



# Every Child Matters in County Durham

Edition 5 February 2005



## The Children Act 2004 and the 'Change for Children' Agenda

The Children Bill received Royal Assent on 15 November and is now the Children Act 2004. It encourages integrated planning, commissioning and multi-disciplinary services. It should remove duplication, increase accountability and improve the coordination of inspections of local authorities. The legislation is enabling rather than prescriptive and provides local authorities with a considerable amount of flexibility in the way they implement its provisions:

### Integrated front-line delivery

- children's centres with services for the children and families in one place
- extended schools with co-location of services for children and young people
- multi-disciplinary support to make the link between health and achievement in school
- a pay and workforce strategy to shape the children's workforce for the future
- staff from different services will increasingly be working together
- better advice and guidance for parents, carers and families
- integrated processes
- Common Assessment Framework

### Integrated strategy

- a single Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) replacing a number of existing statutory plans
- greater scope for the joint commissioning of services within Children's Trusts
- Children's Services Inspection including Joint Area Reviews

### Inter-agency governance

- All authorities required to appoint a Director of Children's Services and designate a Lead Member for Children's Services.
- statutory duty on local authorities to promote cooperation between agencies
- Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) will be established by April 2006



Making a difference where you live



## 'Every Child Matters: Change for Children'

The Government is moving forward the Every Child Matters Agenda through the Change for Children programme.

Twelve Regional Change Advisers (RCA), have been appointed by the DfES and the DoH to support and challenge the local change programmes in 150 Children's Services Authorities.

Before Christmas, Stanley Bradford (our RCA), met with the Chief Executive and members of the ECM Implementation Team to judge how far we have progressed towards delivering on our promises -The Durham 5. The approach we adopted to complete the Durham 'health check' was transparent, robust and, some may say, overly self-critical!

So what did we say about ourselves? We reflected on the enormous amount of work undertaken in local and Countywide partnerships and our determination not to merely shuffle the deckchairs.

We are committed to building on existing good practice:

- Sure Start Local Programmes,
- Communities of Learning,
- SureStart Children's Centres,
- COSIP,
- Looked After Services and many more.

We were commended for our approach but recognise there is much still to do. We have highlighted the risks and know the gaps. We have a clear game plan but with no illusions. The 'Onion Diagram' (on the front page), outlines the components of a Children's Trust putting children and young people at the centre.

The next big challenge for Change for Children in Durham will be bringing together the various Performance Assessment Regimes into one Annual Performance Assessment. The most significant change will be work on delivering the outcomes and all that goes with it!!

*Debbie Jones and Amanda Johnson*



## Youth Green Paper: hints from Margaret Hodge?

We can now expect the long-awaited Youth Green Paper in mid March 2005. Meanwhile we can glean some clues to the likely content from a speech given by Margaret Hodge, Minister for Children, Young People and their Families to an Institute for Public Policy Research conference on 19th January. She began by stating that in her encounters with young people, one frequent cry is their frustration and anger at how the actions and behaviour of a few young people are perceived by society as reflecting the actions and behaviour of most young people.

Contrary to many people's perceptions, young people are at the heart of the Government's reforms, and the Green paper will propose various changes to improve the life chances of all young people, by:

- Considering young people's needs holistically, and not responding to specific risks with specific initiatives
- Enabling one trusted adult to be able to advise and guide them through issues
- Breaking down separate professional silos and building services around the needs of children and young people
- Developing activities and facilities for teenagers: "places to go and things to do"
- Requiring Youth Services to reach more young people
- Engaging young people in activities they enjoy, that are stimulating, focused and with good adult supervision
- Involving young people in designing and influencing services that are for them
- Supporting parents and providing advice about parenting teenagers
- Ensuring young people get good advice, at the right time, which they can trust, and which helps them make the right choices for them. This includes appropriate and competent support for making curriculum choices.

*Janice Bray*

## Developing the Workforce: working with children, young people and their families.

The Children's Workforce Development Council is a new organisation established following the Government's commitment to workforce reform in the Green Paper 'Every Child Matters.'

One of five bodies in the federated UK Skills for Care and Development Sector Skills Council, the Council aims to improve outcomes for children and young people. It will focus on workforce excellence through: training provision, career development and improved workforce mobility to encourage better integration.

The Council will implement 'Common Core' standards for all people working with children, young people and their families. A new qualification was recently launched for Connexions Personal Advisers, Learning Mentors and Education Welfare Officers.



The Council will develop our workforce, whether working in statutory or voluntary sectors or self-employed. It covers workers in early years, educational welfare, learning mentors, Connexions, foster care and social care, including CAF/CASS staff. It also coordinates the Children's Workforce Network including those working in schools, child health, youth services, youth justice and play settings.

As Executive Director of Connexions County Durham I represent Connexions Partnerships nationally on the Shadow Board. The Council website is kept up to date with the latest developments and can be accessed on:

[www.cwdcouncil.org.uk](http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk)

*Janice Bray*

## Stakeholders' views from the Autumn Roadshows and Conference

Some 270 Road Show participants reached a high level of agreement to:

- Continue dialogue with young people
- Ensure prevention becomes a priority
- Implement the Common Assessment Framework and Create a single database

Feedback from the case study groupwork identified a greater need for:

- An holistic approach and early intervention when supporting families
- Clarity of each agency's role, more sharing of information and clarity about access to it

A countywide conference, attended by over 100 people in November 2004, updated staff from all services to children and other interested parties, on the national and local Children's agenda.

These issues were identified for our future planning:  
**Children/Young People/Parents**

- Allow children and young people to be meaningfully involved within their own settings
- Be honest and realistic about influence and change, use jargon free language
- Ensure involvement of parents/carers to strengthen change

**Voluntary and Statutory Services**

- ECM requires innovation to promote the importance and value of the voluntary sector
- The holistic, early intervention approach needs to continue through school
- New projects require committed funding, resources and staff development

**Partnership Arrangements**

- New Partnership structures should have clear remit and statutory responsibilities
- Equal influence in decision-making processes amongst services
- Need clear and comprehensive local mapping of needs and service provision

**Conclusion:**

There was consistent feedback of key issues from both the Road Shows and the Conference:

- Staff are keen to be involved in a continuing programme of dissemination
- Leaders / champions are needed in every agency if the change programme is to succeed
- There is often conflict between national and local agendas
- More information is required on Children's Trusts
- Partnership structures are beginning to develop effectively

*Eva Alexandratou*, Partnership Development Officer

## The ECM Website is now live...

The Website address is

[www.everychildmattersincountydurham.org](http://www.everychildmattersincountydurham.org)

or click on 'Partnership Websites' on the home page of the Durham County Council Website.

The website aims to inform all stakeholders of developments affecting them:

- Vision, values and outcomes
- The Partnership Structure
- The membership of the Implementation Team
- ECM Project workstreams
- Minutes of Implementation Group meetings
- Copies of the ECM Newsletters

Use the online form for enquiries or to provide feedback to Every Child Matters in County Durham.

## Durham 5 update

The outcomes incorporated into our stated vision and values, are that our children and young people will:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being



The Durham 5 Outcomes Framework is now available for consultation. It provides an overarching framework to measure what we have achieved, linked to national and local priorities. The document shows the key outcomes with indicators, which all agencies and services working with children, young people and their families can support.

Local Children's Planning Groups are now working to include their own priorities within this document. Download this document from

[www.everychildmattersincountydurham.org](http://www.everychildmattersincountydurham.org)

The Durham 5 Outcomes will form the basis of our first integrated Children's Service Plan for 2006. We will develop not mine or yours, but OUR targets.

## Audit of needs and services

A high level audit of needs and services has commenced in Education and in Social Care and Health and all five PCTs are participating in the NHS pilot.

Indicators of need have been identified and an Editorial Team has been developed to draw all of the information together. It is hoped that the first completed sections will be on the ECM in County Durham Website in April and a paper version produced soon after that.

## Forthcoming Events:

### Annual ACT North East Citizenship Conference

The theme will be "Every Child Matters"

At Ushaw College Sunday 22nd May 6.00pm to Monday 23rd May 4.00pm 2005

### 'Keys for Inclusion' Conference

Friday 11th March at Ushaw College.

Contact Claire Willey on 0191 383 3130 email [claire.willey@durham.gov.uk](mailto:claire.willey@durham.gov.uk)

### COSIP (Co-ordination of Social Inclusion Programmes) Conference

The Youth Green Paper – 'Youth Offer', Entitlement, Diversion, Reward or Punishment?

Hardwick Hall Hotel, Sedgfield. Information on 01642 803973

### Children's Network 'Every Child Matters' Conference and Exhibition

For parent carers of children with disabilities and those working with them. County Hall, Durham on 14 April from 9am. Call 0191 383 3872

## 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?

## How to contact us:

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