



Children's Trust News

FOR EVERYONE WORKING WITH CHILDREN IN SUNDERLAND

COMMUNITY CARE (Safeguarding Children) AWARD 2005

A partnership with Sunderland's premier football club (SAFC) has earned Sunderland Youth Offending Service (YOS) a top care award.

'Tackle It', a partnership between Sunderland AFC and Sunderland YOS, is an initiative for children and young people aimed at tackling anti-social behaviour, bullying and racism, and promoting good citizenship. The scheme draws on young people's love of football, the team spirit it creates and the allegiance of young people to their local football club to achieve engagement. It then uses football coaching sessions as a way of promoting good citizenship messages through learning both footballing core skills and positive role modelling from professional football players with the emphasis on rewards being given, not only for winning, but for participating and demonstrating a positive attitude whilst taking part. The success of the initiative was recognised with a prestigious award in the safeguarding children category of the national Community Care Awards 2005, with two of the young people involved joining Alan Scott, Sunderland Youth Offending Service Manager, at the presentation evening. After the ceremony, Alan Scott said: "It's a great honour to receive this award, it pays great testimony to what can be achieved by working in partnership". SAFC Foundation Director, Lesley Spulher, added "This is also a great reward for the SAFC Foundation as it demonstrates that the programmes we deliver via football related activity really do make a difference to young people's lives, and consequently the community at large".



Pictured: Members of staff and young people from Wear Kids and Tackle It collecting the Community Care Award 2006 for Safeguarding Children.

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Drug Education Roadshow

Sunderland's Drug Education Roadshow was developed back in 2001 as a learning resource for use in schools and other youth and community settings.

Funding for its development was originally sourced from the Education Directorate, Healthy Schools, Community Against Drugs, SRB III, V and VI. The resources were developed to provide people working with young people of primary and secondary school age materials that would encourage open, non-judgemental discussions around the issues of drugs.

Ten story boards were designed to focus on relevant skill development rather than imparting large amounts of facts. They also aim to challenge young people's attitudes towards drug misuse and some of the misinformation held by young people in an open and non-judgemental way. We have also used the roadshow very successfully with parent groups to discuss many of their concerns about drug issues. Support materials include folders, worksheets and information sheets.

Topics aimed at primary age pupils are tobacco, alcohol, medicines, peer pressure and the possible consequences of poor risk assessment. Secondary school age topics are alcohol, tobacco, drugs and the law, drug contents and volatile substance abuse. Many schools have used the roadshow over the last four years with very positive feedback. A recent independent evaluation report for SRB was also very favourable in its comments.

Marian Wilson, DfES Consultant for PSHE, used the project as an example of best practice and hoped she would be able to use it in her future work. The project also attracted a lot of interest from other authorities especially when it was exhibited at the 2004 National Drug Education Conference in Leeds.

In Sunderland the roadshow has also been used successfully in a variety of settings outside school including youth groups and community groups.



Training was provided for various professionals resulting in the Drug Education Roadshow being delivered by teachers, school nurses, drug and alcohol specialist workers and police officers.

The roadshow has had to be constantly updated and repaired for it to have the impact it has with young people. Funding from the Young People Substance Misuse Group has helped towards its maintenance. We are now at a point where the roadshow will be available as a CD Rom to be used on schools' interactive whiteboards or used with PowerPoint projector facilities. The CD Rom will not only provide a more interactive version of the present roadshow but it will also include guidance notes, suggestions for extension activities, worksheets, evaluation forms and useful contact addresses. This version will be available on a free loan basis from March 2006. During February, we will be offering basic training in the use of the roadshow. The original version will still be available to use instead of or in conjunction with the CD Rom.

If you require any further details or if you would like to be kept informed about training opportunities, please contact **John Britton telephone 0191 553 5649, or email: john.britton@sunderland.gov.uk**

Children's Services

As from 1st December 2005, Sunderland City Council has a new directorate - Children's Services.

The Children and Families part of Social Services and Education have joined together to become Children's Services with Dr Helen Paterson as Director.

Dr Glenys Jones will continue as Director of Adult Services until her retirement in March.

A plan is being developed to implement a marketing and "rebranding" exercise for Children's Services. Further updates on the development of the service will be brought to you in this newsletter.

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:
On Track - How multi-agency co-location works

Since the introduction of the Every Child Matters guidance in 2004 there has been a lot of talk about multi-agency working, co-location, how it looks and how it is going to work.

In Sunderland, On Track has been delivering multi-agency services in the Washington area since 2001, and is well established as a preventative co-located team within the community working with children at risk of offending and social exclusion.

Based at the Rainbow Family Centre in Concord the team has staff from the City Council's Children's Services (formerly Education and Social Services), Teaching Primary Care Trust, City Hospitals, Northumbria Police and Wearside Women in Need. Operating with a central case management model, the team offers children aged 4-12 and their families, a range of support through a wide programme of interventions. Each family's needs are assessed when the family is referred. Using its own assessment tool, On Track is able to capture the whole needs of the family and explore both risk and resilience.

A multi-agency meeting is co-ordinated by On Track who act as the lead professional and usually involves the family, the child (where appropriate), the school and any other agencies involved with the family. The purpose of this meeting is to share information and establish an action plan that clarifies everyone's role, intervention and goals that aim to be achieved. This is reviewed approximately every 6 weeks.

A package of intervention is created to address the unique needs of the family. This could be individual or group work with children, individual or group work with adults, family work or general advice and support. All programmes of intervention are issue based and designed to tackle difficulties in a user friendly and solution focused way.

Case Study

Jack (aged 11) was referred to On Track by the Education Inclusion Officer, as he was being bullied by other children for being big for his age. At assessment, Jack presented as an extremely unhappy young man and expressed some thoughts of self-harm, and was often tearful.

A multi-agency planning meeting was held which involved the school, Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH's) worker, Jack's mother and Jack. An action plan was agreed that, whilst the school would offer support and monitor the bullying situation, the CAMH's worker would see Jack on a monthly basis. The On Track police worker complemented this work by seeing Jack on a weekly basis to work on self-esteem and deal with bullying, anger and conflict. The On Track worker also spent some sessions working with Jack's mother looking at parenting.

Jack was always fully involved in his sessions, and through this work he helped to design a resource to help him deal with the anger and bullying, which could also be used with other young people. Jack also

immediately volunteered to fully participate in the On Track video, as he was keen to demonstrate how this work had helped him and could help others.

The outcomes achieved are:

- Jack's attendance at school improved.
- His self-esteem and confidence has improved (as demonstrated through the video).
- Jack is visibly a much happier boy.
- Doing very well in lessons, getting letters of praise from school.
- Mother feels she is managing much better.
- Child and family unit have noticed a marked improvement in Jack's well being.

The benefits of the On Track model of working are huge, with regular case management meetings where the whole team can offer each other ideas and support, families indirectly benefit from a multi-agency holistic focus.

Where needed, families may have a combination of On Track workers involved. Being based together means that the flow of communication is excellent, this also helps the efficiency of the service.

There are a number of children that On Track has been involved with since its inception, of those who are now aged over 10 years - 71% of them are not known to the Criminal Justice System.

All Work and All Play in Sunderland

An innovative "Playwork" project managed by Into Work Sunderland will enable 20 jobless Sunderland residents to train in a range of vocational skills in playwork and find employment.

Participants will be offered up to a 51 week contract, working 16 hours in which they will be supervised by a qualified worker in a local Playwork setting. The remaining time will be spent in vocational training where they will work towards their NVQ level 2 qualification.

Ray Burnicle, Business Development Manager at Into Work said,

"Throughout the project the recruits will have access to a dedicated support worker who will lend support and guidance, as well as practical help on looking for work later in the programme."

The project comes after 18 months of research and project development by the Sunderland Playwork Intermediate Labour

Market (ILM) Steering Group which was made up of representatives from Into Work Sunderland, Early Years and Childcare, Job Centre Plus, Learning and Skills Council and the Local Authority.

Norma Hardy, Head of Early Years and Childcare in Sunderland, said, "This project is a fantastic opportunity for participants to gain sustainable employment within the childcare sector in Sunderland.

Initiatives such as this support the role of the Sunderland Early Years and Childcare Team in enhancing and improving early years and childcare services across the City."

RECENT GOVERNMENT REPORT IS OLD NEWS FOR NORTH EAST INNOVATORS

The findings of a recent government report, which addresses new measures to ensure effective school discipline and improve parental responsibility for their children's behaviour, came as no surprise to North East based ICT innovators, SkillsPath.

SkillsPath are the brains behind a unique and innovative educational programme, TREE, (Towards Responsibility for Education and Employment) that is designed to encourage and reinforce good behaviour in children from as young as five.

The TREE concept has been developed over several years by a small cluster of schools with input from head teachers, pupils, employers and senior business people, and is already being used very successfully in schools across Wearside, County Durham, Teesside and Hull.

The report issued last month by the Practitioners' Group on School

Behaviour and Discipline, chaired by Sir Alan Steer, Chairman of the Government Disciplinary Taskforce, reinforces all the aspects of TREE.

The following is an extract from the report:

"Pupils do not necessarily know how to behave well. Some will not have had the opportunity to learn good behaviour at home: others may be learning it, but their skills need reinforcing. We see the development of pupils' social, emotional and behavioural skills as integral to good learning and teaching.

"It is also integral to making classrooms orderly places for learning. This means teaching all pupils, from the beginning of education, to manage strong feelings, resolve conflict effectively and fairly, solve problems, work and play cooperatively, and be respectful, calm, optimistic and resilient."

TREE is a highly effective reward system which is simple to use and

links in with the school's existing teaching programme, making it easy to implement and relevant to every primary school across the country.

Pupils are encouraged to grow their own tree by being awarded leaves for good behaviour when both at home and at school. These achievements can either be recorded manually or on-line.

SkillsPath managing director, Eddie Kenyon, commenting on the report said; "This report is written by current educational practitioners, finally making sense of a very complex area of the education agenda. It's great to see that everything TREE represents is highlighted in Sir Alan Steer's report and schools in the North East have seen the benefits for over three years".



Seen AND Heard PARTICIPATION IN ACTION

At the end of November, Sunderland's Children's Fund Partnership held its annual open day to celebrate the many projects that come under its umbrella. The theme was "Participation in Action" and they celebrated the participatory work that the services have delivered.

Chair of the partnership, Dorothy Elliott, opened the event and guest speakers included Ged Fitzgerald, Chief Executive of Sunderland City Council and Dr Helen Paterson, Director of Children's Services.

The event was also attended by Southwick Investigation Squad - children from Southwick Primary School, who have been trained to become researchers and have carried out their first piece of in-depth work on four parks in their community, which was a subject that was important to them. They had an excellent response from their peers to a questionnaire that they composed, which asked a variety of probing questions.

Roseann Szomoru, Children's Fund Co-ordinator, said: "Including the young people from Southwick Primary School celebrates the fact that children do have views and they are often best able to gain the views of peers. They have learnt new skills in the process, particularly those of active citizenship.



Pictured: Southwick Investigation Squad

This is a truly participatory project and exemplifies the work that Sunderland Children's Fund promotes."

Guests were invited to find out more about the eleven projects the Children's Fund oversees and, in particular, to experience the Home School Partnership's "Circle Time". (The essence of Circle Time is to provide a pleasant, comfortable time when a class/group come together for reflection, enjoyment and celebration. Problems and issues are discussed openly and solved with participation of the whole group with a no blame approach. Each member of the group can see every one and it offers an environment for children to develop their listening, looking and thinking skills.)

For further information on the Sunderland Children's Fund, please contact Roseann Szomoru, Children's Fund Co-ordinator on 0191 219 3267.

FAMILY LEARNING EVENT

On Saturday 8 October, over 250 people passed through the doors of the Connexions Centre in Fawcett Street. People came along in 'families' to 'learn about work'. Mams and Dads, younger brothers and sisters, even grandparents accompanied their 'Year 11' relative as part of Sunderland LMC's contribution to supporting Family Learning Week.

The Fawcett Street office transformed itself into a learning zone, offering 11 different activities that were designed to help young people in Year 11 understand more about the world of work. Activities were wide-ranging and varied. They were designed to inform, test skills and for young people to have fun. The support from training providers was impressive, all the main skills areas were represented and they had a busy day. Feedback from the providers was encouraging: "There was a great atmosphere", "Kept busy all day" and "Great to see so many parents".

As well as activities and skills tests provided by training providers, the day also offered an opportunity for families to test their skills, knowledge and understanding about "the labour market". We used an interactive quiz game called "quizardom", a little like "Who wants to be a Millionaire?" One parent commented that he was amazed by the information provided about the employment situation in Sunderland. "He had no idea about who were the largest employers!"

Our Personal Advisers were also on hand to provide advice and guidance about options post 16. Their expertise and knowledge was in high demand and they were kept extremely busy. Feedback from parents was positive. They appreciated the event and learned more about Connexions. Our staff found the event tiring but rewarding.

For details about this event or future events please contact Pat Garrigan on 0191 443 2936.

YOS WINS ANOTHER AWARD!

Sunderland Youth Offending Service has been awarded the Youth Justice Board "Communicating Youth Justice Award 2005" for their work in developing media relations, promoting the work of Sunderland Youth Offending Service and ensuring positive media coverage of efforts to address youth crime.

At the national Youth Justice Board Convention held in London (November 2005) and attended by agencies from across the field of youth and criminal justice, Youth Offending Service Manager Judith Hay was presented with the Youth Justice Board Communicating Youth Justice Award 2005.

The award was presented in recognition of the positive media relationships Sunderland Youth Offending Service has developed with the local press and radio broadcasters. In particular, for the way in which the service had turned around negative media coverage in the summer of 2004 with a summer long campaign of positive coverage of the work of the Youth Offending Service in 2005.



Pictured: Judith Hay receiving the award on behalf of Sunderland Youth Offending Service

Rod Morgan, Chair of the Youth Justice Board for England & Wales, presenting the award at the national convention, said: "This award is presented following Sunderland YOS' work as they turned around a local paper after a front page headline sensationalising local crime rates. The YOS has since achieved a series of very significant positive news stories, a model of how negative media coverage can be transformed by planning and

developing relationships with regional papers and recognising media needs as well as their own".

Judith Hay, Youth Offending Service Manager, was delighted to receive this prestigious national award and said: "We'd like to thank our partners and press for their support for our work promoting positive media coverage of young people in Sunderland and in particular reassuring the public that this city is a safe place to live".

Sunderland Local Democracy Week

Three young people from the Houghton Connexions Jobclub recently paid a visit to the Houses of Parliament to meet their local MP, Fraser Kemp, as part of Local Democracy Week.

Stacy, Katie and Alan applied for money in order to go to London for the second stage of the Keyfund process. The young people worked hard planning their trip, designing a poster as part of their presentation to the Keyfund panel and were supported by Connexions staff and Youth Worker, Wendy Dunn.

The young people were offered the opportunity to attend their local Labour Party Constituency meeting to give their views on youth provision in their local area.

As a result of this meeting, Fraser Kemp, MP, invited the group to the Houses of Parliament, whilst on their visit to the capital in October. Mr Kemp gave a full tour of the building and also gave them passes to sit in the Debating Chambers where they observed MPs discussing welfare issues, including Benefit Fraud. Stacy, Katie and Alan thoroughly enjoyed this experience and the rest of their trip to London. Stacy and Katie recently gave a presentation about the Jobclub and their recent London trip. They both felt that the Jobclub had helped them to progress into their current training opportunities. They told managers that they believed all young people should have the opportunity to access a Jobclub for support with job search and career development, as well as for gaining skills through personal and social development activities

Young Person's Inspection Team

As part of the restructure of the Youth Development Group in 2004, a need was identified for a Young Person's Inspection Team, who would be equipped with the knowledge and skills to carry out a timetable of inspections of youth provision alongside the Quality Assurance Team. It was recognised that such a group would greatly enhance the work of the QA team and help provide a voice for young people within their projects.

After two days of training covering a variety of topics through workshops and activities for 18 young people, a pilot of inspections was carried out before seven members inspected youth provision in the City alongside Ofsted in September 2004, each receiving a certificate for their contribution.

The YPIT continued with a timetable of inspections in preparation for the commissioning of youth work to the Voluntary Sector from April 2005, receiving Special Recognition in the Young Achievers Awards for their hard work. They have since carried out over 50 inspections of the various youth provision on offer in contracted areas throughout the City alongside the QA Team, with recommendations made for improvements.

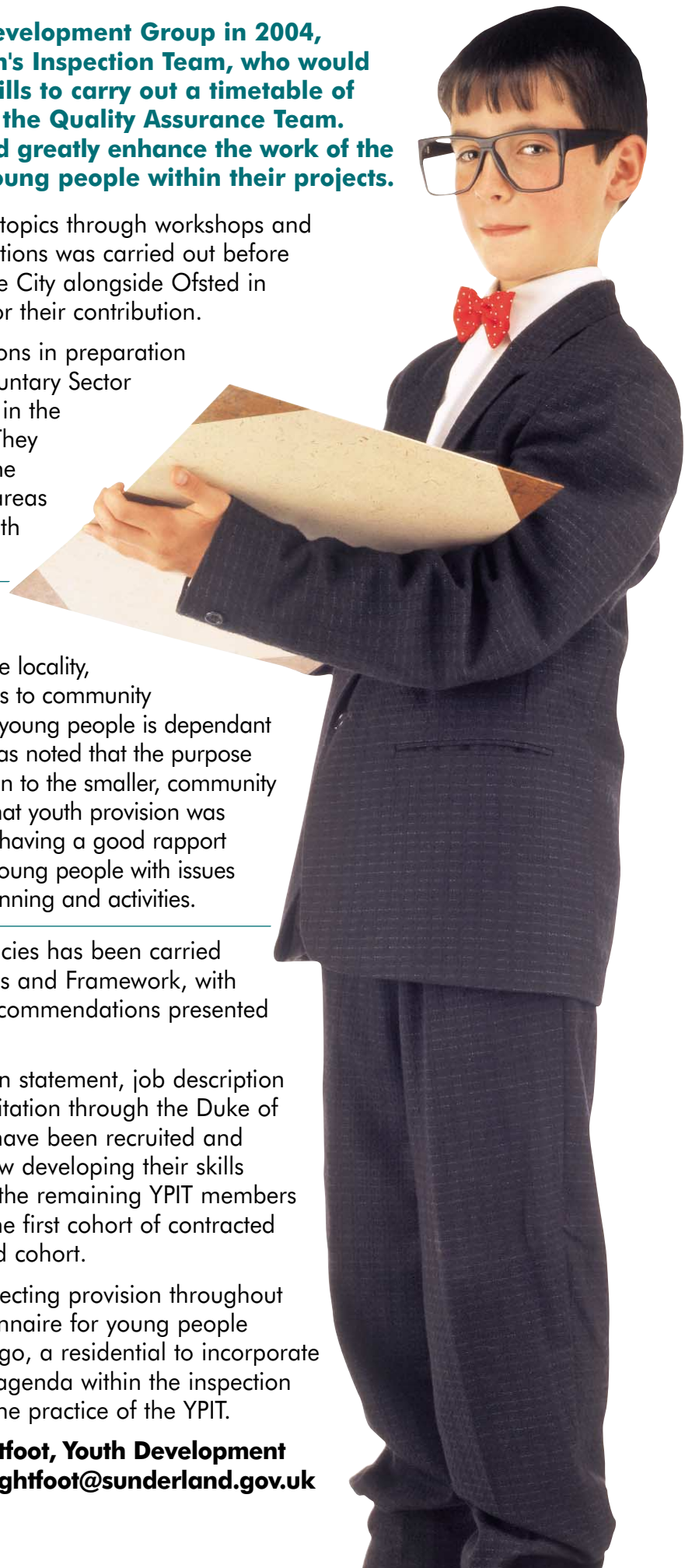
Some of the key findings from these visits are that youth provision in the City is generally adequate to good with accessible facilities in the locality, which vary from purpose built centres to schools to community buildings. The variety of resources available to young people is dependant on the space available for youth clubs and it was noted that the purpose built centres do have the best facilities in relation to the smaller, community venues. However, the general consensus was that youth provision was friendly and welcoming with the young people having a good rapport with youth work staff, who in turn support the young people with issues and encourage involvement in programme planning and activities.

A six month review of the nine contracted agencies has been carried out in line with the Quality Assurance Standards and Framework, with findings of the implementation of inspection recommendations presented to the YPIT.

The YPIT have also developed their own mission statement, job description and code of conduct as well as gaining accreditation through the Duke of Edinburgh Award. A further 13 young people have been recruited and participated in two days of training and are now developing their skills through a further timetable of inspections with the remaining YPIT members that will lead up to an end of year review for the first cohort of contracted agencies and a six month review for the second cohort.

Apart from continuing the valuable role of inspecting provision throughout the City, future developments include a questionnaire for young people about the provision they access, designing a logo, a residential to incorporate the implementation of the Every Child Matters agenda within the inspection process as well as monitoring and evaluating the practice of the YPIT.

For further information contact Karen Lightfoot, Youth Development Group, Tel: 0191 553 7423, Email: karen.lightfoot@sunderland.gov.uk



From a Concept into Practice

It has been a long four years and ten months since Victoria Climbié died alone in a small flat in London on 25 February 2000. Some of us will be able to remember the massive public outcry at the time and later at the trial in January 2002 when her carers Theresa Kouao and Carl Manning were convicted of her murder.

It is important to recall the subsequent independent inquiry by Lord Laming directed by the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Health and to remember the haunting words Lord Laming used in his speech to parliament in January 2001.

"We cannot fail to be moved by the tragic circumstances surrounding the death and to be angry that we allowed this to happen in spite of a raft of services in contact with Victoria and her carers during the ten months that she spent in our country."

Laming reported, "a string of failures by staff and agencies, confusion between local authorities, conflicting reports, staff shortages and miscommunication," and he then went on to say, "what transpired during this period can only be described as a catalogue of administrative, managerial and professional failure by the services charged with her safety."

It is vitally important that we remember these words as they resulted in 108 recommendations for change. Many of these changes have already taken place through service reforms, new Every Child Matters: Change for Children guidance and the Children Act 2004 and our services are now effective with professional and committed staff. What we have not achieved yet is implementing the final pieces of the jigsaw to underpin this broad programme of change.

The four remaining pieces to complete the vision of fully integrated children's services under a Children's Trust are: The Information Sharing Index, Common Assessment, Lead Professional and the Directory of Children's Services.

This is the Information Sharing and Assessment programme.

The Information Sharing Index

In a written Ministerial Statement to the House of Commons on 8 December 2005 the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, Ruth Kelly, announced the Government's decision to implement a single nationally linked information sharing index to support the more effective delivery of children's services in England.

The aim is to ensure that all local areas have access to an operational index by the end of 2008. The index will contain basic identifying details of all children (0-19 years) in England and contact details for the services they are receiving. It will also record contact details of practitioners who have indicated that they have information to share and will provide an early alert system and promote early intervention. Local authorities and children's service providers will have a duty under section 12 of the Children Act 2004 to maintain it in respect of children and young people living in their area.

DfES has made provision to fund the implementation of the index and ongoing costs around accuracy of data, security of its operation and training for staff.

In Sunderland we are looking at a number of IT models and in particular 'ANITE' which will link into the new SWIFT IT system.

Common Assessment Framework (CAF)

Common assessment is designed to address some of the shortfalls linking up practice between services identified in the Laming Report. Its purpose is to encourage practitioners to undertake and record the first point of contact discussion with the child and family so that it can be shared with other services.

Common forms and processes, agreed definition of terms and roles across supporting services will not only ensure that the child's needs are identified at the earliest point but will promote better integrated working and improve outcomes for the child and family.

The requirement under the Children Act 2004 is that local authorities appoint a CAF coordinator and develop a CAF database and that named services nominate and train a number of CAF assessors.

In Sunderland we have three CAF pilot settings (New Silksworth developing Children's Centre, Farringdon Fully Extended School and North Washington Children's Centre) where services will be testing out the new CAF forms and procedures. Forty six nominated staff will receive the CAF assessor training in January and a multi-agency training team has been established to deliver this. The assessors will be required to notify the CAF coordinator when an assessment has been carried out. Contact details and not the assessment detail will be placed on the CAF database and be available to other services. CAF assessments will only be carried out with the consent of the child/parent or carer.

The Lead Professional

The lead professional will provide continuity and accountability to ensure that interventions are properly coordinated and followed up and that appropriate feedback is provided to the child and family.

In the pilots we are looking to apply the CAF and lead professional role to children and young people who show that they have needs but do not automatically refer into statutory services because they do not meet the threshold for referral. This process will hopefully allow appropriate services to come together at an earlier point to address those needs and prevent them from escalating into more serious concerns.

The lead professional will usually be appointed following a CAF assessment and this will normally take place at the multi - agency meeting where the role will be agreed and suitable intervention through the action plan implemented.

Sunderland will be the subject of DfES funded consultancy support starting in January. The Office for Public Management will provide up to 12 days consultancy support focussing on health practitioners and the role of the lead professional operating within the New Silksworth pilot.

Solutionfinder

A New web based directory including information on services for children, young people and families has been developed and can be found at www.solutionfinder.org.uk



Background

The directory has been developed as part of the ISA (Information Sharing & Assessment) programme and aims to improve access to services for children, young people and families. The Government require all local authorities to have a web based service directory holding information on services for children, young people and families.

Gateshead and Newcastle ISA Trailblazer have developed a web-based directory called Solutionfinder and with DfES support they are looking to develop a regional solution. A number of Local Authorities in the region have been part of this development work and in Sunderland we have already begun to enter our service information onto the site.

The directory is an excellent tool to enable parents and professionals to find information on services available in the City and across the region. It is quick and easy to use and we are sure you will find it a valuable resource.

If you want to find a service

The easiest way to look for a service is to go to the website www.solutionfinder.org.uk and click on "Find a Service". Then use the Search function by typing in words that relate to the type of service you are looking for. Remember if you only want to find out

about services in Sunderland type Sunderland into the search - otherwise you will be given information on services from other areas across the region.

The directory is available to anyone with internet access.

[If you would like to include your service on the directory.](#)

There are currently two ways to include your service on the directory

1. You can contact Leanne Fairbairn on 0191 566 1788 or leanne.fairbairn@ssd.sunderland.gov.uk and she will arrange for the details of your service to be included.
2. Alternatively, you can go on the website itself and click on "Add Your Service", this appears on the left hand side of the screen. The website will send you an email with your username and password on it so that you can enter your information and update it as often as you want.

The directory is free of charge so please use it. The more services that appear on the directory the more effective it will become. In the New Year we plan to promote the site to the public so please register your details now and make full use of this excellent resource.

[If you want to know more or have any questions please contact Leanne Fairbairn on 0191 566 1788 or \[leanne.fairbairn@ssd.sunderland.gov.uk\]\(mailto:leanne.fairbairn@ssd.sunderland.gov.uk\)](#)

ParentCarerForum

OCTOBER 2005

AN ANNUAL CONSULTATION EVENT FOR PARENTS AND CARERS OF DISABLED CHILDREN TO MEET WITH SERVICE PROVIDERS TO DISCUSS EXISTING SERVICES AND TO HELP PLAN FUTURE PROVISION

In October 2005 the sixth annual Parent Carer Forum was held at Leechmere Training Centre. There were approximately 100 people at the event with an even mix of parent carers and professionals.

The aim of the Forum is to consult with parent carers concerning proposed developments in Sunderland and to update them concerning achievements over the past year. It also enables parent carers to meet informally with a wide range of professionals who work with disabled children, as well as meeting other parent carers.

The opening remarks were given by Dawn Kelly who is the parent of a disabled child. She described the extra energy needed to look after a disabled child, and how difficult it is to juggle the needs of disabled and non-disabled children within a family.

Speeches were given to update both parent carers and professionals on what is happening nationally and locally. This year a national update was given focusing on the NSF (National Service Framework), the ECM (Every Child Matters) Outcomes Framework, and Children's Trusts. An in-depth speech was given on Therapy Services in Sunderland. This looked at what developments have been made and what Therapy Services intend to do to improve the service they offer. Information was also given on progress made within the three priority areas for disabled children in the City: Early Years, Autistic Spectrum Disorder and Transition to Adulthood.

One of the most important and successful elements of the day is the Workshops. The Workshops enable everyone to talk openly about key topics. Everyone is given the opportunity to ask questions and receive answers.



This year the key topics were:

- Early Years
- Physiotherapy and occupational therapy
- Transition to adulthood
- Speech and language therapy
- Sexuality and puberty
- Transition from primary to secondary school.

A report has been written on the 2005 Parent Carer Forum. It is available by post as a hard copy or as a pdf (via email or at www.sncwd.org.uk).

If you would like a copy of the report please contact Jean Bruce on 0191 566 1899 or email jean.bruce@ssd.sunderland.gov.uk

UK YOUTH PARLIAMENT 2006 ELECTIONS IN SUNDERLAND

Ten young people are making their mark by putting themselves forward for the 2006 UK Youth Parliament elections. Two Members of the UK Youth Parliament and two deputy members will be elected. These young people from across the City will represent the youth of Sunderland regionally and nationally. They have not only chosen to stand up for their peers on issues which affect all cultures of youth, but also to take on new challenges.

One of Sunderland's current Members of UK Youth Parliament's, Charlotte Cheal, has tirelessly helped work to improve the situation of children's welfare. She is a member of Sunderland Children's Trust Board, and also a valued member of the Sunderland Youth Parliament where she and various other members discuss and work to improve things for young people in Sunderland.

Even though Charlotte has excelled in her position of UK Youth Parliament, she has had to make the difficult decision not to take part in the 2006 elections, as she has made her priority to for 2006 to concentrate on her GCSE exams, we wish her luck and hope she will get excellent grades!

Representatives for the UK Youth Parliament have discussed and debated local and national issues put forward by not only young people, but local and national Government bringing young people face to face with senior politicians in Sunderland and at the Houses of Parliament.

The elections will take place from Saturday 25 February to Friday 3 March 2006. The 10 candidates stepping forward this year will be:

- Sam Brass
- Anna Maltby
- Lee Waters
- Claire Fenwick
- David Pearson
- Laura Whiting
- Maria Hodgson
- Rachel Ranezami
- Grant Hollis
- Jamie Tuckwell

Candidate information will be on ballot papers and also in a special edition of Sunderland Youth Parliament's Urban Beat newsletter due out in January.

Schools, youth projects and colleges in Sunderland will be invited to host the elections. For more details contact Michael Elsy, Youth Development Group, 270a Hylton Road, Sunderland SR4 7XJ, Tel: 0191 553 7416 or email: micheal.elsy@sunderland.gov.uk

Sunderland's elected Members of the UK Youth Parliament are supported by Sunderland City Council through the Youth Development Group.

Christopher Scott

(Student from Thornhill School on work placement with the Youth Development Group)



United Kingdom

Youth Parliament
MAKING OUR MARK

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, Children's Services, 50 Fawcett Street, Sunderland SR1 1RF.

Tel: 0191 566 1832 email: communications@ssd.sunderland.gov.uk

The deadline for the next edition is Friday 3 March 2006



THE CHILDREN'S TRUST ENGAGING WITH THE
VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR

**Are you an organisation working
in Sunderland with children,
young people, parents or carers?**

**Wondering what the
Children's Trust is all about?**

Then this is for you!

**Come along for an
information sharing session**

THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2006

9.30am to 2.45pm

Bethany Christian Centre, Houghton le Spring

OR

SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2006

9.30am to 2.45pm

St Mary's & St Peter's, Springwell, Sunderland

There will be guest speakers from the Children's Trust and workshops will include opportunities for you to give your opinion on issues facing the community and voluntary sector, the best way for you to receive communication about the Children's Trust, ways you can contribute and barriers to your involvement.

Lunch will be provided. Transport/reimbursement costs and Crèche facilities (Thursday only) will be available.

If you would like to come along, please book a place via The Hive.

You can do this by telephoning them on **0191 584 5729**
or emailing marian.mcguinness@barnardos.org.uk



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

Voluntary and Community Sector



Learning+Skills Council
Tyne and Wear



University of
Sunderland

connexions

TYNE AND WEAR

City of Sunderland College



NATIONAL PROBATION SERVICE
for England and Wales

Northumbria



children's fund



Sunderland Youth Parliament