

A Message from John Richards

Director of Children's Services



Welcome to the first edition of the Children's Trust Newsletter. In this newsletter, we will be telling you all about important issues and events that will affect everyone across the children's services partnership. We will also be telling you about what the Children's Trust has discussed and key decisions that have been made. There is a strong

emphasis from the government to ensure that the Children's Trust partners work together to deliver the objectives set out in the Children's Plan. Over the next few years, Children's Trusts will change the way all of us work and this newsletter will keep you up to date with everything that's going on.

Congratulations to Anne Nicole for picking the new name of the newsletter. A box of Thornton's chocolates is on its way to you!

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE 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.

The Peterborough Children's Trust Partnership Board is made up of:

- Director for Children's Services
- Lead member for Education and Children's Services
- Divisional Commander, Cambridgeshire Constabulary
- Peterborough Community (Health) Services
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Probation Service
- NHS Peterborough
- Learning and Skills Council
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (Mental Health) Foundation Trust
- Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust



Peterborough Children's Trust Partnership Board

- Peterborough Voluntary Sector Forum
- Young Lives
- Representatives from Primary, Secondary and Special Schools
- Governor Reference Group
- Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board
- Peterborough Racial Equality Council

Children's Trust Vision

Our vision is simple: 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.



Children's Trust Partnership Board Update - December 2008 meeting

The Children's Trust Partnership Board met on 3 December.

The key issues that were highlighted during the meeting were:

- A report was presented to the board about a project designed to move towards fully integrated working in localities and details of a pathfinder for this work that is being undertaken in the Stanground cluster and North, West and Rural locality.
- An update was received about the Children with Disabilities Project.

- Following an away day held in November, the board discussed the new structure for the partnerships that underpin the Children's Trust, which will be based on the five Every Child Matters outcomes. Work is underway to identify the chairs and co-chairs of these partnerships.
- The plan for the review of the Children and Young People Plan was agreed.
- A presentation was given about the Information Sharing Protocol and plans for ContactPoint.

Minutes of all the meetings are available at www.peterborough.gov.uk/childrenstrust

Reflections on the Annual Performance Assessment

The Annual Performance Assessment is an inspection of Children's Services carried out by Ofsted, who provide a score against each of the five Every Child Matters outcomes, capacity to improve and service management.

The inspectors reviewed our Children and Young People Plan, considered performance data and looked at a self-assessment that had been submitted. They visited Peterborough on 20 October for one day to interview a number of staff.

Ofsted published Peterborough's APA letter on 17 December and gave an overall score of 2 or 'adequate'. This was the grade that Peterborough self-assessed and was unchanged from 2007. The grade for Make a Positive Contribution was a 3 overall or 'good' and Staying Safe improved from a 1 to a 2 or 'adequate'.

Next year, the APA will be replaced by the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA). Look out for more information about this in future editions.



REVIEWING THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PLAN

Peterborough's Children and Young People Plan sets out the vision and key priorities for children and young people in the city and explains how partners in the Children's Trust will work together tackle these priorities. It is important that the plan reflects the changing needs of children and young people in the city so work is underway to review the plan.

As well as looking at what we need to do to improve outcomes, the review also looks back at the work we've been doing over the past year and examines what difference that work has made to the lives of children and young people.

The review will also include a needs assessment, which examines the latest data and research about children in Peterborough, and consultation with children, young people, parents and carers and professionals.

Look out for more information about the review of the Children and Young People Plan in future editions.

If you would like to see last year's Children and Young People Plan, it is available at www.peterborough.gov.uk/cypp

If you have any ideas for articles in future editions of the Children's Trust Newsletter please contact Nisha Patel on 01733 864008 or email nisha.patel@peterborough.gov.uk.