



Welcome to Issue 5 of the Children's Trust Newsletter, which now incorporates the latest news on Workforce Development as well as highlighting issues that have been discussed at recent Children's Trust Board meetings. Minutes of the Children's Trust Board meetings are available at the following:

<http://www.worcestershirepartnership.org.uk/cms/structure-of-the-partnership/theme-groups/childrens-and-young-people.aspx>

Early Help Strategy

The Early Help Strategy for Children & Young People and their Families was approved by Cabinet in September 2011. In October there was an extraordinary meeting of the Children's Trust Board in order to give members an overview of the Strategy and to discuss how the Board can support and add value to its development.

The Strategy forms part of the overall joint commissioning approach of the Council and supports delivery of the Corporate Plan and the Children & Young People's Plan. It aims to ensure that any issues are nipped in the bud and hence don't escalate. Effective Early Help empowers families to regain control of their circumstances without state support.

The role of the Children's Trust Board is to:

- Establish a working group to advise on implementation and to identify opportunities for strategic and operational alignment.
- Provide peer scrutiny to progress on the strategy.
- Drive the Assertive Early Help approach via the Workforce Strategy Partners Group of the CTB.
- Develop local partnership arrangements, including building effective and assertive relationships with the local service offers and playing a key role in performance management.

Hellos and Goodbyes

At the Board meeting on 20th October, Dr Jim Goodman was welcomed as the GP representative. Ann Starr (Special Schools' representative) and Clive Corbett (Secondary Schools' representative) have completed their term of office. The Board is very grateful for the valuable contributions made by both Ann and Clive over the past 18 months. Stephen Freer is the new Special Schools' representative and Alun Williams has taken over from Clive Corbett as the Secondary Schools' representative.

Spotlight on Workforce Development

The Partnership & Workforce Development Service is part of the Children's Services Directorate. We provide a range of learning and development opportunities for the Children and Young People's Workforce. To find out more about what we offer, please follow:

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/education-and-learning/stay-safe/workforce-practice-development.aspx>

The Integrated Working Programme (IWP) includes:

- Common Assessment e-learning, which gives an overview of the Common Assessment Process.
- Common Assessment Modules – Basic Assessment Skills, Working with Families & Role of Lead Professional.
- CAF Cards, a tool to use with young people.
- Early Support describes how to use these materials with families of children with disabilities or complex health needs.
- Hidden Sentence, which raises awareness of issues facing families with a member in prison.

The Common Induction aims to give everyone in the children and young people's workforce a common understanding and direction on induction.

Online Learning Opportunities cover:

- Common Assessment e-Learning;
- Safeguarding Group A;
- Working with Children with Disabilities

The Partnership & Workforce Development Service would like to welcome Laura Folkers. Laura will be taking a key role in the development of Integrated Working and the Assertive Early Help Workforce Approach. Laura comes to us with considerable experience in early intervention services and we look forward to her joining us on 14th November 2011.

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 Alun Williams	Second Parent/carer representative or "supporter"
Senior person from Probation Tom Currie	Head Teacher representative from Special Schools Stephen Freer	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 Dr Jim Goodman
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