



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

STAFFORDSHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST BRIEFING AUGUST 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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Where other material/information is accessed by links to other web sites, the Staffordshire Children's Trust Board and its partner organisations do not endorse the accuracy or quality of the material contained on those websites

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: 10.09.10

Update

The **Teenage Pregnancy Strategy** was approved by the Children's Trust Board at their meeting on 19.07.10, further work will now be done on the supporting Action Plan, in readiness for the September Board.

Reform of Children's Trusts

Strong local partnerships are crucial to meeting the needs of all children, but a one-size-fits-all approach will not work. That is why this Government intends to remove much of the bureaucracy surrounding children's trusts and allow schools to choose how best they may engage. The Secretary of State has indicated that he proposes to:

- remove the duty on schools to co-operate through Children's Trusts via the forthcoming Education Bill
- remove the requirement on local authorities to set up Children's Trust Boards and the requirement on those Boards to prepare and publish a joint Children and Young People's Plan, at the first available legislative opportunity
- revoke the regulations underpinning the Children and Young People's Plan and withdraw the statutory guidance on Children's Trusts, in the autumn.

For further information log onto:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/news/news/childrenstrusts>

Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS White Paper (Brief info required and link)

The Health White Paper, 'Equity and Excellence: liberating the NHS' represents possibly the most radical restructuring of the NHS since its inception. It would transform how health care is commissioned, with around £80 billion pounds being transferred to new GP consortia.

Further information can be found on the Department of Health website:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_117353

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

Children's Commissioner (Maggie Atkinson)

The Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove, has invited John Dunford to conduct an independent review of the office, role and functions of the Children's Commissioner for England. The review is looking particularly at the powers, remit and functions of the Children's Commissioner, how this role relates to other functions supported by Government and value for money. The review is being supported by a secretariat of Department for Education officials. The review was announced in Parliament on 12 July 2010.

Further information on the independent review can be found on the following website:

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1726&external=no&menu=1>

Michael Gove invites the public to hold the DfE to account

Ministers have published the Department for Education's (DfE) key policy commitments and invited the public to hold them to account on delivery. The draft Structural Reform Plan (SRP) sets out clearly what the Department's key priorities are. Further information can be found on the Department for Education website: <http://www.education.gov.uk/news/news/mg-invites-public>

Welfare overhaul transforms the fight against poverty

The coalition government has started work on overhauling the welfare system and wants to encourage people to work their way out of poverty and dependence on benefits.

The government is unlikely to publish a child poverty strategy until March 2011, although Work and Pensions Secretary Iain Duncan Smith will reveal more details on how benefit reductions can create incentives to work in the autumn.

Rough Sleeping England: Total Street Count 2010

This document provides a breakdown of the 2010 total street count figure of rough sleepers by local authority: <http://www.info4local.gov.uk/documents/publications/1640743>

Facebook and CEOP join forces to deliver internet safety to young internet users

Young Facebook users across the UK are the focus of a new initiative being launched today Monday 12th July by the UK's national centre for child protection – the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre and Facebook.

For the first time all Facebook users in the UK –especially those aged between 13 – 18 years – can have direct access to CEOP's advice and reporting centre – ClickCEOP – from their homepage giving them the very latest help on online safety as well as a dedicated facility for reporting instances of suspected grooming or inappropriate sexual behaviour.

Further information can be found on the following website: <http://www.facebook.com/clickceop>

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

Date of Next Meeting

Update:

Training offer

Following the success of the first 4 day Commissioning Skills for Children's Services course, and due to considerable demand, a further course has been scheduled which will run on **November 30th/December 1st 2010 and January 10th/11th 2011**, and as previously will be co-delivered with the support of the Institute of Public Care (IPC) from Oxford Brookes University. The course is run cost free to applicants. Would be attendees must commit to attend all four days of the course when applying for a place. If you have already contacted us to request a place on the shortlist for this course no further action is required, but around 12-14 places remain for interested parties, which will be allocated on a priority basis once all nominations have been received. Further information can be found on the IPC website:

http://ipc.brookes.ac.uk/courses/commissioning_purchasing.htm

If you are involved in the commissioning or related fields of strategic planning/management of Children's Services, and wish to be considered for this development opportunity please email Claire Trenfield (Claire.trenfield@staffordshire.gov.uk) prior to August 27th indicating your interest and a little about your current role. **We would especially welcome expressions of interest from both NHS and District/Borough Council staff on this second course** as the very high demand for the first meant they were under represented.

NHS White Paper: "Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS"

Following the publication of the NHS White Paper "Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS" on Monday July 12th it is clear that there is likely to be substantial change in the current commissioning structure of the NHS.

There are clear messages running through the paper on the need to enhance joint working between Local Authorities and NHS commissioning structures, particularly with regard to public health. When the picture becomes clearer for Staffordshire on the changes that will take place in the way services are commissioned, we will update further through these briefings.

Services commissioning of CAMHS, Teenage Pregnancy, Substance Misuse service for young people, and the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme are covered elsewhere as appropriate within this monthly briefing.

Actions/decisions to be taken by Districts

- Contact Claire Trenfield as above if interested in booking a place on the course
- For those wishing to access the key messages of the NHS White Paper, a 3 page briefing has been prepared covering the key points. Interested parties should contact Martyn Baggaley, JCU Manager, for a copy (martyn.baggaley@staffordshire.gov.uk)

Children's Trust Strategy Groups

Aiming High For Disabled Children

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

Update

- The Aiming High Parent Forum has been established and its first formal meeting has been held. The forum is supported by the Aiming High Parent Engagement Service commissioned from Staffordshire Parent Partnership. The Forum will provide a link between the Aiming High Board and parents of disabled children in Staffordshire.
- The Aiming High Summer Newsletter and Activities Brochure has been published and several thousand copies have been circulated. Copies are available by contacting emma.smith@staffordshire.gov.uk
- A wide range of summer activities funded through Aiming High and delivered by Special Schools, Outdoor Education Centres and commissioned providers will be taking place over the Summer Holidays. The activities are aimed at giving disabled children and young people fun experiences and supporting parents over the long six week holiday.
- Mark Fosbrook the Aiming High Sport and Activities Officer is currently finalising the County Sport and Disability Strategy. The strategy will identify the key priorities for disabled children sport and activities across Staffordshire, building on the valuable work Mark has already undertaken including improving access to information, workforce development and support to growing a sustainable structure for disability sport.
- The County Council disabled children web pages are currently going through a major overhaul. The new G8teway Team have been working with local groups and organisations in their areas to identify which information is accurate and which needs updating. The information is currently being updated on the website www.staffordshire.gov.uk/disabled-children and will be going live over the next few weeks.

Integrated Processes

Chair / representative: Charlotte Bailey, charlotte.bailey@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

As you may now be aware Ministers have confirmed arrangements for the closure and decommissioning of ContactPoint. Tim Loughton ((Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families) laid a Written Ministerial Statement on 22/07/10 informing Parliament that ContactPoint will be shut down on 6th August. The Government is continuing to consider the feasibility of what is considered a more proportionate approach to supporting frontline professionals to help protect vulnerable children from harm.

In his statement Mr Loughton outlined that:

"I recognise the problem that the previous Government was trying to solve in establishing ContactPoint, and the well-intended efforts that many hardworking practitioners and managers have put into improving the quality and use of data on vulnerable children. Frontline practitioners need to be able to provide support for our most vulnerable children when they move across local authority boundaries or access services in more than one area. Experience shows the potential value of a quick and reliable means of discovering whether another professional has worked with such a child. It is worth considering a national approach to that issue. However, we have never agreed that ContactPoint was the answer. It has always been our view that it was disproportionate and unjustifiable to hold records on every child in the country, making them accessible to large numbers of people. Accordingly, we are exploring the practicality of a new national signposting service which would focus on helping practitioners find out whether another practitioner is working, or has previously worked, in another authority area with the same vulnerable child. Social workers in particular, and potentially other key services like the police or accident and emergency

departments, may need this information very quickly. Such a service must aim to ensure that these children are not 'lost' to social care services when they move. We are working closely with our partners to assess the feasibility and affordability of such an approach."

Tom Jeffery (DfE Director-General, Children and Families) has written to Directors of Children's Services and Chief Executives of ContactPoint National Partners. The letter sets out the timetable for shut down and decommissioning, provides guidance for local authorities, National Partners and other partners on the activities they need to undertake.

Data held on the ContactPoint system will be securely destroyed at a national level as will any ContactPoint information records held locally in line with SCC policy and procedure.

CAF

Use of CAF remains a critical priority and we are scoping the potential to safely share data from the new CAF database system with professionals across Staffordshire. This information sharing was to be facilitated through the ContactPoint database and in light of the decommissioning process this alternative plan is now being investigated. This could potentially enable practitioners working with a child to check whether there is a CAF in place and who the lead professional is from the Staffordshire CAF database.

The CAF website has been revamped and this contains up to date information including links to guides to completing CAFs and information around our CAF training programme. This is broken down into information for Children, Parent/Carers & Professionals. The website will continue to be updated at regular intervals and there is also a new CAF news section which will be updated by the Joint Assessment Co-ordinators in order to keep professionals working with children informed about CAF progress and developments. The CAF website is accessed through the Staffordshire Children's Trust Website under CAF, link to website is: www.staffordshirechildrenstrust.org.uk

Healthy Weights Group

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

Update

- Work continues in line with the previous updates; please refer to these for more information.
- The next Healthy Weights meeting will be held on September 15th 2010 chaired by Jo Robins. New terms of reference have been agreed.
- A multi-agency countywide workshop is being planned for late September to re-energise and promote childhood healthy weight across the county. Full details will be circulated shortly.
- The group has captured some priority areas of work within a delivery plan. Some of these work areas are described below.
- Childhood obesity service provision is being mapped across the county to assist in the development of commissioning guidelines.
- A county wide childhood obesity strategy will be developed building on any previous versions in existence i.e. NHS North Staffordshire's strategy.
- Focus will be given to using data to drive change and service improvement. For example, targeting areas with high rates of obesity (tier 2). Childhood obesity data has been included in school profiles as part of the enhanced healthy schools model.
- A mechanism of distributing the Healthy Weight Frameworks has been 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, and Director of Health Improvement, NHS North Staffordshire, Jacqueline Small.
- In both North and South Staffordshire the NCMP programme continues – 2008/09 data will be available shortly for wider circulation i.e. with healthy school programme colleagues. Feedback for this year has been sent to South and North Staffordshire's schools and school nursing teams via the Public health team.
- Physical activity work for children and young people continues in both North and South Staffordshire

PCT areas. Some practice based commissioning groups in South Staffordshire have commissioned physical activity provision as part of weight management models i.e. Cannock and East Staffordshire.

- A Total Place approach to childhood obesity is being adopted in Staffordshire Moorlands with the potential benefits of developing services better tailored to customer needs, more satisfied customers, a simpler and clearer service offer and improved efficiency as well as effectiveness

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

School Improvement Division

Representative: Dr Lynda Mitchell, lynda.mitchell@staffordshire.gov.uk 01785 27 7965

Update

- The Inclusion and Well Being Strategy is now completed and ready to launch in the autumn term. Look out for dates to be circulated.
- The AEN funding group continues to meet. There has been one simulation exercise with Wolgarston C and LP, and there will be a second simulation exercise with Stafford Sports ~College C and LP at the end of September. Learning from these exercises will be assimilated into the process for schools and settings. We are awaiting information about finance to decide whether the new distribution of funding will take place from September 10, or whether it will need to be a year later than this.
- There is a working group which has begun to consider decision making around our children and young people with Special Educational Needs. We are aiming to review the panels that we have and ensure that they are all efficient, effective and transparent for all.

Actions/decisions to be taken by Districts

- Please note. Further information will be available as these work streams move forward.

Children & Young People's Participation Team

Representative: Sue Bond; sue.bond@staffordshire.gov.uk, 01785 854064

UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) attended the Annual sitting in Belfast

For the first time in its history, the UK Youth Parliament held its annual sitting in Northern Ireland. Five of Staffordshire's UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) representatives were amongst more than 300 of their peers from across the UK who gathered in Belfast at the end of July. The four day event saw debates on the environment, health, crime and education, lowering the voting age to 16, and transport provision for young people.

As part of the sitting, the 11-18 year-olds visited Stormont and were addressed by Francie Molloy, Deputy Speaker of the Northern Ireland

During the weekend the Members of Youth Parliament were also addressed by a number of high profile speakers, including the Speaker of the House of Commons, John Bercow and the Minister for Energy and Climate Change, Charles Hendry.

The Participation Team and Youth Action Kouncil (YAK) members supported Stafford's Children and Young Peoples Plan launch which was held in Stafford town centre recently.

15 young people from YAK promoted the Access to Positive Activities Campaign. This is being supported

by O2 Think Big, who paid for survey postcards and promotional resources.

The Participation Team consulted children and young people about their communities alongside a creative activity.

Joint Commissioning Unit - Substance Misuse Commissioning Team

Representative: Alison Perry alison.perry@staffordshire.gov.uk 01785 358613

Update

As part of the service review and re-modelling of young people's substance misuse services a broad range of consultation activities have taken place during June and July.

- Consultation events with service users of the young people's specialist treatment service and focus groups with parents and carers engaged in the Parent/Care Support Project have been completed
- Stakeholder/partners service design events across the county have recently been completed.
- We also plan to work with the Staffordshire Children's Trust Children & Young People's Participation Team to hold consultations through the Shadow Trust Boards towards the end of August

Actions/decisions to be taken by Districts

- Consultation and feedback reports will be completed, these will inform the service review and tender process and will be circulated for information