



In this issue:

Young carers

A joint protocol for staff in both Adult Social Care and Children's Services in Surrey, setting out the approach to young people with caring responsibilities.

Early intervention

An outline of the new arrangements and structure for early intervention in Hertfordshire, and Hampshire's Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy, which includes a discussion document on developing resilience in children and young people.

Disability

Two evaluation reports from Oxfordshire on projects carried out under the Disabled Children's Access to Childcare programme, and the findings and recommendations report of a consultation on Buckinghamshire's residential short breaks service.

Partnership working

An outline of the new vision for partnership working from Milton Keynes, North Somerset's first Partnership Plan, replacing the Children and Young People's Plan, and a new model of service delivery from Birmingham.

Workforce

A workforce strategy from North Lincolnshire, addressing previously identified areas for development, and Walsall's strategy for the recruitment and retention of social workers.

Young carers

[Interagency Strategy for Young Carers in Surrey 2011-14](#)

Surrey, January 2011

An Ofsted report, *[Support young carers: Identifying assessing and meeting the needs of young carers and their families](#)* (June 2009), found that the impact of caring responsibilities for those under the age of 18, is often neither identified nor fully understood by social care professionals.

To address this, Surrey has agreed a joint protocol for staff in both Adult Social Care and Children's Services, as responsibility is frequently shared between them.



Early intervention

[Early Intervention Teams: The Way Forward](#)

Hertfordshire, April 2011

An outline of the new arrangements and structure for early intervention. From September 2011, the delivery of early intervention and targeted support for children and families in Hertfordshire will be through local, multi-agency teams, called the Hertfordshire Integrated Targeted Support (HITS) teams.

Feedback from the Local Service Delivery Partnerships (LSDPs) consultation at the end of last year, did not indicate strong support for the proposal to develop a framework of 23 LSDPs and it has, therefore, been decided to work within existing district areas.

[Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy 2010-15](#)

Hampshire, March 2011

Prevention and early intervention activities offer the opportunity to use resources more effectively, by reducing the need for more costly, specialist services. This strategy sets out guiding principles for services to provide:

- an effective universal approach which creates an environment that identifies risk and need, and promotes resilience in children and their families
- access to timely and quality activities and services, working with voluntary organisations and local communities
- shared information and data, enabling needs-based planning and supporting the identification/assessment of vulnerable children and young people and an integrated approach to meeting their needs
- robust evaluation and feedback from children and young people and their families and carers, helping to secure resources for future provision
- workforce development to better equip staff in collaborative working
- increased awareness and better communication between agencies and services.

Included is a discussion document on developing resilience in children and young people.



[Home Childcarer Support Project: Project Evaluation Report](#)

Oxfordshire, March 2011

In June 2010, the Disabled Children's Access to Childcare (DCATCH) programme set up a home childcarer support project to improve the range of childcare options available to parents of disabled children and young people. This would be done through increasing the number of registered home childcarers and supporting parents to locate and employ a home childcarer to meet their childcare requirements.

This evaluation report has been developed to summarise the home childcarer support project, demonstrate its progress against the original project objectives, and report on the impact on families and home childcarers. The report covers the project period from June 2010 to February 2011.

[Workforce Development: Project Evaluation Report](#)

Oxfordshire, March 2011

In January 2010, the Disabled Children's Access to Childcare (DCATCH) programme set up a training programme to develop a range of support and training for childcare, play and leisure providers, so that they could offer responsive provision to disabled children and young people.

This evaluation report has been developed to summarise the workforce development project, its progress on objectives and outcomes, and its impact on childcare, play and leisure providers in Oxfordshire. The report covers training courses delivered between January and December 2010.

[Residential Short Breaks Consultation 2011: Findings and Recommendations Report](#)

Buckinghamshire, April 2011

Following on from the re-tendering of Buckinghamshire County Council's residential short breaks service, a new service provider was selected. A consultation and participation exercise was carried out to identify if the change in service provider had had any impact, positive or negative, on the children and young people who receive respite care.

The key questions the workers were asked to consult on with children and young people were:

- What they particularly liked about the service
- What they particularly disliked about the service
- If they had noticed any changes
- How they felt about the changes.



The Milton Keynes Children and Families Partnership: Vision and Principles

Milton Keynes, March 2011

Milton Keynes Council has established a new Children and Families Partnership, following its decision to bring the work of the Children's Trust to a close. The new partnership came into being on 1 April 2011.

The Partnership will not produce an annual plan, but will focus on making connections between partner organisations' individual service and business plans. Specific cross-cutting priorities will be addressed through 'commissions' that will carry out time-limited investigations to ensure organisations are working effectively.

The Partnership is made up of invited senior leaders from across children's services, including the council, primary care trust, police and probation. Invitations have also been extended to GP consortia, health services, community and voluntary sector partners, early years providers, schools and academies and the Department for Work and Pensions. The views of the borough's Youth Cabinet will also help shape the partnership's agenda.

Partnership Plan for Children and Families 2011-14

North Somerset, March 2011

The North Somerset Children and Families Partnership was formed recently to replace the role previously undertaken by the Children's Trust Management Board. This is its first Partnership Plan for Children and Families, building on the successes of the previous Children and Young People's Plan. The key themes of the plan are:

- Raising attainment and creating opportunities for all children and young people, particularly where different experiences reflect geographical variations, and for the most vulnerable children and young people.
- 'Thinking Family': recognising the need to form a 'team around the family' in order to ensure better outcomes for children and young people, particularly in the key areas reflected in both local and national Serious Case Reviews which include, children of substance misusing parents, children living with domestic violence, and children of parents with poor mental health.



Improving Outcomes for Children, Young People and Families: a New Model of Service

Birmingham, March 2011

There are three agreed priority outcomes for the Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) directorate and partners, over the next three years:

- protecting children from significant harm;
- improving engagement in learning and achievement in education;
- reducing health inequalities.

Current arrangements in the CYPF Directorate are not sufficiently focused on the delivery of the three priorities or on the development of integrated services. The work being undertaken by partners to realise their vision is shaped under four change imperatives:

- the need to improve outcomes for children, young people and families
- the need to improve performance and make services fit for purpose, particularly services for vulnerable children and young people
- the need to plan ahead for demographic pressures on particularly those services that are currently experiencing increased demand
- the need to maintain affordability for required services, within a context of decreasing public expenditure and significant pressures on services and resources.

The new model of service reflects the above and provides opportunities for schools, settings, services and practitioners to support the most disadvantaged children and young people.

See also:

[Children's Services are Changing](#) (Birmingham, April 2011) – an overview presentation of the new service delivery model and:

[Children Services are Changing: Senior Leadership Structure](#) (Birmingham, April 2011) – a briefing paper on the new team structure that underpins the new model of service.



Children's Trust Workforce Strategy 2011-13

North Lincolnshire, April 2011

A review of the authority's first Children's Workforce Strategy for 2007-10, identified some areas where further work was needed:

- better involvement and consultation with all sectors of the workforce was required to improve and increase the rate of integration across the workforce
- the actions included in the strategy needed to be clearly linked to the strategic priorities of the Children and Young People's Plan
- there needed to be a robust performance management framework and action plan to measure progress, with contributing partners being clearly identified.

This new strategy sets out to address these areas for development.

Social Worker Recruitment and Retention Strategy

Walsall, March 2011

Walsall is operating within a national and regional context of both increased customer and professional demand. Expectations placed on social workers are increasing to meet heightened anxieties about keeping children safe, and the movement to upskill the profession to equal standing with peers in education and health. Research has shown that most prospective staff will come from a catchment which is within one hour's driving time. As such, Walsall needs to be financially competitive with its neighbours whilst offering a package of 'total rewards' to position itself as the local authority of choice.

This strategy demonstrates Walsall's approach to achieving effective social worker recruitment and retention.

