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**Dear Colleague**

From April 2009 Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) will mean that there will be a unitary authority for County Durham. Work is underway to establish the best ways to join up District Council and County Council services.

One piece of LGR work relates to services for children and young people. We need to ensure that current projects/activities managed by different Councils don't "fall through the net" and children and young people don't lose out from changes in local government structures.

The attached on-line survey is designed to allow us to map those local projects/activities for young people (0-24 yrs old) across County Durham which are directly or indirectly funded by District Councils. These activities include a broad range of projects covering play, leisure, sport, mentoring, therapy or any other activity which supports young people and/or engages them in a positive way.

The information gathered will be essential to help us move from the two-tier system to a new unitary authority. Once we have an overall picture of what is currently in place the data will be used to help shape recommendations on future service structures and sustainability of services.

It is, therefore, important that we capture as many children and young people projects/activities as possible and we would be grateful for your help in completing this survey. It will only take around 20 minutes to complete. **If you have any queries about this survey please contact Stephen Tracey on 01207-218430 or e-mail [s.tracey@derwentside.gov.uk](mailto:s.tracey@derwentside.gov.uk). The deadline is 25<sup>th</sup> July 2008.**

Equally, if you know of other council funded local projects/activities for children and young people please pass the survey link on so they can complete it too. If there are projects with no internet access, please ask them to phone Steven Tracey on the above number for a telephone survey.

I would like to thank you in advance for your contribution in what is a very valuable piece of work for the children and young people of County Durham.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,



**David Williams**  
Corporate Director,  
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