



Welcome to the latest Darlington Children's Trust Partner Newsletter.

Cllr Hughes, Chair Darlington Children's Trust, Lead Member Children and Young People.

Darlington's Children's Trust leads the way

DARLINGTON'S Children's Trust has been highlighted as an example of best practice in an Ofsted survey.

The survey, which reviewed the performance, strategic direction and delivery of frontline services of six Children's Trusts across the country, aimed to highlight the impact of Children's Trusts in improving the lives of children and young people, in particular those whose circumstances make them potentially vulnerable.

The report found that the Children's Trusts surveyed demonstrated a commitment to early intervention and prevention and a focus on designing services around the needs of those most vulnerable. Plans were found to be clear and targeted and good relationships existed between the Children's Trusts and schools, social care services, the police, health services and the voluntary sector enabling the organisations to work together to meet the needs of those at risk.

The full report can be found on Ofsted's website at www.ofsted.gov.uk

Cllr Cyndi Hughes, Chair of Darlington Children's Trust and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, said: "We are delighted Darlington Children's Trust has been recognised by the national inspection agency, Ofsted, as working well in ensuring the safety and care of our most vulnerable young people.

"We will continue to build on this good practice to ensure those at risk continue to get the care and support they need from all the agencies available which will help them to build meaningful and rewarding lives."



Review of Children's Trust Arrangements

The review of Children's Trust arrangements have been released by Department of Education on 3rd November 2010.

In July 2010 the new coalition government announced that in the autumn there would be a review of Children's Trust Arrangements. It was announced in the summer that statutory Children's Trust guidance would be withdrawn and that Children and Young People's Plan regulations would be revoked. Therefore Children's Trust Boards will not be required to produce a children and young people's plan.

The Department of Education released more information on 3rd November 2010 about the timescales to the changes for 'statutory' Children's Trust Arrangements.

The government have confirmed that the intention to remove the requirement of specifically having a Children's Trust Board in every area as 'statutory' is planned to happen in the second parliamentary session which will commence in May 2012.

The government have confirmed that there are no changes to the 'Duty to Cooperate' statutory requirement from the 2004 Children Act. This is outlined below:

"Partnership working gets results. We have no plans to remove this sensible principle, enshrined in the 'duty to cooperate' (section 10 of the Children Act 2004) from legislation. Local authorities should continue to lead partnership arrangements that make sense for local people and services.

'Relevant partners' continue to be:

- district councils
- strategic health authorities
- primary care trusts
- youth offending teams
- police
- probation services
- persons providing Connexions services in pursuance of section 68 of the Education and Skills Act 2008
- Jobcentre Plus"

The forthcoming Education Bill will, subject to the will of Parliament, remove the 'duty to cooperate' from:

- maintained schools
- FE and sixth-form colleges
- non-maintained special schools
- academies, city technology colleges and city colleges for the technology of arts.

These bodies will no longer have to be represented on Children's Trust Boards, and schools and colleges will be free to form partnership arrangements in the way that best meets local circumstances.

A new approach to children's trusts – Q&A

Q. Why is the Coalition Government considering removing the requirement to have a Children's Trust Board?

A. The Government believes local areas should be free to establish the partnership structures that best meet local circumstances and needs. This may include a management board where local partnerships consider it helpful, but we do not want to prescribe its functions or its constitution. While the Government wants to repeal the requirement to have a Children's Trust Board, this may not happen until the second parliamentary session, which is currently due to commence in May 2012. This intention is, of course, subject to parliamentary approval.

Q. Are Children's Trust partners still able to share resources and pool budgets?

A. Yes. Local authorities and 'relevant partners' may continue to pool funds and share resources, subject to any specific restrictions on partners' funding arrangements. This includes integrating the use of assets, resources and new technologies in support of improved service delivery, or providing staff, goods or services, or accommodation. Partners may also make contributions to a fund out of which payments may be made.

Q. Will these changes mean Children's Trust partners are still able to share information?

A. Yes. Information sharing may continue as part of the section 10 cooperation arrangements – the duty on LAs to make and sustain arrangements to promote cooperation between the authority and its partner organisations. It is for local partnerships to agree the common principles and governance arrangements that will guide their work, including any information-sharing protocols. They will also need to continue to ensure any personal data is shared in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, the Human Rights Act 1998 and the common law duty of confidentiality.

To view the press release direct please visit the website below:

www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a0066362/more-freedom-and-flexibility-a-new-approach-for-childrens-trust-boards-children-and-young-peoples-plans-and-the-duty-to-cooperate

Workforce Development Strategy

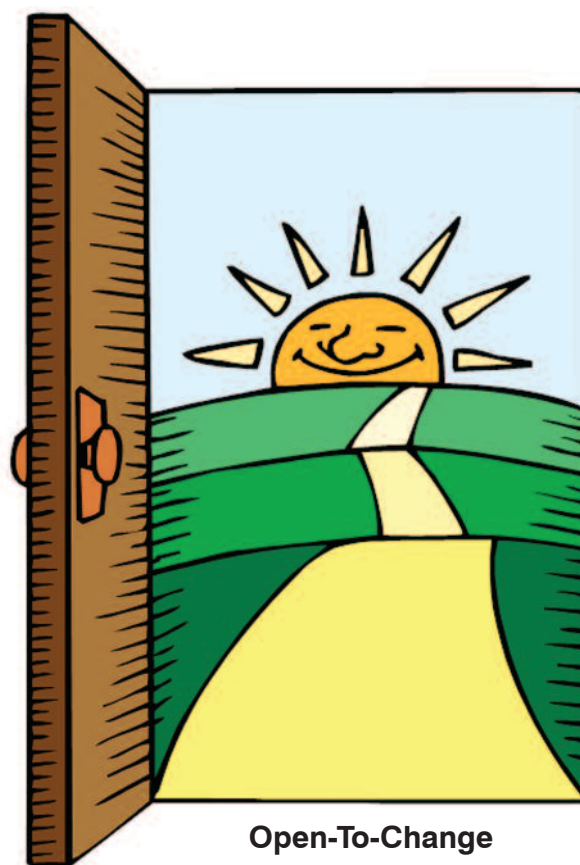


The Children and Young People's Workforce Strategy has been refreshed. The main priority areas remain the same:

- **Understanding our workforce** - We will ensure that we have the right people with the right skills in the right job at the right time. To achieve this we need to understand the scope of the workforce.
- **Recruitment, Retention Remodelling and Induction** - We will attract and retain a world-class workforce, offer employment choice and opportunity and give each practitioner the best start by an agreed effective induction programme.
- **Integrated Working** - We will support the development of services that work together collaboratively and innovatively to put the child and young person at the centre and which cut across professional boundaries. We also want to help create a culture of trust, respect and relationships through recognizing the contribution all practitioners make and respecting the limitations of professional competence and expertise.
- **Continuing Professional Development** - We will develop a framework, which provides opportunities for maximizing individual and team potential across the children's workforce in order to improve the knowledge, understanding and skills of the children's workforce.
- **Leadership and Management** – Our leaders are key to the delivery of improved outcomes for children and young people. We must ensure that our managers and leaders inspire, motivate, challenge, support and reward. They must be able to engage and deal with the changing and complex responsibilities brought about by the Every Child Matters change agenda.

The strategy has been strengthened and brought to life with more involvement of key stakeholders in its review and development. Frontline practitioners and managers from all areas of the workforce were involved and developed the vision for the workforce.

Our vision for the children, young people and families' workforce is...

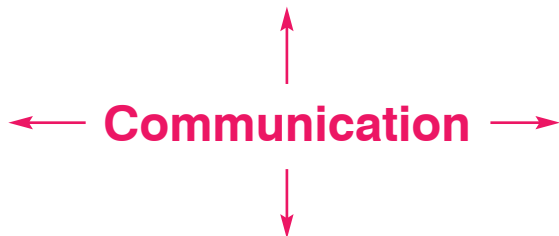


Open-To-Change

Based on ambition and passion for the best, it is underpinned by the model of keeping the child or young person at the heart of every intervention. This will be achieved by developing and providing effective, high quality integrated services built around the child, young person, family and community.

The workforce recognised the changing environment in which they are working; they recognised the importance of being supported through these times to ensure they are at their best to provide excellent services to children, young people and their families. To achieve this they would like:

“Transparency through honest and effective



(In all directions, with all stakeholders)”

Direct quote from staff

They outlined their ambition and motivation for delivering the best outcomes for the people they work with, they demonstrated their commitment to working together in an integrated way, they are striving to be excellent in their practice and want to feel valued and respected.

Over 200 children and young people were also involved to tell us what they want from the staff that work with them. The children and young people were very clear about the qualities and behaviours they want from their workforce...

- They want mutual respect
- The best possible person working with them
- Staff to have their interests at the heart
- Staff to be knowledgeable and well trained in what they do
- Staff to develop rapport
- Good communication skills including listening skills
- Have a good personality with a sense of humour
- Values children and young people
- Promotes equality and inclusion
- Motivated and enthusiastic

They want choice in who they work with and they would like consistency and continuity.

The refresh along with the supporting information from children and young people is available through the Children's Trust website. For more information please contact the Workforce Development Team on 01325 388807

Child Poverty Conference

60 delegates attended a Child Poverty conference held at Darlington Football Club on the 24th November arranged by Darlington Partnership and Darlington Children's Trust.

The conference delegates attended a variety of workshops that looked at 'Understanding Child Poverty' and 'Addressing Child Poverty'. The key note speakers at the conference included Catherine Fitt, C4EO Chair Child Poverty Theme Advisory Group, Sally Thatcher a civil servant from Child Poverty Unit and Professor Bradshaw, Associate Director Social Policy Research Unit, University York. A Child Poverty Needs Assessment has been developed for Darlington and this and the presentations from the conference can be accessed at the following web page:

www.darlington.gov.uk/Children/childrenstrust/MeetingEvents/Childrens+Trust+and+Darlington+Partnership+Conference+2010.htm

New on the web

New and updated documents are available on the Children's Trust Website

- Workforce Development Strategy
- Participation Strategy
- Volunteering Strategy
- Inclusion Framework

www.darlington.gov.uk/Children/childrenstrust/ChildrensTrustPublications/CT+Key+Documents.htm

