



Every Child Matters in County Durham

Edition 7 July 2005



Change is here!

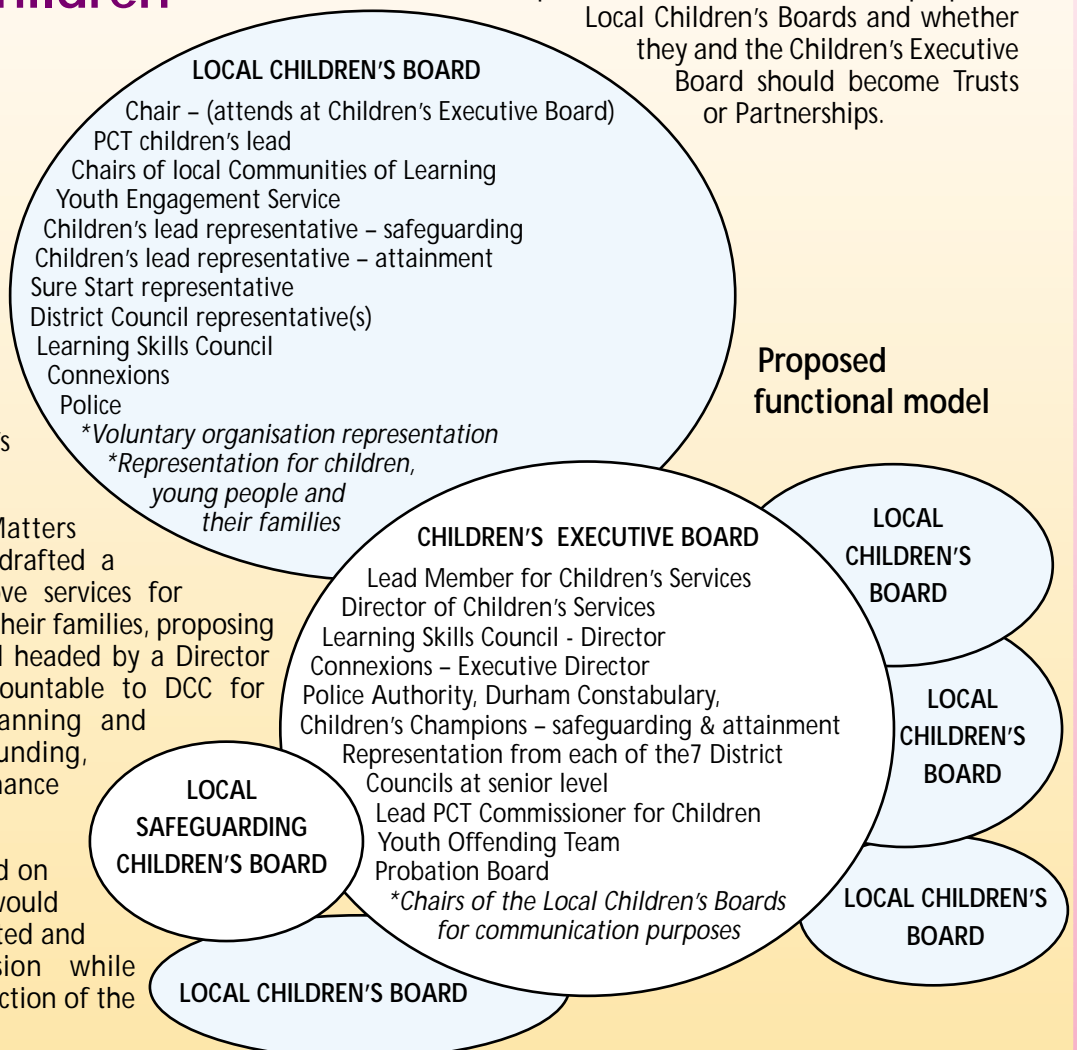
Consultation on the Change for Children Agenda in Durham

Durham County Council (DCC) has lead responsibility to bring together partners to implement this agenda, set by the Children Act 2004. It is consulting until 5th September with all partners and organisations on proposals for a Children's Services Authority.

The Every Child Matters Implementation Team has drafted a functional model to improve services for children, young people and their families, proposing a Children's Executive Board headed by a Director for Children's Services, accountable to DCC for strategic development, planning and commissioning, joint funding, resourcing and performance management.

Local Children's Boards based on PCT and CDRP boundaries would be responsible for co-ordinated and integrated service provision while supporting the strategic direction of the

Children's Executive Board. Partners under the Children Act 2004 are invited to consider the format, membership responsibilities and number of proposed Local Children's Boards and whether they and the Children's Executive Board should become Trusts or Partnerships.



.... Consultation Continued

Working towards better outcomes for children and their families depends on the co-ordination and integration of universal services with targeted and more specialised help, and on bringing services together around the needs of the child and family.

Within Durham we are working towards the establishment of a Trust or partnership by 2008.

These are the design principles underpinning the model:

- Single point of access within the locality underpinned by a common assessment framework;
- Most functions are best delivered in a geographic locality;
- Some strategic functions benefit from "central" delivery;
- Early intervention and prevention services reduce longer term need for specialist services;
- Service clusters can be based in several centres e.g. schools, community centres, leisure centres, health centres;
- Communities of Learning must be included at local level.

Whilst many targeted services can be devolved to the Local Children's Boards, further thought must be given to the risk attached to devolving some targeted and specialised services, to ensure that children are safeguarded appropriately.

The model tries to recognise the varied interests of all partners, although representation and "share of voice" may be a particular issue when considering effective representation within the Children's Executive Board.

Partners are invited to respond the following questions or raise any other issues:

- 1 What improvements can be made to strengthen the model?
- 2 Does the proposed functional model address the Every Child Matters agenda and is your core business area represented appropriately within it?
- 3 What format, Trust or Partnership, would best meet the needs of Durham?
- 4 Is the proposed membership of the Children's Executive Board sufficiently representative?
- 5 Is the proposed membership of the Local Children's Board sufficiently representative?
- 6 How can governance arrangements be made robust?
- 7 What do you consider to be the major risks in implementing the model?

The full consultation document can be accessed at www.everychildmattersincountydurham.org

Please send your responses to anita.spence@durham.gov.uk by September 5th.

Workforce Strategy Consultation

The DfES issued a consultation document on the Workforce Strategy for Children and Young People's services in April 2005. It draws together existing strategies with new developments, leading to the creation of a children's workforce suitably qualified and competent to deliver the 5 outcomes of Every Child Matters.

Significant additional funds to support implementation will be routed through the newly formed Children's Workforce Development Council, one of 5 federated councils that form the new Sector Skills Council for Social Care.

All workers delivering services to children, young people aged 0-19 and their families, whether in statutory, voluntary, or private sectors [including self employed] will be affected.

Central to the proposals are:

- the concept of the 'Lead Professional' who will join up services and specialised interventions within a multi agency approach for children
- implementation of the Common Assessment Framework
- training and development of new and current staff emphasising the Common Core of Skills and Knowledge

A Single Qualifications Framework is proposed as a way of retaining people within the overall children's workforce while offering pathways for career progression. The Government expects new and innovative ways of working to be an outcome, including imaginative use of a range of staff from a variety of backgrounds.

The Workforce Strategy is crucial to the development of new and improved services for children and young people. It is directly linked to all of the other work streams in County Durham, as well as the strategic commissioning of services and performance management. We can learn from existing practice such as Sure Start and Connexions, where multi-agency working co-ordinated by a lead professional has been tested.

The consultation lasts until 22nd July 2005. Relevant documents can be accessed on www.everychildmatters.gov.uk.

A strategic work stream group will take forward a local Workforce Strategy, which must be completed by March 2006. Now that the national consultation has been issued, we will finalise the Terms of Reference and devise a work plan for the group. This will be led by Janice Bray, Executive Director of Connexions County Durham and a member of the ECM Implementation group.

The articles which follow show how workforce reform is already underway in many of our organisations.

Service Redesign: Health Visiting and School Nursing.

A protocol for the 'Promotion of child and Family Health' has been produced by the 6 PCTs of County Durham and Darlington to provide a standardised approach for the assessment of child and family health needs.

It incorporates the recommendations of the 4th Hall Report and the NSF for Children, reinforcing the shift away from routine developmental screening, placing greater emphasis on targeted interventions, health promotion and preventative health care.

Core Health Visiting and School Nursing services will be available to all families with additional support given where greater need is identified. Need is determined individually, on an ongoing basis, in partnership with families using the principles set out in the Framework for Assessment (DOH 2000).

The protocol supports the active involvement of families in the identification and assessment of their health needs and measures needed to provide support. The targeted interventions aim to address the public health agenda by reducing inequalities in health.

Contact: Angela Davidson, Senior Nurse, Clinical Lead, Health Visiting, Sedgefield 01740 626644



Service Redesign: Education

Durham LEA actively supports schools to implement workforce reform. They have all received the three day training course including 'implementation of the 23 tasks', providing cover support, increasing time for the management and leadership team, work-life balance for teachers, the onset of planning, preparation and assessment time (PPA) that reduces teaching time by ten per cent from 1st September 2005.

The renamed Teacher Development Agency now facilitates professional development for whole school staff. The LEA has been supporting the professional development of school support staff of all levels including the academic route available to them.

The LEA links with the Durham Learning and Skills Council and external consultants provide National Vocational Qualifications for school staff at no cost to the individual or the school. Education in the Community has provided school support staff with training in literacy and numeracy. Links with Granada Learning and Sunderland University provide opportunities for teaching assistants to gain the Higher Level Teaching Assistant status. The LEA has the highest number of applicants in North East England and well in excess of most other LEAs.



Durham LEA was one of six finalists in the **Most Popular Graduate Recruiter**

– **Teaching** at the inaugural National Graduate Recruitment Awards 2005 in London. It has been acknowledged by the profession as one of the most effective recruiters into teaching in the country.

The DfES has invited Durham LEA to take part in the Extended Schools Remodelling Programme. By March 2006, it expects schools to be introducing or further advancing their core extended service provision and developing wrap-around childcare from 8am until 6pm, all year round. The LEA has formed a Strategy Group under the leadership of Rose Envy to provide advice, support and training.

The school will become the central focus of multi-agency work where there will be a range of personnel working to address the needs and care of children. Once the impact of this has become clearer, further training, with a multi-agency focus will be put in place.

Contact: Peter Harrison LEA Recruitment and Retention Strategy Manager (0191-3834123)
e-mail: peter.harrison@durham.gov.uk

or Margaret Tindale (0192-3833424)
e-mail: margaret.tindale@durham.gov.uk

Service Redesign: Improving Outcomes for Care Leavers in Durham

Where we were

Before April 2004, services for young people leaving care in County Durham were provided by a number of voluntary organisations. This led to inequalities in provision and a piecemeal service.

What we did

Discussion with care leavers informed us what young people thought was wrong with the previous services and about integration of services. They want:

- A consistent Advisor to support each young person from 15 to 21
- Fair financial support, each young person treated the same, wherever they live
- Extra support for moving to independence
- More help with the emotional demands of leaving care
- A wider range of options for care leavers and more choice in where they live
- Workers who will be able to respond quickly via mobile phones

How it works

The multi-agency Young People's Service Strategy involves Social Care & Health, Centrepoint, Connexions, Welfare Rights and Supporting People,

plus representatives from Fostering, Looked After Social Work Teams, Looked After Nurses, and the LEA Access Service. The Young People's Reference Group provides direct feedback on the effectiveness of the Young People's Service Strategy, to make sure that we are achieving our aims.

The Young People's Service Strategy is the "Achieving Economic Wellbeing" Workstream of Durham's Multi-Agency Looked After Partnership (MALAP), developed from an extensive 'Healthy Care Audit'.

Outcomes

Young people tell us that the service is working and our performance against national indicators has improved.

What we have learned.

- To keep the views of young people at the centre of the development
- To understand the different "organisational cultures" of the various professionals that make up the Young People's Service.
- To take the service out to care leavers rather than expecting them to come to us.

Contact: Dorothy Alexander, Manager, Young People's Service 01325 375610

Partnership Development

Officer - Moving to the next phase

A review of Eva Alexandratou's role as Partnership Development Officer has signalled the need for the post to focus on some new areas.

In addition to continuing to provide support to Local Children's Planning groups, Communities of Learning, the CYPSP, and the ECM workstreams, new responsibilities have been identified.

Voluntary and Community sector involvement

Engagement of the voluntary and community sectors is a challenge we all wish to meet. Eva will concentrate on working with the sector to ensure they are able to make a full contribution to all developments. Voluntary sector partners have welcomed this development, as reflecting the commitment and investment of partners.

A series of workshop events have been arranged for voluntary sector partners:

16 September 9:30-12:30	Tommy Armstrong Centre CVS Training Centre Stanley
20 September 9:30-12:30 13:30- 16:30	Crook Business Centre
21 September 12:30- 16:30	Bullion Hall Chester-le-Street
26 September 9:30-12:30	Children Fund
30 September 1 pm - 4 pm	Connexions Aykley Heads
3 October	Easington venue TBC
10 October 9:30-12:30	Children Fund
24 October 1 pm - 4 pm	Connexions Aykley Heads

For details and further information, please contact Anita Spence on 0191 383 3655. or eva.alexandratou@connexions-durham.gov.uk