

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



In this issue:

Child Poverty

Strategies from Bradford, Warwickshire and Lambeth.

Workforce

Integrated workforce strategies from East Sussex and Sefton.

CAMHS

The latest Annual Report on Surrey's Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

Family support

A framework document for all parenting support services in Medway.

Children's plans

Herefordshire's new partnership arrangements and plan for children and young people.

Participation

A review of participation in North Lincolnshire and plans for the future.

Early intervention

A framework document outlining the working arrangements between the Hertfordshire Integrated Targeted Support (HITS) teams and Local Partnerships, and the early childhood strategy from Bath & North East Somerset.

Safeguarding

A social networking policy from Bath & North East Somerset.

Child poverty

[Bradford District's Child Poverty Strategy 2011-14](#)

Bradford, June 2011

The level of child poverty in Bradford is unacceptably high, with almost 40,000 (31.8 per cent) of the district's children and young people living in relative poverty, as defined by Government. The purpose of the Child Poverty Strategy is to provide a framework within which all services in the district can work together to meet agreed outcomes associated with reducing child poverty.



Warwickshire Child Poverty Strategy

Warwickshire, April 2011

Four strategic priorities are identified in the strategy:

- creating employment opportunities to help move people out of poverty
- intervening early to break the cycle of poverty
- improving financial capability and financial awareness
- addressing housing needs and homelessness.

It is accompanied by a [background document](#), setting out why the strategy was required and how it was developed.

Child Poverty Reduction Strategy 2011-14

Lambeth, September 2011

The content of this strategy was informed and influenced by consultations carried out with key partners and stakeholders throughout 2010-11. These included a Child Poverty Conference, attended by over 100 partners and practitioners, and four multi-agency action planning workshops, attended by over 125 participants. The views of children, young people and parents have also been taken into account through existing consultation mechanisms, as well as through specific child poverty consultation sessions at a number of events.

The strategy's four priorities are to:

- reduce parental worklessness
- maximise family income and improve benefits take-up
- raise aspirations of children, young people and families and improve take-up of services
- improve children's wellbeing and life chances.

Workforce

Joint Workforce Strategy 2011-14

East Sussex, August 2011

The preparation of this strategy was informed by:

- current best practice of partners and new ways of working
- consultation with the children and young people's workforce and children and young people and their families
- the 'One Children's Workforce' assessment
- the Equalities Impact Assessment Framework – preliminary assessment process
- strategies and work plans from individual services and Children and Young People's Trust partner organisations.



It takes account of the fact that, as a consequence of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR), services need to be re-modelled and reduced, leading to a smaller children and young people's workforce. Even prior to the CSR, more flexible approaches to meeting the needs of children, young people and families were being developed which would, in some cases, require the workforce to extend its skills and knowledge.

It is accompanied by an [action plan](#).

[Integrated Children's Workforce Strategy 2011-13](#)

Sefton, July 2011

This overarching and revised strategy recognises that there will continue to be significant change, financial challenges and pressures on services, that have a major impact on the workforce.

Locally, the far-reaching changes have also brought opportunities, including closer working relationships between adult and children's services, which culminated in the amalgamation of those services into a single Directorate from April 2011. This will enhance leadership capacity and provide clarity and direction across the whole integrated workforce.

CAMHS

[CAMHS: Surrey Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Annual Report](#)

Surrey, June 2011

This report outlines the 2010/11 performance of CAMHS, including the development of [Thinking Young Minds](#), the Surrey children and young people's emotional well being and mental health strategy, which was featured in Local Notes in February 2011.

Young people continue to participate as CAMHS Youth Advisors, influencing the shape and delivery of the service. This year has seen the recruitment of three CAMHS apprentices who are now employed full-time, working with the CAMHS participation worker. Their achievements are outlined in the report.

The specialist CAMH service is now established countywide, working well in the newly formed sectors. It has received recognition locally and by the strategic health authority, following its audit.



Family support

Parenting and Family Support Framework 2011

Medway, June 2011

This framework aims to provide a comprehensive strategy for all Medway parenting support services. The Children's Trust wants all partner organisations to:

- provide a clear and supportive message to parents that they are the key to children and young people having the best start in life
- ensure that parents are, and continue to be, at the heart of design, delivery and review of services, providing them with opportunities for a range of levels of involvement
- support parents in a more coordinated and effective way and improve outcomes and reduce inequalities for children, young people and their families
- build on existing partnership working and integrated/joint services across the range of parent support partners.

Children's plans

Yes We Can: The Plan to Support Children, Young People and Families

Herefordshire, July 2011

Following changes nationally and within Herefordshire's own local partnership arrangements, the name 'Children's Trust' no longer exists in Herefordshire, although partnership arrangements to deliver services are still operational.

A very important part of this partnership is the Shadow Board. This is a group of young people aged 11 to 19 from across local secondary schools and colleges. They act as a consultative group commenting on various strategies and projects of the partnership. The Shadow Board links with school councils of both primary and secondary schools and with the youth council, to give children and young people a voice on the issues that affect them.

A revised Children's Trust Board, now called the Children and Young People's Partnership Forum, will continue to meet to develop the way forward within the new partnership arrangements, including the move to a more commissioning approach across a range of services. The Forum will be responsible for ensuring the new Children and Young People's Plan is achieved.



Participation

[Review of Participation 2006/10, and Striving for Excellence 2011/13](#)

North Lincolnshire, July 2011

This review of the participation activity of children and young people and their families in the Children and Young People's Service covers participation at three levels:

- individual
- service/setting
- strategic

In support of the authority's commitment to involving children and young people in decision making, set out in its service improvement plan Striving for Excellence, the review is followed by an outline of priorities for the future and an action plan.

Early intervention

[Hertfordshire Integrated Targeted Support Teams and Local Partnerships: Framework for Working Arrangements](#)

Hertfordshire, July 2011

This framework document outlines the working arrangements between the Hertfordshire Integrated Targeted Support (HITS) teams and local partnerships. The intention is that, with the support of the Partnership Development Officers, the partnerships will work with the HITS area management teams to develop and shape future local service provision.

Local partnerships are being established to ensure a mechanism exists to promote a local network of universal and preventative services and to support the devolution of resources to schools/groups of schools.

This framework will guide the development of arrangements to:

- provide integrated, coordinated, timely and easily accessible support for children, young people and families at the appropriate level of intervention
- enable children, young people and families to experience a smooth and efficient transfer of support when their needs require escalation or de-escalation of intervention (step-up / step-down)
- enable local partnerships to influence the development of service provision to meet local needs.



Early Childhood Strategy 2011-14

Bath & North East Somerset, June 2011

This is the third strategy to cover early years services since Children's Centres were pledged to become universal services in all communities in 2006. The strategy, drawn up by the Children's Centre Leadership Group, builds on the work of the first two strategies, whilst reflecting the need for a more targeted approach, as announced by the current Government. This strategy also recognises the restricted access to public funding and, therefore, the need to re-shape early childhood services.

Safeguarding

Social Networking Policy

Bath & North East Somerset, May 2011

This policy sets out the Children's Services policy on social networking and applies within work and to behaviours outside the work environment. New technologies are an integral part of modern life and are powerful tools which open up opportunities and challenges for staff and volunteers and organisations in many ways. This document aims to:

- assist staff working with children to work safely and responsibly with the internet and other communication technologies and to monitor their own standards and practice
- set clear expectations of behaviour and/or codes of practice relevant to social networking for educational, personal or recreational use and detail the aspects of safer online behaviour
- give a clear message that unlawful or unsafe behaviour is unacceptable and that, where appropriate, disciplinary or legal action will be taken
- support safer working practices
- minimise the risk of misplaced or malicious allegations made against staff or volunteers who work with children and young people
- prevent adults abusing or misusing their position of trust.

