

If you wish to make any comments about this newsletter, want to write an article for a future issue or have a question about the Children's Trust, please contact Kathryn Rutherford, Communications Officer, City of Sunderland Social Services, 50 Fawcett Street, Sunderland SR1 1RF.

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The deadline for the next edition is Friday 9th September 2005.



Issue 3 - July 2005



# Children's Trust News

FOR EVERYONE WORKING WITH CHILDREN IN SUNDERLAND

## PARENT CARER FORUM 2005

### 'Putting Children First'

The Annual Forum is an excellent opportunity for parent carers of children and young people in Sunderland who are disabled or have special educational needs to meet with other parent carers and professionals. You will be able to hear about developments, let us know what you think and to make a real difference in how services are delivered in the future.

**PARENT CARER FORUM**  
Thursday 6th October 2005  
9.15am to 2.30pm  
Leechmere Training Centre, Grangetown, Sunderland

There will be guest speakers and workshops which will include Early Years Provision for Disabled Children; Therapy Services; Transition to Adulthood; Speech and Language Therapy; and Sexuality and Puberty.

Lunch will be provided.  
Transport and Creche facilities will be available.

If you would like to come along, please contact us for a booking form. You can do this by telephoning Jean Bruce on 0191 566 1899 or emailing [child.disability@ssd.sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:child.disability@ssd.sunderland.gov.uk)

**PLEASE COME ALONG AND LET US HEAR YOUR VIEWS - YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

**NHS**  
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

**City of SUNDERLAND**

**Learning+Skills Council Tyne and Wear**

**SUNDERLAND HOUSING GROUP**

**University of Sunderland**

**connexions TYNE AND WEAR**

**City of Sunderland College**

**Sunderland Youth Offending Service**

**NATIONAL PROBATION SERVICE for England and Wales Northumbria**

**children's fund**

**Sunderland Youth Parliament**

## Restorative Justice Scheme is Judged to be OUTSTANDING!

In a national competition to identify outstanding community programmes, Sunderland's Youth Offending Service was identified as being one of nine winners.

The Howard League for Penal Reform launched this new competition in November 2004 to find outstanding community programmes. It was open to statutory agencies and voluntary organisations, which were developing innovative community schemes.

Frances Crook, Director of the Howard League for Penal Reform, said: "The Howard League for Penal Reform was delighted with the range and calibre of entries to our inaugural Community Programmes Award. The winning schemes demonstrate the broad spectrum of entries comprising schemes for young people and adults, working with high-risk offenders and victim offender work from all around the country.

The Community Programmes Award allows the Howard League for Penal Reform to celebrate the excellent and often undervalued work taking place in communities to prevent and address offending behaviour. This should help to refocus thoughts away from prison and towards a more effective and rational use of criminal justice resources. A greater emphasis on community interventions can be beneficial for everyone - victims, offenders and the wider communities."



Left to right: Mark Simpson, Restorative Justice Worker, Linda Mason, Operations Manager (YOS) and Professor David Wilson (Howard League for Penal Reform).

Sunderland's winning entry, the Restorative Justice Scheme was highlighted as an outstanding scheme. The scheme, (working in collaboration with the local community) uses the principles of restorative justice to enable young people to recognise the consequences of their actions, make reparation and re-integrate into the community. It uses the concept of community payback to give young people the opportunity to make amends for their actions.

Staff from the service were invited to attend the informal ceremony in the Howard League for Penal Reform offices.

Judith Hay, Youth Offending Service Manager commented: "Sunderland Youth Offending Service is delighted to receive the Community Programmes Award 2005 for its restorative justice scheme. This means a lot to the staff and young people who make such a tremendous effort in making the City a cleaner and tidier place to live and work. This scheme is a good example of young people demonstrating that they can and do make amends."

## In this issue...

- SEEN AND HEARD - Interview featuring Charlotte Cheal, youngest member of the Children's Trust Board
- SERVICE DELIVERY ROOM - Behaviour Educational Support Teams (BESTs)
- CONNEXIONS TYNE & WEAR - Partnership Working in Policy and Practice
- SUBSTANCE MISUSE TRAINING TEAM
- CHILDREN'S TRUST AND THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR
- CITYWIDE EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

# Seen AND Heard

Thornhill Secondary School pupil Charlotte Cheal is, at the age of 15, the youngest member of the Children's Trust Board.

Charlotte has agreed to share with us her experiences of the Sunderland Youth Parliament, the UK Youth Parliament and Sunderland Children's Trust.



## 1. How did you get involved with the Sunderland Youth Parliament?

I got involved through my school council and through the UK Youth Parliament.

The Sunderland Youth Parliament is where a group of young people from around Sunderland gather together and discuss the society for the young people of Sunderland. What we try to do is to improve the environment in which young people live.

## 2. What is your involvement in the Children's Trust Board?

The Children's Board is where a group of people gather and discuss child welfare and safeguarding for children of Sunderland. The meetings are held quarterly and, prior to the meetings, we receive an agenda to read through. We read

through a lot of documents and when we attend the meeting we discuss them and our own opinions on them.

Everything we discuss is passed on to different people who act on the things we discuss.

## 3. What's it like being the only young person on the Children's Trust Board?

It's pretty intimidating, especially as all of the adults work together and have background knowledge of each other and experience of working together and I don't. I enjoy being listened to and enjoy giving my opinion. I feel as though my input is worthwhile and well listened to as I am the only young person on the Children's Trust Board.

## 4. What's your involvement with the UK Youth Parliament?

I am a UK Youth Parliament member with Grant Hollis from the North East region plus our two deputies Lucy Hodgson and Vicki Neal. Through the UK Youth Parliament I attend meetings in London and different regional meetings on a manifesto. I got involved in the UK Youth Parliament through a stakeholders conference that I attended through my school council. This is where I met Michael Elsy who is the Youth Strategy Officer for the Sunderland Youth Development Group.

Through this I was put up for election and voted for as a UK Youth Parliament member.

## 5. What are your aims for the future?

For the UK Youth Parliament in the future I would like to attend more meetings in London and also to help the North East get integrated into the UK Youth Parliament as there are only six members and we could possibly have 12.

For the Sunderland Youth Parliament I would like to see the group keep on improving and developing the way it is at the moment.

For the Children's Trust Board I would like to debate young people's views at authority level and to introduce some of the more stubborn members of the council into youth involvement.

## 6. What do you like to do in your spare time?

I am currently in a band that has been going for about two months now. The band is called "The World According To". It's a 4-piece band - two girls and two boys. I play bass and donate to vocals. The band plays pop punk music and I am hoping that the band gets some gigs around the North East and to hopefully play at this year's SMILE concert held annually at Mowbray Park in Sunderland.

# THE CITY-WIDE EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

The role of the City-wide Early Years and Childcare Strategic Partnership is to work with the Local Authority to develop and support an integrated and inclusive Early Years and Childcare Strategy for the City.

The Partnership has a growing number of members which include representatives from the former Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP), Sure Start Local Partnerships and other key partners, such as the Health Trusts, City of Sunderland College, Job Centre Plus, the Learning & Skills Council, schools, childminders, private and voluntary sector providers and parents. It is chaired by Councillor Linda Williams.

## The Partnership's key aims for 2005-06 include:

- Developing a network of integrated services for delivery through Children's Centres.
- Sustaining effective services developed in Sure Start Local Programmes.
- Ensuring a suitably qualified and available workforce.
- Making early years and childcare services accessible to all.
- Increasing the market for high quality affordable childcare.
- Improving the quality of Foundation Stage and early learning provision.

## Parents on the Partnership

A number of parents currently sit on the Partnership, many of which are involved through the City-wide Sure Start Parents Group that is made up of parents involved in Sure Start Local Programmes.

Member of the Parents Group and Vice Chair of the Early Years and Childcare Strategic Partnership, Christine Schonewald, commenting on the Partnership said; "Sure Start has provided the opportunity for families to access quality services locally that are joined up around the child.

"The key aims of the Partnership, in particular the development of Children's Centres, means that more families will have the opportunity to access these services, and enjoy the benefits we have come to expect. They will be able to become involved in the design and delivery of services, ensuring they meet their needs."

The City-wide parents group recently produced a short document outlining their thoughts on Sure Start Local Programmes. Here are some of the things they said:

"It's becoming less stigmatised. People aren't afraid any more of what it is, there is a new understanding that Sure Start is there to offer support and accessible services locally".

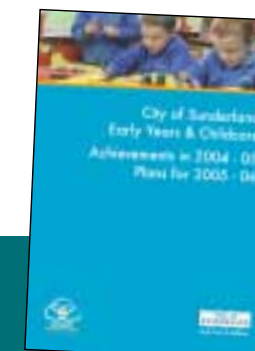
"There's less suspicion - more trust"

"Professionals are more approachable, they speak a common language - not jargon"

"Tokenism is decreasing, parents voices are strongest and they are listening to us, at all levels".

"The Early Years Strategic Partnership has opened up channels that allow us to affect decisions. We can get our points across. It doesn't feel like they want to just listen, they ask us what we want".

The Early Years and Childcare Strategic Partnership produced its Achievements and Plans document earlier this year. It sets out the Partnership's main achievements for 2004/5 and its plans for 2005/6.



Copies can be obtained from Elizabeth Roberts on: 0191 553 5627.

## Substance Misuse Training Team



*Pictured: Clockwise from top left; Derek Winter, Peter Carlin-Page, Christine Grimwood, David Pratt.*

"Develop, deliver and co-ordinate substance misuse training to include service awareness and harm minimisation within Sunderland." This is the substantial remit of the recently formed Substance Misuse Training Team - based within the headquarters of Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust.

Our intention is to deliver training to the trainers and our objectives include (but are not limited to):

- Mapping current provision and identifying shortfalls.
- Undertaking training needs analysis.
- Developing training and awareness programmes.
- Delivering ongoing training programmes.

Examples of our courses include:

- One day Drug and Alcohol awareness.
- One day Substance Misuse and Women.
- An 8 session DANOS level 2 Drugs Awareness - the next one starting on 19 September 2005.

We are able to run sessions on an ad-hoc basis and create customised courses to your requirements.

The team is comprised of;  
Christine Grimwood - Substance Misuse Harm Minimisation Trainer.  
David Pratt - Training Administrator.  
Derek Winter - Substance Misuse Prevention Trainer.  
Peter Carlin-Page - Substance Misuse Co-ordinator.



We are intending to fully utilise the Internet as the central communication tool for our operations, and we have commissioned two websites: [www.sunderlandsubstance misuse.info](http://www.sunderlandsubstance misuse.info) [www.sunderlandalcoholstrategy.info](http://www.sunderlandalcoholstrategy.info)

Shortly online we plan to have available:

- Training needs analysis.
- Alcohol questionnaire.
- Brief training sessions.
- Private members areas.
- An events diary.

As part of our promotional campaign, we have display banners (2m high) that we would like to utilise as fully as possible and we would ask any readers to contact us with details of events where we might erect some of our banners. If you can help with banner locations or would like further information about the team please contact the training administrator on:

**0191 529 7159**  
(email: [smttadmin@suntpt.nhs.uk](mailto:smttadmin@suntpt.nhs.uk))

## CHILDREN'S TRUST & THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

To recognise the important role Voluntary Organisations have in the support and the delivery of services for children in Sunderland, two potential places have been secured on the Children's Trust Board.

A meeting of voluntary organisations working with children took place at the City Library in June. The aim of the meeting was to establish a way forward in identifying the two representatives of the voluntary sector in Sunderland.

A wide range of organisations attended the event and were welcomed by Barbara Williams (Project Manager, Integrated Children's Service). Delegates heard from Graham Burt from Social Services, Kalid Malik from Connexions and Karen Parry from Children's Services as to current and future developments regarding the Trust and the Voluntary Sector.

The feeling from the meeting was that to achieve fair representation, a balance should be sought regarding umbrella groups and community representation. Since then, Steve Barna of the Voluntary Sector Youth Forum and Marion McGuinness of Barnardos have agreed to be members of the Children's Trust. This means that there is involvement at board level from a local organisations (VCYF) which represents a large number of voluntary youth projects and a national voluntary organisation which is active locally.

**For more information on the event please contact Graham Burt on: 0191 566 1829**

**For more information on the development of the Children's Trust please contact the Project Team on: 0191 566 1884**

Mike Golding, Head of Inclusion and Achievement, Education Directorate has been seconded to a new role as Interim Manager for the development of Integrated Children's Services in Sunderland. Mike takes on his new responsibilities with immediate effect and his secondment will be until the appointment of a Director of Children's Services

## connexions Tyne and Wear Partnership working - in policy and practice

Connexions Tyne and Wear is the confidential advice and support service for all 13-19 year olds (and up to the age of 25 for young people with special needs). Through Personal Advisers, Connexions provides advice and support on a wide range of lifestyle issues including education, training, careers, employment, life planning, health and personal development opportunities.

A huge network of additional support is available through partner organisations. Connexions in Sunderland operates three high-street Connexions Centres in Sunderland, Houghton-le-Spring and Washington.

A key feature of the Connexions service is the provision of high quality careers guidance for every young person who needs it. Working directly with young people in schools, colleges, community settings, dedicated Connexions Centres and Access Points, a Personal Adviser will get to know the young person and offer the impartial information, advice and guidance. Specialist support is also provided through a wide range of additional programmes for 'hard to reach' young people and those who may face additional barriers to learning and personal development.

**Connexions Advisers work with a wide range of professionals including:**

- Teachers and instructors.
- Education welfare officers.
- Learning mentors.
- Heads of careers education and work related learning.
- School nurses.
- Members of the Behaviour Improvement Team.

**Together, they work to ensure that:**

- Young people have access to careers guidance and education.
- Unauthorised non-attendance is reduced.
- Child protection concerns are acted upon swiftly.
- Young people with special needs have intensive support at key transition points and can access appropriate opportunities at 16+.
- Young people are referred to specialist agencies when appropriate.

In addition, Connexions works with the Learning and Skills Council and the local 14-19 partnerships to ensure that the curriculum offered is responsive to the needs of young people and relevant to local employment opportunities.

Holly Murtock, from Sandhill View, said: "My Connexions Adviser arranged for me to join a training programme for hairdressing when I left school, but I soon realised that it was the wrong choice for me. I kept in touch throughout the summer and decided I'd like to try childcare. My Adviser organised an interview for me and I'm now working in a local primary school and really enjoying working with children and helping them learn.

Stephen Cass from Pennywell added: "I didn't know what I wanted to do when I left school other than wanting to 'work with my hands', but a visit to the Connexions Centre highlighted a range of vacancies and training. My Adviser helped me apply for opportunities in joinery and I'm now working towards an NVQ qualification and really enjoying it."

For more information about the Connexions service, please contact Ray Reay, Connexions Manager on:

**0191 443 2860**  
email: [r.reay@connexions-tw.co.uk](mailto:r.reay@connexions-tw.co.uk)

## INFORMATION SHARING AND ASSESSMENT (ISA)

## The Children's Services Directory

In September 2005 the Government said that all local authorities should have an accurate and up-to-date Children's Services Directory. The purpose of the directory is to help practitioners to make informed referrals and to help children and families access services.

The ISA team identified and contacted over 600 children's services in Sunderland and collated information on local providers, eligibility criteria, geographical location, and referral procedures. It is planned to store, maintain and access this information electronically. The individual or team responsible for the upkeep of the directory will play an important role in providing relevant up-to-date information to those who require it.

In April this year the ISA Steering Group agreed to commission the Newcastle and Gateshead Trailblazer to provide use and access to Sunderland information via their developed 'Solution Finder' service directory. Work is underway to re-visit and update service information in order for the directory to go live in September 2005.

Free training and a training pack will be available to contributing organisations to ensure that the directory is properly maintained, accurate, and up-to-date. 'Solution Finder' is available to everyone on the web at: [www.solutionfinder.org.uk](http://www.solutionfinder.org.uk)

### What will this provide For Children, Young People and Families?

- Easy access to information about a wide choice of services in Sunderland meeting a range of needs.
- Make it clear if there are any eligibility criteria for a service.
- Facilitate self-referral by young people or parents.
- Give users a voice on issues related to services for families.
- Incentives to come back to the directory (by using polls and by having good quality well presented information).
- A link to other websites such as Peoplefirst, Libraries, Children's Information Service, and childcare links.

### What will it give Service Providers?

- A free web presence and advertising opportunity.
- The means to update their own information whenever they want.
- Information on how people are using the directory and how often people access their service information.
- An electronic means to evaluate the service.

### What will it provide for Practitioners?

- A comprehensive directory of local and regional based services for children, young people and their families.
- Help practitioners match the service to the need and fulfil the new duties placed on them by the Children Act 2004 and Every Child Matters.

### What will it provide for Local Authorities and Partner Agencies?

- Help authorities and agencies fulfil the duties placed on them by the Children Act 2004 and Every Child Matters.
- Make management information available on:
  - How people are using the directory.
  - Numbers of services.
  - Numbers of services broken down geographically.
  - Numbers of services by service type.
  - Numbers of services by sector or service provider.
  - Where services are delivered.
  - Where there are few services.
  - Where there are many services.
- Help authorities identify gaps and overlaps in service provision.
- Help authorities meet some of their Priority Service Outcomes for Implementing Electronic Government.
- Provide another channel to promote their A-Z lists of services.

## Common Assessment and Lead Professional



Following on from earlier 'awareness training' and good practice developed within the ISA Pilot in North Washington, Sunderland is looking to continue to drive the project forward by introducing Common Assessment and 'Lead Professional' into mainstream children's services as an early implementer. This will be a requirement for all local authorities from April 2006.

Consultation has taken place with primary school head teachers, school governors, and a number of partner organisations who are working with the schools in the development of 'fully extended schools' and in two developing children's centres at North Washington and New Silksworth.

With the support of the BEST Team and Connexions, we are looking to establish an ISA training programme that will be available to support staff nominated to take on the new roles of a 'common assessor', panel member, or Lead Professional. The CAF training materials for piloting authorities have now been published and will underpin the training along with the common core skills and knowledge guidance.

We are in the process of recruiting an ISA Co-ordinator to facilitate this programme and to develop new integrated working practices across partner organisations.

### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- Better communication and information sharing across organisations and with stakeholders with a single point of contact through the Lead Professional.
- Referrals across organisations can be streamlined, better co-ordinated, and more effective (in the first 12 months of the trailblazer projects going live it was found that 63% of referrals were directed to the wrong agency).
- Shared assessment process and reduced repetition of assessment.
- Staff will become familiar with the new roles and practice as part of a supported process.
- We can standardise documentation, reduce duplication, and ensure that resources are effectively targeted.
- Organisations will be better prepared to adopt the changes to policy and procedures.
- There will now be a basic standard of training introduced to all staff providing children's services.
- Common standards and practices across services.
- Early access to accurate information through the CAF and information sharing index when introduced.



**For further information please contact:**  
**Dave Hills, ISA Project Manager on:**  
**0191 566 1841, or email**  
**[david.hills@ssd.sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:david.hills@ssd.sunderland.gov.uk)**

# Sunderland Children's Fund: Championing the cause of children and young people

Sunderland Children's Fund Programme has nominated a Children's Champion from each of the 11 Children's Fund Services to form a Working Group. The Group is drafting policy and practice guidance for the participation of children and young people across all Children's Fund interventions.



Final draft guidance will be produced in consultation with the Youth Strategy Officer and children and young people themselves and it will be submitted to the Children's Fund Partnership for approval prior to discussion within the Children's Trust.

The Working Group is seeking to establish:

- A shared understanding about the role of a Children's Champion.
- A mission statement and working definition of 'participation'.
- A set of standards for the participation of children and young people.
- An implementation plan of future actions and developments.

The Group has identified a full agenda of work to be completed over the next few months.

The overall aim is to ensure that children and young people are appropriately involved in the planning, delivery and evaluation of the Children's Fund services they receive.

**If you want to know more or to contribute to the work of the Children's Champions Group please contact Norah Stevens, Children's Fund Participation Officer. Tel: 0191 219 3477  
Email: [norah.stevens@ssd.sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:norah.stevens@ssd.sunderland.gov.uk)**



# WORK OF THE LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S BOARD

In Issue 2 of Children's Trust News, we outlined the role of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and its growing membership and agency representation.

The Local Safeguarding Children's Board has taken an active role in supporting partner agencies in self-assessment in regard to the need to safeguard children and promote their own functions as required by Section 11 Children Act 2004.

To ensure more coherent planning and stronger accountability arrangements existing sub-committees, (as structured under previous ACPC arrangements), are currently being reviewed. New arrangements will also allow for greater practitioner involvement contributing to improved links between policy and service delivery.

Regional Safeguarding Procedures replacing or additional to local Child Protection Procedures have been produced and are currently being localised for use in Sunderland after relevant launch, dissemination and training across all partner agencies.

Work to date indicated that approximately 60% of children on Sunderland's Child Protection Register have parents or main carers with substance misuse problems.

#### Initial work is being undertaken around:

- Impact.
- Skills, knowledge and awareness.
- Referral and access to services.
- Links with other priority areas, e.g. domestic violence and mental health problems.
- Impact of substance misuse in pregnancy.

A drug and alcohol training programme is being planned, informed by national and regional practice, research and training.

Many children in Sunderland live with parents with mental ill health issues. Joint training is therefore being planned with mental health services looking particularly at threshold and referral processes in respect of both children and mental health services.

Domestic violence and its impact on children is an area of current focus and activity with stronger links being established with the Domestic Violence Forum and Sunderland Safer Communities Strategy.

**The LSCB works closely with colleagues in other authorities across the region. Some of the areas currently being addressed are:**

- Rising numbers on the Child Protection Register in many authorities particularly registered under 'neglect'.
- Partner contributions to the work of the LSCB.
- Responses to Bichard recommendations.

Our aim is to ensure all children in Sunderland receive high quality services, which are timely and meet their needs. The work of the LSCB will continue to promote inter-agency working in the safeguarding area.

**For further information about the LSCB please contact Janet Newton, Safeguarding Strategic Manager on 0191 566 1602  
email: [janet.newton@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:janet.newton@sunderland.gov.uk)**

# The Service Delivery Room

Behaviour and Education Support Teams (BESTs) are multi-agency teams that work closely with groups of schools in the Farringdon, Sandhill View, Pennywell and Hylton Red House areas. The teams provide support to schools, groups and individuals to address the different needs of children and young people with emotional and behavioural problems. The two BESTs in Sunderland have been introduced as part of the wider Behaviour Improvement Programme (BiP) and have been operational since October 2004.

BESTs bring together a complementary mix of professionals from the fields of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), Health, Social Care, Connexions, Education, the Police and Voluntary Youth Services. Partners of the BEST also include the Youth Offending Service, Children's Fund, Excellence in Cities (EIC).

The aim of the BESTs is to promote emotional well-being, positive behaviour and school attendance. We do this by identifying and supporting those with, or at risk of developing, emotional and behavioural problems. We work with children and young people aged 5 – 16, their families and schools, to intervene early and prevent problems developing further. To do this, support is provided at three broad levels:

- Support to schools, including the development of whole school strategies, curriculum input, training and consultancy support for individual school staff.
- Group support to children and their parents (e.g. social skills development groups, nurture groups, transition groups, parenting groups) according to local need.
- Intensive support to individual children and families on a case-management basis.

## How BESTs Link with Other Services and Initiatives

To be most effective, the BESTs focus on prevention and early intervention work within Primary Schools, and Year 7 and Year 8 in Secondary Schools.

BESTs provide additional services and do not exist to replace or

duplicate current services. This allows opportunities for innovative, creative and flexible practice.

## ■ BESTs and CAMHS:

As part of the CAMHS Strategy, the locality team is based within BEST. This means that assessment, advice and support are offered as quickly as possible. CAMHS Workers regularly support the team, schools, children and families on all aspects of mental health, including relevant assessments.



## ■ BESTs and Health:

The Team's Specialist School Nursing Sister is able to provide comprehensive preventative programmes on issues such as healthy eating, smoking, drugs, alcohol and solvent abuse. She also conducts health assessments on the young people allocated to BEST and provides guidance to the rest of the team on health issues.

## ■ BESTs and Connexions:

Six workers provide a specialist resource within the Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP) programme. Two of the workers have a specialist remit for the development of activities for primary aged pupils. PAYP workers also carry a caseload and undertake group work in schools.

## ■ BESTs and Social Services:

Two workers from Social Services provide a skilled service in family work and assessment of need. Links with the team ensure that information sharing and communication is effective and that collaborative working ensures the best outcomes for those who are receiving support.

## ■ BESTs and Mentors:

Behaviour Support Mentors (BSMs) work in secondary schools to support young people at risk of exclusion and/or social exclusion. They link in to PITSTOP to provide continuity of support and help children reintegrate into school following exclusion. Transfer Mentors (TMs) work for two terms (January – August) in cluster primary schools supporting pupils in year 6 who have been identified as being vulnerable at the point of transition. (This also operates between infant and junior schools). Links are made with local secondary schools to facilitate the transfer process through initiatives such as buddy schemes, school visits, summer schools,

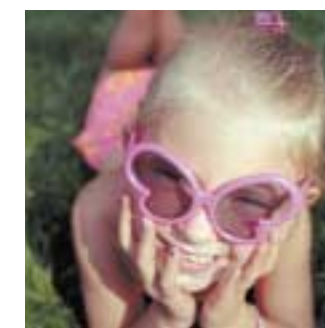
transition groups etc. From September to December, the Transfer Mentors work in the Secondary Schools to support pupils in Year 7.

## ■ BESTs and PITSTOP:

PITSTOP provides full-time, supervised, quality education for pupils who have been excluded, either permanently or fixed-term, for up to 15 days. Primary pupils are educated at the team base. Secondary pupils are educated at the Stadium of Light's education facility, the Centre of Light (part of the SAFC Foundation). Such an initiative has been applauded by the DfES.

## ■ BESTs and Every Schoolday Counts:

In an extension of the successful primary based project, and in collaboration with the ESC Team, a mentor within the BEST is working to roll out the ESC model into Year 7 of the four Secondary Schools. Rewards, incentives and certificates are awarded for attendance achievements with ongoing consultation with young people to determine their needs. Young people's participation in the design and delivery of ESC has always been crucial to its ongoing success.



## ■ BESTs and Extended Schools:

In developing a range of extended activities (including Children's Centres), schools and LEAs are working with existing services to meet the needs of its pupils, their families and the wider community. As multi-agency work is pivotal within the new Integrated Children's Services programme, the current BEST model has proven to be coherent and sustainable so that it can be replicated throughout the City and be part of the extended schools programme.



## ■ BESTs and Emotional Well-being:

The role of BESTs is to promote the emotional well-being of all children and young people and is central to the work undertaken. Provision of Social, Emotional and Behavioural Skills training to schools, runs alongside additional support in child centred approaches, parent groups, solution focused work, the establishment of nurture groups and transition groups and modelling of good practice.

**For further information on the BiP or BESTs, please call:  
0191 553 6841.**