



Policy & Research Briefing

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A short guide for Trust partners on what's new in policy and research

Dear Colleagues

Many of you will already be on leave or looking forward to your summer holiday, (as long as your not camping in the UK as it may be a little damp!!) while many of our young people will be awaiting their exams results, so its an exciting and anxious time for lots of us.



One young Plymouthian who has had a very exciting summer so far is Tom Daley. Members of Services for Children and Young People and our colleagues from across the council attended the Civil Ceremony in the Council Chambers on Friday 31 July to give him a welcome home and well deserved congratulations. Lord Major Ken Foster congratulated Tom and invited him to address the audience – Tom was, as ever, composed, articulate and very modest and happily posed for photos and answered questions.

We are busily preparing the Children and Young Peoples Plan Refresh, which is a light touch to just update you on where we are with progress against each of our ten priorities and celebrate our successes over the year, as well as looking forward to what we can achieve over the coming year. It incorporates a series of case studies as examples of the excellent work currently happening across the Trust. The completed refresh document will be ready in September.

Scheduled to go to Cabinet on the 11 August for their approval is the proposal to hold formal consultations with all interested parties on a proposal to extend the age range of Sir John Hunt Community Sports College from 11-16 to 11-19 to incorporate a 6th form. We are also opening some new primary schools in September. Can I say a big thank you to everyone across both the council and our schools who have helped to make it happen.



Enjoy your summer!

With Best Wishes
Bronwen Lacey
 Chair of the Plymouth Children and Young People's Trust Executive

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Focus on: Priority 6 – Enable Children and Young People to have Fun

Champion: William Woyka – Chief Executive at The Routeways Centre

Our vision for this priority is that

“All children and young people in Plymouth can experience fun as part of daily life”

What does ‘fun’ have to do with improving outcomes for children and young people when compared with other ‘headline’ issues such as safeguarding our children, reducing bullying and raising levels of attainment? In addition, how can the Trust encourage more ‘fun’ when the term itself is so subjective?

These common questions, raised at various stakeholder meetings held by the Priority 6 Project Group, will be answered by **The Framework for Fun** which will also demonstrate how we as a City can contribute to better outcomes for children and young people as a result of a coordinated approach to fun.

The Framework for Fun – which is being finalised at the moment but will be completed later this month – outlines ‘The Trust’ understands of fun.

There have also been consultation with children and young people around what fun means to them and how they feel when having fun and enjoying themselves.

The Priority 6 Project Group and stakeholders want to see the following outcomes by 2011-

1. Fun is acknowledged as a key contributor to positive outcomes for children and young people
2. All children, young people and families are enabled and inspired to access and experience a range of recreational leisure activities
3. All children and young people’s experience of learning is enriched through access to educational leisure time activities
4. Fun activities are child and family centred

The next steps for the group will be to develop the implementation plan for the **Framework for Fun**. Active participation from all stakeholders will be the key to success.

The profile of this priority will be raised across the city through a stakeholder event on 4 September 12noon to 4pm at the Guildhall in coordination with the launch of ‘Improving the State of our Minds Joint Commissioning Strategy’. This is an open event so please come along with your family and enjoy an informative and fun time.

What stops children and young people having fun?

Through various stakeholder events and research the group found that there were numerous barriers to access experienced by many young people although certain groups of young people are subject to more barriers. Some barriers include:

Financial Barriers – Cannot afford the entry fee, the equipment, the travelling

Attitudinal Barriers - Discrimination, intimidation, scared to join something new, peer pressure, worried about being bullied, parents worried its too risky

Physical Barriers – Equipment and facilities not suitable for those with disabilities, facilities are not culturally aware, facilities are not open at the right times, facilities are not children and young people centred.

Key performance indicators:

Performance and progress against the aims of the strategy is measured using a combination of national indicators and local indicators. The measures set out below have been set challenging but realistic targets to ensure that we strive to meet our national, corporate and local expectations.

National Indicators:

- NI 6 Participation in volunteering
- NI 57 Participation in high quality sport and PE
- NI110 Participation in positive activities

Hear the Voice of our Disabled Children and Young People

“**Count me in**” is a DVD which gives Disabled Children’s voices an opportunity to be heard, and can be used to raise awareness across the Children’s Trust and the wider Council. The DVD is *available* for anyone who is interested in hearing about the issues faced by Disabled Children, their families as well as their needs and aspirations.

The DVD was used at the launch of the new Provider Forum on the 8th July. One comment from a provider was that it showed him that “disabled children had the *same* dreams as other children”.

Issues raised in the DVD include:

- Lack of sporting opportunities locally – a lot of time spent travelling
- Lack of changing facilities in public spaces
- The need for suitable apparatus in parks for disabled children and young people



The Children’s Integrated Disability Service wants to ensure that all providers and commissioners of services hear the voices of disabled children and young people with the aim to influence service design to reflect their wants and aspirations.

If you would like to borrow the DVD or would like more information please contact Janet Greaves-Stocker on 307325 or email

janet.greaves-stocker@plymouth.gov.uk

Plymouth City Council Secures Intergenerational Funding



Plymouth City Council has been awarded £400,000 to fund a range of local projects as part of a £5.5 million cross-Government scheme to promote intergenerational volunteering. The ‘*Generations Together*’ campaign in Plymouth will aim to break down barriers and strengthen bonds between young and older people to help them engage with each other as they work together to make positive contributions to their local neighbourhoods.

Through a total of 1,895 small volunteering projects, young and older people in Plymouth will be able to exchange their skills, experience and knowledge. Strengthening bonds between the different generations in the Kurdish and Chinese communities will have far reaching benefits, helping them to integrate with other more recently established ethnic groups in the city and the wider community. The projects set to benefit from the funding include cookery workshops for young Chinese people, to practice cooking traditional food for each other with the aim of serving a meal to Chinese Elders and projects which enable students to become involved in befriending activities such as gardening, to help reduce older people’s sense of isolation.

Better relationships will help to reduce the fear of crime and anti social behaviour felt by many older people while reducing the risk-taking behaviour - such as drug abuse and crime - of some younger people. For the full news article go to:

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/Content/Detail.aspx?NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=405171&SubjectId=4>

Big Arts Festival 2009

July saw the 10th annual arts celebration, which has to be one of the biggest in the city. Organised by Barefoot and partners as part of the line up for the Summer Festival and linked to National Shine week.

Art of the Community Day’s were held in different localities across the city – with the aim of engaging different generations and all members of the communities through art activity. Reaching well over a 1,000 young people, linking generations in local communities and bringing together schools from across the city the events provide unique opportunities for celebration and sharing.

Arnet Donkin (Senior Education Adviser, Equality and Inclusion) stated that “watching pupils from our primary and special schools taking over the stage at the Pavilions was both moving and inspiring”

FREE Access for our Looked After Children to City Leisure Facilities

Children in the care of Plymouth City Council (for at least one month and who are living within a commutable distance) now have a free leisure pass entitling themselves and a carer (if under 16) to free access at the following centres:

- **Central Park Leisure Pools** - swimming
- **Brickfields Sports Centre** – gym, badminton and table tennis
- **Mayflower Sports Centre** – badminton squash, table tennis

Equipment hire is included for squash, badminton and table tennis. (The activities are subject to availability and the terms and conditions of use at the Centre). Care leavers will also be receiving a pass although eligibility is still being discussed.

For more information contact Mary.Brimson@plymouth.gov.uk

POLICY

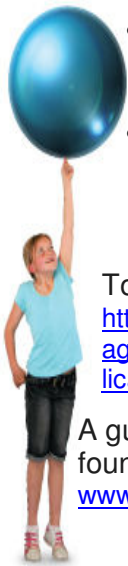
Your Child, Your Schools, Our Future: Building a 21st Century Schools System

The White paper is part of the Governments overarching vision of making England the best place in the world for a child to grow up. It contains a large number of proposals to improve our schools. Further consultation is promised about the implementation of most proposals, although a detailed timetable is not given. A summary of proposals include:

- A Pupil and Parent Guarantee backed by legislation setting out the rights, expectations and responsibilities of pupils and parents
- Renewed pressure on, and support for, schools to work in partnership
- A "licence to teach" will be introduced for teachers, renewable every five years
 - The role of governors is strengthened
 - The role of the School Improvement Professional (SIP) will be developed
 - One-to-one or small group tuition for pupils who fall behind in Key Stage 2 and the first year of secondary school will be provided

To see the full document go to <http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=Cm+7588>

A guide for parents/carers and CYP can be found at: www.dcsf.gov.uk/21stcenturyschoolssystem



Statutory Guidance on Children who Run Away and go Missing from Home or Care



The guidance published July this year replaces the *Missing from Care and Home Guidance* published by the Department of Health in 2002. It reflects recent developments across children's services.

The guidance serves to safeguard **all** runaways and to tackle the imbalance that exists between services for runaways from the looked-after population and those who run away from home. Research has found that some Local Authorities have no protocol in place for managing cases of children who runaway from home.

The guidance addresses issues including:

- Roles and responsibilities in a multi-agency response, within and across Local Authority borders
- The need for local and regional Runaway and Missing from Home and Care protocols to be in place
- The importance of a return interview for those missing from home and care to explore why they ran away, referring on, or linking into, care planning as appropriate
- Recommended best practice for the provision of effective emergency accommodation
- Practices and procedures for gathering information on running away in an area

To see the full guidance go to:

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/safeguardinganddsocialcare/safeguardingchildren/youngrunaways/youngrunaways/>

Locally, a multi-agency group to review current procedures has already been established. For more information contact the Policy and Planning Team

Safeguarding Disabled Children and Young People

Disabled children and young people have exactly the same rights to be safe from abuse and neglect as non-disabled children. This guidance is aimed at local safeguarding children board partners and other professionals working with children, young people and their families. It is supplementary to, and should be used in conjunction with, the statutory guidance, *Working together to safeguard children*.

This guidance makes clear the particular issues, which influence safety and welfare of disabled children and young people, and aims to ensure these are understood by all and acted upon. For more information go to:

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/safeguardingandsocialcare/safeguardingchildren/safeguarding/>

Poverty Toolkit

Local Authorities have long been in the frontline of efforts to tackle deprivation and to provide accessible services to members of their communities. However, a focus on child poverty has not previously been at the centre of service planning or the targeting of provision.

The Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion and the Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) has developed a toolkit to help local partners. It includes resources such as policy briefs, data tools and good practice guides.

For more information go to:

<http://www.childpovertytoolkit.org.uk/Home>

Research & Consultation

Support for Care Leavers

This report from Ofsted illustrates how effective strategies and services help improve the quality of life for care leavers and assist them to make successful transitions into adulthood and independence. A small-scale survey based on visits to 6 LAs and 4 secure provisions, this report uses evidence from social care inspection and care leavers' views and experiences, and identifies how barriers to positive outcomes for care leavers have been overcome.

LA's and provisions visited that had improved outcomes for care leavers had the following features:

- 'Leaving care' was not seen as a single event, but as a process of transition into adulthood. Progress was not expected to be a linear process, care leavers were given second chances when they made mistakes
- Care leavers were involved in planning, development, commissioning, recruitment and training processes
- The strong commitment of leaving care workers to meet care leavers' needs, both in and out of office hours, reduced the adverse impact of staff vacancies, limited training opportunities and office hours working arrangements



For the full report go to:
http://www.careknowledge.com/uploadedFiles/CareKnowledge_CMS/Public/Documents/200907/Support_for_care_leavers.pdf

Understanding the Risks of Social Exclusion Across the Life Course



New research for the Social Exclusion Task Force explores risks across four life phases – children and families, youth and young adulthood, working age and older age.

This report looks into the different triggers to social exclusion. Understanding who experiences these risks is important to improving services for those most in need.

Findings from the research can be used to help policy makers and service providers to better identify those in most need.

A key finding from the children and families report was that the families found to be most at risk of multiple disadvantage include lone parents, social tenants, families from Black, Asian and other ethnic groups, families with younger mothers and those with three or more children. The findings add to existing evidence that parental problems can be transferred to their children.

A key finding from the youth and young adult reports was that one of the most significant triggers of risk of social exclusion in young adulthood is having lived in a family who was in receipt of income support during adolescence. This stresses the need to break the intergenerational cycle of deprivation by increasing support for poor families with children in order to improve the life chances of the next generation.

To read the full reports go to
http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/social_exclusion_task_force/life-course.aspx

Exclusion from School of Children Aged 4 to 7

Ofsted has conducted research into why this was happening in some schools but not in others despite being in a similar demographic area. 69 schools and 10 LAs were visited and the report describes common characteristics of schools that did not exclude. A popular tool used was the "nurture group", although some schools said this had not been used due to lack of funding, it should be noted that the schools using it were actually no better funded.

The Children's Services Network (CSN) is planning a conference early in 2010 on 'nurture groups' which will look at funding issues and the role of LAs in promoting their use as a strategy to improve pupil behaviour and raise levels of achievement and well being (see future issues for details). Follow the link for the full report
<https://member.lgiu.org.uk/csn/briefings/2009/Pages/200900285.aspx>

Safeguarding - A Review of Arrangements in the NHS

The Quality Care Commission's review gives recommendations to improve safeguarding arrangements. A key recommendation was that NHS trusts' boards urgently review their arrangements for safeguarding – in particular the levels of up-to-date safeguarding training among their staff. For more details go to
http://www.careknowledge.com/uploadedFiles/CareKnowledge_CMS/Public/Documents/200907/Safeguarding_Children_200907153039.pdf

This report refers NHS Trusts to draft guidance on the requirements for registration, including those about safeguarding. The guidance was issued for consultation and due to close on 24 August - to respond go to
http://www.cqc.org.uk/newsandevents/newsstories.cfm?cid=34912&FAAarea1=customWidgets.content_view_1&usecache=false

Training and Events

Local Events

INTER – AGENCY TRAINING FOR SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION

Contemporary training course for all agencies, delivered in close collaboration between Plymouth's specialist practitioners.

Multi-agency shared learning is based upon:

- The latest research
- Reflective learning
- Contemporary practice
- Current policies and procedures

All courses are quality assured and certified to approved levels of Learning 2 and 3. The one day gateway course 'Understanding Child Protection' runs 3 times a month and opens the door to all further learning. A *new* course on 'Supervision Skills for Child Protection' will be launched in October

Current courses include:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Hidden Harm: Substance Misuse and Children
 - Domestic Abuse and Children
 - Child Sexual Abuse
 - E-Safety: Safeguarding Children in Cyberworld
 - Understanding Training for Child Protection



For further information contact:
pscb@plymouth.gov.uk or visit
www.plymouthscb.gov.uk

National Events



What: Extended Schools Conference - With the 2010 deadline for providing access to the full core offer of extended services upon us, it is imperative to plan for the future

When/Where: Central London 24 September 2009

Target Audience: Representatives from Local Authorities, Primary, Secondary and Special Schools, Early Years and Further Education and partner agencies

Contact: www.capitaconferences.co.uk : Quote Booking Reference TSBK

What: Children's Trust Conference – will discuss how Children's Trusts can be strengthened and advanced to ensure more efficient partnership working and improved outcomes for children and young people.

When/Where: Central London 28 September 2009

Target Audience: Trust Board members and all partner agencies

Contact: www.capitaconferences.co.uk: Quote Booking Ref: TSBK

Useful Links

Care Knowledge

www.careknowledge.com

The Department of Children and Families

www.dcsf.gov.uk

Plymouth City Council

<http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/>

Parliament

<http://www.parliament.uk/>

Safeguarding children

www.safeguardingchildren.org.uk

Plymouth's Safeguarding Children Board

www.plymouthscb.org.uk

Department of Health

www.dh.gov.uk

NHS stats

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics

Children and Young People Now

www.cypnow.co.uk

Research in Practice

www.rip.org.uk

Service Directories

National Service Directories

<http://www.careknowledge.com/secure/contenttypes/doc.aspx?id=58466>

Plymouth Service Directory

<http://www.plymouthparentpartnership.org.uk>

Supporting People Service Directory

<http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/supportingpeopledirectory>

Parents Guide to Plymouth

<http://www.parents-guide-to-plymouth.co.uk/index.htm>

Printing Schedule

For further information contact:

Abigail Jago (Assistant Policy and Planning Officer –Services for Children and Young People) Tel: 307113

To download previous Policy Briefs go to

<http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/homepage/socialcareandhealth/childrensocialcare/pcypt/pcyptnews.htm>

Next Months Issue	Submission deadline	Publication date
Issue 12	September	4 September 2009
		14 September 2009

