



Policy & Research Briefing

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

Dear Trust Colleagues

We are nearing the end of another school year and I hope you are all enjoying the nice weather we have been having.

As noted in the April briefing, we will continue to update you on how services are expected to address the response to Lord Laming's recommendations. There have been three update workshops held in the Council Chambers, the last of which on 4th June, and was very well attended. Mairead MacNeil's team provided updates through a range of very informative presentations. There was time for questions to be written down, which myself and Mairead will personally respond to. We feel supporting staff at the frontline will make the biggest difference to Social Care and Safeguarding.

We have also seen the premier of the DVD 'Someone Who Listens', which was well attended and very well received. The DVD was designed entirely by children and young people with the support of the Routeways Participation Project and portrays their thoughts, ideas and feelings on what they think is important in a worker. Knowing what our young people want is at the core of all our practices, so the DVD is being used as part of the induction to the children's workforce training.

At Cabinet this month, a report from Services for Children and Young People 'The Future of Secondary Education – Academies' was received to seek authorisation to hold formal consultations with all interested parties on a proposal to secure two new Academies. These proposals are part of the Plymouth Strategy for Change and the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme.

Two multi-agency strategies are being received by the Trust Board and Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel. Firstly, *Meeting Young People's Sexual Health and Wellbeing Needs & Choices, Plymouth's Joint Commissioning Strategy 2009-2012* and *'I know how it feels', Tackling Bullying Together Plymouth's Joint Strategy 2009-2012*.



I hope you find this month's Policy Brief helpful and interesting and do let us know if there are services and achievements that we should be featuring in future editions.

With Best Wishes

Bronwen Lacey

Chair of the Plymouth Children and Young People's Trust Executive

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Focus on:

Priority 3- Reduce Bullying in the City, Both In and Out of School

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

Bullying can destroy lives. Persistent bullying can lead to:

• Depression	• Truancy
• Low self esteem and confidence	• Isolation
• Shyness	• Self Harm
• Poor academic achievement	• Attempted Suicide / Suicide

The Government has made it clear that all forms of bullying, including those motivated by prejudice, should not be tolerated, and that no-one should suffer the pain and indignity which bullying can cause. The Plymouth Children and Young People's Trust strongly endorses this stance.

The Anti-Bullying Work Group, a multi-agency partnership comprising numerous key stakeholders across the city asked children and young people to help select a suitable definition of bullying and it was agreed on a local adaptation of the DCSF definition:

“Behaviour by an individual or group, usually repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group socially, physically or emotionally.”

A joint strategy has recently been developed that includes an introductory needs analysis which discusses both the dynamics of bullying and where it actually takes place. It is now widely acknowledged that institutional settings are not the only locations of bullying and it spills into community life and can now be a 24 hour issue for some young people with the increase in information technology and the prevalence of cyber-bullying.

Key priorities of the strategy are –

1. Creation of an environment where children and young people feel safe, respected and valued, and where bullying behaviour cannot flourish.
2. Effective responses are in place to identify and support both those who are bullied and those who bully, and to help bystanders become part of the solution.
3. Children and young people feel safe and supported within communities that do not tolerate bullying
4. Systems will be in place to facilitate effective delivery of support to children and young people affected by bullying.

The strategy was issued for consultation which closed at the beginning of June will go to the Trust Board on the 12th June and the Safeguarding Board on the 18th June. The feedback was in the most part positive and constructive, and some valuable contributions have informed the final document. Progress with this priority is on target and the next work group meeting scheduled for July will focus on developing the implementation plans.

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 Indicator

- NI 69 - Children who have experienced bullying.

Local Indicators

- The number of racist incidents reported in schools.
- The number of permanent exclusions where bullying is a reason.
- The number of fixed term exclusions where bullying is a reason.

Related information and web links:

The DCSF has published numerous guidance documents on dealing with bullying. Plymouth also has guidance on E-safety and Cyberbullying.

http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/safeguarding_children_in_cyber_world.pdf - Plymouth's guidance

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00451-2009&> - DCSF Guidance on community bullying and links to further guidance documents.

Youth Service Update

Last month's brief provided an outline of the delivery structure and functions of the Youth Service. However we would like to expand on this to highlight some of the current and ongoing projects the Youth Service are involved with in the city.

Key developments continuing into 2009/10 include:

- Development of a pilot for a city wide 'Summer University' programme for all 13-19 yr olds. Aimed to be fully operational by 2010 in collaboration with HE providers, schools, employers, and youth providers.
- Development of the 'Streetwise Team' in partnership with the Police, Connexions and activity providers – this is proving very successful in engaging disaffected young people and contributes to city wide initiatives, such as reducing anti-social behaviour and under 18 conceptions.
- The Promoting Positive Activities website is live and informing young people about the range of services and opportunities available to them – www.plmyouth.co.uk



The service also has a team devoted to increasing young people's participation and involvement in the development of services. In July they will be running a Mystery Shopper exercise with a group of young people to evaluate the Youth Service, Connexions and Young People's Sexual Health Information. For more on the Youth Service contact: youth.admin@plymouth.gov.uk

Healthy Lives, Brighter Futures The Strategy for Children and Young People's Health



In a time where children and young people are healthier than they have ever been, this strategy sets out how we will build on our progress.

The strategy acknowledges that parents are key to achieving the best physical and mental health and wellbeing outcomes for their children. The strategy recommendations seek to cement the standards and aims set out by previous national frameworks – such as the Every Child Matters programme.

The plans are set out for all levels of services across three life stages for children and young people as well as those children with acute or additional health needs.

Key actions include -

- Improve engagement of GP's with Children's Trusts.
- Development of a new Antenatal and Preparation for Parenthood programme.
- Expansion of the Family Nurse Partnership.
- New Healthy Child programme.
- Increase young people's knowledge of effective contraceptive methods.

Guidance on how these different services will be supported to carry out the plans are also described within the strategy – with a particular focus on how integrated working can be improved and how families can be involved to achieve common aims. Follow the link to download the full strategy document:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_094400

Child Safety Week 22-28th June 2009

The theme this year is 'Safer Together'. By working together as a family, alongside parents, with community groups or directly with children, we can protect children and young people from serious injury and death from preventable accidents.

The Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT), organiser of Child Safety Week, has released a free resources pack for all those working with children, young people or families. CAPT will be sending out a 28-page Ideas Booklet, packed with information about preventing accidents, competitions, quizzes and advice about running an event, and a Safer Together poster to professionals who join the mailing list. Go to the new website (link below) to get involved and download/order resource packs <http://www.childsafetyweek.org.uk/child-safety-week/>

ContactPoint

ContactPoint will be the quick way for a practitioner to see who else is working with a child. It will hold basic demographic details for every child in England and contact details for service providers.

The national launch took place in the North West region on the 18th May when training started for the practitioners who will pilot its introduction across a wide range of frontline services (including Children's Social Care, schools, primary and acute trusts, Connexions, police, third sector, Youth Offending and housing). Every user will need to have an enhanced CRB and complete mandatory training.

For more information about what is happening locally see next month's issue.

Follow the link below to read the full bulletin. http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_00

POLICY

Looked After Children – Report from Children, Schools and Families Committee

The Children, Schools and Families Select Committee of MPs has published the report of its inquiry into looked after children. The report argues that the care system should be founded on good relationships, and that the greatest gains to be made in reforming the care system are in removing whatever barriers obstruct the development of good personal relationships. In all, the report makes more than 70 recommendations. These include:

- The Social Work Task Force should consider ways to free up social workers so they can spend more time with families before problems become acute.
- Foster carer approval processes should be reviewed to ensure they are able to identify and assess the most important personal qualities.
 - National standards for leaving care services should be developed with local authorities (LA) so services can be assessed objectively.
 - Clear guidance should be given to LA's that all the provisions of *Care Matters* apply equally and without exception to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.
 - Much more needs to be done to ensure the NHS provides adequate services to looked after children.



To read to full report please follow the link below:
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmselect/cmchilsch/111/111i.pdf>

Transport Guidance – Supporting Access to Positive Activities



It is well reported that participation in positive activities can improve outcomes for children and young people (CYP). However a common barrier to this can be traveling to these facilities and venues. For example, transport may be too expensive or infrequent.

This national guidance is for Children's Trusts and transport planners to help plan transport provision that will enable young people to access positive activities. It delivers the commitment made in 'Aiming High for Young People: a ten year strategy for positive activities' to provide such guidance.

The guidance demonstrates a range of innovative approaches used across the country. While some examples have involved a lot of investment of time and resources, others have been relatively simple. Either way the benefits run across various National Indicators for improving CYP's outcomes and Public Service Agreements.

Key messages include:

- Joint planning between Children's Trusts and transport planners from an early stage.
- Involving CYP and their parents/carers/families in the planning process.
- Publicising transport information alongside positive activities information.
- Linking transport planning with planning for new facilities.

To see the full document follow the link below:
http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-Transport_Guidance.pdf

Children Subject to Immigration Control

The Children's Commissioner, recently visited Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) to see first hand the provision for CYP and their families, and to hear about their own experience of the detention process. His subsequent report examines the impact of detention upon CYP's mental and physical health and makes many recommendations. Discrepancies between policy guidelines and actual practice are highlighted as well as the lack of contribution to outcomes for CYP under the Every Child Matters framework. Some CYP are experiencing prolonged periods of detention.

Follow the link to view the report:
<http://www.11million.org.uk/resource/di550e08psxhlc9f3mrlqwd.pdf>

Child Protection – a Toolkit for Doctors

The British Medical Association's (BMA) toolkit provides a brief, accessible guide to doctors' responsibilities in child protection cases. It does not aim to be comprehensive, rather to act as a prompt for doctors where they believe that a child may be at risk of neglect or abuse.

This toolkit contains a series of separate cards that highlight different aspects of the child protection process such as basic principles, definitions of abuse and neglect, responding to initial concerns and participation in statutory child protection procedures.

The toolkit can be downloaded from the BMA website. Follow the link below:
<http://www.bma.org.uk/ethics/childprotectiontoolkit.jsp>

RESEARCH & CONSULTATION

Understanding Young People who do not Participate in Education or Training

The DCSF commissioned research into young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) or in a Job Without Training (JWT). Using both statistical analysis and qualitative interviews the report concludes that NEET and JWT can be roughly split into 6 sub groups – used to define what type of NEET/JWT they are.

For example they differentiate between **Sustained NEETS** (a negative opinion of school, higher levels of truancy, exclusion and lack of educational attainment and likely to remain NEET in the medium term) and **Open to Learning NEET** (likely to re-engage in education or training in the short term and tended to have higher levels of attainment and a more positive attitude to school). This differentiation helps to highlight some key lessons for LA's, schools and colleges. Not all NEET/JWT had a negative school experience and many are willing and wanting to engage in further education.

Recommendations to address this issue focus on more information and opportunities. More

flexible post 16 learning opportunities that reflect the indecisive nature of some of this cohort such as taster courses and more flexible start dates, and banking of qualifications and credits. Follow the link below to view the full document:

<http://www.csn.info/csn/briefingdetail.jsp?id=2189&md=0§ion=briefing>



Thinking Family

Every Child Matters has transformed the way services are delivered for children and young people. The Think Family approach extends this model across both children's and adults services. The aim is to put families 'firmly at the centre'. Key principles of the approach are:



- **No wrong door** - Contact with any one service offers an open door into a system of integrated support.
- **Look at the whole family** - All services should be 'family aware'. For example, drug and alcohol treatment services should identify which clients are parents and liaise with children's services for family support and safeguarding.
- **Build on family strengths** - Rather than focusing on what is lacking, a strength-based approach builds upon families' resources and their potential for resilience. An example of this approach is the Family Group Conference, which brings families together and supports them in negotiating solutions and making the best possible plans for their children.
- **Provide support tailored to need** - For example, Family Intervention Projects work with families for whom anti-social behaviour is creating a threat of homelessness, to agree a package of support to best meet their needs.

The report raises areas for further research such as research into the lived experiences of families at risk to fully understand what motivates them to refuse to take up services.

Follow the link to download the full document : http://www.rip.org.uk/publications/champions_html.asp?pub_id=109&order=1

Sleep Problems in Young Disabled Children

Sleep problems are common in many children but seem to be more prevalent in those with disabilities. A review from the Social Policy Research Unit focuses on interventions for behavioural sleep problems in young disabled children (up to age 8), specifically interventions that can be carried out by parents in the home. Sleep problems can impact on the entire family. For parents there may be increased irritability and stress, and for children there are links to poorer daytime learning ability and higher likelihood of having poor daytime behaviour.

The reviews' findings highlight the need to take sleep problems seriously and how only a minority of those with a child with severe sleep problems receive any kind of help.

For full review follow the link:

<http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/pubs/pdf/sleep.pdf>

Race Equality

In April a document asking for the public's views on the Government's future approach to tackling race inequalities was sent out for public consultation which ended on 18th May 2009. The planned future approach to achieving race equality will be published later this year. You can find out more about this on the website: www.communities.gov.uk.

Locality Reports

An updated version of the localities reports can be accessed using the link below. The Children and Young People's Plan is supported by the City wide Needs Analysis and the six localities reports which breakdown the hot spots in the city and identify where the need is for certain services.

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

TRAINING AND EVENTS

Research in Practice upcoming FREE events



Research in Practice has just released their new Learning Programme for 09/10. Research in Practice is our partnership agency. Services for Children and Young People pay an annual fee to be part of the network in which over 100 authorities are part and a large part of the organisational role is to disseminate valuable research findings about effective practice and policy, i.e. what works and what produces positive outcomes for children and young people. As we move further towards evidence informed practice measured by clear positive outcomes for children and young people, Research in Practice becomes an even more valuable asset. For up to date information about the latest research findings go the www.rip.org.uk. This resource is available to all our partners.

Research in Practice also hosts a series of learning events throughout the year which are free to members of the network, the only cost involved is travel and accommodation. The training is hosted in a variety of formats such - **regional research support seminars, case study workshops, e-learning, partnership conference, research messages workshops, transitions workshops**. Some of the popular topics are as follows –

- Stay Safe – effective practice in child protection.
- Early intervention: preventing children and young people becoming NEET.
- Developing effective practice and positive outcomes.
- Understanding mental health needs of looked after children.
- Smooth transitions for young people with learning disabilities: effective multi agency practice.
 - Finding good quality research.
 - Using research in report writing and assessment.
 - Service evaluation.
 - Young people, alcohol and offending.
 - Conduct disorder.
 - Domestic abuse.



For further details and more information about participating in any of these events Please contact Theresa.brooks@plymouth.gov.uk telephone ext 7113.

Useful Links

Below is a list of all the useful sites:

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 Safeguarding Children's Board

www.plymouth.gov.uk/homepage/socialcareandhealth/childrensocialcare/localsafeguardingchildrenboard.htm

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:

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To download previous Policy Briefs go to

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

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Issue 10	July	3 July 2009
		13 July 2009