

Children's Services Newsletter

September 2010

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

This summer has seen some significant developments which will undoubtedly impact on Children's Services over the next few months and years.

We have a new national government which has begun to outline its priorities and approach in respect of education, social care, safeguarding and other services for children and families.

We have had to respond to an in-year cut in grant funding of about £2 million and all Children's Trust partners are busy working on finding further savings for the future as we all try to respond to the challenging financial climate we find ourselves in.

As we tackle these issues and future challenges it is important that we do so with a spirit of optimism and determination. 'We can do this' has to be our motto. Right across the Children's Trust we need to continue to work together and strengthen our partnerships. I am convinced this will carry us through.

Despite some of the difficulties and challenges, we have seen some excellent outcomes for children, young people and Children's Services over the last few weeks.

You will read in this newsletter about record results in our schools with increasing numbers of children and young people now achieving well and the City as a whole having closed the gap to national averages that has existed for years.

In Children's Social Care Services we are dealing with more and more contacts and referrals whilst at the same time ensuring these are addressed promptly so that children and families receive the support they need quickly.

It has also been a summer of intense activity for our play, youth, youth offending services and our Sure Start Children's Centres have been busy as usual.

Can I thank everyone who has contributed to our ongoing success and who continues to go the extra mile in providing services for children, young people and their families in Newcastle. You really do make a difference!



If you have any comments or contributions, please contact us:
childrens.services@newcastle.gov.uk
Or phone 0191 211 5307

Be Healthy



You're Welcome - GPs invite young people to have their say

The Central PBC practices (Saville Medical Group, Falcon Medical Group and Roseworth Surgery) commissioned Streetwise earlier this year to facilitate the practices' journey towards achieving You're Welcome accreditation, with the overall aim of showing young people they are more than welcome and can expect a good service.

As part of the process, Streetwise ran a survey and also held a 'have your say' day to help design young person friendly media resources including a confidentiality statement, website and service information leaflet specifically for young people. All participants including the young people gave positive feedback and were enthusiastic about continuing to be involved. Partnership working between the Central PBC practices, Streetwise and young people was recognised as a key ingredient in the success of the project. The website the young people helped develop can be viewed at: www.gp4u.info.

Turning off the tap of new smokers - 14 October 2010

This event provides an exciting opportunity to spend time considering the issue of smoking among young people and how we can best address this in the short and long term in the NE, as we try to make smoking history for our children. The event, to be held at Ramside Hall, Durham will explore:

- What are the key influencers around youth uptake of tobacco?
- What role is the tobacco industry playing around this?
- How to influence young people so they do not fall into the addiction trap of tobacco?
- What are the key drivers for action to address this?
- What should we be considering at national, regional/intermediate, local levels?
- What specific insight do we have from the North East? What examples are there of effective work?

To book, go online at www.freshne.com

Another strong year for region's NHS

Latest ratings from the Care Quality Commission show every single hospital trust in the region, as well as the ambulance service, as either 'excellent' or 'good' for quality of services giving the highest score in England for the third consecutive year. Local NHS organisations also received good ratings for use of resources with 18 out of 23 rated 'excellent' or 'good', which includes their approach to budgetary management. During the year, the North East also became the first and only region in England to have all NHS hospital and mental trusts awarded foundation trust status. See the full report: <http://bit.ly/bA8tzP>

Stay Safe



Contactpoint update

Following the decision by the new Government to scrap ContactPoint, details are awaited on next steps. Proposals are being developed nationally for presentation to Ministers, which could range from a “cut down” version of ContactPoint to a set of business processes. This is also expected to include arrangements for decommissioning ContactPoint.

In the meantime we are under a statutory obligation to provide an “interim service” to support our current 17 ContactPoint Users. This includes user management and data management processes, and appropriate arrangements are in place. No further training/roll out will take place in Newcastle, and all citywide ContactPoint planning/project groups are being kept up-to-date linked to Workforce Reform processes and structures.

Mark the first UK Anti-Slavery Day on 18 October 2010

Monday 18 October 2010 will be the first ever UK annual Anti-Slavery Day. This date coincides with the European Union’s Anti-Trafficking Day.

The aim of Anti-Slavery Day is for people in the UK to acknowledge that despite the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade over 200 years ago men, women and children continue to be victims of the modern-day slave trade. The day will help to raise awareness of the dangers of modern-day slavery, including human trafficking and exploitation, and encourage people to be proactive in the fight against it.

ECPAT UK is a leading children’s rights organisation campaigning against the commercial sexual exploitation of children in the UK. In particular, they focus on the protection of trafficked children in the UK and children exploited in tourism. ECPAT UK will be using the first observance of Anti-Slavery Day to draw attention to the plight of child victims of trafficking in the UK. As part of its campaign with The Body Shop UK, ECPAT UK is calling on the Government to provide greater protection for child victims of trafficking. In July, a petition was launched asking the Government to introduce a system of guardianship for child victims of trafficking.

More information and a specific briefing on guardianship can be found on www.ecpat.org.uk. The petition can be signed [online](#) or in any The Body Shop store around the UK.

Linking women of Africa Conference

The first Linking women of Africa conference in Newcastle took place in July 2010 attended by 50 people from the African communities, and organisations that support the women. The aims of the conference were to celebrate African women’s contribution to our community, and to raise awareness of health, learning, and social care issues that affect families in Newcastle. Workshops focused on safeguarding of children and young people, community safety and domestic violence.

Enjoy and Achieve



International School Award

Congratulations to the 10 Newcastle schools who have gained the International School Award. This award represents a great deal of hard work and is given to schools with a longstanding commitment to the development of global citizens. It also highlights the schools' commitment to offering an international perspective on teaching and learning.

The winning schools are:

Atkinson Road Primary, Broadway East First, Canning Street Primary, Excelsior Academy, Farne Primary, Gosforth Central Middle, St Charles' RC Primary, St Mary's Catholic Comprehensive, St Teresa's Catholic Primary and Tyneview Primary.

Ofsted inspections

Congratulations to our schools who have recently received positive Ofsted gradings following inspections last term. Sir Charles Parsons school was graded as outstanding, while St Michael's RC primary school, St Anthony's CE primary school, Wyndham primary and Benfield school were all graded as good.

Congratulations also to Westgate Hill which has been graded at satisfactory, in terms of overall effectiveness, with capacity for sustained improvement being rated as good. Specifically, the two inspectors commented on the strong leadership of the executive headteacher and how the school had improved considerably since the last inspection and was "well on the way to becoming a good school". They also felt that the new Arthurs Hill Federation benefited the school considerably as well as commenting on the quality of teaching.

Exam success

Congratulations to the young people in Newcastle who have once again achieved excellent exam results and continue to build on the results from previous years.

The number of pupils getting five GCSEs of grade A* - C went up by six percentage point to 78.6%. The percentage of students achieving the tougher 'gold standard' of five GCSEs including English and Maths rose to 49.2%, seven percentage points higher than last year. This is a result that puts Newcastle ahead of its Government target for the first time and is the fifth consecutive year this figure has risen.

There was equally positive news for A-level results with 20% of all entries awarded either A or the new A* grades with more than two thirds of all entries being marked between A and C. The latest figures also show that city students are continuing to stay on at school in greater numbers to take their A-Levels. This year there were 30 more candidates and 220 more entries. The pass rate rose by 0.1% to almost 98% and there were also improved pass rates for higher grades.

Make a Positive Contribution



Launch of the Newcastle Youth Offer

The Children's Trust will be launching the Youth Offer for Newcastle on 27 September. The offer has been developed with significant participation from young people from across the city throughout the process. This is an ambitious initiative which will take time to further develop and refine, but it will start a process which will be of benefit to many young people across the city.

The offer in Newcastle will include:

- appropriate information on the positive activities available and links to wider support for young people
- improvements in access to activities
- planned development of the range of activities across the city
- pooled budgeting for the commissioning of this work, wherever possible
- common branding of positive activities in the city across the Children's Trust
- a Quality Assurance framework developed jointly with young people
- the participation of young people in the key decisions about the development of the activities.

For more information contact Rod Stapley, Lead Specialist Practitioner – Youth, rod.stapley@newcastle.gov.uk

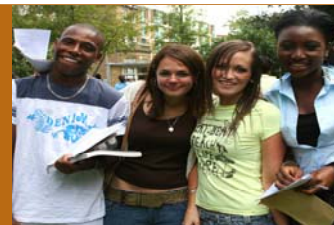
Giving Nation Challenge

An exciting opportunity for businesses with a North East base to be matched with their local secondary school in Newcastle and support students taking action on a community issue they feel passionate about has been launched.

The Giving Nation Challenge will give over 3,000 young people the opportunity to take action on a community issue they feel passionate about by setting up their own social enterprise or charitable activity to address it.

Each group of students will learn valuable business enterprise skills as they are given up to £450 in real cash to help them make a real difference to their communities. All schools in the area will be competing to gain the attention of the whole community and encourage them to support their chosen cause or issue. The fun yet practical programme will end with a big celebration event, where one school will be crowned the Newcastle Giving Nation Challenge champion! To find out more, contact Corinne Phillips, Corporate Partnerships Manager on 0207 566 5031 or via email: corinne.phillips@citizenshipfoundation.org.uk.

Achieve Economic Wellbeing



Euro Poverty summit

On 30 September and 1 October Newcastle Gateshead will be hosting a seminar on child poverty for participants from cities across Europe as part of the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. The event will include speakers and academics from the UK and Europe and participants from countries including Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, Estonia and Latvia. Participants will hear about Newcastle's approach to tackling child poverty and have the opportunity to visit Sure Start Children's Centres in Newcastle and Gateshead. For more information contact Abby Holder abigail.holder@newcastle.gov.uk

Child poverty: everybody's business

This national conference on 12 October at CastleGate, Newcastle will give you the opportunity to hear about and discuss some of the key issues, policies and plans to tackle child poverty. With presentations from the Government's Child Poverty Unit, the Child Poverty Action Group, C4EO and Save the Children; and workshops by the National Children's Bureau, Fairbridge Training, Citizens Advice and Youth Access.

For more info and a booking form see <http://www.navca.org.uk/events/childpoverty.htm>

DCATCH – Disabled Children's Access to Childcare

Newcastle DCATCH is a pilot project to support access to childcare for children and young people with disabilities.

DCATCH can help parents and carers with a disabled child or young person by helping them find suitable childcare and providing information about suitable providers, as well as signposting for advice on training and employment and access to welfare rights and benefits. DCATCH will work with childcare workforce to provide training, development and advice on Disability Awareness and specialist inclusive practice, as well as providing specialist resources and advice on planning and implementing support for individual children and young people.

Government funding for the DCATCH project runs until March 2011. For more information contact Alison Clark: Alison.e.clark@newcastle.gov.uk

Home Access scheme update

The latest figures from the Home Access scheme showed that 1,803 low income families in Newcastle have benefited and received access to a computer and the internet.

Due to the success of the programme, the eligibility criteria have been revised and applications are now only open to low income families of children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs, who receive a Disability Living Allowance, or whose school/local authority representative can certify they have Assistive Technology needs. For more information, phone 0333 200 1004 or visit the Home Access website: <http://bit.ly/doaKtI>

Vulnerable Groups



Deaf Child, Young People and Family Service's Launch (Newcastle Outreach)

On Wednesday 22 September 2010, from 1pm – 3pm the Deaf Child, Young People and Family Service will be launched at the Holy Biscuit, 1 Clarence Street, Newcastle NE2 1YH. The event, held by the National Deaf Children's Society, is for professionals who work with deaf children or families and will feature presentations from:

Ros Hunt – “Social Care Failing deaf children” – SORD, Manchester University

Caroline Doherty/Alison Lawson – “Healthy Deaf Minds” – NDCS

Tim Richardson – “Newcastle Outreach Service” - NDCAMHS

For more information or to register email: deafservicewcastle@nyypct.nhs.uk or phone: 0191 210 6875.

Putting Words into Actions 3 – Annual Parent Carer Conference

The third Annual Parent Carer Conference – Putting Words into Actions was held in June attended by parent carers of disabled children and young people and staff from across Children's Services.

The day was opened by John Collings, Executive Director Children's Services, who talked about the direct links between the Newcastle Children and Young People's Plan and outcomes for disabled children, young people and their families.

After feedback from last year's action plans, parents and carers voted on priority areas for the Children's Trust to work on over the coming year June 2010 – May 2011. A very busy but productive day ended with a fantastic display of dancing performed by students from Hadrian School.

We plan to hold focus groups in the autumn and spring for each priority with interested parents and relevant paid workers. The agreed priorities are: Access to therapies, Support for parents, Play and Leisure Services and Communication and Information. For more information please contact Jacqui Adams by phone: 0191 277 4605 or email: Jacqui.adams@newcastle.gov.uk.

Teenagers to work

At the end of July 2010, 18 looked after young people successfully completed a two week work placement in various departments at Newcastle City Council. The programme is a key component of the Corporate Parenting Strategy and contributes to the council's commitment to support access to employment for looked after children by offering work experience that may influence their career choices in the future.

Thanks to the Education Liaison workers and the mentors who willingly gave their time and made a very personal commitment to the young people. They were a tremendous example of good corporate parenting.

Strategic Management and Transformation



Integrated and Targeted Services (I&TS) working in and through local area teams

From September 2010, Children's Services are delivering many of its services through new local area teams and new management arrangements.

There are now 11 local cluster teams managed by a team leader aligned to the 11 secondary school clusters. The services which make up these new integrated teams come from School Attendance service, Family Support, Educational Psychology, Connexions, Youth Provision.

To support the deployment and targeting of services for children and young people 5 to 19 years (25 years SEN), the city has been divided in to three. Each area is managed by an Integrated Services Manager (ISM):

Jayne Moules – ISM East,
Phil Hayden – ISM Central
Jamie Spence – ISM Outer West and North.

The citywide services which will be managed and deployed under these new arrangements are:

- Special Educational Needs Teacher Support Service (SENTASS)
- Behaviour Support Service
- Youth Offending Team
- SEN Assessment Monitoring and Review
- Drug and Alcohol
- Anti-bullying
- Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)
- Family and Parenting practitioners / Family Intervention Programmes (FRISS)

The 3 area-based ISM managers will work alongside Helen Woods-Waters, ISM Integrated Childhood Services (Sure Start Children's Centres, the Play Service and Childcare) which are already local area based, to develop the new local area teams and better deploy citywide services to support local and individual children's needs.

New Children's Trust Officer

Louise Appleby is now in post as the new Children's Trust Officer. She can be contacted at louise.appleby@newcastle.gov.uk or phone 0191 211 5304.

Head teacher changes

Welcome and good luck to those new head teachers and teaching staff that joined us in Newcastle this term or changed schools. You can find details of all current head teachers on the school A-Z pages at www.newcastle.gov.uk/schools