

Children's Services
Cassaton House, 43-49 Fawcett Street,
Sunderland SR1 1RR

Telephone: 0191 520 5555
Web: www.sunderland.gov.uk

Dear Headteacher

Children And Young People's Plan 2010-25
Consultation With Children And Young People On The Priorities

Sunderland Children's Trust is currently developing its 15 year plan – the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). This is a plan that the Government requires us to do. Our plan will run from 2010-25.

To help write the plan, the Children's Trust needs to identify:

- What are the needs of children, young people and families in the city
- Which of these needs are a priority
- How are all services going to work together to meet these needs

An essential part of this development is securing, and responding to, the views of children and young people.

Discussions have taken place with your headteacher representatives on the Children's Trust about how best to achieve this and a two-stage process has been suggested.

There are two ways in which we are asking schools to help us:

- **Stage 1 - The questionnaire** – which is enclosed – asks children and young people to tell us their priorities
- **Stage 2 - Citizenship Week** – which will take place in October 2009 and for which more information will be provided at a later date – asks schools to spend some dedicated time with their pupils discussing their views on a specific topic

The questionnaire (enclosed)

We have begun to identify some of the areas that may be a priority for the Children's Trust and have included these within the questionnaire.

The questionnaire is a simple double-sided page document that asks children and young people to put a tick in the box next to things that are important to them. The questionnaire has been designed so that it can be completed in a short space of time.

We are asking all schools to ask their pupils to complete the questionnaire.

Delivering services for a better future

We have included enough questionnaires so that every pupil in your school can take part.
We are asking schools to send us their completed questionnaires by 10th July.

Citizenship Week

Citizenship Week is an opportunity for services to engage the views of the children and young people that they are currently supporting.

The Children's Trust identifies a theme for children and young people to consider and then uses those views as it reviews its current priorities and identifies new ones.

We have enclosed a copy of a document that provides more information about Citizenship Week. This year Citizenship Week will take place in October 2009 and we will be making contact with you about this at a later date.

When the Children's Trust receives completed questionnaires, we will collate all of the responses. They will be used to

1. Contribute towards our written assessment of need.
This assessment of need is currently being prepared and the Children's Trust will use it to help identify priorities for the fifteen year commissioning strategy – the CYPP 2010-25.
2. Help us identify a theme for Citizenship Week 2009.

You will find enclosed with this covering letter an information pack, which includes the following:

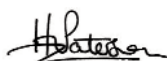
- Questionnaire for all children and young people to complete
- Information on Citizenship Week

I understand this is a busy time for schools and I would be very grateful if you could spend some time with your pupils in asking them to complete the questionnaire. A Headteacher colleague has suggested this may be something School Councils would like to be involved in and manage. All children and young people responding will be entered into a prize draw, if they have included their contact details. There are two individual prizes of £25 each of WH Smith gift vouchers to give away.

Questionnaires are to be returned to
Communications Services, FREEPOST NT2433, 50 Fawcett Street, Sunderland SR1 1BR.

If you have any queries or need further copies of the questionnaire please contact Karen Spoors, Communications Officer as detailed below.

Yours sincerely



Dr Helen Paterson
Director of Children's Services
On behalf of Sunderland Children's Trust

Karen Spoors
Communications Officer
Direct Line 0191 566 1845
E-mail Karen.Spoors@sunderland.gov.uk