

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

This issue focuses on the Integration of Children's Services in Darlington.

A more detailed booklet about the arrangements is also available for partners *Integrated Service Delivery in Darlington: What the new ways of working mean to you.*



Mark Cain PCT Locality Children's Services Health Lead

Gill Walker Darlington Borough Council Assistant Director Partnerships

Integration of Children's Services in Darlington

Integrated working is about two or more agencies coming together to work to achieve shared outcomes.

The way we will plan our service activity from now on will be based on the model of joint planning and commissioning. Integrated working will be supported by integrated data sets, integrated resources, integrated staff development and by using common processes, such as the common assessment framework.

What does integration mean?

By integrating services there is more scope to look at staff numbers, bases and locations and budgets as a whole. By having this bigger picture, we are better able to plan for the outcomes we want to achieve.

We have developed a integrated model of universal and targeted services to ensure that 'local services meet local need'. The integrated teams have brought together a number of key staff under an Integrated Service Manager. Three teams have been established to focus on early intervention and support services across the Borough for children, young people and families.

Each Integrated Service Manager will have responsibility for a range of services for a geographical area of the Borough.

It is important that integrated service teams develop a good relationship with the universal services, such as schools and GP surgeries, and that they have clear processes to refer on to more specialist services such as social work, educational psychology and therapy services. Integration means that each community will have access to:

- A common offer across the borough
- Parenting support
- Affordable childcare
- Common opening hours
- Family learning
- Common core of impartial information, advice and guidance
- Access to play and positive activities
- Common support for transition (beyond schools)
- Common language and tools across services
- Common assessment framework - CAF.

Integrated Tools and Processes

Common Assessment Framework (CAF)

Darlington College continues to deliver the CAF Training Programme on behalf of Darlington Children's Trust. To date we have trained 597 practitioners in all CAF modules.

The focus of these sessions is on completing the CAF Form and ensuring the voice of the child or young person is captured, this is something which has been implemented following the CAF evaluation.

The CAF Support Group continues to meet on a Friday afternoon at Central House, Gladstone Street. All practitioners are advised to bring CAFs to this group.

The number of Pre-assessments and CAFs logged with the CAF Hub to date is 455. The CAF Hub wishes to remind all practitioners to remember to log all activities especially dates of meetings and if a CAF is closed.

For more information please contact:

01325 346760

01325 346761

01325 346286

The Children's Workforce Development Council introduced a new CAF Form in July 2009 and Darlington has now adopted this form. The new CAF Form now incorporates a Delivery Plan and Review Sheet and this now replaces the ones originally developed.

Ann Lovegreen will meet with other CAF Co-ordinators across Durham and Tees Valley to start to look at cross border issues and develop protocols.

National eCAF

Ann Lovegreen represents the North East on the National eCAF Expert Users Group. National eCAF will be available to some authorities from Spring 2010. There is 12 months pre-deployment work needed around readiness and accreditation before local authorities will be able to adopt the National System.

Information Sharing

The new DCSF Information Sharing Guidance materials are available and have been widely distributed across Children's Services and our partners. The credit card which lists the 7 golden rules and 7 key questions for Information Sharing along with the pocket guide are very useful resources.

ContactPoint

The ContactPoint Team is currently undertaking major tasks around data cleansing of national datasets within our accountable body and user administration functions. A user admin database has been commissioned jointly with Stockton local authority and provided by Xentrall shared services which will allow us to fully manage our ContactPoint Users.

New milestones include having a practitioner fully trained and accessing ContactPoint by Nov/Dec 2009 and a local data source connected within two months of national data feeds recommencing being fed to ContactPoint. A managed user group of practitioners have been trained in Nov 2009, with training in full to commence Jan 2010. Accreditation work continues with Children's Services reaching accreditation in Sept 09.

We continue to work very closely with our partners aided by the Implementing ContactPoint in Health Group established by Mark Cain. We are also working with schools and further education establishments and have engaged with the Voluntary Sector, private and independent sectors.

Communication Leaflets informing young people, parents/carers of ContactPoint have been distributed to every child/student within our schools.

Shielding is an ongoing activity on ContactPoint as and when appropriate, and policies and procedures have been developed by a sub group of the LCSB, and we are now starting to look at six-month reviews of our shielded records. Procedures for movement from pre-deployment to steady state operation are now starting to be developed.

DCSF Aspects Survey - Children's Trusts

DARLINGTON Children's Trust participated recently in a Ofsted Aspects Survey which will enable Darlington to share our innovative practise with other Children's Trusts.

On the 3rd and the 4th November HMI Inspectors visited three schools, Hummersknott School & Language College, St Aidan's Church of England Academy and Branksome Science College. During these visits Inspectors met with Head Teachers, pastoral staff, young people and partners who work within the school to support the delivery of the Safer School Partnership model. Furthermore HMI Inspectors visited Darlington's Turnaround provision and also met up with senior managers from across the Children's Trust to discuss the Safer School Partnership.

On the 11th December an HMI Inspector (Cathryn Kirby) returned to Darlington to observe a Common Assessment Framework support group to complete the case study.

Ofsted will circulate a good practise guidance publication for Children's Trusts in May 2010. Darlington Children's Trust will be acknowledged in this publication for our support with the DCSF aspect survey.

Darlington Children's Trust Display Stands

We now have some Darlington Children's Trust pop up display stands and marketing materials for all children's trust partners to access when organising events and activities for partners, the wider community or families in Darlington.

The stands and marketing materials are available to all partners and can be accessed by contacting Melanie Brown, Children's Trust Partnership Manager on melanie.brown@darlington.gov.uk



DARLINGTON Children's Trust
Putting Children First

Darlington Children's Trust works together in a shared commitment to improving children and young people's lives by addressing the five Every Child Matters outcomes of:

- Be Healthy
- Stay Safe
- Enjoy & Achieve
- Make a Positive Contribution
- Achieve Economic Well-being

For more information about how to access Darlington Children's Trust services contact 0800 9172121
www.darlington.gov.uk/children/childrenstrust

Pupils and teachers celebrate £57 million to transform three Darlington schools

THREE secondary schools are celebrating after it was announced that they will share £57.6 million of government funding to renew their buildings.

Darlington Council put together a bid earlier this year to the Government's Building Schools for the Future fund, to transform Hurworth, Longfield and Branksome schools. The money means that all of the Borough's secondary schools will have been rebuilt or remodelled in the last four years. Despite the schools' success and popularity, all three have older buildings which are increasingly unsuitable for modern education. Last year all of them made emergency closures as a result of problems with heating systems and electricity or gas supplies.

The money will allow each school to be significantly rebuilt, with some existing buildings retained and modernised. The work will include providing Longfield, which has Sports College status, with state-of-the-art sports facilities and all three schools will get new facilities available to the community and



for teaching Diplomas. Facilities for children with special education needs will also be improved at the three schools. Hummersknott, Haughton and Carmel RC schools will also receive some of the funding to update and improve ICT systems.

Plans will now be drawn up with construction work at the schools expected to start in 2011.

They all have sites big enough to take new builds or remodelling work without disrupting the education of pupils, who will continue to attend school on site.

Councillor Jenny Chapman, Cabinet Member for Children and Young people, said: "This money is absolutely wonderful news for these three schools and education in Darlington as a whole. It is a lot of money which will make a huge difference to education in the Borough. We want all our schools to be schools of choice. These schools will be transformed into modern, new centres for education, with state-of-the-art facilities. It really is exciting news."

Children's Trust conference attracts 110 delegates

MORE than 100 people attended a Children's Trust conference in Darlington to hear key note speakers talk about ways in which closer working between organisations provides better services for children, young people and their families.

David Colin-Thome, national clinical director for primary care spoke about the need for more joined up working amongst organisations who work with children. The conference also heard from Peter Grady from the Children's Workforce Development Council at the event at Darlington Football Club. Darlington Children's Trust launched its own integration of Children's Services between Darlington

Borough Council and the Primary Care Trust at the conference, which will mean more joined up working between local authority and health care services. Councillor Jenny Chapman, Darlington Council's Cabinet Member for Children and Young People said: "It was excellent to see so many people from different organisations, all who have an input into services for children and families coming together to hear about ways in which we can all work more closely together to improve those services for people here in Darlington."

The presentations from the conference are available to view on-line at www.darlington.gov.uk/conference

The Youth Independent Advisory Group (YIAG)

County Durham and Darlington's Criminal Justice Board (CDDCJB) IAG and YIAG was formed as a result of the Macpherson Inquiry which was set up to examine the issues of policing arising out of the murder of Stephen Lawrence. Following that, the Morris Report recommended the setting up IAGs in order to maintain stronger community links with the police and assist in the investigation of 'major or critical incidents', particularly where these may have an effect on public confidence.

In County Durham and Darlington, it was decided, the Local Criminal Justice Board should set-up each Independent Advisory Group rather than the Police. The IAG provides a vital service of advising the LCJB as to how it can best increase trust & confidence in the Criminal Justice Services (CJS) for young people within the community. The IAG acts as an advisor to the LCJB to help them to remove discrimination. This is done by discussing areas where young people believe they are discriminated against and then identifying ways to improve these problem areas. The independent advice that the group can offer has a huge value in its ability to prevent events developing to a serious level.

Purpose of the IAG

- To provide independent advice to the LCJB and other Criminal Justice Agencies in relation to:
- Written Strategies, Policies and Procedures that affect Young People.
- Training within agencies (where appropriate, evaluate training courses and provide input to agency training)
- Service Delivery – In relation to youth crime and the equality of service provided to young people.

Chief Inspector Alison Jackson said "Ultimately the YIAG acts as a critical friend to the LCJB. We are keen for more Young People to become involved with the Youth IAG and would welcome members from Darlington as it is not currently represented by any Young People. This is a key way for Young People to be heard and shape views within the Criminal Justice System."

For more information on Youth IAG'S please contact Chief Inspector Alison Jackson at alison.jackson@durham.pnn.police.uk

Darlington Children's Trust Website access

Darlington Children's Trust has recently added information about commissioning, Integration Children's Services and Locality Profiles on its web pages.

The website will be regularly updated and to find out more information about Darlington Children's Trust please visit www.darlington.gov.uk/Children/childrenstrust

The screenshot shows the Darlington Borough Council website for the Children's Trust. At the top, there are navigation links: Home, Contacts, Location Map, Accessibility, and High Contrast Version. A search bar is on the right. Below the council logo, the page title is 'Darlington Children's Trust'. The main content area includes a 'Children's Trust' section with a list of services: Be Healthy, Stay Safe, Enjoy & Achieve, Make a Positive Contribution, and Achieve Economic Well-being. There is also a section for 'More information about the Darlington Children's Trust' and contact details for Melanie Brown, Children's Trust Partnership Manager, including her address and phone number.