



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

## STAFFORDSHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST BRIEFING JULY 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.

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### 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](mailto:georgina.davies@staffordshire.gov.uk), 01785 27 7116

**Date of Next Meeting: 19.07.10**

#### Munro Review

- The Government are keen to reform frontline social work practice by answering the question: 'What helps or hinders professionals from making the best judgments and interventions they can to protect a vulnerable child?' Ministers want to strengthen the social work profession so social workers are in a better position to make well-informed judgments, based on up-to-date evidence, in the best interests of children, free from unnecessary bureaucracy and regulation.
- Ministers want Professor Munro's review to set out the obstacles preventing these improvements and the steps required to bring about improved social work practice. This should include considering how effectively children's social workers and professionals in other agencies work together.
- For further information on the Munro review and future report please visit <http://www.education.gov.uk/news/news/munroreview>

#### Vetting and Barring Consultation - Closing Date: Friday 9 July 2010

- The Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) includes a category of controlled activity in relation to children or vulnerable adults, comprising posts in the further education, healthcare, and local authority sectors. This consultation asks for views on whether the Government should propose in the medium term to reduce this category in the VBS or remove it entirely, by moving some posts into regulated activity, and removing others from regulation by the VBS.  
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1710&external=no&menu=1>

**Consultation on statutory requirements and advice, for CRB disclosures for safeguarding purposes**

On workers already registered with the Independent Safeguarding Authority - Closing Date: Friday 9 July 2010

- The existing statutory requirements and Government advice for CRB disclosures for safeguarding purposes, in relation to workers who will, in the future, be already registered with the ISA under the new Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS). This consultation asks for views on whether the Government should propose to amend requirements, or should amend recommendations, in some of these cases. <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1719&external=no&menu=1>

The **Coalition Agreement and Queen’s Speech** have been published detailing the intentions of the Government including policies relating to children’s services and local government in general.

- The implementation of the proposed legislation in the Queens Speech is expected to cover the next 18 months. Six Bills have been published which are directly relevant to children’s services. These are:
  - Academies Bill
  - Education and Children Bill
  - Health Bill
  - Welfare Reform Bill
  - Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill
  - Decentralisation and Localism Bill
  -
- The key dates are:
  - Budget Review – 22nd June 2010
  - The Academies Bill is expected to be approved before the summer recess (29th July 2010).
  - The Children and Education Bill is expected to be published in the September/autumn 2010.
  - Comprehensive Spending Review autumn 2010.

[Click here for further information on the details of each Bill and the implications for the County Council and children's services.](#) (  219kb)

The below information has been supplied to us by the Directorate Management Support Service Directorate for Children, Young People and Families, Staffordshire County Council.

**Letter from Michael Gove to Ed Balls detailing DfE savings**

- A copy of the letter can be found on the following webpage: [http://www.education.gov.uk/news/news/~/\\_media/Files/lacuna/letters/MichaelGovetoEdBallsCuts.ashx](http://www.education.gov.uk/news/news/~/_media/Files/lacuna/letters/MichaelGovetoEdBallsCuts.ashx)

**Poverty Review**

- Frank Field, the former Labour welfare reform minister has been appointed by David Cameron to lead an independent review into poverty in Britain.

**Serious Case Review – Shannon Matthews**

- Social services and staff from 21 other agencies were cleared of blame over the Shannon Matthews case by an independent serious case review which nonetheless called for national action over families who "bump along", just about managing to provide adequate childcare.
- The inquiry described the fake abduction of the nine-year-old in February 2008 by her mother and another man as "unusual, unexpected and impossible to foresee", but warned that households such as the schoolgirl's, which more-or-less cope between repeated crises, are not uncommon.

A copy of the Serious Case Review reports can be viewed below:



Shannon Matthews  
CR020 Exec Summary



Shannon Matthews -  
SCR020 Exec Summa



Shannon Matthews  
SCR020 Exec Summa

- Further information can be found on the following website:  
<http://www.channel4.com/news/articles/uk/shannon+matthews+kidnap+aposunforeseeableapos/3682927>

**Academies Bill – for a further update please log onto the following website:**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/academieshl/documents.html>

**14-19 e updates**

- Staffordshire e updates on the 14-19 agenda can be found on the following webpage:  
<http://education.staffordshire.gov.uk/Curriculum/ThemesandInitiatives/14to19/newszone/e-Updates/>

**Schools and Communities Publications**

- C4EO have published the resources for the following areas on the C4EO website:
  - Narrowing the gap in educational achievement and improving emotional resilience for children and young people with additional needs
  - All children and young people make sustained progress and remain fully engaged through all transitions between key stages
  - Strengthening family wellbeing and community cohesion through the role of schools and extended services
- Further information can be found on the C4EO website:  
<http://www.c4eo.org.uk/themes/schools/default.aspx?themeid=6&accesstypeid=1>

**Health Secretary launches full public inquiry into failings at Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust**

- Further information on the review can be found on the following website:  
[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_116645](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_116645)

**Abolition of the CAA**

- The Audit Commission has wrote to all councils on 28 May explaining how it proposes to bring work on CAA to a conclusion, following the Government commitment in the Coalition Agreement to cut local government inspection and abolish the Comprehensive Area Assessment. It said:  
*“All work on updating the area assessment and organisational assessment will cease with immediate effect. These assessments on the Oneplace website will not now be updated. We will not be reporting new red or green flags in the area assessment nor updating the text around existing flags.”*

**County Trust Executive**

**Chair:** Sally Rowe

**Lead Officer:** Georgina Davies, Children's Trust Manager, [georgina.davies@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:georgina.davies@staffordshire.gov.uk), 01785 27 7116

**Date of Next Meeting:** 20.07.10

**Progress against Strategic Objective 2 Action Plan: Re-focusing Investments on Early Intervention and Prevention**

- Following Jim Brady's retirement Charlotte Bailey, Assistant Director for Targeted Services, Staffordshire County Council, is now the Lead on this Action Plan.
- To enable a re-focus on investment, there is a need to know what is currently being spent and on what, therefore the key deliverable for the plan is to map and benchmark current spend. A Financial Mapping Group now meet to take this forward.

**Workforce Development**

- The Workforce Development Strategy contains 6 Key Objectives included in; having been identified through a series of consultation exercises:
  1. Expand the use of Artemis, the children's workforce induction programme
  2. Engage schools in the development of their key role as part of the children's workforce
  3. Devise inclusive, interagency learning and development opportunities
  4. Participate energetically in the development of integrated service delivery

- 5. Develop a leadership framework
- 6. Improve communication with a range of partners

- Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is embedded across all 6, and the key developments across the objectives were noted at the meeting were noted, namely: there has been a good uptake of Artemis (the online common induction programme), and leadership and management courses are under development in all areas across all levels.
- The key challenges and risks were highlighted as being: engagement with schools due to their rate of change; communication with partners (i.e. the need for improved, targeted and consistent communications) and consistent/appropriate representation at the Workforce Development Strategy Group.

**Integrated Service Delivery**

- An 'End of Stage' has now been reached with Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) Project within the initial timeframe. During this period an extensive consultation has taken place and 8 pilot Early Intervention Teams are now in place.
- The ISD Board are now to re-focus their work, terms of reference and membership, with the acknowledgement of the need to stop some activity to enable them to move forward on developing the Model of Early Intervention.

**Social Work Practice Evolve YP update**

- The concept of Social Work Practices was first outlined in the *Care Matters* Green Paper in October 2006. Following this, the Government set out its intentions to legislate to create a number of Social Work Practice Pilots in the 2008 White Paper, *Care Matters Time to Deliver for Children in Care*.
- The Pilots are designed to test a range of service delivery models against specific outcome measures for children and young people and the social workers and other professionals within the practices. At the same time, the Pilots are intended to test what impact the commissioning out of these services by local authorities has in terms of the delivery of the wider range of services for children and families in these localities.
- There are 5 pilots taking place across the country, however 3 year pilot in Staffordshire was the first to be set up in November 2009 and is the closest to the original model.
- A 6 month review has now taken place and the long term outcomes are yet to be established, however the short term outcomes are already being reached. Feedback from the young people involved in the pilot will be gathered via Consult8.

**Children's Trust Standing Groups**

**Integrated Service Development (ISD)**

**Chair:** Sally Rowe

**Lead Officer:** Catherine Powell, ISD Project Manager, [Catherine.powell@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Catherine.powell@staffordshire.gov.uk) , 01785 27 7980

Update:

- The programme will be considered in light of the transformational change agenda that is a priority in children's service organisations. The Staffordshire Police Service has 'Communities First' which will implement neighbourhood policing teams by April 2011. Neighbourhood service development in the NHS is being planned whilst the County Council Directorate of Children Young People and Families (DCYPF) have Families First a whole system approach to realigning services within the larger Integrated Service Delivery context. The new Staffordshire Young Peoples Service (SYPS) is developing services for young people both universal and targeted to meet identified needs. Additionally the Aiming High for Disabled Children is commissioning services for children to complement statutory provision.
- Sharing information in a timely and appropriate way is essential to coordinating support for children and families as soon as needs are identified, planning services with the whole family in mind with the whilst child needs remain in the centre will be essential to promote the best outcomes for children, young people their families and carers. The more widespread use of the Continuum of Need Framework to support common assessment and multi-agency approaches to meeting identified needs at the appropriate level is the basis of improved support for families.

Actions/decisions to be taken by Districts:

- Awareness of changes that may be facilitated in localities and neighbourhoods by the large scale realigning of services and organisational changes.

**Children's Trust Strategy Groups**

**Young People and Families' Engagement Network**

**Chair/Representative:** Charlotte Bailey, [charlotte.bailey@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:charlotte.bailey@staffordshire.gov.uk) , 01785 355 751

Update

- The National Indicators that have been agreed by the Parenting Strategy Monitoring Group have now been grouped under the ECM 5 outcomes. They will be a standing agenda item and impact against them will now be easier to capture
- A Think Fathers Strategic Group has been set up and we are working in partnership with the Fatherhood Institute to look at Father Inclusive Practice. We are currently piloting the Dads Test under objective 1 of the Parenting Strategy
- Training around the Parent and Carer Engagement toolkit is still happening and a plan is being considered to embed this further
- A webpage for all Parenting Practitioners called Sharing our Successes is now live on the Trust website. It can be found within the Commissioner for Parents page and is a place where practitioners can share good practice, network and pick up/share ideas that have worked
- That care pathway is in its final draft. Once all comments have come back from the task and finish group, then it will be taken to the next stage
- The district action plans are now all in their first draft so further work will take place over the coming months to embed these
- The quality standards for parents leaflet is in its final draft and has been sent to the task and finish group for comments

**Aiming High For Disabled Children**

**Project Manager:** Tina Wigfall, [Tina.wigfall@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Tina.wigfall@staffordshire.gov.uk), 01785 277392

Update

- Parents of disabled children often highlight access to information as a priority area. The Staffordshire Aiming High Team have completed a consultation with parents and carers to find out from them what types of information they wanted and how they would like to receive information. This information will be used to inform future developments.
- A Summer Aiming High Newsletter for parents and carers of disabled children will be available from the end of June 2010. The newsletter will provide an update on Aiming High services as well as information on the new range of activities funded by Aiming High and available for disabled children and young people across Staffordshire.
- Aiming High in Staffordshire have launched a grant scheme. The scheme provides a number of opportunities to apply for revenue and capital funding to develop support activities for disabled children and revenue funding to enhance childcare services for disabled children and their families.
- Aiming High are holding an event for professionals to provide an update on Aiming High developments, and to provide staff with an opportunity to shape services for disabled children and young people in Staffordshire in the future.
- The event is taking place on Tuesday 6 July 2010, at Uttoxeter Race Course, 9am — 1pm. Places are free and lunch is provided.

Actions/decisions to be taken by Districts

- To book places on the Aiming High events please email [emma.smith@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:emma.smith@staffordshire.gov.uk)
- The Aiming High newsletter can be downloaded from [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/disabledchildren](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/disabledchildren) or by calling 01785 278072

**Healthy Weights Group**

**Chair / representative:** Melanie Swanwick, [melanie.swanwick@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:melanie.swanwick@staffordshire.gov.uk) , 01785 27 8740

Update

- The group met on 16 June 2010. Melanie Swanwick stepped down as chair. It was agreed that Jo Robins would take over as chair with Jacqueline Small as vice chair.
- Amendments were made to the terms of reference. Membership from the voluntary sector will be actively sought and improved linkages with District and Borough Councils.
- A mechanism of distributing the Healthy Weight Frameworks was agreed to ensure that these will be received by all appropriate partners. The process of distribution has commenced. The frameworks will be sent out with an accompanying cover letter from the Director of Public Health at South Staffordshire PCT and Staffordshire County Council, Dr Aliko Ahmed.
- The agreed programme of work for the group includes the development of a delivery and communications plan and a glossary of terms. A Staffordshire childhood weight management strategy will be developed by the group. Current services will be mapped in order to identify gaps and best practice. The group will identify and present evidence based practice and monitor performance against the LAA indicator for childhood obesity. A focus will be given to using data to inform service development and targeted work across the county.
- A multi-agency countywide workshop is being planned to re-energise and promote Childhood Healthy Weight across the County. The workshop is planned for late September, details will be circulated shortly.

Actions/decisions to be taken by Districts

- Engagement in the workshop and linkages with the Healthy Weights Group
- Colleagues to receive and review/implement Healthy Weight Frameworks locally in order to have an impact on the prevalence of healthy weight in children and families.

**Other Partner Groups**

**Children & Young People's Participation Team**

**Representative:** Sue Bond; [sue.bond@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:sue.bond@staffordshire.gov.uk), 01785 854064

Update

- Two primary schools in Newcastle took part in a 'Whole School Pilot Project' where the 'staff from the Participation team supported the School Council' to consult with every child in the school about their community. Over 500 children took part.
- This was run as a pilot study and will be used to demonstrate to schools how all children in the school can take part in consultations.
- A DVD of the pilot will be produced to show how this took place.
- Continued participation support for Joint Commissioning Unit with Young Carers and Substance Misuse group
- Staffordshire's e-safety network is continuing to work hard developing an e-safety poster contest to promote e-safety across Staffordshire's school through an interactive art exercise that every school can take part in. The group are also looking at issues effect there area and planning to deliver support to young people there parents and workers. The e-safety group of Young Carers are about to meet for the first time

**Joint Commissioning Unit - Substance Misuse Commissioning Team**

**Representative:** Alison Perry [alison.perry@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:alison.perry@staffordshire.gov.uk) 01785 358613

Update

- In preparation for the re-tendering of services post March 2011 we are currently carrying out a service review of all young people's substance misuse services currently commissioned through the Substance Misuse Commissioning Team. This will involve a consultation with a broad range of partners/stakeholders throughout June, July and August 2010. Activities include:
- Focus groups with service users of the Parent/Carer Support Service
- Consultation activities with young people who are current or former service users of the young people's specialist treatment service
- Four stakeholder/partner service design events will be held across the county during July 2010
- We also plan to work with the Children & Young People's Participation Team to hold consultations through the Shadow Trust Boards.
- Consultation questionnaires will be made available to those who have an interest in the development of substance misuse provision who are not able to attend the stakeholder events

Actions/decisions to be taken by Districts

- To support the service review of substance misuse services – information regarding stakeholder events has been disseminated across the districts

**Family Information Service**

**Representative:** [Jag.singh@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Jag.singh@staffordshire.gov.uk) 01785 27 8216

Update

- Local authorities have a duty to publish a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and action plan every 3 years with the next publication due by March 2011. The Assessment is a comprehensive look at childcare supply and demand for children aged up to 14 years, 18 years for children with a disability, its aim is to identify gaps in provision. The action plan will then set out the measures that will be implemented to address the issues that emerge.
- The parental consultation that will inform the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment is now underway and the survey can be completed on line or using the paper questionnaire.

Actions/decisions to be taken by Districts

- Circulate the link to the on line questionnaire so that the views of parents in each district are captured. The link is: <http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/news/childcarecounts.htm>.
- Support the completion of the paper survey by identifying events and locally based staff who can talk parents through the survey. Please pass any details onto [Jag.singh@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Jag.singh@staffordshire.gov.uk)

**Healthy Schools**

**Representative:** Jan Mellor [jan.mellor@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:jan.mellor@staffordshire.gov.uk) 01785 356423

Update:

- 312 schools have achieved Healthy School Status and the 80 remaining schools are all working towards it. (as of 29.06.10) National Healthy School Status is the delivery vehicle of health and well being for children and young people.
- Training is ongoing to move schools onto the Healthy Schools enhancement model which will better equip schools to promote universal health improvement for all children and young people, as well as providing additional support targeted specifically to those in challenging circumstances. The enhancement model will also help embed healthier behaviours and well being outcomes into everyday activities of school life.

Actions/decisions to be taken by Districts:

Ensure that Healthy Schools

- is an agenda item at District meetings and invite a Healthy Schools Consultant to attend to update on progress.
- is involved with any health and well being work
- is aware of any work that is taking place at a local level that will have an impact on the Healthy Schools agenda.
- For further information log onto: [www.education.staffordshire.gov.uk/healthyschools](http://www.education.staffordshire.gov.uk/healthyschools)

