

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



"Welcome to the second edition of Bright Futures. In this edition you will discover a world of children's services. Find out what decisions have been made to improve the lives of our children and young people, our new inspection regime and much more.

"Following Lord Laming's safeguarding report, children's services throughout

the UK are under intense scrutiny and this is no different for Peterborough. Safeguarding our children is the Children's Trust primary focus. However, in reality everyone who works with, is related to, or knows a child is responsible in one way or another for their welfare.

"I would encourage each of you to ensure you are familiar with Lord Laming's report and, more importantly, understand how it impacts on your work".

Keeping our children safe

Following the death of Baby P, Lord Laming was asked to review the safeguarding of children by Ed Balls, Secretary of State. In his report Lord Laming made 58 recommendations for improvement across six key areas:

1. Leadership and accountability
2. Support for children and interagency working
3. The children's workforce
4. Improvement and challenge
5. Organisation and finance
6. Legal

The government accepted all Lord Laming's recommendations, saying: "The right legislation, policies, systems and structures are not enough. What matters most to children, young people and families is the day to day support they receive from services."

Peterborough's Children's Trust is responding to the Lord Laming report in two ways:

1. We are reviewing our safeguarding processes and systems across all services to ensure we have the right controls in place to protect children
2. We are continuing in our drive towards integrating services through, for example, the Delivering through Localities project (find out more on page 2), because we know the best way to keep children safe is to work better, together

Peterborough's Safeguarding Children's Board is examining the results of an evaluation carried out against Lord Laming's recommendations and will shortly be producing an analysis showing where we need to focus our efforts to ensure all our children stay safe.

Find out more about the Lord Laming review at:
<http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/HC-330.pdf>

Inside this issue...

- Page 2: Decisions from Children's Trust Partnership Board
- Page 2: Delivering through Localities
- Page 4: Building our Children's Trust
- Page 6: Tackling teenage pregnancy
- Page 8: Getting ready for our new inspection

Update from the Children's Trust Partnership Board

The Children's Trust Partnership Board meets about every six weeks. Here's a snapshot of just some of the key decisions made by the board so far this year:

- To review local safeguarding and Peterborough's response to the Haringey Joint Area Review
- Agreed the 'Delivering through Localities' outline management structure, service delivery model and project plan
- Agreed the Strategic Commissioning Framework, commissioning team structure and move to joint commissioning
- Agreed the 2009 Children and Young People Plan vision, priorities and key areas of focus
- Agreed to commission solution centres on teenage pregnancy and childhood obesity
- Agreed to develop an equality and diversity policy statement for the Children's Trust and to adopt an Equality Impact Assessment process for all policies, strategies and service developments that come to the Children's Trust Partnership Board

Delivering children's services in Peterborough through localities

An update on the consultation

Proposals for the development of integrated services in the three localities in Peterborough were issued for consultation in June. Backed by the children's services management team and Peterborough Community Service (PCS) Board, the proposals outlined the key operational features of locality working, which services should be delivered locally and the management structures to support it.

The consultation included:

- Four open events attended by over 200 staff from a range of agencies and backgrounds
- Briefing sessions with direct teams
- Proposals presented at key management and partnership meetings, including headteachers and governors
- Work with over 60 young people at the 'Get Involved' event in July

We have now collated and analysed all your feedback into one document "Moving forward – a response to the consultation September 2009".

Please telephone 01733 863702 for a copy.

For further information on localities, please email **John Richards**, executive director of children's services at askjohn@peterborough.gov.uk



Changes at Learning and Skills Council

Following government changes last year, responsibility for the planning, commissioning and funding of 16 -19 provision will be transferred from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to Peterborough City Council (PCC) and other local authorities (LAs) by April 2010.

This means LAs will now be responsible for planning provision for all local residents.

Peterborough will form part of a sub-regional group along with three other local authorities; Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, with Mel Collins representing the council.

The group have proposed a 'Joint Local Authority Commissioning Model' where decisions will be made at the most local practical level, but could be elevated higher if necessary. We are currently awaiting approval for this model by the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

To enable the project to run smoothly, two groups have been established by Peterborough's children's services, one to manage the process and the other to lead on key day-to-day activities to ensure the smooth transition of planning, funding and commissioning.



It has been confirmed there is scope for seven LSC staff to transfer across to children's services. Individuals have yet to be identified and inevitably there will be uncertainty for LSC staff during this phase. John Richards, Mel Collins and Denise Bangay (from the LSC) have recently met with all LSC staff to introduce the work of children's services and to discuss important stages within the LSC business cycle.

The LA and LSC have worked very closely together over the past six months to ensure that the planning and preparation for the transition and transfer of LSC staff goes as smoothly as possible – thank you to all of those staff who are involved in or are supporting this important activity.



Building our Children's Trust

What are Children's Trusts?

Children's Trusts are local partnerships which bring together the organisations responsible for services for children, young people and families in a shared commitment to improving children's lives. The term "Children's Trust" applies to the whole system of children's services, covering the work of partner agencies at every level. But Children's Trusts are not separate organisations in their own right. Each partner retains its own responsibilities, while working together to join up services.

What do Children's Trusts do?

Children's Trusts develop the local strategy for improving children's lives by delivering better services. They promote strong joint planning and commissioning of services. All Children's Trusts should focus on a number of key priorities, clearly set out in their shared Children and Young People Plan.

What are we trying to achieve?

Peterborough's Children's Trust Partnership Board signed up to a shared vision in our Children and Young People Plan:

To create an environment where children and young people are safe and healthy, can enjoy what life has to offer and have ambition and aspirations, where they achieve their goals and make a positive contribution for themselves, their family and their community.

How does the Children's Trust work?

Underneath the Children's Trust Partnership Board, we've set up a number of underlying partnerships who work to turn the vision within the Children and Young People Plan into reality by looking at how we can improve children's lives by delivering better services. Each of the partnerships has a clear focus, and has representatives from across a range of partners who work with children and young people including schools, the city council, police, health and the voluntary and community sector.



Children's Trust Partnership Structure



What our partnerships do

Partnership	Areas of focus
<p>Be Healthy Partnership</p> <p>Co-chair: Andy Liggins Co-chair: Tim Bryson</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teenage pregnancy • Emotional health and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) • Substance misuse • Children's health commissioning
<p>Stay Safe Partnership</p> <p>Chair: Debbie Brayshaw Co-chair: Andy Hebb</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Social Care • Outcomes for children and young people in care • Safe recruitment and employment • Young runaways and missing children • Staying Safe Action Plan • Outcome of Lord Laming review
<p>Enjoy and Achieve Partnership</p> <p>Chair: Mel Collins Co-chair: Christina Wells</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving learning outcomes • Opportunities for children and young people to engage in play, sport and leisure activities • Opportunities for children and young people to engage in culture, heritage and creative learning activities • Bullying • Promoting community cohesion • Outcomes for children from Minority Ethnic New Arrivals (MENA)
<p>Make a Positive Contribution Partnership</p> <p>Acting chair: Chris Fisher Co-chair: Awaiting appointment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children with disabilities • Young carers • Youth crime reduction • Universal and targeted parenting support • Engagement, participation and active citizenship
<p>Achieve Economic Wellbeing Partnership</p> <p>Chair: Denise Bangay Co-chair: Rachel Rouncefield</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to families and young people • Reducing number of young people who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) • Achievement of level 2 and 3 qualifications • Housing • Transport • Child poverty
<p>Infrastructure Partnership</p> <p>Chair: Jon Lewis Co-chair: Lynn Hogarth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equality and diversity • Children and young people from gypsy and traveller communities • Workforce development • Asset management • Delivering through Localities project • Family Information Services (FIS) • Ensuring value for money • Delivering commissioning • Marketing and communications
<p>14-19 Education Planning Partnership</p> <p>Chair: Mel Collins Co-chair: Allison Sunley</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of 14-19 Reform Agenda, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 14 -19 Education Plan ◦ Diploma delivery ◦ Employer engagement ◦ Apprenticeships

In future editions of Bright Futures we will show how these partnerships are improving the lives of children and young people in Peterborough.

Teenage Pregnancy: Making a difference



The latest government data shows teenage pregnancy rates in Peterborough reduced by 16.7 per cent between 1998 and 2007. However, Peterborough's rates remain higher than national and regional averages making the prevention of teenage pregnancy a key priority for the city.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department of Health commended Peterborough for its good progress in reducing teenage pregnancy, but reinforced the importance of promoting the full range of contraceptive choice, the need for robust joint planning and commissioning between local authorities and the NHS and an intention to make Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) statutory.

Teenage pregnancy is one of the first areas in children's services to go through the full commissioning cycle, in partnership with NHS Peterborough. A design group consisting of partners

from NHS Peterborough, children's services and the voluntary sector are redesigning teenage pregnancy-related services to make certain they meet the needs of young people. The risk profiling tools developed through the new solution centre are being used to identify particular areas and segments of the population to target, to ensure the most at risk and vulnerable are reached.

Some risk factors identified as contributing towards occurrences of teenage pregnancies are: attendance issues or exclusion from school, low levels of attainment, current or past involvement with social care, living in a deprived area or not being in employment, education or training.

Work is ongoing to improve young people's access to sexual health services. A pharmacy-based free emergency contraception scheme has been set up for young people and plans are in place to relocate the Contraceptive and Sexual Health services to the Rivergate site for autumn.

DID YOU KNOW...

Having a safe and secure home is important in stopping young offenders re-offending ...

98.2 per cent of our young offenders are in suitable accommodation.

Young people are feeling the effects of the economic downturn...

The number of young people not in education, employment or training has risen from 487 to 505 over the past year. A comprehensive strategy is currently being developed with a range of partners to support our young people, building on existing work.

Our children in their first year of school have improved performance...

An extra five per cent, that's 115 children more than last year achieved the expected level in the Early Years Foundation Stage compared to last year.



Our primary school boys have improved at reading and writing



Reading

80 per cent reached the expected level in Reading at Key Stage 1 (age seven), that's a rise of seven per cent and is now only one per cent off the national average of 81 per cent.

Writing

74 per cent reached the expected level in Writing at Key Stage 1, that's a rise of eight per cent and again is only one per cent off the national average of 75 per cent.

Spotlight on...Young Lives



Young Lives is an organisation that supports voluntary and community sector organisations working with children and young people.

We were successful in our bid for the Peterborough contract for 'v', the national youth volunteering charity supporting young people aged 16 to 25. Over the next two years, we will be working in a number of targeted areas:

- To increase the number of young people aged 16 to 25 who are volunteering, particularly those who have never considered it as an option for personal development
- To increase the number and diversity of opportunities across the city for young people's volunteering
- To broker short-term, part-time and full-time opportunities in partnership with a range of agencies across Peterborough

Young Lives also lead on a Peterborough Youth Volunteering Strategy, which brings partners together to develop young people's volunteering. To achieve this, Young Lives leads a youth volunteering network in Peterborough for young people, opportunity providers and partners alike.

The involved team will also be working with young volunteers to create youth-led action teams across Peterborough.



Getting ready for our new inspection

The Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) is the new way of inspecting local services, replacing the Annual Performance Assessment of previous years. The children's services element is led by Ofsted.

The inspection of children's services has a number of different elements:

- A quarterly performance profile including details of performance indicators and inspections of local services and institutions
- An annual unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment centres
- A major inspection of safeguarding and outcomes for children in care
- Self-assessment and surveys

Peterborough is likely to be inspected in the coming months and so the Children's Trust will be leading work to prepare all partners. We will also be launching a special CAA page on our new website. Look out for more information in our next edition of Bright Futures.

Find out more about the CAA at www.ofsted.gov.uk

If you would like further information please email the Children's Trust at:
childrens.trust@peterborough.gov.uk

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