



Policy & Research Briefing

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

Dear Trust Colleagues,

Welcome back after what I hope has been an enjoyable and relaxing break across Christmas and a Happy New Year. We did not quite get a snowy Christmas but we are certainly having a snowy January which I am sure many of our children and young people are enjoying. Thanks to everyone for their dedication during these severe weather conditions and helping to maintain services to our customers.



2010 will provide some challenges. As many of you will know, we will be getting an Ofsted inspection of our Safeguarding and Looked After Children's Services at some point this year. This inspection will affect the whole Trust particularly with regard to safeguarding which is everyone's business.

We all need to ensure we are well prepared for this. As part of that preparation we are undertaking a self assessment of our services. This will not only help us get ready for Ofsted, but also enable us all to get a better picture across the Trust of how we are doing and where we need to improve. We are treating this inspection as an opportunity to see how we can improve even further.

This month we can also see the final 2009 national, local authority and school-level GCSE results. Nationally and locally the GCSE results are an improvement on last year, thanks to the hard work and dedication of pupils and staff



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

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Focus on: Priority 9 - Improve opportunities for young people to make a positive contribution

Champion: Maggie Carter, Assistant Director of Learner and Family Support, Services for Children and Young People

The delivery of this priority includes celebration, volunteering opportunities and involving children and young people in the design, delivery and evaluation of services. In light of the local situation where 58% of young people feel that their views are not listened to in their local area and 40% of young people feel that their views are not listened to in schools, improving the opportunities for children and young people to make a positive contribution is essential and a priority that runs through all of the Children and Young People's Plan Priorities for Plymouth. Involving children and young people in decision making has many benefits; whether it's ownership, aspirations and confidence or service provision that 'hits the spot' and changes with the needs of children and young people in Plymouth.

Key areas of progress

- Equal Voices at Routeways that support and strengthens participation and the crucial relationship between children and young people and the CYP Trust.
- Increased opportunities for children and young people to become involved in decision making groups such as Citywide Youth Council, Equal Voices, Listen and Care Council, youth forums in localities etc.
- Young people aged 13-19 in Plymouth successfully use the £300,000 annual Youth Opportunity and Capital Funds to apply for projects that are in the criteria of 'places to go' and 'things to do'.
- Significant rise in schools 'signed up' to participate in the TellUs 4 survey.
- UK Youth Parliament and Youth Cabinet active involvement in the scrutiny process.
- Toolkits for participation used that ensures decision-makers listen to children and young people and are accountable (such as Hear By Right etc)

The barriers children and young people might face towards feeling that they can make a positive contribution in Plymouth can be literacy, transport, economic, language, jargon, confidence, lack of relationships, tokenism and negative stereotypes in the media and their communities.

Priority 9 will focus on working towards achieving the following outcomes by 2011:

1. Engagement with and participation of children and young people in improving outcomes is everybody's responsibility

- Increased influence of and challenge from children and young people within decision making and governance processes across the Children and Young People's Trust
- Enabling services to know how to ensure children and young people's participation and voices within service design, delivery and evaluation

2. Fostering a positive environment within which children and young people have the opportunity to meaningfully engage with and effectively challenge governance and decision making processes

- Promoting a positive image of children and young people in the media
- Development of a common set of standards for participation
- Development of tools to enable participation e.g. decision making participation toolkit
- Enabling increased access to positive activities across Plymouth

3. Promotion and celebration of a wide range of volunteering opportunities for children and young people across Plymouth

- Development of opportunities such as FutureVersity where young people can volunteer and access a free programme of training in the summer holidays
- Promotion of volunteering opportunities such as Vinvolved through events and the Festival

There is a lot to celebrate and equally a lot to develop that will improve opportunities for children and young people to make a positive contribution.

For more information please contact Hannah Jordan, Priority Coordinator, Tel: 306599 or Email:

hannah.jordan@plymouth.gov.uk

Plymouth will host flagship Family Week Sports Day for the Southwest

Family is something we all have in common. National Family Week is a new national celebration of family and family life. It includes something for everyone, and embraces families of all shapes and sizes. National Family Week is already the largest coalition on family issues in the UK. Charities, community groups, statutory bodies, schools, sporting and faith networks are all coming together to celebrate family life.

National Family Week takes place from 31 May - 6 June when thousands of activities will take place across the UK for families to enjoy. The week includes Family Week Picnic, Family Week Story Time, Family Week House Party, and Family Week Sports Day.

Plymouth has won the bid to host the flagship event for the Family Week Sports Day for the Southwest region on Saturday 5 June.

Plans are at an early stage but so far include using Central Park, including the pools and the Mayflower Centre to hold numerous sporting activities which will include competitions with prizes that can involve the whole family. Families can also try to earn a place in the Guinness World Records for the longest three legged race! Watch this space for more detail on what's happening in Plymouth.

For further information email sportsdevelopment@plymouth.gov.uk or go to www.nationalfamilyweek.co.uk



Investors in People (IIP)

Much progress has been made by Services for Children and Young People in working towards the Investors in People (IIP) Standards since we last communicated with you in February 2009. As a refresher, the Service is 'leading the way' as the first Plymouth City Council (PCC) Directorate to work with IIP in a 'building block approach' by the Council. The IIP Framework consists of 10 Standards: Business Strategy, Learning and Development, People Management, Leadership and Management, Management Effectiveness, Recognition and Reward, Involvement and Empowerment, Learning and Development, Performance Measurement and Continuous Improvement. Please visit the [IIP website](#) for full details.



The introduction of the Competency Framework encompasses all of the standards and the Managers Charter has been revised to reflect this, available from the PCC intranet document library: <http://www.information.plymouth.gov.uk/2006-intranet/documentlibrary/documents/Managers%20Charter%20December%202009.PDF>

A toolkit for managers 'How the One Children's Workforce Framework, Investors in People, Managers Charter and the Competency Framework link together' is currently out for consultation. The toolkit will assist in understanding how these agendas interlink, enabling the workforce to have a clear vision, purpose, strategy and plan: IIP Standard 1 – Business Strategy.

The IIP Implementation Group may be contacted at: workforcedevelopment@plymouth.gov.uk

Government aim to encourage reading as a hobby for our children and young people

As the new term starts every secondary school in England will get 15 free books for their school library as part the Everyone's Reading campaign being jointly run with the School Library Association. There will be additional books available for those 330 schools who have more than 30% of their pupils eligible for free school meal. Schools and students will be able to choose from about 260 popular reads with something for all tastes including classics such as 'Jane Eyre' and more quirky titles such as 'My Dog is a Carrot'.

In Plymouth our Schools Library Service has alerted local schools to the initiative so no one misses out. For more information contact your local school.

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 27 January 2010

HMD is an international day of remembrance and marks the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. The ceremony starts at 12:30 at Mount Edgumbe and is open to everyone. Schools participation is particularly important. An exhibition at the Guildhall will include information, supporting materials and books as well as quiet time for reflection.

There are numerous related events throughout January including a visit from holocaust survivor Solly Irving who will spend four days visiting secondary schools across Plymouth to share his testimony. Monday 25 January has 'Drawing to Save My Life' at the Athenaeum, an illustrated talk focusing on art work produced by prisoners in Auschwitz. For more information contact the Social Inclusion Unit Tel: 304321

POLICY

Guidance on the consumption of alcohol by children and young people

Over the past decade concern has grown about alcohol consumption and its effects on health and well being. Particular concern for the level and patterns of drinking in children and young people has mounted as well as its consequences on health, crime, violence and anti social behaviour. Alcohol consumption during any stage of childhood can have a harmful effect on a child's development. Alcohol use during the teenage years is related to a wide range of health and social problems, and young people who begin drinking before age 15 are more likely to experience problems related to their alcohol use.

After consultation the final version of the Chief Medical Officers guidance is now available. The document addresses the age at which children and young people can start to drink alcohol; how much is sensible for young people to drink; and how far parents and carers should supervise young people's drinking.

Other influences such as peers, family and personality factors as risks or protective influences are also discussed. While the document is not intended for direct use by young people and parents it will be used to inform future campaigns and materials produced by the DCSF to help inform and empower parents and carers.

To view the full guidance follow the link below:

http://www.careknowledge.com/uploadedFiles/CareKnowledge_CMS/Public/Documents/200912/dh_110256.pdf



The Children, Schools, and Families Bill

The Bill will reform schools and wider children's services through providing guarantees for parents and pupils setting out what they can expect from a 21st century schools system. It will equip every child, every family and everyone who works with them to meet the challenges ahead.



It builds on a decade of increasing standards of pupil achievement, record investment in infrastructure and the workforce, and the development of one of the most robust children's safeguarding systems in the world. Together this ensures that every child and young person has the best start in life and has the support and opportunities for every chance of success in the future.

The Bill introduces legislative changes following the 21st century schools consultation and white paper [Your Child, Your Schools, Our Future](#), as well as the [Rose primary curriculum review](#), the [Macdonald PSHE review](#), (Personal, Social Health and Economic Education) and the [Badman home education review](#). (each document is hyperlinked, click to view the full documents)

The Bill also includes measures to offer catch up support for children and young people who may fall behind academically and home school agreements to improve behaviour in schools.

To view the Bill in full, follow the link below:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmbills/008/10008.i-iii.html>

Reducing harm: Children, young people and domestic violence: A toolkit

In 2006, the *Vision for services for children and young people affected by domestic violence* was produced. This toolkit developed by the Department of Health, is a practical extension of that guidance aimed at frontline practitioners and commissioners to help them understand how the legislation and guidance affect their day to day work.

The toolkit includes: a clear explanation of key standards and policies, guidance for schools, risk assessment and planning and has sections divided according to service and responsibilities.

To view the toolkit follow the link below:

http://www.careknowledge.com/uploadedFiles/CareKnowledge_CMS/Public/Documents/200911/dh_108704.pdf

Further guidance on effective practice for Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCB)

In Lord Laming's document [The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report](#) he recommended that the DCSF provide further guidance to LSCBs on how to operate as effectively as possible. The National Safeguarding Delivery Unit (NSDU) has produced a summary outline for consultation. The NSDU has also requested evidence of models or templates of effective local practice, exemplars of good practice and case studies which relate to any of the proposed issues identified in the summary. To view in full and contribute, go to:

http://www.careknowledge.com/uploadedFiles/CareKnowledge_CMS/Public/Documents/200912/01184-2009DOM-EN.pdf

Research & Consultation

Keeping in touch – Looked after children

This report looks at the experiences of children in care in keeping in contact, or losing contact, with friends and family. The report presents the results of the views of 370 children who responded to a survey and expanded their views via discussion groups.

Overall children wanted contact to be maintained and to have a choice about who to remain in contact with. Children did understand when contact had to be stopped for their own safety. Three chapters of the report focus on separation from birth siblings. Findings include:

- 52% had at least one brother or sister who was also in care.
- 81% of those who had brothers or sisters in care had been separated from them in care.
- Boys were more likely than girls to be separated from brothers or sisters in care.
- 86% of all children in care thought it important to keep siblings together in care.
- 29% of those who had brothers or sisters in care thought it could sometimes be right to separate siblings, provided there was a good reason.

- Those who had been in care for between two and six years were most likely to be losing contact with siblings, and to be against siblings in care being separated.



To view the full report go to:
http://www.careknowledge.com/uploadedFiles/CareKnowledge_CMS/Public/Documents/200912/Keeping_in_touch.pdf

Disabled children's access to childcare



The Childcare Act 2006 placed an important new duty on local authorities to have services suitable for disabled children when assessing the sufficiency and supply of childcare in their area.

In 2007 the Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC) programme announced an additional investment of £35 million to support development by testing out ways of achieving better access to childcare for disabled children and young people. Ten pilot areas were then identified to work with the Disabled Children's Access to Childcare (DCATCH) initiative.

This report has been published to share information and learning to date from the pilots. However, the DCSF is also undertaking a two year evaluation to examine the impact of DCATCH pilot activity; the evaluation will run until 2011. This report will make early information about the pilot activity available to a wider audience.

This report also includes a benchmarking and planning tool, to help local partners establish baseline measures for quantitative and qualitative data relating to local childcare arrangements for the families of disabled children and to track service improvement over time. A useful resource list for local authorities is provided, as well as general information about returning to work and childcare for families with disabled children.

To view the full report, follow the link below:
http://www.careknowledge.com/uploadedFiles/CareKnowledge_CMS/Public/Documents/200912/DCATCH-Report.pdf

Risky behaviour and social activities

This report explores young people's engagement in risky behaviours over time, relationship with to other types of social and individual activities, and impacts on educational outcomes at age 16. However it should be noted that the data used does not allow for the identification of the type of 'structured and positive' activities which may be promoted by policy.

Key findings categorise types of risky behaviour and prevalence as well as change in behaviours with age. Other factors that influence the likelihood of engaging in risky behaviour are discussed. The factors that have the strongest influence include: attitudes to school; relationship with parents; influence of peers and indicators of social disadvantage or vulnerability. To view the full report follow the link below:

http://www.careknowledge.com/uploadedFiles/CareKnowledge_CMS/Public/Documents/200912/DCSF-RR173.pdf

Family Intervention Project (FIP) aimed at reducing anti-social behaviour

This reports presents information about families that received a FIP intervention aimed at reducing anti-social behaviour. Key findings include:

- Results for the 699 families that completed the intervention showed positive improvements across a wide range of measures
- Families with no involvement in anti-social behaviour (ASB) increased from 10% to 66%
- Families with four or more ASB problems declined from 46% to 6% (87% reduction)
- Families facing one or more housing enforcement actions decreased from 47% to 15%.

To view the full report follow the link below:
<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-RBX-09-16&>

Training and Events

Local Events

The Social Inclusion Unit (SIU) and Learning and Development Team are running training session for staff on how to incorporate equality and diversity into their work and promote and model anti-discriminatory practice.

Courses include Age discrimination, which is a full day course delivered by Age Concern. Disability Equality, a full day course delivered by Scope, the SIU have a new Disability Equality Officer, Sarah Ghent. Dignity and Respect at Work, a one day training session delivered by Ioda, and Understanding Cultural Diversity, which is a full day course that follows on from the half day Ioda induction training.

There are various dates between January and March 2010 – if you are interested in attending please contact Joanne Hambly Tel: 305447 or Email jo.hambly@plymouth.gov.uk

Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and Information Sharing Training 2009/2010



The CAF is a core element of the Every Child Matters Framework. If you are interested in training or have any CAF related questions please contact Amanda Paddison, Plymouth CAF Coordinator on Tel: 307194 or email:

Amanda.paddison@plymouth.gov.uk

National Events



What: Empower Young People to Lead – A one day conference with advice and guidance on how to make youth leadership work.

When/Where: 5 March 2010 – Learning & Conference Centre, Nottingham

Target Audience: Those working to engage young people.

Contact: To book a place follow the link: <http://www.haymarketevents.com/conferenceDetail/412/www.youthleadershipevent.com>

What: Play England National Conference – to consider the impact of play, how to maintain momentum and ask what's next?

When/Where: 23 March 2010, Central London

Target Audience: All those working with children and young people and those providing and facilitating play

Contact: To register your interest follow the link below:

<http://www.playengland.org.uk/events/1003-national-conference.pdf>

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 2	February	10 February 2010	17 February 2010