



Policy & Research Briefing

Volume 3
Issue 14
 November 2009

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

Dear Colleagues



We are now in the count down to Christmas and I am sure everyone's social calendars are filling up nicely. The calendar of events for the Trust and our young people has also been busy this month.

Firstly many of our young people gathered at the City Centre Piazza for our 'One Big Saturday' event and had the opportunity to try out some new activities and show off their skills on the huge mobile skate park. The event was organised by staff in our Youth Services and was the climax of a week long activities programme which has taken place in youth and community centres across the city. Crowds were entertained by local bands playing live music and a very high climbing wall, sumo wrestlers and five-a-side Kickz football programme.

The Summer Uni 2010 stakeholder day on the 12 November saw businesses and organisations across Plymouth come together to see if they could provide one of the lessons that will make up the Summer Uni timetable which will run throughout August 2010. Aimed at 13-19 year olds, the Summer Uni 2010 will offer 85-90 courses in areas such as fashion and art, digital media, music and performing arts, life skills and sports and fitness.

We have launched 'I know how it feels' Tackling Bullying Together as part of the annual Anti-Bullying Conference held at the Holiday Inn which was very well attended – the focus this year was Cyberbullying. There were numerous workshops during the day which provided an excellent training opportunity for practitioners from across the Trust. To view the strategy follow the link below:

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



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

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Focus on: Priority 8 - Reduce risk taking behaviours such as substance misuse, unprotected sex and criminal activities

Champion: Richenda Broad, Head of Service, Strategic Planning and Children and Young People's Trust

The delivery of this priority involves an overarching risk taking behaviour implementation plan linked to strategies / plans supporting Substance Misuse, Hidden Harm, Sexual Health, Anti-Social Behaviour and also an annual Youth Offending Service Plan.

Key areas of progress have included:

- A reduction in the number of first time entrants into the criminal justice system over the last year from 304 to 252
- Planned discharges from young people's substance misuse treatment increase from 29% in 2006/07 to 81% (upper quartile) in 2008/09 - this is a key outcome indicator for treatment and this reflects a major improvement in performance.
- Our most recent official statistics on teenage pregnancy rates for the city (quarter 2 2008) reflect the 3rd lowest level it has been since 1998 and in line with a downward trend since Summer 2007. Our rate of progress is very close to the average for the whole of England.

Streetwise a city wide challenge and support team, based within Plymouth City Council's Youth Service focusing on anti-social 'hot-spots' has been set up and is delivering interventions that evidence shows has supported a decrease in crime and anti-social behaviour where the service has been active.

Plymouth has attracted £35,000 from the Department of Health to support innovative alcohol work delivered through locality networks by three voluntary sector services.

Plymouth has attracted £350,000 into city as part of the Youth Crime Action Plan – this includes funds that support parent and family projects impacting on crime, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse issues.

Local Strategies

A Hidden Harm strategy was agreed in December 2008 and an implementation plan agreed this summer. As a partnership our Hidden Harm work was showcased as an example of best practice at the National Think Family Conference in November 2009. Plymouth has attracted £200,000 to support a capital project to support the Hidden Harm agenda through enhancing Hamoaze House's capability to enable families to be worked with.

A new five year Sexual Health and Wellbeing Commissioning Strategy has been written and agreed. The strategy aims to reduce teenage conception rates, improve the sexual health of young people as well as support teenage parents. A new comprehensive performance framework for the delivery of this strategy is being developed but has already received positive feedback from a regional perspective. A significant increase in activity has taken place to reduce teenage conception rates in the city. The strategy delivery plan is currently being written and will be in place by January 2010.

Reviews and the future

The Risk Taking Behaviour Commissioning Group and the original Implementation Plan have both undertaken significant review. The Plan has been superseded by much progress across many agendas and improved clarity over what the Risk Taking Plan should focus on, supported by an improving evidence base developed over the past 12 months.

Key in the review and refocus of the work is to support the shift toward prevention and early intervention and to ensure that early identification of need and access to support for young people under 13 is in place. We know that this support should aim to involve families and that the delivery of the Think Family Agenda is a key strand to this approach. The refocus will also aim to support effective use of Common Assessment Framework (CAF), ensure that targeted support across all ages from 0-19 is delivered and that effective links to specialist provision is in place. The Risk Taking Behaviour Commissioning Group is becoming a Strategic Group that does not commission but provides support and challenge to all relevant groups and services to maximise reduction in harmful risk taking behaviour.

Overall much progress has been achieved. Significant challenges still lay ahead but a strong sense of direction and purpose is in place to make a difference.

For more information please contact Dave Schwartz, Priority Coordinator on 307561 or email

dave.schwartz@plymouth.gov.uk

'Young Stars' youth awards celebrate pure teen-ious!

The sky's the limit for inventive youngsters who were crowned **'young stars'** for their work in getting new projects off the ground across Plymouth.

The Young Stars event on 3 November celebrated the different youth projects that have taken place across the city using money from the Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds.

The event was opened by the Lord Mayor and members of the UK Youth Parliament and awards were presented by Bradley Wright-Phillips from Plymouth Argyle, along with Executive Members of the Children and Young People's Trust. Each year 13 to 19 year olds are given the chance to come up with ideas to develop existing or new community projects that create 'things to do and places to go'. The funds are managed by a group of young people from across Plymouth, who meet weekly to consider and discuss each application and decide on how funding is given out. This group works to a set of criteria based on the Every Child Matters outcomes to help them make those decisions.

Last year, young people ran 45 projects through the funding scheme awarded by the DCSF and administered by the Youth Service. The bidding is already well underway for projects in this financial year (up to March 2010) and groups are competing for a share of the £300,000 funding pot – on average projects are awarded between £5,000 and £7,000. For more information contact: abby.chu@plymouth.gov.uk



Localities Update

The Children and Young Peoples Trust have been leading the way in locality working in Plymouth. The Local Strategic Partnership vision for locality working is:



"A city with successful, strong, cohesive and sustainable communities. Residents in these communities should be actively involved in shaping the places where they live and improving services, leading to increased satisfaction and better quality of life".

The Children and Young People's Trust has recently appointed three Strategic Locality Managers. Alison Roberts (from an Early Years background), Lesley Horrell (with Social Care and Policy and Planning experience) and Oliver Marnier (with Teaching and Connexions service experience).

Under the leadership of Assistant Director Maggie Carter, the locality managers will be based for the first three months at the Excellence Cluster, Parkside where they will work as a collaborative team with Excellence Cluster Directors, Lisa Hartley and Rona Smith. Project Officer Annie McGee will also join this team although her office base remains in Windsor House. The locality team will cover the whole of the city during stage one of the establishment of front line teams in localities. On 24 September Elected Members from the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel toured sites to learn about the developments of integrated working and commissioning in local areas.

For more information contact the Locality Team on 01752 558033

Learning disabilities: information for families of school leavers

This booklet provides information on the challenges and opportunities that arise when young people with learning disabilities leave school or college. There is also reference to an accompanying workbook and an earlier service users' guide that looks specifically at support for those with Down's syndrome. The booklet includes the following:

- Getting the support that is needed
- Different opportunities (including employment)
- Moving from the family home
- Health
- Getting support in your caring role

For the full document go to:

<http://www.learningdisabilities.org.uk/EasySiteWeb/getresource.axd?AssetID=33715&type=full&servicetype=Attachment>

Careers South West Ltd wins at the UK Excellence Awards

Careers Southwest Ltd won the customer satisfaction and leadership award in October at an awards ceremony hosted by HRH The Princess Royal. They manage and deliver the Connexions Service which provides impartial information, advice and guidance to young people across the peninsula and to adults across the whole of the Southwest. Customer feedback is important to improving quality and the young people involved in the Connex Groups are a key part in this. There are eight Connex groups with members aged between 13 and 19. Each group works on different projects which can be anything from coming up with new ideas for Connexions centres, designing logos and posters, and interviewing personal advisers. For more details go to: http://www.connexions-cd.org.uk/chill_yagroups.asp

POLICY

New career education strategy 'Quality, Choice and Aspiration – a strategy for young people's information, advice and guidance'

Launched at the end of October, this strategy aims to modernise careers education to make it accessible for today's generation but also to keep pace with the changing economic climate and make sure all young people can aim high. The strategy sets out plans for:

- the ambition that every young person receives careers education up to the age of 18.
- piloting approaches to teaching about careers in primary schools.
- the ambition that every young person has access to a mentor - two new national mentoring champions will help increase mentoring opportunities between schools, businesses and higher education.
 - bringing it into the 21st Century with better online access to careers advice through Facebook, YouTube, etc and a new online mentoring scheme from 2010.
 - more help for disadvantaged and disabled young people in accessing work experience.
 - providing support and resources for schools and parents to engage with young people from an early age to talk about career opportunities.
 - a £10M fund to support innovative ways of delivering careers education.

To see the full strategy document follow the link below:

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/1AG-Report-v2.pdf>



Plymouth Sports Facility Strategy

The Plymouth Sports Facility Strategy has been developed in response to a number of factors including:



- The desire to update existing strategies (both city-wide and sports specific) and to complete a comprehensive review of facility provision within Plymouth.
- To demonstrate and ensure that sport and physical activity can contribute to the vision of Plymouth becoming one of Europe's finest, most vibrant waterfront cities, where an outstanding quality of life is enjoyed by everyone.
- The rapidly changing context for sports development and sports training, coaching and volunteering initiatives, not least through the impetus arising from the forthcoming London 2012 Olympics and changes in the method of funding sport.

The network of high quality city-wide leisure facilities the strategy proposes will enhance the quality of life of Plymouth's people and will contribute, through sports development programmes, to broader corporate objectives including, health, educational attainment, safer communities, the economy, reducing inequalities and improving customer service.

The strategy is now out for the consultation process which closed in January to give your feedback go to: <http://plymouth.limehouse.co.uk/portal/ldf/sportstrategy/sportsstrategy?pointId>

To read the full strategy follow the link below:

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

Aiming High for Disabled Children: delivering better health services

Providing effective health services for disabled children will improve outcomes for them and their families, ensure the child receives the best quality of care and provide better value for money. The key areas for improvement are: short breaks, community equipment, wheelchairs and children's palliative care. This report examines best practice around the country. It has examples of services for disabled children that meet their needs, respond to the government agenda and are effective from both a quality and a cost point of view.

To view the full report follow the link below:

http://www.nhsconfed.org/Publications/Documents/aiming_high_sep09.pdf

Homeless care bill hits councils

The ruling, made against Southwark Council, means all homeless 16 and 17 year olds must be offered care services under section 20 of the Children Act 1989, and not simply accommodated under housing legislation. A survey of 25 London boroughs has provided the first indication of the care bill for homeless teenagers confronting councils. The survey found the ruling could lead to an increase in London's looked after children population of between 20 and 30 per cent. A spokesperson for the DCSF said that LAs should already have been catering for young people under the Children Act 1989 and added that no further funding would be available. For further information go to:

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/bulletins/Daily-Bulletin/news/946826/?DCMP=EMC-DailyBulletin>

Research & Consultation

Reducing the under 18 conception rate from Research in Practice

Recent statistics have shown that the UK has the highest rate of teenage births in Western Europe – a rate that is twice that of Germany, three times that of France and five times that of the Netherlands.

This briefing uses research messages and practice examples from Wales and England to look at how to improve the rate of conceptions for girls aged 15-17. It looks at some of the general findings around under-18 conceptions and the young people who are most at risk of falling into this group and examines five types of intervention that have been shown to reduce the rate of teenage conceptions. Teenage conception is such a complex issue that no single intervention can be used alone. Agencies will need to use a combination of approaches if they are to succeed. Each of the five types of intervention outlined in this briefing is accompanied by an example of promising practice that has shown to be influential in reducing teenage conception rates. More examples of promising practice can be found on the RIP website, www.rip.org.uk.



For the full briefing follow the link below:

http://www.careknowledge.com/uploadedFiles/CareKnowledge_CMS/Public/Documents/200910/Bilingual%20briefing%20-%20Under%2018%20Conception.pdf

Attitudinal barriers to participating in positive activities



Little primary research has been done in the UK on the barriers to the participation of young people in leisure-time activities so this research fills a gap. When asked, most young people have a strong desire to be involved in leisure time activities, with only 4% saying they would not want to participate. The challenge is to identify and tackle what gets in the way of this wish to participate.

The DCSF has produced three reports about this and this briefing draws on all three and offers some useful messages that LAs can draw on to improve participation in their areas.

The briefing is split into results from literature review, research with young people and research with parents. Some key messages include:

- the DCSF developing an effective communication strategy to help LAs reach more young people and parents
- providing parents with a single source of information via a website about what is available locally
- making information for young people accessible and easily understood and using a wide range of communication channels to convey messages to young people
- raising aspirations of young people should begin early (pre-teens) to ensure sustained engagement.

To access the full briefing, contact

abigail.jago@plymouth.co.uk

Effects of having a parent in prison

An estimated 160,000 children in the UK have a parent in prison. This is more than twice the number of children in care and over six times the number of children on the child protection register. There is a strong association between parental imprisonment and adverse outcomes for children.

Barnados interviewed families where the father was in prison in the Bristol area. Some of the research reports recommendations include

- guidance in place to ensure that the needs of these children are addressed in children's plans
- collection of data on the children of prisoners to ensure that they are identified at the earliest opportunity and their support needs addressed

To read the full report follow the link below:

http://www.barnados.org.uk/everynightyoucry_briefing_fi nal_double.pdf

People with learning disabilities experiences of hate crime

With the recent news reporting on the case of Fiona Pilkington this article looks at learning disabilities in particular. However being at risk is not due to any simple correlation with personal characteristics of disabled people but is a very complex relationship with other factors such as age, gender and ethnicity.

This article reports findings relating to:

- the risk and prevalence of targeted violence and hostility
- experiences and impact of such incidents
- barriers to reporting and seeking redress

The research findings aim to demonstrate that people with learning disabilities have unequal access to safety and to justice. For the full report go to:

http://www.careknowledge.com/uploadedFiles/CareKnowledge_CMS/Public/Documents/200910/Target-LDT-Nov09%20LRF.pdf

Training and Events

Local Events

The Learning and Development team and Social Inclusion Unit are running training sessions for staff on how to incorporate equality and diversity into their work. One of the best ways of doing this is by carrying out Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) whenever we write new policies or develop new services. EIAs are recognised nationally as best practice and are the most effective way of gauging the possible impact of our policies, strategies and services on Plymouth's diverse communities. To sign up for one of the following sessions by contacting Rachel Durand on 307293 or emailing Rachel.Durand@plymouth.gov.uk

Friday 11 December 2009 9:30 – 12:30

Tuesday 30 March 2010 9:30 – 12:30

For more information see the Learning and Development Booklet:

<http://www.information.plymouth.gov.uk/2006-intranet/documentlibrary/documents/L%20&%20D%20Aims%20&%20Obs%20Booklet%202009-10.PDF>

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



The CAF is a core element of the ECM 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: Getting to know the Act: The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 – The Act becomes law this month and this conference will discuss the impacts of this.

When/Where: BMA House, London
24 November 2009 10:00 – 15:30

Target Audience: Policy and strategy Officers in local authorities and other agencies

Contact: To book a place go to:
<https://member.lgiu.org.uk/events/Documents/CSN/CSN241109.pdf>

What: Fair Access to Popular Schools - the conference will consider how important recent changes to the admissions system are bedding in and challenges facing LAs.

When/Where: Novotel, Euston Road, London
8 December 2009 09:15 – 15:30

Target Audience: Representative Head teachers and governors, heads of admissions and councillors with responsibility for improving educational achievement and equity.

Contact: To book a place go to:
<https://member.lgiu.org.uk/events/Documents/CSN/CSN081209.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 15	December	4 December 2009	14 December 2009