

# Bright Futures

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The Children's Trust newsletter for those working with or for children and young people in Peterborough

## Message from John Richards

Chair of the Children's Trust Partnership Board and Executive Director of Children's Services



Peterborough  
Children's Trust  
Partnership Board



Happy New Year and welcome to the third edition of Bright Futures. At the beginning of each new year I like to reflect on the last twelve months and look forward to the next twelve. In 2009, we saw some big improvements in outcomes for children and young people; best-ever exam results, improved social care performance and fewer young people not in education, employment

or training – and all this during a recession. Ofsted have assessed services for children and young people as 2-star so this means we've still got more to do and that 2010 will be another exciting and challenging year. To keep on improving the lives of children and young people we must continue to look for opportunities to work in partnership, ensuring children are at the centre of everything we do.

If you have any ideas for future editions, please email [childrens.trust@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:childrens.trust@peterborough.gov.uk)

## Young people to inspect **our services**

A new way for young people to help shape our services is being launched early this year. The Young Inspectors Programme, a joint project between Nacro and Peterborough City Council, aims to give young people the chance to look closely at services available in their area and tell those in charge of them what they think, using a range of methods in their work, including mystery shopping and hidden cameras!

The programme will work with professionals, commissioners and young people from the city to develop ways of assessing, reviewing and informing local services so services can be the best that young people want them to be.

This programme will work with thirty 13 to 19-year-olds (or young people with a disability up to the age of 25) who, because of their background or life experiences, haven't

had the opportunity to speak out and get their views heard. They will be trained to look at a range of services from information, advice and guidance (IAG), services at schools and colleges, to transport, health services, sport and leisure facilities or youth and community services.

The young people involved in the project will be trained and supported to inspect local services, and will also be able to gain an accreditation, as well as be paid to do this exciting work. One young person will have an amazing opportunity to gain an apprenticeship to work alongside Carina Greenaway, the lead youth worker for this programme.

**For further information about the project, contact Taseef Younas on 01733 863803 or email [taseef.younas@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:taseef.younas@peterborough.gov.uk).**

## Inside this issue...

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- Meet our CAF co-ordinators
- Specialist treatment for drug/alcohol issues
- Post Laming Report
- Spotlight on: NACRO
- Developing our workforce

# Update from the Children's Trust Partnership Board

The board has met four times since the last newsletter. Here are just some of the key decisions made and issues discussed:

- Approved a new integrated processes framework for the city. Find out more about this in our interview with the CAF co-ordinators on the next page
- Agreed new Safeguarding Commissioning Standards – these ensure that all commissioned services meet minimum criteria for Safeguarding, and will be applied to all contracted services
- Agreed new Safer Employment Standards for all trust partners – these set out how we can make sure that we all follow best practice when recruiting new staff. See more about this in our 'News in Brief' section
- Approved the 14-19 Education Plan. See more about this in our 'News in Brief' section
- Approved recommendations for improvement following a review of local safeguarding. Find out more about Laming later in this edition

Minutes of the Children's Trust will be available shortly at:

<http://www.gpp-peterborough.org.uk/partners-children.php> and at [www.peterborough.gov.uk/childrenstrust](http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/childrenstrust)

## Students design future of education in Peterborough



Many of you will know that three secondary schools south of Peterborough are being re-built or refurbished as part of the second phase of the Secondary Schools Review. Students from the schools are playing an integral part in these developments. Shannon Bogle from Ormiston Bushfield Academy talks about their work with the Sorrell Foundation.

“The Sorrell Foundation was set up in 1999 to inspire creativity in young people and improve their quality of life through good design. The foundation creates and prototypes new ideas and develops models which can be widely used.

“The Sorrell Design Group consists of 15 students from Peterborough of a variety of ages, and two adults who are co-ordinating student participation in the design process for the new Ormiston academy building. The group has been involved in two events enabling them to influence their peers in the procedure. So all students could have their say, a survey was conducted across the whole academy asking for opinions on 15 key areas.

“When the survey had been completed, the group went down to London to develop their ideas further for the new building. Whilst in the capital we observed features of The National Theatre and the Royal Festival Hall. In addition we stopped to look at more mundane but important objects such as bins and posters. We were able to make notes on how buildings were constructed and how simple changes can be made without much difficulty. Large changes such as improvements to disabled facilities, technology infrastructure and inclusion of different nationalities have been acknowledged as vital in the new academy.

“At the second event, we commenced work on presenting mood boards constructed by us throughout the day. Creative as they were, the group made collages for the six top issues that they, along with the rest of the academy, decided as the most important. They will now try to turn those ideas into reality in consultation with the architects to formulate an academy as comfortable and as pleasurable to use as possible.”

# Meet our CAF co-ordinators

The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is a shared assessment tool for use across all services for children. It aims to help early identification of children with additional needs and promote co-ordinated service provision. The CAF is undertaken with the consent and full participation of the child and their family.

Many of you will have heard about the CAF before, but did you know we have three CAF co-ordinators: Lisa Waller, Sam Turner and Vikki Cook? We went to visit them to find out what they do.

## What is the aim of the CAF?

The aim is to identify, at the earliest opportunity, a child's or young person's additional needs which are not being met by the universal services they are receiving, and provide timely and co-ordinated support to meet those needs.

### Q. So, you're a CAF co-ordinator? What do you do?

**Vikki:** We support and train practitioners through integrated processes which includes the CAF for example.

**Sam:** We ensure that every child or young person is kept at the centre of the process ensuring multi-agency responses and working with any person who comes into contact with a child or young person.

**Lisa:** Our work involves liaising closely with practitioners of the children's services workforce including schools, early years and Connexions.

### Q. What's the biggest challenge in the job?

**Vikki:** Trying to encourage practitioners that integrated working is a great use of their time.

**Sam:** Trying to motivate the workforce into a new way of thinking.

**Lisa:** Trying to embed a process which has been a challenge in the past.

### Q. I've heard you're launching a new Integrated Processes Toolkit – what is it about?

**Lisa:** The Integrated Processes Toolkit will improve information for practitioners and managers to help them through the integrated processes. This will include information such as a step-by-step guide, flowchart and a practitioner's handbook. Practitioners and managers will receive these resources through the integrated processes training.

**Vikki:** The toolkit will also provide useful information for practitioners such as example questions and a checklist.



### Q. Where can people find out more about integrated working?

From the CAF co-ordinators personally:

- Vikki Cook is responsible for work in the Central and East Localities
- Sam Turner is responsible for work in the North West and Rural Localities
- Lisa Waller is responsible for work in the South Locality

Or, you can find lots of information on our website at [www.peterborough.gov.uk/childrenstrust](http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/childrenstrust)

### Q. Finally, what makes you feel good after a hard day's work?

**Lisa:** I enjoy going for a run; that always helps me relax.

**Vikki:** Seeing my boyfriend and cat, listening to loud music and doing jigsaws.

**Sam:** Spending time with Alfred Benjamin (my cocker spaniel) and creative cooking.

The integrated processes team invite you to meet and talk to them and ask any questions – no matter how small or trivial the issue may be they are always willing to help.

# Help make sure young people with drug and/or alcohol issues access specialist treatment

Reducing drug and alcohol misuse amongst young people is a priority for the Children's Trust. However, the numbers of young people referred for specialist drug and alcohol treatment are much lower than they should be. We need your help to make sure young people get the specialist support they need.

## Who is at risk of drug and alcohol misuse?

Any child or young person could develop problems with drug or alcohol misuse. However, we know that some groups of young people are more at risk than others. These include:

- Children of parents with drug and/or alcohol misuse problems
- Children of parents with mental health problems
- Children who are truant or excluded from school
- Children in care
- Young people in contact with the criminal justice system
- Homeless young people
- Young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)
- Teenage parents (to be)

## I work directly with children and young people, what should I do?

Irrespective of your professional background, everyone working directly with children and young people should:

- Routinely and frequently screen for drug and/or alcohol issues as part of regular contact with children and young people and any needs assessments or CAFs (Common Assessment Frameworks)
- Provide advice and information on drugs and/or alcohol where appropriate
- On identifying or suspecting a drug and/or alcohol issue, refer to specialist services for an assessment and treatment support
- For alcohol issues refer on to Drinksense on 01733 567998
- For drug issues refer on to Peterborough Drugs Services on 01733 314551
- Support young people you refer to access and remain engaged in treatment

## When should I make a referral?

As a guide, you should refer whenever you identify a drug and/or alcohol issue or you have repeated concerns about a young person's drug and/or alcohol use. Clues to watch out for include:

- Frequency of intoxication
- Putting themselves into risky or unsafe situations when intoxicated
- Affecting health and wellbeing
- Affecting functioning and relationships (such as truanting or absenteeism)
- Where a young person is concerned about a parent's drinking and/or drug use

If you are considering a referral and would like some advice, contact Drinksense on 01733 567998 or the Young People's Drug Service on 01733 314551.

## I manage people who work directly with children and young people, what should I do?

Line managers should monitor the prevalence of drug and/or alcohol issues, regular use of screening and onward referrals through regular supervision. Access to drug and alcohol misuse training should be encouraged, particularly for those working with vulnerable or at-risk young people. Information about training can be found at:

[www.peterborough.gov.uk/childrenstrust](http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/childrenstrust).

# News in Brief



## Equality Impact Assessments

The Children's Trust Partnership Board has agreed that all policies and decisions made by the Trust will need to have an Equality Impact Assessment. This is a process that reviews key decisions to ensure they fully recognised the diverse needs and circumstances of the people who would be affected by them. Undertaking Equality Impact Assessments is an important way of making sure we provide the best possible services for all children and young people.

Equality Impact Assessments are one part of the wider draft Children's Trust Equality and Diversity Framework. The overall aim of this document is to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination
- Promote community cohesion
- Promote equality of opportunity
- Promote equality of access and positive outcomes
- Recognise, promote and celebrate diversity

You can find advice and guidance about Equality Impact Assessments by visiting our website:  
[www.peterborough.gov.uk/childrenstrust](http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/childrenstrust)

## 14-19 Education Plan

Did you know that the minimum age at which young people leave education or training is rising to 17 in 2013 and 18 in 2015? Have you heard about diplomas, the new qualification that has been launched? Have you heard about expanded opportunities for apprenticeships?

These are just some of the elements of the 14-19 Reform Agenda, which will dramatically change the way young people access learning, training and information, advice and guidance. Recently, Peterborough's Children's Trust approved the 14-19 Education Plan which sets out how we will deliver these major changes locally.

You can find more information about the 14-19 Education Plan on our website at:

[www.peterborough.gov.uk/childrenstrust](http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/childrenstrust)

## Safer Employment Standards

Did you know that Peterborough's Children's Trust now has new Safer Employment Standards?

It is vitally important that all organisations which employ people to work with children and the vulnerable adopt safe recruitment and selection procedures which help to deter, reject or identify people who might abuse the vulnerable.

These standards, which include guidance and a checklist, have been developed by a multi-agency working group as a minimum to be attained, to assist managers to reach safer levels of recruitment, training and the management of staff.

You can find out more information about the standards at:  
[www.peterborough.gov.uk/childrenstrust](http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/childrenstrust)



# ***Peterborough on way to achieving Lord Laming's recommendations***

In our last edition we reviewed the Lord Laming report into safeguarding and the recommendations made as a result, including what we intended to do next in Peterborough. Since then a progress report evaluating how well we are delivering against the recommendations has been produced. The report found significant good practice in Peterborough and that we are already working towards meeting many of Lord Laming's recommendations. However, there is still more work to be done. The report made 27 key recommendations for partners including: Peterborough Safeguarding Children's Board (PSCB), the Children's Trust, the police, health services and social care services.

The Children's Trust has endorsed these recommendations and work is underway to implement them. These recommendations covered are as such as: staff training, referral and assessment processes and relationships between the PSCB and the Children's Trust.

To view this report or find more information visit the Children's Trust website: [www.peterborough.gov.uk/childrentrust](http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/childrentrust)



## ***Young carers to get essential help***

In Peterborough it is estimated there are 2400 young carers aged between 5 and 16. A young carer is a child or young person who provides or intends to provide a substantial amount of care on a regular basis. This may involve, for example, caring for a sibling, parent or other relative.

Being a young carer can have detrimental effects on young people, including problems at school, health problems, emotional difficulties, etc. It is important that not only the extent and nature of the caring that a child or young person may be providing is recognised, but the actual or potential impact this has on the young carer. We need to ensure that we put the correct services in place to help them effectively. For this reason young carers were identified as the priority vulnerable group in Peterborough's Children and Young People Plan.

It is good news, then, that Peterborough was recently successful in being one of the six local authorities identified to be involved in a pilot for a young carer's project. The Children's Society and the Princess Royal Trust for Carers have been commissioned by the DCSF (Department for Children, Schools and Families) to support a small group of local authorities in developing an integrated approach to young carers. The project will enable the delivery of free training, information and best practice examples based on the Think Family agendas to help ensure young carers get a more responsive, whole family and needs-led service. If you would like to find out further information, please visit:

[www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters)

If you would like further information on the Children's Society please visit: <http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/>



# Developing our workforce

In early 2010, a new Workforce Development Strategy for the children and young people's workforce described how, as a city, we are making sure that everyone who works with children and young people has the right skills, knowledge and understanding to assist delivering the best possible outcomes. We thought we'd take the opportunity to tell you a little more about workforce development.

## Who is the children and young people's workforce?

The children and young people's workforce includes everyone who works, whether paid or unpaid, with children and young people and their parents and carers.

## What are we doing already?

There's lots happening already! We have used the One Children's Workforce Tool to assess our strengths and weaknesses and identify where improvements can be made. This involved getting the views of staff at all levels and across partners. We have also been asking children and young people about what they want from the adults in the workforce who support and provide help to them.



## What will the workforce strategy do?

The strategy will set out our investment in our primary asset – YOU, the children and young people's workforce. The strategy will include creating a new common induction for the children and young people's workforce, developing a common learning and development programme, making sure we have the right opportunities to acquire professional qualifications and ensuring we have effective succession planning.

## Sounds interesting, how can I be involved?

Your organisation or team may be asked to complete an online questionnaire, to attend workshops and focus groups or to keep a "week in the life of" diary. Your involvement in this process is vital to us on our journey to developing a world-class children and young people's workforce in Peterborough.

## Where can I find out more?

Find out more about workforce development at:  
[www.peterborough.gov.uk/childrenstrust](http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/childrenstrust)

# Spotlight on ... Nacro



Nacro is the leading crime reduction charity working with disadvantaged young people and deprived communities to give them a positive stake in society. They have unrivalled expertise in developing practical responses to crime and stimulating fresh thinking on how best to reduce it through policy, research and campaign work.

They also run a number of prevention and youth inclusion projects aimed at engaging with young people, in addition to providing housing, education and employment programmes, which help to steer young people away from crime.

Nacro perceive educational disadvantage as one of the main factors associated with youth crime, so they provide alternative learning opportunities for many young people who have been excluded from school. They work in partnership with schools and local education authorities to reintegrate children back into mainstream education, where possible, or into further education, training or employment.

In Peterborough, Nacro's training centres offer a range of services for young people and adults including careers advice, help with job search skills, training and work experience programmes, offering placements with local employers and leading to nationally recognised qualifications.

Every year Nacro works directly with over 85,000 people and many more benefit from our work with local, regional and national partners.

**For more information visit: [www.nacro.org.uk](http://www.nacro.org.uk) or telephone Balvinder Gill on 01733 561596.**



changing lives  
reducing crime

## COMPETITION TIME!

**Here's your chance to win a box of chocolates by answering the two simple questions below:**

1. Tell us what you like about the newsletter the most?
2. What would you like to see feature in future editions?

For your chance to win email your answers to [childrens.trust@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:childrens.trust@peterborough.gov.uk) by 26 February, leaving your name and contact details. The winner will be contacted and published in the next edition, along with the ideas suggested.



**If you have article ideas for future editions of the Children's Trust newsletter please telephone 01733 864008 or email [childrens.trust@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:childrens.trust@peterborough.gov.uk)**