Manor and St Mary's, were honoured in front of their families at the annual attendance celebration, organised by the Education Welfare Service, at St James Park on 11 March.



In addition to presentations which took place throughout the evening, children participated in a fun general trivia quiz, then players from Newcastle United Football Academy joined in a sports quiz and finally parents were in the limelight for a pop quiz. Lots of great prizes were up for grabs including a mountain bike, tickets to see X Factor, tickets to see Newcastle United play Sheffield United, and gift vouchers for Asda, Eldon Square, The Gate and WH Smith.

A further 176 students were honoured for not missing any school for at least three years and every pupil attending received a certificate in recognition of their achievement and a goody bag.

Hadrian school successes

A recent project by Hadrian School based around their Confident Parenting workshops, led to the publication of a training manual and DVD to encourage new group facilitators to work with parents around the UK.



Enjoy and Achieve

Published by HEADS and written by Annette Hames, Chris Rollings and Emily Jane, this new resource has now:

- won the National Award For Innovation from the British Institute of Learning Disability (BILD)
- come second in the Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust 'Shining a Light' Awards in two categories for 'Partnership Working' and 'Innovation'.

Hadrian School has also just been awarded £45,000 from the Harnessing Technology Fund. This money will be used to promote life long learning for all pupils across Newcastle, through the establishment of a central bank of resources to promote the development of switching and communication skills.

And that's not all! CBeebies show, 'Something Special Out and About' will be filming three episodes at Hadrian School in May. This is the first time CBeebies have filmed in the North East. Star of the show, Mr Tumble (pictured), will make a special appearance in person on the last day of filming in school.



Walbottle Village Primary in special measures

Walbottle Village Primary has been advised by Ofsted that special measures are required to improve standards at the school. Nichola Nelson-Taylor (pictured), a National Leader of Education, who is headteacher at nearby Beech Hill Primary School, will be supporting the school three days a week as executive headteacher. This joint approach with Beech Hill will provide many opportunities for staff in both schools to share good practice, further their skills and, most importantly, ensure the best possible learning outcomes for all children at the school.



Ofsted did note in its inspection report that Walbottle is a happy village school and that the children are happy and cared for. Most of the two thirds of parents who responded to the inspection questionnaire were very positive and many valued the way the school promotes children's feelings of safety and promotion of healthy lifestyles.

John Collings, Executive Director of Children's Services, said, "We are naturally disappointed that inspectors have decided Walbottle requires special measures, but it is important to stress that the report also identifies strengths that the school has, particularly in the way pupils are made to feel safe and adopt healthy life styles. We will support and challenge Walbottle to improve the quality of education the children receive".

To read the report see: [www.ofsted.gov.uk/oxedu_providers/full/\(urn\)/108448](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/oxedu_providers/full/(urn)/108448)

Children North East's Families Plus Service outstanding

Children North East's Families Plus Service was delighted to receive an **outstanding** from their Ofsted inspection that was carried out at the Early Years provision within the Hill Court Temporary Housing Accommodation in Newcastle.

Hill Court is temporary accommodation for families who find themselves homeless. The crèche room offers sessional day care for a maximum of six children in the Early Years age group of 0-4. The children are looked after to enable their parents, who are often struggling to cope with many different problems, to have time to deal with appointments, interviews, medical visits, shopping and general household chores.

Enjoy and Achieve

The Ofsted Report says: "Overall, the quality of the Early Years provision at Hill Court Temporary Accommodation is outstanding. Partnership working is exceptional. Staff reflect on their practice and confer with parents and other agencies to identify areas for improvement. They use this information and the Ofsted self-evaluation form to assess their practice. Staff's knowledge of every child on the role is excellent. This produces an inclusive service that enables children to make very good progress in their learning and development and meets their individual welfare needs in full."

Sylvia Copley, Head of Service for Family Support at Children North East says, "Many of the children who come through our doors have left behind all that is familiar to them and often have only the clothes they stand up in when they arrive at the temporary accommodation unit.

When they come along to us we try to ensure that the children have a happy time and their parents can be assured that while they are with us, the children will be well cared for enabling them to have some time to deal with their often chaotic domestic situations."



Streetwise Crunk Newcastle Under 18s (13-17) Event

1 June 2010

6pm - 9.30pm

Venue, Market Street, Newcastle

CRUNK Newcastle is a community cohesion youth initiative organised and ran by Streetwise Young People's Project that uses the medium of Hip Hop, Rap, R & B Urban Music to bring young people from different communities together. CRUNK provides a safe social space for BME and white young people to come together. Young people are also encouraged to get up on stage and entertain their peers by singing, dancing or rapping. CRUNK are always looking for new young people to come along, perform or help organise events.

Streetwise also runs a weekly (Monday 5.30pm - 7.30pm) group called CRUNKERZ who meet to plan future CRUNK Events, get support, talk about issues that affect them and plan activities for their peers and themselves.

For more information visit: www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/node/12479

National Family Week: 31 May to 6 June 2010

The UK's second National Family Week, offers an opportunity for practitioners working with children and young people to raise the profile of their work through a range of activities and events.

Visit the National Family Week website for more information:
www.nationalfamilyweek.co.uk/



Enjoy and Achieve

Family Learning courses for parents, carers and grandparents

The summer programme of family learning courses is now available. These are offered to parents, carers and grandparents of children attending the school where the course is held.

Find out more online at: www.newcastle.gov.uk/core.nsf/a/familylearning

Make a Positive Contribution

Newcastle creates UK's first independent Youth Council

Young people will soon have their voices heard at the highest level – as the city becomes the first in the UK to set up an Independent Youth Council.

Newcastle City Council has teamed up with local charity Children North East to establish and support the Council, which will see a group of city youngsters – aged between 13 and 19 – elected by their peers to work with local decision makers to make Newcastle even more young person friendly.



The Newcastle Youth Council elections will take place over ten days from 7 to 17 June 2010. Candidates will be aged 13 to 18 inclusive and either live, work or study in the Newcastle local authority area.

Most candidates will stand for election in the area in which they live:

- Central - postcodes NE1, NE2, NE4;
- North - postcodes NE3, NE13;
- West - postcodes NE5, NE15;
- East - postcodes NE6, NE7.

Candidates who don't live in Newcastle will be eligible to stand in the area in which they work or study.

A website containing more information about the 2010 elections can be accessed at: www.youthelection2010.children-ne.org.uk

If you have any queries or would like to know more about the elections, please contact Gerard Hunwick on phone 0191 2733 997 or email: newcastle.youthcouncil@children-ne.org.uk

Positive activities: good practice guidance

The evidence is clear that participation in constructive leisure-time activities can help develop young people's social and emotional skills and have a significant impact on their resilience and outcomes in later life. This guidance by the DCSF, sets out case studies that demonstrate how a partnership approach can help LAs meet their statutory duty; support delivery of the five hour sport offer, and enrich local youth offers through inclusion of arts, culture and sport activities – particularly on Friday and Saturday nights.

View the guidance: <http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/00369-2010BKT-EN.pdf>

Make a Positive Contribution

Schools fundraising for Haiti update

As highlighted in the last edition of our newsletter, children in Newcastle schools have been busy raising money through various initiatives to help families in Haiti rebuild their lives after the devastating earthquake.

Congratulations to all who took part and have helped to raise more than **£10,000** so far.



Achieve Economic Wellbeing

Celebration of accessing education through Sure Start Children's Centres

Sure Start North Children's Centre has a well established volunteer programme which supports volunteers to get back into work through gaining skills, building confidence, access qualifications and training, as well as providing the experience that supports the return to paid employment.

Five of the volunteers from Sure Start North Moor Children's Centres were recently awarded their NVQ level 2 in 'Childcare Learning and Development'.

This great achievement in gaining qualifications through Sure Start Children's Centres was celebrated on Thursday 25 March, at Kenton Sure Start Centre, when the volunteers were presented with a certificate.

Congratulations to all who were involved.



Strategic Management and Transformation

John Collings appointed as City Council's Executive Director of Children's Services

John originally joined the council as Children's Services Director of Delivering Outcomes in April 2008, having been Deputy Director of Children's Services at Hartlepool Borough Council and having previously worked as a teacher, school improvement advisor, Ofsted inspector and Assistant Director of Education.

John has held the position of Executive Director on a temporary basis since July 2009 overseeing all aspects of children's services in the city, including schools, children's social care, services for families and chairing the Newcastle Children's Trust Board.

John said, "I am delighted to take on the role of Executive Director of Children's Services in Newcastle. I knew when I came here two years ago that it is a great place to live and work and that I wanted to play a big part in the city's future. What better way to do that than helping to improve outcomes for our children and young people".

Strategic Management and Transformation

Reminder: Consultation on the Newcastle Children and Young People's Plan 2011- 2014

We are inviting you to tell us if you think these are the right priorities, whether there are too few or too many and what we might have missed that you think is important.

Consultation with key stakeholders is continuing until 7 June 2010 on:

- the vision for children and young people living and growing up in the city
- the principles which will underpin our work; and
- the possible priorities that would be at the heart of the plan.

On our website: www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk we have published a short consultation paper and questionnaire. You can complete the questionnaire online or send it back to us by email or by FREEPOST. Please tell us your views.

Consultation on Children and Young People Priorities

We are also consulting with children and young people on their priorities. The Young People's Reference Group who summarised them have asked us to test them with a wider group.

If you work with children and young people, you can find a summarised consultation paper on the website: www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk for use in discussion with children and young people. All replies should be sent by 7 June 2010 to childrens.services@newcastle.gov.uk

Children and Young People's Workforce Strategy 2010-2013

The 2010-2013 Children and Young People's Workforce Strategy for Newcastle Children's Trust was signed off by the Children's Trust Board in March 2010 following a period of development and consultation.

This strategy is part of the Newcastle Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP), and is relevant to all those working with children, young people and their families, or who are responsible for their outcomes all or time or as part of their roles.

Together with the CYPP, it will support closer integration and commissioning of services as part of Children's Trust arrangements, by taking forward actions to ensure that the children and young people's workforce is deployed and equipped to deliver high quality and integrated services for children, young people and families.

The strategy and related evidence base are available at:
www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/mcs_wforce_devpmnt

Integrated Targeted Services

The March 2010 Children's Services briefings included an update on the development of Integrated Targeted Services work in progress and next steps.

View the presentation: www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/node/12320

Strategic Management and Transformation

Adoption team move

The Adoption team has moved from Cragside House to the Springfield Centre, South Block. Their new contact telephone number is 0191 211 6777

Children's Services Briefing Sessions: June 2010

The dates for the June 2010 Children's Services Briefing Sessions are:

Date	First Briefing	Second Briefing
Tuesday 22 June	1.30pm - 3pm	3.30pm - 5pm
Monday 28 June	9am - 10.30am	11am - 12.30pm
Wednesday 30 June	1.30pm - 3pm	3.30pm - 5pm

The Briefing Sessions will take place at the Springfield Centre, Newcastle.

To register please complete the online form:

<http://forms2.newcastle.gov.uk/formserver/Live/ChildrensServicesBriefing.form>

And finally...

This newsletter is produced to keep you informed of developments across Newcastle Children's Trust to improve outcomes for children and young people. This includes local and national news, initiatives and achievements.

This is only a snapshot of what's happening across the city. For up to the minute news and events for children's services practitioners, log on to:

www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk

If you have any comments or contributions please contact us:

- online via the website: **www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk**
- by email at childrens.services@newcastle.gov.uk or

Phone Lorraine Griffin, Communications and Business Support Manager on 0191 211 5307

