



Staffordshire Children's Trust
Working together to improve the lives of children and young people

STAFFORDSHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST BRIEFING

1st February 2010

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The aim of this briefing is for the County Children's Trust and standing groups to communicate progress and any key actions or decisions that the District Trust Boards (DTBs) are required to make or take note of.

Children's Trust Issues (From the County Board & other sources)

Chair: County Councillor Ian Parry, Deputy Leader Staffordshire County Council, Cabinet Lead Member Children & Young People

Lead Officer: Georgina Davies, Children's Trust Manager, georgina.davies@staffordshire.gov.uk, 01785 27 7116

Date of Next Meeting: 25.01.10

Staffordshire Children and Young People's Strategic Plan 2010

This overarching joint strategic document for the Children's Trust partners sets out how they will co-operate to improve the well-being of children, young people and their families in the county. Specifically it states how local Children's Trust partners will ensure as individual organisations and as a partnership that the Vision and Priority Outcomes are achieved through the delivery of our Aims (Strategic Objectives) and the key actions for 2010.

Actions/decisions to be taken by Districts

Please take the opportunity to let us know your views on the draft Children and Young People's Strategic Plan and the Children's Trust priorities, by completing and returning the questionnaire that will be on our website along with the draft plan from Friday 5th February, 2010. The deadline for your response is 15th April, 2010. The information you provide will assist us in developing a final version of the 2010 Children and Young People's Strategic Plan.

The draft Staffordshire Children and Young People's Strategic Plan 2010 and consultation questionnaire can be found at: www.staffordshirechildrenstrust.org.uk/cypp/2010/ (from 05.02.2010)

Review of Staffordshire Children's Trust Arrangements

Following Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 putting the Children's Trust Board on statutory footing it was felt it was an opportune time to review arrangements within Staffordshire Children's Trust and ensure they are fit for purpose. The review will be taking place over the next few months. Partners may be asked to provide information during this time to assist the Children's Trust Board in their review.

Learn 2 Deliver

At their meeting on the 3rd September 2009, the Staffordshire Executive Board agreed that a multi-agency, multi-partnership approach to addressing children's health and well-being inequalities is needed which doesn't just focus on 'health' issues, but on the wider determinants of children's well-being, including aspirations and educational attainment. This followed the presentation of end of year 2008-9 LAA Performance Report which highlighted poor performance and inequalities across Staffordshire with reference to specific child health and well-being issues - child obesity, teenage pregnancies and referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment which all missed their first year targets, and direction of travel showing that they may not meet their third year targets. This was also raised as an issue in the recent One Place Report where a warning was given that several children's health and well-being issues could have red flags against them in the area assessment next year if partners are unable to demonstrate significant progress.

The Executive Board agreed to focus on a limited number of localities where children's health and well-being is of significant concern: Penkside in Stafford, Anglesey in East Staffordshire and Glascoate in Tamworth. It also agreed that delivery needs to take place as part of the locality working strategy developed by the local LSP. A 'bid' for Learning to Deliver funding has been submitted to the Improvement and Efficiency West Midlands Board and this small amount of funding will be used to kick-start and support developments and unblock blockages. However, the main benefits of this work will come from ensuring **all** relevant partners are working more effectively together, intensive engagement with the local community, and significant involvement of grass-roots organisations who are already working with(in) local communities. As a result of this work we also expect to demonstrate how better joint working can lead to efficiencies and value for money, something which all our partners are keenly interested in during these financially difficult times.

Actions/decisions to be taken by Districts

Partners working in the identified areas and with the Stafford, East Staffordshire and Tamworth District Trust Boards may wish to liaise with their Local Strategic Partnership to find out plans and offer support to the project.

County Trust Executive

Chair: Sally Rees

Lead Officer: Georgina Davies, Children's Trust Manager, georgina.davies@staffordshire.gov.uk, 01785 27 7116

Date of Next Meeting: 18.11.09

Adverse Risk Taking Behaviour Update (S Moore)

The Children's Trust Board identified Adverse Risk Taking Behaviour to be a priority, so Sharon Moore, as Delivery Lead for this priority will be putting a draft multi-agency delivery plan together, which will come to the Executive for sign off (in February).

Partners are asked to consider that prevention is everyone's business – and to support this each district now has Risk Taking Behaviour Group in place to move this priority forward.

Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB)

Chair: Ken Black

Lead Officer: Carrie Wain, SSCB Development Officer, carrie.wain@staffordshire.gov.uk, Tel 01785 85 4214

Date of Next Meeting: 15.12.09

Children's Trust Standing Groups

CAMHS Strategy Group

Chair/Representative: Yvonne Sawbridge, Yvonne.sawbridge@southstaffspct.nhs.uk, 01889 571700

Update

Promoting the emotional health of children and young people: Guidance for Children's Trusts partnerships, including how to deliver NI50

The emotional health of children and young people is increasingly recognised as being fundamental to the wellbeing and future prospects of individuals and communities. Emotional health is nurtured primarily in the home but we know that practitioners and services can and do make a difference. The Government has published new guidance for Children's Trusts to help leaders and commissioners across children's services to plan and develop services to promote the emotional health of children and young people. This non-statutory guidance sets out to assist senior managers with leadership or commissioning responsibilities in developing a strategic approach to promoting emotional health. It considers emotional health across the age range, and how it can be supported in a number of environments.

DCSF guidance contains a detailed service specification (using evidence-based approaches) that sets out the core support and services for children, young people and families, representing a comprehensive, strategic approach to promoting emotional health.

For more information, log onto: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/resources-and-practice/IG00639/>

Targeted Mental Health in Schools (TAMHS)

The Staffordshire TAMHS Strategy was outlined in the December CT briefing. Schools and partnerships of schools have been invited to submit bids for TaMHS funding and those interested can now see the additional TaMHS information available on the Intranet and accessible through the hyperlink below. In addition to the TaMHS Bids Protocols we now have a detailed Staffordshire TaMHS Strategy document and the TaMHS bid proposal that has been sent to the DCSF.

The aim of the DCSF Targeted Mental Health in Schools programme is to provide an opportunity for schools to extend and deepen their existing work on promoting mental health and wellbeing for children aged 5 to 13 years. Staffordshire will be a Phase 3 TaMHS Authority and so will receive around £220K in total for the year 2010/11 only.

Development bids are invited from schools and partnerships of schools. These need to be submitted by Monday February 22nd 2010. Successful bids will be notified as soon as possible before 1st April 2010. Details of the TaMHS programme and how to apply can be found at the hyperlink below

Please note that as this funding is for one year only, the Local Authority cannot undertake to support any initiatives started under this funding stream beyond March 2011.

The funding is for the development of innovative models of therapeutic and holistic mental health support in schools' aimed at children and families, and for those children and young people aged 5 – 13 who are at risk of or experiencing mental health problems. Details of the kinds of activity that could be supported are available in the strategy documents.

Hyperlink: <http://education.staffordshire.gov.uk/PupilSupport/SEN/Services/TaMHSstrategy.htm>

For any further information please contact Chris: cherry@staffordshire.gov.uk

CAMHS Tier 1 training programme

All staff working with children need an understanding of the issues which can affect the mental health of all children, and the skills and knowledge of how they can best support them. Early support may be sufficient to overcome problems, and prevent the need to access the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) at a later date.

The Tier 1 training programme was developed and commenced in 2007 to raise awareness of mental health issues affecting children and young people. In partnership with local CAMHS staff and specialist voluntary sector providers it has now delivered training to over 3,000 multi-agency staff.

This years round of Tier 1 training has commenced with 50 events planned across the County.

The training is available to ALL staff working with children and young people and is free to attend.

Actions/decisions to be taken by Districts

To book a place on the training contact your local C&LP co-ordinator.

For further information please contact Beverley.roberts@staffordshire.gov.uk

Children & Young People's Participation Network

Chair / representative: Gill Stanford, gill.stanford@staffordshire.gov.uk ,0185 277 060

Update

Speak Out! 2009

In November 2009, almost 200 young people attended the Speak Out event from a wide range of backgrounds, schools and groups.

The event gave young people the opportunity to have their say on the solutions to the issues they feel are important:

- Bullying
- Lack of things to do/places to go
- Transport
- Sex and relationship education
- Negative images of young people in the media
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Actions/decisions to be taken by Districts

If you want to find out more, keep up-to-date about children and young people's participation, or have any comments, go to: www.staffordshirechildrenstrust.org.uk/commissioner/ or www.speakoutonline.co.uk

Children's Trust Strategy Groups

Commissioner for Parents- Parenting Strategy Group

Chair/Representative: Charlotte Bailey, charlotte.bailey@staffordshire.gov.uk , 01785 355 751

Update

- Over 500 staff and parents attended parent strategy launch events during November and December and the Children's Trust Board members have pledged to parents to take action and ensure the strategy plays an active role in the work they do
- A Parent Strategy Co-ordinator has been appointed, Maxine Kelly, she will be working with Jim Brady (AD Integrated Service) and support the performance management of the Parenting Strategy
- The Parent Strategy Steering group and disbanded and a smaller monitoring group has replaced it. Quarterly reports on the progress of the strategy will continue to be reported in to the Children's Trust
- The Parent and Carer engagement toolkit is in it's first draft and currently being piloted by 13 services/agencies. The launch of the toolkit is the 29th March 9am-1pm (followed by lunch) at Yarnfield

- Conference Centre. Please request a booking form from Chrissymarston@staffordshire.gov.uk
- Each of the district Parent Service Forums (PSF, network for services that work with parents in each district) are in the process of working with DCT to compile their district parenting strategy implementation plan

Actions/decisions to be taken by Districts

To reserve your place at the launch of the parent and carer engagement toolkit contact Chrissymarston@staffordshire.gov.uk

Healthy Weights (Childhood Obesity)

Chair / representative: Melanie Swanwick, melanie.swanwick@staffordshire.gov.uk , 01785 27 8740

Update

Melanie Swanwick an Assistant Director for the Children, Young People and Families Directorate of the County Council is the interim Chair for Healthy Weights Group.

Aiming High For Disabled Children

Project Manager: Tina Wigfall, Tina.wigfall@staffordshire.gov.uk, 01785 277392

Update

Aiming High Disability Sport and Activity Officer

Mark Fosbrook has recently taken up his post as the Aiming High: Disability Sport and Physical Activity Officer for Staffordshire. This role is one of the first of its kind in the Country.

Mark's role involves developing a sustainable strategy that will enable existing and new sport and physical activity opportunities for children with disabilities. He will also be collating information on the opportunities from across Staffordshire to ensure children and parents are aware of what is available. Another key area is looking at the workforce development needs to ensure that clubs and other opportunities are staffed by skilled people so the children are supported appropriately.

Mark has a number of outstanding personal sporting achievements including:

- 1996 Paralympics Atlanta, Volleyball, squad player (7th)
- 2006 Wheelchair Rugby World Championships (4th)
- 2008 Paralympics Beijing, Wheelchair Rugby, Team Manager
- 2007 & 2008 British Indoor Rowing Champion (World Record Holder)
- Currently playing Wheelchair Basketball for Wolverhampton Rhinos (Best team in the Country)

Mark writes, "I am a double below knee amputee with congenital deformities to my hands. Having this disability has in no way stopped me from achieving my goals. I found sport at a young age and soon realised that I could use it to show that my disability did not affect me. I went through mainstream education and faced numerous challenges but I used sport as my motivator and actually represented my school. I have also always worked within the sport and leisure environment. I have managed fitness clubs, run a sports department at a Specialist college and have also been the Performance Manager for the Great Britain Wheelchair Rugby Squad. These previous roles have given me a wealth of experience to bring to this role and I am looking forward to developing opportunities for young disabled people throughout Staffordshire."

Sports Across Staffordshire County Sports Partnership Update, January 2010

Mark can be contacted at:

Tel: 01785 619398

Mobile: 07800 619683

Email: mfosbrook@staffordbc.gov.uk

Aiming High: Commissioning Activity

We have now commenced with the tender process to commission services for Aiming High in 2010/2011. All commissioning intentions have been influenced by feedback from parents and children and young people.

There are four main areas for commissioning:

- **Activities** e.g. cultural, arts, sporting and leisure activities, family fun days taking place in holiday periods, weekends and evenings,
- **Support Services** E.g. domiciliary care personal assistants, befriending, peer mentoring, sitting services, emergency support.
- **Training and development** this includes - Workforce development with the community based workforce and support and development opportunities for parents and carers.
- **Participation and Engagement Service** for Children and young people.
- **Participation and Engagement Service** for Parents and Carers – to include an Aiming High Parent/Carer Shadow Board and an e forum.

Tenders have been received from a range of organisations - voluntary agencies, statutory organisations, local and national organisations and schools.

Tenders have been scored by a panel of specialists in each of the above fields alongside parents and carers of disabled children. The views of parents and carers have been an asset to the Panels as they and their children will be the future users of the services.

The views of children and young people are being captured to influence the decision about new services. Organisations were required to complete 2 questions to be scored by disabled young people. The questions take a speed dating approach with 1 minute allocated to each answer. The disabled young people use score cards to score the responses.

Final decision about the services to be funded will be made in March when the tender process has been completed.

Family Fun Days

In collaboration with Staffordshire Parent Partnership, Aiming High is holding three family fun days over February Half Term and late March. The days are aimed at providing families with an opportunity to feed back their views to the Aiming High Board whilst also having some fun things to do as a family. Places have been issued on a first come first served basis to families with disabled child or young person and are open to siblings and parents and carers as well as the disabled child young person.. The three days have been themed on one of three areas; arts and craft; sport and activities and; outdoor activities. We have had an overwhelming response from parents and all of the fun days were fully booked within a matter of days of being announced. Over 300 family members will be taking part in the activities. At least one further day is being planned which will be located in the North of the County.