

Every Child Matters in County Durham

Edition 2 July 2004



Here is the second of the newsletters to be published every other month by the Every Child Matters in County Durham Implementation Team. We hope it keeps everyone informed about changes in services for all children, young people and their families.

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The Project Name

The Every Child Matters in County Durham Officer Group wants staff in all the agencies involved, children, young people and families

- to know who they are
- to receive regular information

- to give their opinions on Every Child Matters in County Durham

The Group has representatives from every service of the Council and is chaired by the Chief Executive, Kingsley Smith.

Contact us to let us know what you think about future services and what would be a good pathfinder project:

Phone 0191 383 3655
Minicom: 0191 383 3980

Or write to The Every Child Matters Implementation Team, Social Care and Health, County Hall, Durham, DH1 5HG

Partnership Development Group Members:

Debbie Jones	Social Care and Health
Amanda Johnson	Education
Tricia Cresswell	Durham & Chester-le-Street PCT
Janice Bray	Connexions
Nick Tsamarios	Derwentside District Council
Lynne Gregory	Education
Christina Blythe	Youth Engagement Service
Judy Lomas	Chief Executive's Office
Eva Alexandratou	Partnership Development Officer
Carole Payne	Social Care and Health

Making a difference where you live



Conference Report:

EVERY CHILD MATTERS IN COUNTY DURHAM – THE WAY FORWARD

The conference in April 2004 asked what will the service required to deliver the Vision for Children, Young People and their Families look like:

- to children, young people and their families?
- to staff working in it?

A SHARED VISION FOR SERVICES

Delegates felt services should:

- be run by agencies working together in multi-disciplinary teams appearing to users as one service, including voluntary agencies, with outreach, all based in local communities
- have a focus on preventing problems
- have a single point of access to all services

The above points suggest the following vision for the service:

1. A Common Strategic Framework

A single analysis of children's needs with provision centrally commissioned within a common strategy.

All agencies will identify shared priorities and targets, monitored through a single performance and inspection framework.

2. Shared Processes

Services for children, young people and their families will be offered via a single contact point and assessment, with clear thresholds for

access to targeted and specialist services.

A keyworker will "manage" the contributions of all service providers.

3. An agreed Service Structure

There will be central commissioning, but most services will be delivered locally.

Each community (to be defined) will have universal service delivery by a multi-agency team, including the voluntary sector, to strengthen preventative work.

Services accessible through a range of "gateways", including Children's Centres, schools, GP Surgeries, Connexions offices, Youth Centres etc, including 24/7 access. Access points need to be age-appropriate and to offer outreach.

Local teams will be supported by countywide or regional specialist services to meet low incidence, high level needs.

So the new service for children, young people and their families will:

- Focus on outcomes, with clear direction from the top and throughout the service
- Involve staff and young people in service design
- Limit bureaucracy and jargon
- Encourage mutual respect between disciplines
- Have a problem solving approach and a willingness to learn
- Share common core training to develop understanding of "the new professional".
- Need a flexible, trusting and skilled workforce, dynamic and willing to change
To get there we need your views - What do you think about this vision?
- Will it lead to better services for children, young people and their families?
- Is this the kind of service you want to create and in which you want to work?

Extended schools – A way of working together

Extended (or full service) schools offer a range of services to children and young people, their families and local communities, over and above the day to day business of teaching. A series of initiatives, promoting the development of such schools culminated in a number of pathfinder projects, funded by DfES. Whilst each project was free to determine its own focus, there was encouragement to develop

- Facilities open to children and families beyond the school day,
- Activities targeted at vulnerable groups,
- Community cohesion,
- Integrated service delivery, and positively contribute to neighbourhood renewal and educational standards.

In Durham there are extended school developments in Central Durham, Shildon,

Newton Aycliffe, Shotton, Consett and Bishop Auckland. Evaluation by the Universities of Newcastle, Manchester and Brighton concluded that extended schools projects

- Have positive effects and good returns in terms of investment,
- Act as a catalyst for enhancing collaboration between education and other agencies,
- Benefit from local authorities undertaking a key, enabling role and time for development, prior to service delivery,
- Are best supported by genuine community consultation and participation.

Guidance on extended schools is available on <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/extendedschools>.

Contact Officer – Frank Firth.

PATHFINDER Projects to help us find The Way Forward

We intend to run a number of Pathfinder projects to develop integrated practice. These projects will explore new ways of working and to learn lessons that will inform us all about the successful development of future services.

The first Pathfinder is for children with a disability. This project will encourage Health, Social Care and Health, Education and Voluntary organisations to work

together with service users to develop seamless and effective services.

The Every Child Matters team wants to hear your suggestions for other Pathfinder projects.

- Which areas of work will offer us the most learning?
- Which will make the biggest difference to the lives of children and young people?
- Where could we build on existing practice to develop integrated services?
Tell us what you think would make a good Pathfinder Project

Events to help us on The Way Forward – A date for your diary!

The Every Child Matters in County Durham Autumn conference:

Tuesday November 23rd, venue to be confirmed.

This conference will update everyone on progress so far and will focus particularly on practice. By then, we will have some Pathfinders of our own to showcase and we will be looking to learn from the experiences of colleagues in other areas.

ROADSHOWS

We want all staff to think about the future of services for children, young people and their families. We plan a series of roadshows across County Durham to give everyone the chance to get together with colleagues from other agencies to share ideas and hear about progress.

The dates for these events will be published soon.

Please come along and encourage your colleagues to do the same.

Watch out for out for the Every Child Matters logo with more details of these events.

NEWS FROM THE CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (CYPSP)

New appointment

The partnership welcomes Eva Alexandratou, as Partnership Development Officer funded jointly by partnership members to aid its development.

Eva is contacting Children and Young People's Planning Groups (The Local Partnerships), which are part of Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs). She is meeting with as many agencies as possible to hear what they have to say about Every Child Matters in County Durham. This should help those involved in local preventative strategies to understand the way forward and to commit to its priorities. Eva's role is to support CYPSP by providing a link between agencies.

Mapping Exercise

CYPSP is to map current provision in all areas. This is a first step towards a single commissioning strategy for every child in County Durham. Work has already started with a "planned new initiatives" audit. If you receive a questionnaire, please complete it as thoroughly as you can. The better the information we gather now, the better our plans will be for the future.

CYPSP Executive Group.

The partnership is consulting on the formation of a Chief Officer Executive Group. Until this is established, it has been agreed a "Partnership Development Group" should have a lead role.

The executive group could if required form the basis of a future Children's Trust.

My Work as Partnership Development Officer for the CYPSP

Speaking with people across County Durham, who deliver services to children, young people and their families, I realise how one vision can embrace everyone's efforts and targets.

My priority is establishing clear communication channels and strong links between local and countywide provision. Partnership work on strategies and action with quality outcomes is important.

I have visited those in a position to manage significant change in their services. Locally and countywide, there is a strong commitment to join 'forces' and coordinate the best service delivery for the needs of children, young people and parents/carers.

Everyone's attention is centred on creating a shared vision among practitioners, in all services and projects, so strategies can link, develop and improve. Most important though, is to enable children, young people and their parent/carers to influence and shape policy decisions and service delivery.

The Children's and Young People Strategic Partnership brings together knowledge, good practice and resources in voluntary and statutory organisations throughout County Durham. It is supported by local Children's and Young People Planning Groups (Durham/CLS, Derwentside, Easington, Sedgefield, Dales)

Eva Alexandratou

Eva is based in the Connexions County Durham head office at Aykley Heads in Durham City.

You can contact her on 0191 383 1777

WE NEED YOUR VIEWS ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER..

- Does it give you enough information about Every Child Matters in County Durham?
- If not what else do you need to know?
- Are our messages clear to you?

Here's how you can contact us to let us know what you think:

Phone : 0191 383 4095 Minicom: 0191 383 3980

Or write to The Every Child Matters Implementation Team, Social Care and Health, County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UG