



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

STAFFORDSHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST BRIEFING APRIL 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: 29.04.10

Staffordshire Strategic Partnership's Approach to Locality Working

The Staffordshire Strategic Partnership has identified 4 priority communities for all partners to focus delivery in (see below), to tackle the causes of deprivation, rather than just dealing with the symptoms. The work is being led by each of the Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) who will be pulling partners together to identify how they can work jointly to make a difference in these communities. These projects provide us with an opportunity to take a 'Total Place' approach as we reassess what we are doing locally and think about delivering with partners in a different way.

Cannock:

Blake High Catchment Area
Graham Hunt (CPO)

East Staffordshire:

Anglesey Community
LSP Lead - Michael Hovers (Michael.hovers@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk)
Tim Leese (CPO)

Stafford:

Penkside Community
LSP Lead - Tracy Redpath (Tredpath@staffordbc.gov.uk)
Sarah Charles (CPO)
Stafford Borough Council is in the process of updating its Housing Strategy.

Tamworth:

Glascote Community
LSP Lead - to be confirmed
Tim Leese (CPO)

Profiles of the four areas are available through the Staffordshire Observatory; please contact Ruth Cragg (ruth.cragg@staffordshire.gov.uk).

Stafford Borough Housing Strategy

A copy of the draft strategy can be found at <http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/consultation>.

Comments are welcome but should be submitted by 16th April, 2010. Feedback questionnaires can also be found at <http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/consultation>.

I would be grateful if any comments can be submitted by 16 April 2010

If you would like any further details please contact Stephen Ward, Housing Strategy & Research Officer, Stafford Borough Council, Tel: 01785 619382

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: 20.04.10

Update on Mid Staffs Enquiry

The Francis Enquiry was commissioned in September 2009 following an investigation by the Healthcare Commission 6 months earlier which found that between 400-1,200 more people died at the Mid Staffordshire Foundation NHS Trust than at other hospital trust between 2005-2008.

The 600 page report published on 24th February 2010 and its 18 recommendations can be found at www.midstaffsinquiry.com.

- Lessons from the report are being learnt nationally, as well as locally.
- There have been many changes and much progress made, all of which had commenced prior to the publication of the report.
- Paediatrics is not an area for concern in the enquiry, although this may be reflected in the media due to the current ongoing serious case review.

Staffordshire Alcohol and Drugs Strategy 2010-2015

The Strategy is currently out for consultation until 10th May 2010.

Action: Anyone wishing to take part in the Staffordshire Alcohol and Drugs Strategy 2010-2015 Strategy Consultation to contact Pat Merrick (pat.merrick@staffordshire.gov.uk) or 01785 358608

Young People's Alcohol Arrest Referral / At Risk Pilot Scheme Evaluation

The project was launched in May 2009, and is one of only six pilots nationally. The aim of the scheme is to tackle alcohol and drug fuelled criminal and antisocial behaviour through intervention.

The scheme was extended to cover all young people at a risk of offending, not just those in custody suites. The project has received further funding, enabling it to run for a further 12 months.

For more information on the Evaluation, please contact Alison Perry (alison.perry@staffordshire.gov.uk).

Werrington HMYOI

Marilyn Welsh, Head of Safeguarding, and Mark Hilditch, Deputy Head of Safeguarding Werrington HMYOI gave a presentation, summarizing the services provided to the young men.

Werrington receive young men in from a wide geographical radius, e.g. Liverpool, London, having committed a wide variety of offences.

Werrington in partnership with Children's Trust partners (e.g. the Children's Commissioner and Staffordshire County Council) have pioneered Safeguarding initiatives around transport issues, safer streets and safeguarding focus groups.

New Chair of the Children's Trust Executive

Sally Rees, the current Chair of the Executive will be taking up post as the 12 month Interim Corporate Director for the Directorate for Children, Young People and Families.

Sally Rowe confirmed her appointment as the 12 month Temporary Deputy Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Families, and will take up this post as of 1st May 2010. Sally Rowe will also take the position as Chair of the Executive from 1st May 2010.

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: 22.06.10

Neglect Matters: A multi-agency guide for professionals working together on behalf of teenagers
(March 2010)

This study addresses the 'neglect of neglect' of adolescents. It comprises a literature review, guidance for young people, and guidance for professionals. The review of national and international literature on the neglect of adolescents informs guidance to increase young people's awareness and understanding of neglect. Neglect Matters is a multi-agency guide for professionals working together on behalf of teenagers. This study was carried out as part of the Safeguarding Children Research Initiative in partnership with the Children's Society and the NSPCC.

To view the document log onto: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/nsdu/research-aan.shtml>

Keep Children Safe

If you think someone is being abused or you think their safety is at risk, then it is important to tell someone. Where a crime has been committed or if you're worried about someone's immediate safety, contact the Police by dialling 999. Otherwise you should report your concerns to a county council social work team.

A new page highlighting how to report the abuse of a child or adult in Staffordshire is now available:

<http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/health/reportabuse/>

- [Report child abuse](#)
- [Report abuse of a vulnerable adult](#)

Children's Trust Standing Groups

Joint Commissioning

Chair: Yvonne Sawbridge

Lead Officer: Martyn Baggaley, Joint Commissioning Unit Manager,

martyn.baggaley@staffordshire.gov.uk, 01785 278710

Commissioning Skills for children's services training opportunity:

Following his accreditation as a Commissioning Skills trainer by the Institute of Public Care, Martyn Baggaley;

JCU Manager Children & Young People, will be co-delivering a 4 day commissioning skills course in July and August based on the 'Achieving Better Outcomes: Commissioning in Children's Services' document (to access click on the link below and then 'open');

<http://www.commissioningsupport.org.uk/resource-bank/idoc.ashx?docid=eb1aee47-dbcf-42a8-8df3-90a22eb91d10&version=-1>

This is produced by the Commissioning Support Programme, and the course will also utilise the Staffordshire Children's Trust Joint Commissioning Framework:

<http://www.staffordshirechildrenstrust.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/9CEC43D7-30AF-4EA3-BA39-27E0944FA8FA/111101/JointCommFrameworkJuly09FINAL.pdf>

The course will run in Stafford on July 5th and 6th, 2010 with the second two taught days on August 9th and 10th, 2010. **Please note attendance for interested parties is required on all four days.**

Following the taught days participants can (if they wish) gain the Certificate in Commissioning Skills for Children's Services (which is accredited by the IPC at Oxford Brookes University and is worth 20 CATS points at Post Graduate level) via the production of two in depth written papers, in which they will analyse organisational and individual approaches to commissioning and planning. Accreditation costs £600 per participant – less than half the cost of doing this course externally via the IPC.

Actions to be taken by Districts

The JCU Manager would very much like at least one representative from each District to attend if possible in order to support their District Trust Board and create consistent approaches and communication with regard to commissioning across the County. Places are very limited so if you have a professional interest in this area of work, or would like to use it as a development opportunity, please get in touch soon. Places can be booked by contacting Claire Trenfield (Claire.trenfield@staffordshire.gov.uk) or tel: 01785 854226.

If you require further information on the course or wish to discuss this before booking please contact Martyn Baggaley direct, as per the contact details above.

Children in Care

Chair / representative: Richard Hancock, Richard.hancock@staffordshire.gov.uk , 01785 85 4330

Update

Staffordshire's Social Work Practice "Evolve YP" has been operational since November 2009 and will be hosting an official opening ceremony in April of this year, now that they have settled into their new office base in Newcastle. The Practice is now fully staffed having recruited four additional members of staff, who join the 10 founding members and partners, who established the service last year after successfully winning the contract through a competitive tendering exercise.

The Practice is working with a group of over 140 Looked After children/ young people and care leavers, providing all their Social Work and Personal Advisor services, including care management and pathway planning.

The Practice was the first to go live of the six national pilots and is working closely with the University of Central Lancashire to evaluate its success, which will be measured against a range of indicators, including the views of the young people and staff of the Practice and the improvement of outcomes for service users. The development of innovative practice is a theme running through the SWP approach to the provision of Social Work services and an exchange of ideas between the SWP and the LA is being encouraged.

Children & Young People's Participation Network

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

Following 33 years of dedicated service with Staffordshire County Council, the Commissioner for Children, Gill Stanford is taking early retirement, effective 31st March 2010.

Gill says: "Having held this position for the last four years, I would like to pay special thanks to the Staffordshire's children and young people, who particularly embraced this role and always made me welcome, kept me on my toes, enhanced my vocabulary and raised my awareness – and those of my colleagues!

I have worked with some amazing people across a wide range of agencies. I have enjoyed working with you and I am sure that you will continue to keep the best interests and rights of Staffordshire's children and young people at the heart of all that you do.

Kath Lowe, Support Officer will continue to be a central contact point for the meantime; her email address is Kathryn.lowe@staffordshire.gov.uk or 01785 277220.

See Commissioner for parents brief below.

Children's Trust Strategy Groups

Commissioner for Parents- Parenting Strategy Group

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

The Children's and Young People participation and engagement network has merged with the parenting and carer engagement network to form a new family's engagement network. The two lines of work will remain distinct but will come together to develop a family approach ensuring that children, young people and their parents and carers are fully engaged in local decision making.

Parent and Carer Engagement

Parents and carers are the single biggest influence on childhood outcomes so it is common sense to engage them in the life of your service. The equation is simple - *better parental engagement equals better childhood outcomes*.

Engagement with parents common sense *but* we also have a *duty to engage*.

- ➔ As one of the 11 organisational competencies, World Class Commissioning (WCC) requires Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in England to "*Proactively seek and build continuous and meaningful engagement with the public and patients, to shape services and improve health.*"
- ➔ New Ofsted criteria specifically around parental engagement
- ➔ Organisations have a duty to involve and consult with children, young people and their families under the *Health and Social Care Act 2008 Section 11*.

There are no national standards for parental engagement, so Staffordshire Children's Trust, have led a national development of a Parental and Carer Toolkit.

The **Parent & Carer Engagement Toolkit** is a **FREE web based resource** designed for all agencies and services who work with children and young people. It includes:

- ➔ *tools and training material to help increase your knowledge about parental engagement, what it is, it's benefits, the various methods of engagement and the foundations that need to be in place to make it successful.*
- ➔ *a self-assessment kit for use by services and parents working together to rate how good your parental engagement practice is.*

- ➔ *tools to help develop your parental engagement practice*, including tips and ideas on how to engage parents, how to maintain engagement, and how to overcome barriers.
- ➔ *a self-endorsement award* to identify your organisation as having high standards of parental engagement.

The toolkit will be going live from the 1st April 2010 at which time the website address and link will be available from the Children's Trust website at www.staffordshirechildrenstrust.org.uk

Parenting strategy:

The reporting mechanisms for the Strategy have now been updated and will be taken to the next Monitoring Group meeting to be discussed and agreed.

The action plans that drive the Strategy were looked at in detail at an away day and will be refreshed in April.

The objective working groups are looking at National Indicators that parenting has a direct input into and at the April Monitoring meeting will be choosing 10 of these to concentrate work on and feed into.

The Districts are all having the Parent Service Forum Launched in the next two months and from these, the District Action Plans will be written and implementation will start shortly

There have been two successful parents focus groups to look at outcomes in objective four of the strategy and two multi agency half days have been booked to look at the Parenting Care Pathway under objective four of the Strategy

Staffordshire Young People's Service (SYPS) (formerly: Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS))
Chair / representative: Sharon Moore, Sharon.moore@staffordshire , 01785 27 7033

Update

Whilst we are still in the process of appointing Heads of Service, we are delighted to inform you of the appointment of eight District Managers, as well as four project/support service managers.

These are:

District Manager Tamworth:	Guy Jones
District Manager East Staffs:	Paul Berrisford
District Manager Cannock:	Karl Hobson
District Manager Lichfield:	Lisa Wort
District Manager South Staffs:	Lesley Baird
District Manager Stafford:	Richard Coggins
District Manager Newcastle:	Lisa Buckley
District Manager Moorlands:	Simon Brooks
Targeted Youth Support Project Manager:	Karen Ashby
Business Manager:	Andrew Nield
Planning and Performance Manager:	Andrea Nisbet
Workforce Development Manager:	Sam Evans

CAF / ContactPoint

Chair / representative: Jim Brady, Jim.brady@staffordshire.gov.uk , 01785 854 330

Lead Officer: John Mollitt, Strategic Lead for Integrated Processes, john.mollitt@staffordshire.gov.uk
 01785 85 4195

Update

ContactPoint is live within Staffordshire

We are in the process of formulating training and data source plan for ContactPoint. We need to know which agencies have staff to be trained in using ContactPoint and for data to be imported into ContactPoint.

If your agency is interested in using ContactPoint and have a need to see who else is working with a child as part of your job, then you need to contact us. We also need data on who is working with a child or young person so if you are providing this service to a child then please contact us at the details below.

Integrated Process Team

Tel: 01785 854040

Email: contactpoint@staffordshire.gov.uk

Actions/decisions to be taken by Districts

- Decision – if your agencies would like to get access to ContactPoint
- Action - To Contact the Integrated Process Team

Buildings Schools for the Future, Building Staffordshire's Future (BSF)

Chair / representative: John Giacomelli, john.giacomelli@staffordshire.gov.uk

Lead Officer: Michelle Evans, michelle.evans2@staffordshire.gov.uk , 01785 277901 / 01785 278708

Update

Staffordshire's Building Schools for the Future project has reached another key stage in the process with the submitting of our Outline Business Case (OBC) to the government at the beginning of March. The Outline Business Case is a key document in the delivery of the Building Schools for the Future project. The county council is required to submit it to Partnership for Schools, the government agency responsible for delivering BSF, to demonstrate that our project plan is robust and deliverable. The OBC sets out the detail of what is achievable, affordable and value for money, but above all else it shows how we are going to deliver our vision, to transform education. For more information visit www.staffordshire.gov.uk/bsf

Other Partner Groups

School Improvement Division

Representative: Dr Lynda Mitchell, Deputy Head of School Improvement Division (Inclusion & Well-being), lynda.mitchell@staffordshire.gov.uk ,01785 27 7965

Update

Inclusion and Well-being Strategy

The consultation period for the Inclusion and Well-being Strategy has now finished. We are in the process of making changes to the document in the light of feedback from the consultation. The final document will be published during the first part of the Summer Term along with an Action Plan.

Here is the link to the current document I

<http://education.staffordshire.gov.uk/PupilSupport/WholeSchoolSupport/InclusionAndWellbeing.htm>