



Policy & Research Briefing

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

Dear Colleagues

The announced Ofsted inspection of safeguarding and looked after children services has taken place this month. From the feedback it seems that you have provided the inspectors with many examples of the excellent work you are delivering and how this is improving outcomes for children and young people. Thank you for all that you have contributed to the inspection – either by attending meetings or providing information and support or in ensuring business as usual continued. Thank you.



With regards to safeguarding we are now a year on since the governments response to Lord Laming's recommendations. The government has published a raft of documents to provide further support and clearer guidance to all those involved in safeguarding and I urge you to make full use of the resource which can be found at www.dcsf.gov.uk/nsdu. The government has also committed financial investment that we can utilise to assist our local solutions.

This month we signed off our Children's Services Mapping Exercise; this is the second year we participated in this exercise. This joint exercise is completed with our partners in health and this year our focus was on mapping all of the services that provide parent and family support as part of the Think Family agenda. The data will be released this summer and will provide a useful picture of where our services are currently and to assist and inform future service planning and review. Thank you to all those who have taken the time to participate.

The second annual 'Inclusion for All' conference took place this month at City College Plymouth. It provided an opportunity for parents and practitioners across the city to learn how to support children and young people with additional needs to develop their communication and social skills. The upcoming Plymouth children and young people's disabilities strategy will further develop support structures in the city for our disabled children, young people and their families.



With Best Wishes
Richenda Broad

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

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Focus On: Locality Working

As locality working within the Children and Young People's Trust and across the city becomes more defined we thought it would be useful to set out some of the basic principles and information on the structures that underpin the delivery of local services for local people.

What is locality working about?

Locality working is about preventative and early intervention services to local people in their local area at primarily the universal and targeted level of support. The aim of this is to minimise the escalation of problems and to build resilience to overcome and deal with adverse circumstances. Where appropriate, referrals to specialist services will be made.

Integrated teams are generally considered the most effective way of addressing social need because they enable different professionals to work with families in a more coherent and coordinated way. **Integrative practice** is more than multi agency working; it's about sharing common policies, goals and visions, processes and polices, and ultimately offices. The Children and Young People's Trust has a shared vision "*we want our children to live, grow, achieve and exceed in their hopes for the future*" and this is supported by the 10 priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan. Locality working is about enabling the Trust's plan to be delivered more effectively.

To support the effective delivery of locality services for children, young people and families the following are already in operation:

- Three localities are now operating weekly multi-agency teams – North West, South West and most recently the South East for 5 – 11 year olds
- The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and its supporting processes and training
- Information sharing protocols
- Commissioning groups are running in all six localities

Underpinning the steps towards integration is the concept widely known as "**collaborative advantage**". This is quite simply about achieving something that could not have been achieved by any one of the organisations acting alone. Collaboration is based on the understanding that, as agencies, we are more effective together than alone.

Under the Assistant Directorship of Maggie Carter the Locality Development Team are tasked with facilitating the change agenda that is needed to deliver and reconfigure services differently.

Recent developments:

- All six commissioning groups have elected chairs and five have elected deputy chairs. Commissioning groups and academic councils are collaborating on the Allsortz project, which aims to fund out of school activities for children who meet the need thresholds.
- Forty professionals working in the South East locality with children aged 5 – 11 years attended a well received team building day. Amongst a wide range of activities they debated and agreed the following values that sustain and build effective integrated locality working:

Pioneering – Inspirational – Enthusiastic – Purposeful – Resourceful – Fair – Organised – Supportive – Cooperative – Effective – Reliable – Encouraging

- Plymouth University's Social Work department has recently expressed an interest in learning more about locality service delivery.
- Family Matters, a local voluntary organisation, together with Professor Ruddi Dallos from Plymouth University, Clinical Psychology department, are exploring possibilities of offering new ways of supporting families in localities.

For further information on localities and this article please contact the Locality Development Team
Tel: 558033 for more information.

Centre for Excellence and Outcomes (C4EO) and Child Poverty

<http://www.c4eo.org.uk/> is a web based resource that can be useful for all those working with children and young people. Gathering the best academic research and combining this with effective frontline practice, C4EO offers a one-stop shop to local authorities, Children's Trusts and other partners, enabling them to access evidence of what works to improve outcomes for future generations, as well as receiving hands-on support for practical solutions.

C4EO provides three key areas of support:

1. Knowledge – best available evidence of what works.
2. Access to data and evidence – web based data tool, presentations, audience specific products.
3. Local support – individual tailored support, national and regional workshops and communities of practice.

For example, recent research collated by the C4EO around tackling **child poverty** found that a whole-area child poverty strategy should include effective multi-agency partnerships and a focus on narrowing outcome gaps, as well as the active participation of children. A new leaflet outlines information, guidance and support and is available from C4EO and others to support responsibilities outlined within the Child Poverty Bill to help prevent and tackle child poverty at a local level. To find out more, please visit the [C4EO](http://www.c4eo.org.uk/) website.



ContactPoint



Congratulations to the Connexions Service (Careers SW Ltd) who have become the first local partner to achieve Organisational Accreditation for ContactPoint. This means that their frontline staff can receive training and begin using ContactPoint as an additional tool to help them find out who else is working with a young person. The first group of staff should be trained by the end of March. Connexions are also on track to be the first partner sending local data to ContactPoint.

Plymouth has chosen to use e-learning as one way of delivering the mandatory training. In collaboration with PCC ICT Training the ContactPoint Management Team has produced the first package which has received favourable peer review from other teams around the region. A second phase of User Acceptance Testing will commence shortly before the package is offered to all partners. Below is feedback from an early user of ContactPoint (Youth Offending Service): *"I found what I was looking for in moments, and from that I was able to phone the surgery and get the name of the lad's GP. Very useful - and it's saved me a lot of otherwise time-consuming detective work! Getting the info usually involves making phone calls and/or getting the young person's worker to ask on first appointment. Frequently the young person doesn't know and it can take me several days to track it down, especially as, more often than not, there are several medical centres in the vicinity."*

For further information contact:
Jeremy.alder@plymouth.gov.uk

Results for National Indicator 54 'Services for Disabled Children'

The DCSF has published local-level reports detailing results for NI54 "Services for Disabled Children" for almost all LAs and Primary Care Trusts, together with comparative excel spreadsheets. The reports provide: local NI54 indicator and sub-indicator values; demographic profiles; parental comment analysis; and local-national comparisons.

At an overall national level parents rated the services received by their disabled child as 61 out of 100. Across all LAs where an indicator score was produced, scores ranged from 55 to 68. In **Plymouth** parents rated the services received by their disabled child as **61 out of 100**. This figure represents a baseline from which to track progress or changes in perceptions and experience in future years.

To view the Plymouth report follow the link below:
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/resources-and-practice/IG00667/>

The Kids Are Alright campaign

People's perceptions of children and young people in Plymouth are being challenged by a new campaign launched this month. The 12 month campaign led by Plymouth's Youth Service with partners including the Police and Fire Service, has begun with city residents being asked to give their perceptions of young people. After a year these opinions will be reviewed to see if people's ideas have changed. As part of the launch day, residents young and old were encouraged to try new activities such as skateboarding and football. Posters designed like mock-up 'wanted' posters have been produced showing that first impressions are not always right and detailing what our young people have been doing positively within their communities. The campaign was originally run in Cambridgeshire where it was a great success. For more information and to take part in the survey visit www.thekidsarealright.co.uk

POLICY

Every primary pupil deserves a school library

The School Library Association (SLA) has launched a new Primary School Library Charter, which argues that investment in school libraries must start early. The Charter outlines the benefits of having a well supported and well resourced primary school library, which include:

- Creating independent readers for life.
- Teaching young children the literacy skills they need to become creative, curious, confident and flexible learners throughout their school years and beyond.
- Ensuring every child enjoys their childhood and achieves their full potential.
- Providing an important community space for out-of-hours learning and a point of contact with families.

Locally the Plymouth School Library Service will shortly be distributing a copy of the Charter to all subscribing primary schools. Download the Charter at

<http://www.sla.org.uk/primary-charter>

Another initiative to raise the quality of school libraries is a project being carried out by the School Library Commission. It aims to set a national agenda to ensure school libraries are delivering exceptional services and have been calling for evidence from schools and professionals to help inform the report. The final report will be released at the end of June 2010.

http://www.mla.gov.uk/news_and_views/press/releases/2010/School_library_commission_invites_submissions



Guidance on delivering positive activities to young people who have been drinking



Running activities for young people, particularly on Friday and Saturday night, comes with its own set of challenges, especially relating to alcohol. Young people sometimes experiment with alcohol, so not only do youth workers need to think about providing a credible alternative to drinking during this period, but also how to engage with young people who might be under the influence of alcohol.

To include young people who have been drinking in positive activities raises some challenges, but to simply leave young people outside and at risk of getting into trouble or vulnerable to becoming victims themselves is simply not an option.

This guide aims to give practical advice and tools to ensure practitioners are equipped to deal with this real issue.

Top tips are provided as well as numerous best practice case studies, including information on street based teams and mobile units.

The report not only offers ways to engage young people who have consumed alcohol in positive activities, but also how positive activities can be used in the delivery of alcohol treatment services.

To view the full report follow the link below:

<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/00160-2010BKT-EN.pdf>

Appropriate hospital environments for mental health patients under 18 years old

Section 131A of the Mental Health Act 1983 will come into force on the 1 April 2010 in England and Wales. The provision places a duty on hospital managers to ensure that patients aged 18 or under receiving treatment for their mental health are treated in an environment suitable having regard for their age. There is already a Government commitment that no child under the age of 16 is treated in an adult psychiatric ward. In Plymouth this requirement has already been met.

A number of best practice products have been produced to support local areas to prepare. Follow the link below for more details.

<http://www.nmhdu.org.uk/news/new-publication-working-together-to-provide-ageappropriate-environments-and-services-for-mental-health-patients-aged-under-18-june-2009/>

Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) resource about young runaways

The Children's Society has launched an online young runaways resource pack funded by the DCSF. It aims to warn young people about the dangers of running away and looks at the support networks available to those contemplating it.

It is targeted at young people between 10-12 years and is available free from The [Children's Society](http://www.childrensociety.org.uk) website and can be used by both schools/alternative education providers and youth groups. The pack offers lesson plans for teaching National Curriculum PSHE Key Stage 2.

The website is accessible to children and young people as well as their parents and carers.

Research & Consultation

Outcomes for neglected children returned to their parents

There is limited research available to inform practitioners about which kinds of case management or combinations of services help to keep neglected children safe and contribute to improved outcomes. Given that cases of neglect often need long-term interventions, this study aims to help fill the knowledge gap about how children are assessed and managed over time when there are concerns about harm to them and to identify predictors of child outcomes when cases were followed up over a five-year period.

Key findings include:

- In two fifths of cases children who were the subject of child protection plans were not adequately safeguarded.
- Outcomes for younger children were much better than for older children. The cut-off age is six at the time of family reunification, after which, action to safeguard children and plan for their future reduced.
- There were major variations in how proactively cases were managed, leading to better outcomes in some LAs than others.

To view the full report follow the link below:
http://www.careknowledge.com/uploadedFiles/CareKnowledge_CMS/Public/Documents/201002/DCSF-RB214.pdf



Emergency accommodation for young runaways



This report was commissioned to explore solutions that will meet the emergency accommodation needs of young runaways. The project is part of an ongoing development of policy, practice and research around this issue. In England, the project is also a component of the Young Runaways Action Plan.

The report makes 17 recommendations including the following:

- There is a lack of reliable evidence of need at local level and it is recommended that questions about running away should be integrated into self-report surveys of young people as a means of filling this gap.
- Crisis response services should be strongly integrated into a network of local services which also includes targeted preventative and follow-up work.
- Foster care should be available as an emergency accommodation option for some younger runaways and some young runaways in minority groups as an alternative to residential provision.
- The report highlights the need for, and potential value of, a national network of emergency accommodation for young runaways which can provide an effective safety net for young people in all geographical areas.

To view the full report follow the link below:

[http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR181\(R\).pdf](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR181(R).pdf)

Improving adoption services

Despite significant financial investment and political will the number of children and young people in care who have been successfully adopted across England has fallen in recent years. This research report looks at ways that this trend can be reversed, including improved use of voluntary adoption agencies (VAAs).

This report does not promote the sole use of VAAs, but encourages a partnership approach to provision which sees LAs making full use of the expertise of the voluntary sector. VAAs have been shown to be better at sourcing families for 'difficult to place children' such as those children over 4 years old, those from an ethnic minority and/or those who are part of a sibling group. To view the full report, follow the link below:

<http://www.policyexchange.org.uk/assets/No Place Like Home - Jan 10.pdf>

Workforce analysis

This is a breakthrough document which brings together data about the young people's workforce in England. Using the available data, it describes the workforce as of August 2008. This report is the result of the first year of a three year research project.

Professions excluded from this report include those who provided compulsory education or post-16 education or training and social workers because they are beyond the scope of this report. The report aims to establish the baseline data available on the workforce to help inform future planning to contribute achieving outcomes of the 2020 Children and Young People's Workforce Strategy.

To view the full report follow the link below:

http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/assets/0000/7827/Executive_summary_SYPW_report.pdf

Training and Events

Local Events

The Plymouth Safeguarding Children Board (PSCB)

latest training course focuses on professional supervision for effective child protection. As with all PSCB courses, this is a multi-agency event, bringing together practitioners and their managers across all disciplines and agencies, to consider the basis of best practice for effective supervision. Other PSCB courses include core and advanced training for: the identification and prevention of Domestic Abuse; preventing Hidden Harm to children in families where there may be drug or alcohol abuse; and protecting children from abuse when using internet and mobile phone technologies. Specific courses focussed upon inter-agency intervention to prevent neglect of children will begin in June 2010. For more information and to book, please go to www.plymouthscb.org.uk or e-mail pscbs@plymouth.gov.uk or phone 01752 307535.

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: Working with disruptive adolescents – provides an opportunity for members to explore some of the psychodynamics, problems and issues involved in working with adolescents and their families.

When/Where: 12-16 July 2010 Tavistock Centre, London

Target Audience: Intended for all professionals who work in contact with young people and/or their families

Contact: <http://www.tavistock.org.uk/DisruptiveAdolescents>

What: Protecting lone workers in the public sector: Conference on effective incident and prevention strategies specifically focusing on personal safety, skills and training

When/Where: 27 May 2010 Central London

Target Audience: Everyone who employs or engages with lone workers across local authorities, health, police and voluntary and community sectors.

Contact: <http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/public-sector-conferences/diversity-hr/full-conference/article/protecting-lone-workers-in-the-public-sector.html>

Useful Links

Care Knowledge

www.careknowledge.com

The Department for Children, Schools and Families

www.dcsf.gov.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:

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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 4	April	7 April
		14 April