

Issue 1 - February 2005



Children's Trust News

FOR EVERYONE WORKING WITH CHILDREN IN SUNDERLAND



Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust
City Hospitals Sunderland NHS
Foundation Trust
South of Tyne and Wearside
Mental Health NHS Trust
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear
Strategic Health Authority
Voluntary and Community Sector



University of
Sunderland



NATIONAL PROBATION SERVICE
for England and Wales

Northumbria



Learning+Skills Council
Tyne and Wear



City of Sunderland College



Sunderland Youth Parliament

Sunderland Youth Offending Service

Welcome to the first in a series of 'Children's Trust News', the newsletter for staff in all children's services, bringing you up-to-date news on events and progress in developing the Sunderland Children's Trust.

There will be six issues of the newsletter a year, incorporating the ISA Newsletter that has been in circulation for the past twelve months.

Children's Trust News offers you a wide range of news and updates. It is for staff in all organisations that have a stake in the future of children's services. We are sure that the Newsletter will hold something of interest to you, whether you work directly with children, young people and their families, or are involved in planning and managing services.

If you wish to make any comments about this newsletter or offer contributions for future issues, please contact: Kathryn Rutherford, Communications Officer, City of Sunderland Social Services, 50 Fawcett Street, Sunderland, SR1 1RF Tel: 0191 566 1832 email: communications@ssd.sunderland.gov.uk

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SUNDERLAND CHILDREN'S TRUST

The Children's Trust

The main aim of the Children's Trust is to achieve the best possible outcomes for all children and young people in Sunderland especially in relation to the five outcomes in the Government's Green Paper "Every Child Matters":

- Being healthy
- Staying safe
- Enjoying and achieving
- Making a positive contribution
- Achieving economic well-being

Arrangements for the Sunderland Children's Trust are taking shape. The Children's Trust and Executive Group have been established, supported by the Children's Trust Steering Group, which was originally founded when the Green Paper was published in 2003.

The Children's Trust is chaired by the Leader of the Council, and its members include Lead Council members (Education and Social Services and Health) and the Chairs of the TPCT, City Hospitals, Northumbria Police Authority, Northumbria Probation Board, Connexions, and the Learning and Skills Council. Schools are represented by two Head Teachers, and a School Governor nominated by Sunderland Governors' Forum. The Youth Offending Service and Voluntary and Community Sector will also be represented. The Trust will provide leadership and set priorities for the development of Children's Services.

The Executive Group, chaired by the Chief Executive of the Council, will be responsible for implementing actions to deliver best outcomes for children. Partner organisations are represented on the Executive Group at Chief Officer level.

The Children's Trust Project Team

A Project Team has been set up, headed by Barbara Williams, who has been seconded to the post of Children's Trust Programme Manager. The Project Team includes:

Barbara Williams

Children's Trust
Programme Manager
0191 566 1884

Chris Winter

seconded from TPCT to the post of Care Pathways Manager
0191 566 1498

Gill Wall

Head of Strategy and Performance
0191 566 1881

Anne Henderson

Head Teacher, Barmston Village School
0191 219 3700

John Markall

Senior Policy Planning and Development Manager
0191 566 1836

Marc Hopkinson

Children's Lead, Sunderland TPCT
0191 529 7194

Pat Glass

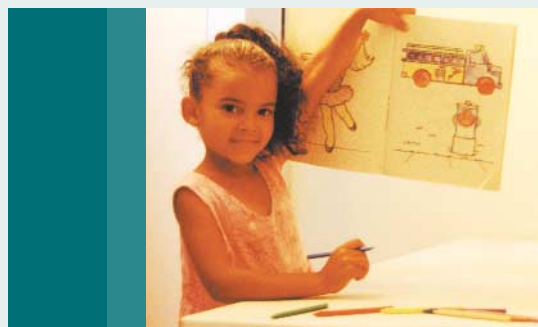
Assistant Head of Service, SEN
0191 553 2235

A Performance and Information Manager for the Children's Trust will be appointed.

The Project Team is engaged in a number of initiatives that involve others from the partner agencies. This work is set out in the Project Plan, a flavour of which is presented in this newsletter; more information and detail about the plan and the work of the Team is available from Barbara Williams or any member of the Project Team.



A Vision for The Sunderland Children's Trust



'Working together, to improve life chances and aspirations for each child in Sunderland'

The Vision:

The Children's Trust is not a new organisation. It is a way of working which brings organisations together to plan and deliver services in a more integrated way. All partner organisations will make a contribution to the achievement of better outcomes for children and young people. The most important thing is to build services around the needs of children, young people, and their families, and not around organisational boundaries.

In planning and delivering services, which are more integrated, we will build on the excellent models which are already making a difference to the lives of children, such as the Youth Offending Service, Sure Start, Behaviour and Education Support Teams. (We will bring you news of how some of these models are working, in Children's Trust News).

Core features of the Children's Trust are:

- Shared objectives linked to the five Every Child Matters outcomes for children and young people.
- Integrated service delivery (e.g. multi-disciplinary team, co-location of staff).
- Single planning and commissioning process (support where appropriate by pooling of budgets and resources).
- A Director of Children's Services (responsible for Education and Children's Social Services within the Council and for the co-ordination of some other services).
- A Lead Council member for children and young people.

What is happening now?

Working to achieve the vision

Stakeholder events

Part of the Project Team's communication strategy is to hold a series of stakeholder events in February and March. Each of these events will bring together representation from key organisations and will:

- Describe the vision, key features and principles for a Children's Trust.
- Illustrate service integration in practice through presentations of working models.
- Invite questions and comments.

The meetings will take place at the following venues:

- 23rd February 3.45 p.m. - Barmston Village School
- 28th February 3.30 p.m. - Southwick Primary School (Southwick Annex)
- 7th March 3.45 p.m. - Houghton Kepier School
- 8th March 9.30 a.m. - Leechmere Training Centre
- 15th March 4.00 p.m. - New Silksworth Infant School
- 22nd March 3.30 p.m. - Valley Road Primary School

Participants will be asked to respond to the following five questions:

- How do you wish to be informed (website, briefing sessions, newsletters, etc)?
- How do you want to be involved in future developments?
- How can services be improved by integration (and which services do you think will benefit from integration)?
- How can children and young people best be involved?
- Do you have any concerns or issues about Children's Trusts that you wish to raise?

We welcome your responses to these questions; please send them to Jean Bruce at City of Sunderland Social Services, 50 Fawcett Street, Sunderland, SR1 1RF.

What else is happening? >>>

What else is happening?

Some service areas have been identified as a priority for further integration. They are:

- CAMHS
- Services for Disabled Children
- Early Years
- Substance Misuse

These services are taking different approaches to integration, which reflect differences in the services and the needs that they meet.

The Project Plan includes:

- **Consulting widely** with staff in all agencies and with children, young people, and their families about the development of the Children's Trust and integrated services in Sunderland;
- A priority for the Project Team is to share this work with **all stakeholders**, including the voluntary and community sector, children, young people, and their families;
- The Project Team is **mapping current resources** invested in Children's Services and is **reviewing current partnership arrangements**;
- It is developing a City-wide **family support strategy**;
- Over the next year it will be drawing up a **Children's Services Plan** to be in place by April 2006;
- It is looking at **joint commissioning arrangements** in Sunderland,
- It is preparing for the **joint inspections** of children's services that are due to take place from April 2006.

Seen AND Heard

Our work with children and young people

Listening and responding to the views of children and young people is a priority for the Sunderland Children's Trust. In each issue of this newsletter we will include specific items about our work with children and young people.

In this issue we are focusing on the development of Involving Children Standards in the Children's Fund Programme - an attempt to establish a benchmark for children and young people's participation.

Sunderland Children's Fund has piloted two sets of standards through the Home School Partnership Programme and Wear Kids Project.

The Home School Partnership (HSP) project works with children who are at risk of social and educational exclusion. Each child the project works with has a pivotal role in setting their action plan, and this plan can include individual, group and class-based work, within the school and/or home setting. The HSP project has piloted the "NCH Standards for Children & Young People's Participation".

Wear Kids works with children aged 8-12 who are at risk of becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour.

The project offers each child a programme of interventions to meet their individual needs. Wear Kids has piloted the "Hear By Right Standards" developed by National Youth Association in partnership with the Local Government Association.



The two projects were chosen to pilot the Standards because they are inclusive in nature and have an advanced understanding of what involving children effectively means.

Each set of Standards has themes that include key points or key questions to enable an agency to identify how and when they involve children and young people. This enables the agency to identify what they do well and where they need to develop.

Emerging findings from the pilot suggests a set of Standards would act as an excellent tool for an agency to conduct a self-assessment and to identify areas for improving the involvement of children and young people.

A multi-agency working group has been set up with an aim to ensure children and young people are involved in the decisions that affect their lives and in the design and delivery of the services they receive. Children and young people are partners in this work.

For more information on the Standards and the work of the Working Group please contact Norah Stevens, Participation Officer on 0191 219 3843 or Mike Elsy, Youth Strategy Officer on 0191 553 7416.

The Service Delivery Room

In each issue the Service Delivery Room will focus on a specific area of work that contributes to the wider agenda for integrating children's services.

This issue focuses on: **Wear Kids**

Preventative services are increasingly recognised as a tool to provide support for young people and their families before they reach crisis point. Youth Inclusion Support Panels are an early intervention support programme that seeks to prevent offending and anti-social behaviour by offering voluntary support services to high risk 5-13 year olds and their families.

Sunderland Children's Fund, in partnership with the Youth Offending Service, launched '**Wear Kids**', Sunderland's Youth Inclusion and Support Panel Programme, in September 2004.

The '**Wear Kids**' programme takes a pivotal role in reducing youth crime by adopting a joined-up approach to service provision. The programme works closely with police, schools, health and other existing agencies and has established good working relationships within the community where panels are held on a monthly basis.

The main emphasis of the panel's work is ensuring that young people and their families receive, at the earliest opportunity, mainstream public services together with complementary interventions from voluntary and community groups.

Initially launched in North Sunderland as a pilot scheme, Wear Kids plan to develop a City-wide service by April 2005 with the Tenancy Relations Team financing two posts within the programme. This aims to help young people and their families sustain their tenancies through the reduction in anti-social behaviour.

To support the intensive work the Wear Kids team undertake with young people, the programme has also developed 'Tackle It' a citizenship education programme to be delivered within schools and the community.

Wear Kids has linked up with SAFC Foundation, the charitable arm of Sunderland AFC, to fund a series of six

week programmes of intervention for young people on anti-social behaviour, bullying and citizenship. Targeted at Year groups 5 and 6, the programme focuses on topics including friendships, self-esteem and behaviour. Schools are also encouraged to review their anti-bullying strategy and look at ways of combating bullying in the long term.

The 'Tackle It' programme will be officially launched on 26th February where the Sunderland squad will be showing their support for the scheme by wearing the new red and white 'Tackle It' wristbands as they take on Cardiff City at the Stadium of Light.



Children from Bexhill and Valley Road Primary Schools receive their 'Tackle It' Certificates from Kevin Kyle at the Stadium of Light.

Information Sharing and Assessment

Information Sharing and Assessment is the process which underpins the "Change for Children Programme", led by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES).

It will be introduced to all local authorities as part of the DfES five year strategy, aimed at better information sharing and fully integrated children's services under the Government's vision of a Children's Trust.

The Local Programme "ISA in Sunderland"

In a phased approach, the ISA pilot currently running in the North Washington area will be extended. The ISA Child Index, Common Assessment Framework and Lead Professional will be introduced to the Behaviour and Education Support Team, an extended school, a Children's Centre, and the Junior Youth Inclusion Support Panels Team.

A dedicated and supported co-ordinator and administrator will manage the ISA process, which will be monitored and evaluated to ensure that effective and targeted services are delivered to meet the needs of children and families referred into the system.

This will ensure that organisations and practitioners delivering children's services in Sunderland are better prepared to adopt the changes outlined in the Government's change programme within the set deadlines and that ISA supports and informs other developing children's programmes in the City.

For further information please contact Dave Hills, ISA Project Manager, on telephone 0191 566 1841 or e-mail IRT@ssd.sunderland.gov.uk

The Building Blocks of Effective Partnership

Through the Information Sharing and Assessment (ISA) programme, the Government seeks to create a universal child index for all children and young people between the ages of 0 and 19 years, within which locally managed children's services can effectively share information. Organisations will be required to adopt common practices including a common assessment process and introduce the concept of a Lead Professional to underpin better-integrated services centred not around organisations but on the interests of the child. The aim is to improve the preventative and early intervention aspects of services to all children.



ISA NEWS

Education - Inclusion & Achievement Service "A Joined Up Approach"



A multi-agency Children Out of School Group has been established for some years and meets to examine a register of school-aged children and young people who fall into the out of school category.

This group has now reformed under the title of Children Missing from Education and have outlined a number of solution-focussed actions within the Education Single Plan to identify and implement early, effective interventions.

For further information please contact Brian Thompson, Assistant Head Of Service (AEN) on telephone 0191 553 2200 or email: brian.thompson@sunderland.gov.uk

Developing ICT systems

Social Services are replacing the Social Services Information Database (SSID) with a new system called SWIFT. Corporate ICT and Social Services staff, in consultation with partner organisations, are currently working together to ensure the smooth and effective migration of all the IT programmes which have been developed independently to meet specific business needs.

All local authorities are required to have an Integrated Children's System (ICS) database in place by December 2005. The system will record and share case information across social care services. The ICS Project Team is investigating the possibility of using SWIFT to meet the Government's ICS requirements.

The team is also looking at different IT solutions to incorporate other developing programmes currently underway in the City to ensure that they are complementary and compatible with each other.



Most Frequently Asked Questions

Q Is the Sunderland Children's Trust going to be a new organisation?

A No. From April 2006 the Children's part of Social Services and the Education Directorate will be headed by one Director of Children's Services; this Director will be accountable for the services provided through these two Directorates and will be responsible for putting in place arrangements to enable partner organisations to co-operate in promoting the welfare of children. The Trust will establish joint commissioning arrangements and may provide the services directly, or contract with public, private, or voluntary sector organisations. Service integration will be achieved through joint processes and partnership agreements rather than structural change. Services will be delivered in more integrated ways, for example, through multi-disciplinary teams and co-location of staff from different organisations, where there is evidence that such change would lead to better outcomes for children.

Q Will I have to move to a new organisation?

A No. Staff will retain their current contracts and will continue to be employed by their contracting organisation. As we move into more integrated service delivery, however, it may be that some staff do move to different locations but will remain within their contracted organisation.

Q Is the Children's Trust set up for vulnerable children?

A No. The Children's Trust is concerned with achieving positive outcomes from planning and delivery of services for **all** children and young people.

Q Who can I ask for more information?

A As well as your line manager, you can contact any member of the Project Team.

We would like to include your questions in future issues of the Children's Trust Newsletter. So, if you have anything to ask, please get in touch with Kathryn Rutherford, Communications Officer, City of Sunderland Social Services, 50 Fawcett Street, Sunderland, SR1 1RF, Tel: 0191 566 1832 or email: communications@ssd.sunderland.gov.uk

Every Child Matters website

Did you know about the Every Child Matters Website? It is very informative and tells you what is going on nationally in the development of children's services.

You can find it on:

www.everychildmatters.gov.uk

