



Policy & Research Briefing

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

Once again it has been a busy month. Two multi agency strategies have recently been endorsed by the Children's Trust Board.



The joint commissioning strategy for the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people in Plymouth (2009-2014) illustrates a significant shift in the way that we regard mental health in Plymouth. By looking at mental health in a positive sense for all young people, we are now in a much stronger position to deliver services that promote emotional wellbeing, respond quickly to those who are experiencing emotional difficulties, as well as provide interventions for young people with established mental health problems.

The early years strategy (2008-2011), also endorsed by the Trust, seeks to facilitate a coordinated approach to promote the health and wellbeing of young children, from the age of conception to their 5th birthday. A lot of hard work has gone into developing both strategies and I look forward to seeing how they will shape the service delivery within the City.

This month all stakeholders have the chance to tell Government what they think may help address harmful alcohol use. Plymouth stakeholders will fully engage in the process, consultation and participation to inform service delivery. Further information on this is available from dave.schwartz@plymouth.gov.uk.

Last week's announcement that Plymouth is top of the list for BSF investment if included in the next wave of the programme is very exciting. A small group of us are travelling to London tomorrow to hear more about next steps, so watch out for more news on this.



Today, of course we see the publication of Lord Laming's report on child protection. With our Local Safeguarding Children Board colleagues we will look very carefully at the implications and will communicate with all stakeholders about what it means for us as we strive to keep children safe.

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

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Focus on: Implementation Plans

The Children and Young People's Plan has ten priorities. These were identified by consultation with key practitioners and data analysis of needs and inequalities etc. In order to ensure that in Plymouth we deliver on all 10 of the priorities there is an implementation plan for each which sets up a clear focus of how this priority will be delivered in the city by 2011. As we mentioned last month in our briefing, we will be featuring an implementation plan each month, looking at how the work is progressing, opportunities for involvement with it, toolkits and activities that are being/ have been produced. However, this month we are reminding you of the rationale behind the implementation plans and a heads up on who's who! Each implementation plan has a Champion who oversees and promotes issues and resolves barriers at an executive and strategic level and a project manager who oversees, facilitates and co-ordinates all of the activities that are being delivered in the implementation plans.

Priority	Champion	Project Manager
1.Reduce Health Inequalities	Paul O'Sullivan	Candice Sainsbury
2. Improve Children and Young Peoples mental health	Paul O'Sullivan	Candice Sainsbury
3. Reduce bullying in the city both in and out of school	Maggie Carter	Richenda Broad
4. Continue strengthen safeguarding services	Mairead MacNeil	Maureen Grimley
5.Reduce children and young people's accidents and injuries	Dave Sumner	Graham Palmer
6.Enable children to have fun	William Woyka	Hannah Haines
7.Improve attainment for children and young people, in particular raise achievement, including Math and English at all stages.	Colin Moore	John Searson
8.Reduce risk taking behaviors such as substance misuse, unprotected sex and criminal activities	Verity Jones	Dave Schwartz
9.Improve Opportunities for young people to make a positive contribution	Maggie Carter	Hannah Jordon
10.Raise young peoples aspirations, with particular support for young people who are not in education or training.	Colin Moore	Theresa Brooks

Performance measures for Implementation Plans

The Children's Performance Team provides support to the individual Priority Champions and their respective Project Managers. The team has designated three Information officers to specific priorities to ensure that relationships are developed and knowledge and consistency is maintained. The information officers ensure that each CYPP Priority is consistent with the CYPP Performance Framework as each develops. The Performance leads help to facilitate progress towards the achievement of Priority Aims through the provision of evidence based advice, challenge, support and guidance. Each of the CYPP Priority AIMS are RAG rated each month. Accompanying the rating is commentary provided by the champion and project manager. Performance reports are prepared and reported to the Children's Trust Executive in the last week of every month. These reports are available to view on E Perform (Service Delivery, Children's services). This process has been very successful in driving forward the CYPP agenda. For further information contact Alan.knott@plymouth.gov.uk

Other resources -

As mentioned above the implementation plans are going to deliver our 10 priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011. For further details of these please refer to the Children and Young People's Plan in full at - http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/web_cyp_plan-2.pdf.

The other supporting document to the Children and Young People's Plan and implementation plans are the Needs Analysis which was used to inform us what the areas of greatest need for our Children and Young People are. To view the document in full go to -

http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/conducting_equality_impact_assessment.pdf

A further break down of the cities needs analysis can be found in the localities reports where all six of the cities localities have a report detailing where the needs are in the locality and neighborhoods to view the reports in full go to

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

Reducing Data Burdens in School

The Department of Children Schools and Families (DCSF) has developed a Data Burden's Project, it's aim is to reduce the data burden on Local Authorities by 30 per cent by 2010. Ministers have agreed to dropping the following so far -

- CO₂, subject to successful evaluation of alternatives.
- Items in School Census on school workforce, extended schools and ICT, amend other variables from termly collection and evaluate other sources for admissions appeals and in care information.
- Items from Early Years Census on establishment address and opening/closing times;
- Items from children looked after (CLA) on local area office and ethnicity and evaluate alternative sources on outcomes, asylum seekers and CLA mothers.

Furthermore we all have the chance to respond to this if we feel there is a particular piece of bureaucracy that is unnecessary and if you have any practical solutions
www.betterregulation.gov.uk

The department will respond within 90 days of registering your proposal so now is your chance to shape the future of data collation! **Go ahead and register your views and solutions!** Further info on this project can be found at –
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/reducingbureaucracy/>



Sugar: Apprentices will help Business to thrive



Sir Alan Sugar is delivering the message to about 500 employers in London, alongside Cabinet Ministers, Ed Balls and John Denham, at the first of a series of nationwide seminars to explore the benefits of employing apprentices in the economic downturn.

Ed Balls said “Better-educated and skilled young people are vital to the future economic prosperity of this country. Apprenticeships give young people a clear path to a job and the skills they need to succeed in the workplace”.

The seminar will take place as part of the Learning and Skills Council's Apprenticeship Week, during which activities will take place around the country and involve celebrities, politicians and apprentices.

Employers will get an overview of all the wider changes taking place in education and training, giving them compelling evidence of how investing in apprentices can benefit their business during the downturn and beyond. At the half day interactive seminar - Sir Alan and the Secretaries of State will invite questions from employers about Apprenticeships.

For further information about the Learning and Skills Councils Apprenticeship week go to
<http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk>

The National Apprenticeship Service: A new dedicated service that will launch in April 2009, will aim to further boost the supply of Apprenticeship opportunities.

Children's Services Mapping Complete –Big Thank

Plymouth has participated in the national exercise, hosted by the Department for Children's Schools and Families and the Department of Health, the aim of the exercise is to map all of the services supplied to Children and Young People by the Local Authority, Health and the Voluntary and Community Sector. This is the first year Plymouth has tried this exercise and we have been really pleased with results. On 24 Feb the Children's Trust Executive signed off the exercise and were pleased with questionnaires that had been completed for the department. Bronwen and all the members of Exec along with Richenda Broad the mapping lead would like to extend a big thanks to all those who participated in the exercise for Plymouth.



Children's Services Mapping

Safer Recruitment Workshops

Following the Richard Enquiry, The National College of School Leadership has led the way in providing training, for Head Teachers and School Governors. Plymouth has provided a number of workshops for schools, during the last 18 months and we are now extending this training, to Managers and Deputy Managers in Children's Services. We will be contacting staff in the coming weeks and months, but if you would like to book a place, please contact Graham Palmer, Safeguarding Business Officer.

Graham.palmer@plymouth.gov.uk

National Family Week

National Family Week is a new national initiative to celebrate family life in the UK. The inaugural week will take place from 25th to 31st May 2009

For further information go to

<http://www.nationalfamilyweek.co.uk/section.About>

POLICY

Under the Influence – Toolkit for practitioners

Research in Practice (RIP) has produced a series of change projects. These projects are made of a group of research informed facilitators and committed practitioners who exchange expertise during a series of meetings and as a result develop a product or toolkit as a result of soundly informed research and reflective of practice need. Change projects, as selected as they are areas in which the group feels passionately about and may often be problematic to the Children and Young People in this Local Authority Area. Some examples of previous change projects areas are; social work evidence in family court, leading in evidence informed practice, Engagement and Re-engagement in learning at Key Stage 3. To learn more about these projects go to-

<http://www.rip.org.uk/changeprojects/completeCPs.asp>

Cheshire LA had a particular Problem with a number of Children and Young People in the criminal justice system and alcohol was largely the contributing factor.



As a result RIP designed a change Project toolkit for practitioners. The toolkit provides excellent context and background as well as setting out a clear and innovative framework for working with children and young people from the age of 10 to 19 with respect to alcohol and offending. Anyone working with related issues of alcohol, crime and anti-social behaviour should read this and use this. If you would like a paper copy of this contact

Theresa.brooks@plymouth.gov.uk

Child Health Strategy

Children and young people are healthier today than ever before. Technological, social and economic advances have dramatically cut infant mortality and given many children and young people a healthier start in life.



In order to support the 2020 ambition of making England the best place for children to grow up the strategy aims to drive up quality and cement, not replace existing standards and ambitions.

The strategy aims to set out universal, targeted and specialist support across three life phases

1. Early years and pregnancy
2. School age children
3. Young people

As well as additional support for children and young people with acute or ongoing healthcare.

This strategy comes with a significant amount of funding targeted at areas of genuine need. For example

- Primary Care Trusts will receive £340m to spend on disabled children from 2008-2011;
- An individual care plan for all children with complex needs by 2010
- £30m on children's palliative care services;
- An expansion of family partnerships – targets support at vulnerable teenage parents.

To view the full strategy, follow the link.

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

14-19 Learner Voice Strategy

EMIE at the National Federation Educational Research (NFER) produces "Synopsis" every two months. Featured this month is the 14 – 19 Learner Voice Strategy at East Sussex.

There is growing evidence that effective learner voice has a positive impact on key aims within the 14-19 agenda, such as improved academic achievement, better behaviour and attendance and enhanced curriculum provision.

The strategy aims to ensure that learners are actively involved in decision making related to their education, training and associated services. In order to achieve this, the Local Authority must provide support, listen to and take action in response to learner voice.

To view the full document email Abigail.jago@plymouth.gov.uk

Autism Bill

The Bill aims to provide better information about the numbers of people with autism, their needs and to improve the local planning and delivery of services. Key areas of the Bill include:

- a requirement for local authorities to collect data on the number of people with autism;
- a duty on the Secretary of State to promote the provision of services and support for people with autism by local authorities and NHS bodies;
- a requirement for local authorities to ensure effective transition from child to adult services for young people with autism.

For more information follow the link below.

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2008-09/autism.html>

Children in Care get a say in future regulations

The Future Rules report published by the Children's Rights Director was a result of a national conference where 136 young people in care and care leavers supplied their views on what should be in the statutory guidance around the Children and Young Persons Act. The Act was passed last year but statutory guidance on how to interpret it has not yet been published. This is the first time children in care have had the chance to advise the government directly on what should go into a set of brand new statutory regulations.

Children and young people (C&YP) voted on future regulations. Some outcomes are listed below. To view the full document, follow the link.

<http://www.rights4me.org/reportView.cfm?id=313>

Summary of key findings -

- C&YP want to have a major say for themselves before they are placed away from their parents.



- Someone who used to be in care themselves would make an ideal personal adviser or visitor.
- C&YP in care want monthly visits from someone in the council

Progress Mapping in Early Years

Progress Map is a really effective Interactive web-based tool. It can be used to discover, what tools, practice and research works best to improve practice and outcomes for Children and Young People. It is designed to be a one stop shop for professionals to access the very latest information, resource and data. With our focus in Plymouth on evidence based practice and practice that has clear improvements in outcomes for Children and Young People; I know that this is a tool that will interest us all!



A Progress Map is split into the following sections –

- Summary – key messages, background to issue, views of stakeholders
- Data synopsis and visualisation tool-up to date and relevant regional and national data;
- Resource data base –containing publications, resources, best practice, knowledge reviews,

There are a series of themes that process maps are produced about to help practitioners with issues around them, all of the maps are focused on early year's issues, children and currently the two topic areas are –

- Narrowing the gap in outcomes for children through effective early years practice;
- Improving children's attainment through better quality of family based support for early learning;

For further details go to-

<http://www.c4eo.org.uk/themes/earlyyears/default.a>

Vulnerable Children the role of boarding schools

A boarding provision for vulnerable Children Pathfinder was launched by the government in 2006, with the aim of exploring whether boarding school placements might be used by LA Children Services to provide support, stability and educational opportunities for vulnerable children. The DCSF commissioned an evaluation of the pathfinder, focusing on the ten original pathfinder LA's. The evaluation had various aims for example to

- Examine the views, experiences and outcomes for children place in boarding schools;
- Examine the views of the parents and carers;
- Examine the views of the LA staff working on the pathfinder.

To view the full report, aims and implications for policy follow the link:

http://www.careknowledge.com/uploadedFiles/CareKnowledge_CMS/Public/Documents/200902/DCSF-RB070.pdf

Commissioning; delivery of emergency accommodation for young runaways.

The DCSF has commissioned York University to produce a report which will be published in June this year. The report summarises the key findings with relation to the best and most effective way to deliver emergency accommodation to young runaways. There are three strands to the research;

1. Informant interviews and stakeholder questionnaires.
2. Interviews with young people that have runaway.
3. National stakeholder consultation events and focus groups with young people.

For further information go to

<http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/research/summs/accom.html>

Training and Events

Local Events One Children's Workforce



There are a series of focus groups and scenario workshops being hosted to aid and assist in the planning and application of one children's Workforce.

When: 29 April - Engage Plymouth (Formerly Carmel Church) 23 April - Corporate B Windsor, 11 March – Mount Gold-17 March – Southway, 24 March – Mount Gold, 31 March – Douglas, 6 May – Mount Gold

For further info contact:

workforcedevelopment@plymouth.gov.uk

Producing Accessible information for people with learning Disabilities

This course is being held on 1 April at Southway if this date is oversubscribed then further dates will be made available. The main purpose of the course is to



ensure staff develop skills to communicate effectively with people with learning difficulties. For further details contact:

Fiona.gordon@plymouth.gov.uk

National Events



What: Smoking and Young People

Where: 23 March 2009- London

Target Audience

Local authority and PCT officers, managers and practitioners with an interest in Children and Young People's health, staff in schools colleges and other working in the voluntary and community sector

Contact: events@lgiu.org.uk

What: Safeguarding children whose Parents/cares use drugs or Alcohol or have mental health needs.

Where: 20 March- London

Target Audience

Managers and practitioners responsible for, and or working with children and young people whose parents/carers use drugs or alcohol or have mental health needs.

Contact: events@lgiu.org.uk

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 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:

Theresa Brooks or Abigail Jago (Assistant Policy and Planning Officers – Children's Services) Tel: 307113

	Submission deadline	Publication date
April	6 April 2009	14 April 2009