

Welcome to Issue 3 of the Children's Trust Newsletter, which highlights issues that have been discussed at recent Children's Trust Board meetings. Minutes from these meetings and further information are available on the Worcestershire Partnership website:

<http://www.worcestershirepartnership.org.uk/cms/theme-groups/children-and-young-peoples.aspx>

Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2011-2014

Although there is no longer a statutory responsibility on the Children's Trust to produce a CYPP, the Children's Trust Board felt that this was the most effective way of communicating the priorities for children, young people and their families in Worcestershire to all the agencies involved. After wide consultation, the new Children & Young People's Plan was approved at the Children's Trust Board meeting of 16th June 2011 and will be published in mid-August. The

widget version will be available in the early Autumn. The priorities of the Plan are: children & young people will be protected from harm and neglect; educational outcomes will be outstanding for all children & young people; young people will move successfully into adulthood; children & young people have the opportunity to grow up in stable and secure families and children & young people will grow up healthily.

Positive Activities Consultation

Further to Cabinet's decision on May 26, 2011 consultation is now beginning on the future of Positive Activities in Worcestershire and the way that these services for young people are delivered. The consultation is now available online at:

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/haveyoursay by clicking on Current Consultations and by searching for Positive Activities. Paper copies are also being made available in Youth Centres, Libraries and Worcestershire Hubs. Worcestershire Youth Cabinet is leading the consultation for young people, and events for young people are being organised to take place in September. A dedicated event for the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) will also

take place on September 17, 2011 from 10am until 12 noon. Invitations are being sent out and VCS organisations can register their interest in the event by contacting Lynsey Squair by email at lsquair@worcestershire.gov.uk or by calling 01905 822053. The consultation will close on September 30, 2011 and responses to the consultation will inform the decision at Cabinet on November 24, 2011. The Cabinet paper of May 26, 2011 includes details on the proposal which is being consulted on. The consultation is being widely publicised to encourage as many people as possible with an interest in positive activities, and particularly young people, to get involved and provide their views.

Children & Young People's Engagement

The Board discussed children and young people's engagement with the Children's Trust. In order to make representation more effective, it was agreed in principle that the functions of the Children's Trust Shadow Board and the Worcestershire Youth Cabinet be merged.

Safeguarding & Looked After Services Improvement Plan

An unannounced two-day inspection on the Council's contact, referral and assessment arrangements took place last month (Tuesday, June 14 and Wednesday, June 15, 2011). This is an annual inspection by Ofsted for each local authority's children's social care department which validated the Council's view that there had been many positive changes since the previous inspection.

Inspectors pointed to areas of strength including the significant progress made on the overall restructure of Children's Services and the new referral and assessment processes, which they deemed effective in identifying and managing risk of harm to children and young people.

In addition, managers in the duty and assessment teams were found to manage risk of harm robustly, thereby ensuring appropriate action is taken to safeguard children and young people. Social workers themselves reported that they have good support and advice from their managers about their case work and decision making process.

Ten areas of work were categorised as 'meeting statutory requirements', many of which acknowledged the improvement since the last unannounced inspection (July 6 and 7, 2010) and the full announced inspection of safeguarding and looked after children (October 4 -15, 2010). These areas include social workers' caseloads being manageable, enabling them to complete their work in a timely way and the increasing use of the common assessment framework as a preventative approach to provide multi-agency support for children, young people and their families.

Five areas were listed as 'areas for development' and the council has confirmed that work was already taking place to address these. Inspectors did not identify any areas for priority action as a result of this inspection. Worcestershire County Council welcomes the findings of the report, which shows that the right steps are being taken for young people in the County.

Service Visits & Safeguarding Conversations

In order to give the Board a more qualitative understanding of the performance and impact of services, Board members, including members of the CT Shadow Board, will engage in a visit to a service setting each quarter. Two Board members will also have a conversation with key workers to look at one 'child in need' case per quarter. The first service visit, in June, was to the Bluebell Wood Children's Centre.

Children's Trust Board Members

Lead Member with Responsibility for Social Care (Chair) Cllr Liz Eyre	Leader or Chief Executive from one of the District Councils Roger Hollingworth	Senior person from Acute NHS Trust (with lead role for maternity services) Helen Blanchard
Non-Executive Director of NHS Worcestershire (Vice Chair) Carol Thompson	Head of Youth Offending Service Keith Barham	Chair of Worcestershire Association of Governors Malcolm Richards
Director of Delivery, NHS Worcestershire (Chair of JCE) Simon Hairsnape	Senior person from Job Centre Plus Ann Williams	Representative from the VCS Michael Hunter
Director of Children's Services Gail Quinton	Head Teacher representative from Primary Schools Vivienne Cranton	Representative from the VCS Sally Ellison
Chief Executive, WCC Trish Haines	Head Teacher representative from Middle Schools Wendy Taylor	Parent/carer representative Sue Onions
Joint Director of Public Health Richard Harling	Head Teacher representative from Secondary Schools Clive Corbett	Second Parent/carer representative or "supporter" Rachel Adams
Senior person from Probation Tom Currie	Head Teacher representative from Special Schools Anne Starr	Associate Director from Worcestershire PCT (with lead role for children and young people) Marie McCurry
Senior person from West Mercia Police Stephen Cullen	Post-16 representative Michael Kitcatt	GP representative Vacancy
Participant Observer: Chair of the Safeguarding Children Board Hilary Thompson		

For more information on the work of the Children's Trust Contact Shirley Millington, by telephone 01905 822025 or email smillington@worcestershire.gov.uk Or visit the Children's Trust web site: www.worcestershirepartnership.org.uk/children