

Documents and news from and for local authorities and Children's Trusts



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Partnership working

[Big Society - Are You Ready? Preparing and Supporting the VCS in Medway for the Way Ahead](#)

Medway, January 2011

Funded by the Children's Workforce Development Council and working in partnership with Medway Council, the Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) Medway presented a one-day conference for the voluntary and community sector and statutory partners on 28 January 2011.

Presentations given on the day are available.



Planning Ahead in Partnership

Bury, February 2011

A report on a Children and Young People's Network event, focusing on the next Children and Young People's Plan and on Children's Trust arrangements, which had as its objectives:

- finding out what attendees thought were the priorities in improving the lives of children and young people
- looking at future partnership working in the Children's Trust in Bury
- providing a networking opportunity for attendees to find out about other services in the borough.

Included in the information resulting from the workshops, is a paper setting out how Bury's Children's Trust arrangements can improve partnership working.

Common Assessment Framework

Everyone's Business: Review and Development of the Common Assessment Framework

Birmingham, April 2011

A report from the Vulnerable Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This review examined current practice in the use of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) by listening to the views of many frontline workers, including those from schools, voluntary sector agencies and health services. It found that the process is used inconsistently across the City Council and partner agencies.

The review strongly endorses the continued use of the CAF, not least because it has identified that using the CAF process to identify a child's level of need, how to meet that need and coordinate multi-agency support early on, can result in substantial financial savings in the long term. The review makes a number of recommendations to increase the use of CAF.

Early intervention

2011 No Wrong Door Conference

York, June 2011

This annual conference is for all practitioners working with children and young people in York. It looks at how joint working can ensure the best possible outcomes for the children across the city, and celebrates the work undertaken in York to provide early preventative services and build resilience.



Presentations and handouts from the conference include information on 'The New Front Door'. This is the new Advice, Assessment and Early Intervention Service which will provide a route for both professionals and members of the public to obtain advice and information about services for children and young people who are vulnerable and at risk, and to access services at tiers 2 and 3 of the preventative strategy.

[Early Intervention Strategy Phase One: Initial Thoughts - Review, Reshape, Redistribute](#)

Luton, April 2011

An early intervention approach offers children, young people and families more than a solution to a specific problem; it offers them the skills to deal with a similar problem if it arises in future. Preventative interventions focus on reducing risk and promoting protective factors in the child and young person, as well as their environmental and cultural contexts (family, classroom, school, peer group, neighbourhood etc), thereby promoting resilience.

This Phase 1 report outlines the Children and Young People's Trust's intention, in times of budgetary constraints, to maximise all of its resources in working towards a shared objective and ensure that in doing so, interventions are targeted at the most in need and at the earliest point of need.

Participation

[EEFO Mystery Shopper Evaluation Report 2010](#)

Cornwall, April 2011

The EEFO Programme, jointly commissioned by Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust and Cornwall County Council, aims to reduce inequalities for young people aged 13 to 19, by addressing the barriers identified by national and local research which prohibit young people from accessing the services they need. As part of the programme's commitment to continuous service improvement and the active involvement of young people, EEFO trained a group of young people to become mystery shopper evaluators.

This report provides an overview of the findings from the evaluation that will be relevant to all services that deal with young people.



[Your Say Survey 2010: The Results](#)

Southend, December 2010

During October and November 2010, the Southend Children's Partnership conducted a survey of over 3,300 children and young people. The survey aimed to capture young people's views, attitudes, behaviours and beliefs on a range of issues. The overall results for Southend are given in this report.

Transition

[It's My Life: A Person-Centred Approach to Transition Between Services for Children and Services for Adults](#)

Leeds, March 2011

Some of the typical barriers which young people have said they experience as they move from children's to adults' services are that:

- Staff in young people's services often don't know where/how to access information concerning adult services.
- Thresholds for adult services are often much higher than thresholds for children's services. This means that many young people need to look elsewhere for support once they become adults.
- Families may find it daunting, as different services will have different approaches. They may be treated differently in adult services than in children's services and so their roles may change.
- Adult services often won't be designed for young adults as they cover the whole age range from 18. This may come as a shock for young adults.

This multi-agency transition strategy, covering the period 2010-15, shows how all agencies in Leeds can work together to remove barriers in order to make the transition from one service to another as smooth, seamless and person-centred as possible.

Mental health

[TaMHS \(Targeted Mental Health in Schools\): Evaluation Report](#)

South Gloucestershire, April 2011

South Gloucestershire TaMHS was a one-year DfE-funded programme that piloted six interventions aimed at addressing the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in school, and so improving their attendance and attainment. This report summarises what was achieved by each project, and its legacy and sustainability.



At the time of writing, many of the projects were still ongoing and so it was not possible to fully measure their impact through a comparison of assessments at the start and finish of the intervention. Further evaluation reports will be written when this data is available.

Vulnerable children

Hidden Harm Strategy: Seeing the Child

Wiltshire, April 2011

Wiltshire's strategy for improving the outcomes for children and young people affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse, covering the period 2011-14. The strategy is jointly owned by the Wiltshire Children and Young People's Stakeholder Partnership and the Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership.

Six hidden harm priorities have been developed, and an implementation plan for each is included. The priorities are:

- All professionals working with a child should understand their responsibilities explicitly in order to achieve positive outcomes, keep children safe, and complement the support that other professionals may be providing;
- Professionals working with adult clients need to be trained to identify and assess the needs of, and the risk of harm to, children and young people;
- A robust, multi-agency data recording system needs to be developed to monitor and track the number of children of substance misusing families;
- Protecting children from harm and promoting their welfare depends on a shared responsibility and effective joint working between different agencies;
- Parental substance misuse is a consistent feature of serious case reviews. Good practice must now become standard practice in every service.

Child poverty

Child Poverty Needs Assessment

West Berkshire, March 2011

The needs assessment upon which West Berkshire's child poverty strategy is based.



Anti Child Poverty Strategy 2011- 20: Part One 2011-14 - Improving the Life Chances of Our 1 in 10

West Berkshire, March 2011

The Prevention and Early Intervention Group of the West Berkshire Children and Young People's Trust coordinated the development of this strategy, with C4EO and National Energy Action providing specialist support. It sets out area-wide strategic aims and actions to reduce child poverty.

The overall aims are:

- to break the cycle of inter-generational poverty affecting some families and their children;
- to stop families getting into poverty and to lift them out of poverty;
- for only 9% of West Berkshire children to live in relative poverty by 2020.

Giving Every Child an Equal Chance

Sunderland, January 2011

Phase 2 of Sunderland's child and family poverty strategy, covering the period 2011-13. From discussion at a child poverty workshop to consider the results of the needs assessment, a two-pronged approach emerged:

- making child and family poverty everybody's business through adopting an approach to 'child and family poverty proof' the strategic plans of all partners as routine practice;
- developing integrated neighbourhood models of service to re-target and deliver early years and early intervention.

An examination of the existing research and policy contexts is included.

Break the Cycle....To Close the Gap

Buckinghamshire, April 2011

The authority's child poverty strategy for 2011-14. The vision is, through joint working, to contribute to breaking the cycle of inter-generational poverty, so that the gap in educational, physical and emotional achievement is narrowed between the better and less well off families.

The four main priorities are to:

- increase parental employment among families in poverty, particularly lone parents, those with health issues and those from minority ethnic groups and maximise their incomes;
- reduce the health and housing inequalities of families in poverty;
- build community resilience;
- improve career advice and opportunities for children and young people in poverty.

