



Policy & Research Briefing

Volume 4
Issue 2
 February 2010

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

Dear Colleagues



I hope you all managed to attend the staff update days at the Guildhall as part of our awareness raising and inspection preparation. It was a good opportunity to see all the excellent work that has happened over the last year and how we have learnt and adapted when challenges have arisen. It was also good timing in terms of the announced inspection, see more on this in the March Briefing due to be published very shortly.

We have been finalising the 2010/11 budget to ensure that we are meeting pressures in departments, in particular increased referrals to social care services since the baby P case. Despite budget pressure Plymouth is managing to attract national recognition and has recently won the bid to be a World Cup Host City and to host the Southwest Family Week Sports Day which we discussed in last month's briefing.

Plymouth is also set to be the first host for the Blue Mile event, which is the UK's newest mass participation event designed to engage people positively with our blue environment. Conrad Humphries, the figurehead of the event, hopes the event will build year on year from the inaugural one in Plymouth on the 3 and 4 July 2010 and will roll out across the country and the rest of the world in the run-up to the 2012 Olympics. We are keen for our schools to be involved as this will be an excellent opportunity for children and young people to learn more about our maritime heritage and environmental issues, sport opportunities and a chance to have fun for the whole family. Visit the Blue Mile website for more details of how you can get involved www.thebluemile.org.



With Best Wishes

Richenda Broad

Head of Service, Strategic Planning and Children and Young People's Trust Business

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Focus On... Priority 10 Raise young peoples aspirations with particular support to those not in education, employment or training (NEET)	2	Localities working model approved by cabinet	4
Localities update	3	Short breaks for parents/carers of disabled children and young people	4
Investors in People updates	3	Plymouth Health Visitor survey	5
Safer Internet Day	3	Families experiencing multiple disadvantage and their use of and views on childcare provision	5
Disabilities strategy workshop	3	Understanding children's wellbeing	5
Support for all: the families and relationships green paper	4	Cafcass investigates the increase in Section 31 Care Orders since the case of Baby P	5
Giving children a healthy start	4	Training and events CAF and ContactPoint updates	6

Focus on: Priority 10 - Raise young people's aspirations, with particular support for young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

Champion: Colin Moore, Assistant Director of Life Long Learning, Services for Children and Young People

Where we came from.....

In May 2010 a detailed scoping exercise commenced around the Priority in terms of understanding aspirations and our NEET population. A situation analysis was carried out to help understand the needs in Plymouth and what children and young people wanted. The findings of this have helped inform the planning and direction of the priority. Defining aspirations formed the starting point for the analysis and the strategic group have agreed on the following definition of aspiration.

"The motivation to realise one's own maximum potential and possibilities..."

Key findings from the situation analysis include:

- Lower aspirations levels are found in the most deprived localities such as the South East, South West and North West
- National data shows girls having higher aspirations than boys although local data is inconclusive
- Key building blocks of high aspiration include the following:
 - Information
 - Self-esteem
 - Inspiration
 - Self-efficiency

The findings of this along with an analysis of the NEET population were presented at a stakeholder day in October 2009. Key stakeholders and providers in the city had the opportunity to discuss the issues and direction to take to help raise aspiration and reduce NEETs. We also heard from representatives of the City Youth Parliament who described issues they wanted to address that would support them to achieve their ambitions, such as more support from schools and the wider community.

Where we are now.....

The Priority 10 working group is established and is chaired by the Champion. The group comprises key stakeholders from across the Trust whose role is to assist in refreshing the Priority 10 implementation plan, ensuring that all the findings from the situation analysis, consultation with stakeholders and gaps in current plans are addressed in the future planning and delivery of Priority 10 in the city. Good progress has been made on refreshing the implementation plan, mapping current provision and identifying the gaps that need to be addressed in future. If you or your colleagues feel you have something to contribute to Priority 10 and would like to be part of the Priority 10 group, please contact the Priority Coordinator Theresa Brooks Theresa.brooks@plymouth.gov.uk

The Framework for the implementation plan so far.....

The working group has developed four strategic outcomes that will help to raise aspiration for children and young people with particular attention to young people who are not in education, employment, education and training.

The strategic outcomes are as follows

- Raising awareness and making aspiration everybody's business
- Building resilience to aspiration (preventative work)
- Responding to the impact of low aspiration
- Surveillance use of intelligence data

Within each of the outcomes the group has agreed to split them by age as some actions are targeted and age specific although the category of *All Ages* remains for those more universal actions.

Localities updates

The locality agenda continues to gain momentum with the third multi-agency locality team starting in January in the South East (North West & South West already being serviced by Multi-Agency Support Team (MAST)).

A further development took place at the start of February when almost 50 professionals from a range of services and agencies came together in Efford for a team building day, sharing knowledge, skills and resources to support the client group in the South East. The locality integrated teams are initially focussing on the 5 - 11 age range, providing single point of access to children who require targeted intervention. The teams comprise of professionals from a range of services and backgrounds, and work with schools and academic councils to provide integrated packages of support to address the needs of the child and family.

As work around localities develops, multi-agency teams will be established in each of the six localities, and will cover the entire 0 - 19 age range.



A range of access and delivery models are currently being explored with service managers and other representatives from The Children's and Young People's Trust to ensure that as the teams emerge they are able to provide the services required to support children and young people in the localities where they live.

For further information contact the Locality Development Team
Tel: 01752 558033

Investors in People Toolkit for Managers



Last month we told you about the toolkit for managers: 'How the One Children's Workforce Framework, Investors in People, Managers Charter and the Competency Framework link together'. The toolkit is in the form of a small booklet and can be accessed from the document library:

<http://www.information.plymouth.gov.uk/2006-intranet/documentlibrary/documents/liP%20Tool%20Kit%20for%20Managers.pdf>. It is designed to aid

managers in developing their staff and services.

Before this is launched we would be grateful if 'managers of people' would provide some feedback for us. We are particularly interested in:

- Issues and or additions
- How you could use it?
- Is it useful to pull these initiatives together - does it provide clarity and cohesion?
- Does it raise sufficient awareness of the One Children's Workforce?
- Would you use it in an appraisal?

The deadline for any feedback is **21 April**. You can feedback by email directly to the Workforce Development Team at:

workforcedevelopment@plymouth.gov.uk

Many thanks for your help.

Investing in People Implementation Team

workforcedevelopment@plymouth.gov.uk.

Safer Internet Day

A report from Ofsted, *The Safe Use of New Technologies* argues that children are safer online when they are given more responsibility in their use of the internet. Looking at 35 schools, five were found outstanding, all of which used a managed system which banned only a small number of websites and encouraged pupils to think more responsibly when online. The schools with the lower grades in contrast had a blanket lockdown policy on a much larger range of websites. 9 February saw Plymouth's Safer Internet Day, the theme of which was 'Think Before you Post'. The day had activities around the city centre Piazza including online safety videos on the big screen.

To view the Ofsted report go to

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/The-safe-use-of-new-technologies>

Disabilities strategy workshop

A workshop to develop **Plymouth's joint commissioning strategy for disabled children and young people** took place on the 26 January 2010.

The event was hosted by Maggie Carter, Assistant Director for Learner and Family Support and Helen McLindon, PCT Children's Commissioner. The day kicked off with a presentation from one of our young people who told us about life with his disability and introduced a DVD that local disabled young people had made about what is important to them. An introduction to the needs of disabled children, young people and their families was presented at the workshop and discussions ensued to pull out key themes to be included in the strategy. If you would like to contribute towards this strategy please contact Candice Sainsbury, Policy and Planning Manager
Candice.sainsbury@plymouth.gov.uk

POLICY

Support for all: the families and relationships green paper

This Green Paper sets out a wide range of measures to support all families as they bring up their children, and to help families cope with times of stress and difficulty. The proposals recognise that while all families need some help, there are vulnerable families with complex needs and others who have additional requirements. The Paper's proposals aim to influence factors that can strengthen or weaken family life, such as the choices available about balancing employment with bringing up children and how welcoming and accessible public services are to families of all kinds.

The rate and scale of demographic and social trends is outlined in the paper as well as the changes in families that have occurred over the years. Over the last 12 years the government has implemented a wide range of support for families in bringing up their children.



Some of the policy proposals can be implemented straight away; others are for consultation or will take longer to put into place. To contribute to the consultation process go to:

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1685&external=no&menu=1>

To view the full document follow the link below:

http://www.careknowledge.com/uploadedFiles/CareKnowledge_CMS/Public/Documents/201001/Families%20Green%20Paper%20final%20pdf.pdf

Giving children a healthy start

Children's health has been an increasing priority for the government over the last ten years. Between 1999 and 2009 the government published over 20 policies relating to the health of under 5s, although not always exclusively aimed at under 5s.



Despite this investment there has not been widespread improvement and some health indicators such as obesity and dental health has worsened. The health inequalities between those who are more affluent and those affected by deprivation has not reduced significantly.

This report examines local service planning and delivery, including priority setting, and how local bodies can improve service delivery and access for vulnerable groups such as black and minority ethnic (BME) communities, single parents and teenage parents. The report also offers recommendations to local authorities including examples of best practice where intervention has improved health outcomes for under 5's. The report discusses how effectively local bodies manage their resources, and the extent to which they are providing good value for money.

Locally, 'Priority 1 Reducing Health Inequalities' from the Plymouth Children and Young People's Plan will help improve health outcomes for under 5's and this is recognised as a key stage to support to provide the best start in life. See the May 2008 Policy and Research Bulletin for more information on this priority.

To view the full report follow the link below:

<http://www.auditcommission.gov.uk/nationalstudies/health/financialmanagement/Pages/GivingChildrenaHealthyStart.aspx#downloads>

Localities working model approved by cabinet

The model will be introduced to coordinate the way we work with other service providers to respond to issues identified by councillors on behalf of their communities. You will notice that Services for Children and Young People are leading the way with using the localities model in delivering services and indeed across the Trust there is a continued move towards this way of working. The wider council is now adopting the model which will introduce service coordination teams from different service areas, such as Street Services, Health, Adult Social Care, and Community Safety. Teams will be dedicated to responding to priorities which need joint agency working to resolve. To view the full cabinet report go to:

<http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/mgInternet/Published/C00000254/M00003627/AI00040857/LocalityWorking2.pdf>

Short breaks for parents/carers of disabled children and young people

Draft Regulations have been released that require local authorities in England to provide services to assist parents/carers to be able to continue to provide care for disabled children and young people, or to do so more effectively, by giving them access to short breaks from their caring responsibilities. There is also associated Statutory Guidance aimed at helping local authorities and others to understand their duty to provide short breaks, issues related to eligibility for short breaks and local assessment of adequacy of provision etc.

To view the draft guidance and feedback follow the link below:

http://www.careknowledge.com/uploadedFiles/CareKnowledge_CMS/Public/Documents/201002/Short%20Breaks%20Consultation%20Document.doc

Research & Consultation

Plymouth Health Visitor survey

This report examines the results of Health Visitor surveys carried out twice a year from 2002 to 2008. The report focuses on the 11,792 families who had a residential address in Plymouth and who had registered with the health visiting service. However, Plymouth Health Visitors provided a service to a total of 12,204 families in Plymouth and surrounding areas in 2008. For each family, the 2008 survey collected data against 31 health related factors.

The report is a useful resource and includes results categorised by geographic location so the situation in specific areas of the city can be seen and compared.

Results are also analysed by vulnerability determined by the 31 health factors that families are assessed by. Presenting four or more health factors would result in a family being described as vulnerable. Health factors include things like, parents who smoke, parents who are currently under 18, poor housing having a detrimental effect, parent has mental health issues etc.

The report discusses ethnic differences and specific areas of the city such as Whiteleigh, North Prospect and Stonehouse where there have been marked changes.

To see the full report contact
Abigail.jago@plymouth.gov.uk



Families experiencing multiple disadvantage and their use of and views on childcare provision



There have been numerous childcare and early years initiatives introduced over the last decade that all help towards achieving positive outcomes. However, it is known that disadvantaged families (such as non-working families and families with a low income) are less likely to use formal childcare than families in better circumstances. There is limited research on the use of childcare by disadvantaged families. The report looks at different types of childcare and pre-school and school aged children. Parent's views are discussed and there is a chapter on maternal employment and childcare.

Some of the key findings include:

- 85% of mothers from families experiencing the highest level of disadvantage were not in paid employment.
- Just under two-thirds of non-working mothers from families experiencing the highest level of disadvantage said they would prefer to go out to work if they could arrange childcare which was convenient, reliable and affordable. This proportion was higher than for mothers in other types of families.
- Fourteen per cent of mothers from families with the highest level of disadvantage said that their colleges provided or paid for (all or some) childcare and that this facilitated their studying.

To read the full document follow the link below:
http://www.careknowledge.com/uploadedFiles/CareKnowledge_CMS/Public/Documents/201002/DCSF-RR191.pdf

Understanding children's wellbeing

The Children's Society carried out a survey involving around 7,000 10 -15 year olds. Key findings include:

- Family conflict has more influence on children's wellbeing than family structure
- Children are least happy with their appearance and confidence
- A significant proportion of young people are unhappy with the way they are treated by adults
- As young people get older, they tend to become less happy with their lives
- Girls are significantly less happy than boys with aspects of their lives such as appearance, confidence and school work

For more information go to:
http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/whats_happening/media_office/latest_news/19895_pr.html

Cafcass investigates the increase in Section 31 Care Orders since the case of Baby P

The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass) looks after the interests of children involved in family proceedings. They have conducted research into the increase in Section 31 care order applications since the case of Baby P. During the three weeks following the Baby P case Cafcass recorded a large increase in the s31 applications. Subsequent analysis has shown continued unprecedented levels of care order applications. Via a survey of Cafcass Children's Guardians this research assesses whether these applications were appropriate and timely and explores the cases in more detail in terms of age, ethnicity and sibling groups compared to those received prior to Baby P. To view the full report follow the link below:
http://www.careknowledge.com/uploadedFiles/CareKnowledge_CMS/Public/Documents/201001/Baby%20peter%20summarv%20report%20FINAL%202%20Dec.pdf

Training and Events

Local Events

What: 'Issues of belief, faith and culture in the workplace and community' led by Jonathan Marshall. A one day training course to raise awareness and deepen understanding; also a chance to meet people from local faith communities and look at practical ways to promote awareness and understanding.

When/Where: 21 April 2010 9:00am – 4:00pm at the Plymouth Centre for Faith and Cultural Diversity, 3a Watts Road, St Judes, Plymouth, PL4 8SE

Target Audience: Those who seek an opportunity to explore the issues around faith, belief and culture that influence their work

Contact the centre on Tel: 01752 254438 or Email: pcfcd@plymouth.gov.uk

Common Assessment Framework (CAF)

Following the re-launch of the CAF in September 2009 we have trained approximately 900 practitioners. The number of CAF assessments is steadily rising with more families benefiting from a multi agency approach.



Training dates are now available until December 2010. If anyone is interested in training or would like to speak to Amanda Paddison (CAF Co-ordinator) to discuss a case or for further advice and guidance please feel free to contact her on CAF@plymouth.gov.uk Tel: 01752 307160, Mobile: 07774 336579

National Events



What: Tackling the Trafficking of Women and Children. Will bring together key stakeholders to disseminate best practice in dealing with all forms of human trafficking.

When/Where: 22 April – Central London

Target Audience: Any service working with vulnerable children and families including LSCB, Children's Services, Children in Care teams, Child Protection Units, CAMHS teams

Contact: For further information and booking details follow the link below:

http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/fileadmin/user_upload/brochures/Trafficking_EMMK_01.pdf

What: Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) The chance to hear the latest national guidance and local best practice examples, focusing on the key issues facing practitioners

When/Where: 29 April 2010 – Central London

Target Audience: Any professional working to reduce and prevent NEETs

Contact: To book a place go to:

<http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/public-sector-conferences/education/full-conferences/article/not-in-education-employment-or-training.html>

Useful Links

Care Knowledge

www.careknowledge.com

The Department for Children, Schools and Families

www.dcsf.gov.uk

Plymouth Parents Partnership

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

Safeguarding children

www.safeguardingchildren.org.uk

Plymouth's Safeguarding Children Board

www.plymouthscb.org.uk

Department of Health

www.dh.gov.uk

NHS statistics

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics

Children and Young People Now

www.cypnow.co.uk

Research in Practice

www.rip.org.uk

Contact Point Update

Frontline staff in the NW region of the country are already starting to see the benefits of ContactPoint:

"I had a case where a mum had been going to different agencies and authorities using different names for her child. Another area had three separate chronologies and identities for one child and we had two. This meant sufficient concerns had not been raised about what was going on in this child's life. When I searched ContactPoint, it had grouped most of the aliases together. This helped me come to the conclusion that it is just one child, and working with my team we are now able to act appropriately to support this child."

For further information on local progress watch this space next month or contact Jeremy.alder@plymouth.gov.uk

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 3	March	3 March 2010
		10 March 2010