

the alliance

the children and young people's
voluntary sector working
together for Hampshire



ebulletin

January 2011

Log on to www.hants-alliance.org.uk

consultations

- **local**

South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS)

Closing 28 February 2011

SCAS is consulting on its plans to become an NHS Foundation Trust.

SCAS serves Hampshire, Southampton, Portsmouth, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire.

<http://tinyurl.com/6374g57>

Hampshire County Council

Closing 16 March 2011

Transforming learning disability in-house services consultation

The purpose of this consultation is to seek the views of the public and other organisations on proposed changes to Hampshire County Council's residential and day services for people with learning disabilities.

<http://tinyurl.com/23zvukj>

Closing 14 March 2011

Consultation on a new pattern of children's centres provision in Hampshire

Hampshire County Council is consulting the public on a proposed new pattern of children's centres provision in Hampshire.

The County Council is consulting on an approach which would result in:

- eight area-based clusters of children's centres; and
- a reduction in the number of centres through mergers from 81 to 53, providing a service throughout the county; and
- management of all centres by third parties, which could include schools, and voluntary organisations.

The main impact of the changes would be on how the centres are managed, with clusters rather than individual centres becoming the basic management unit. Third party providers would be chosen through a competitive tender exercise, managed by the County Council against strict capacity and performance criteria.

Full details of the proposals can be found on the consultation website, link below, with information and 'frequently asked questions' to help both families and professionals understand the proposals.

Related Events

A number of drop-in events are also being held around the county with members of Hampshire County Council staff on hand to answer questions.

At the end of the consultation period, a report will be submitted to elected Members outlining the outcomes of the consultation and recommending specific arrangements for the future of children's centres provision.

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/2011-consultation>

- **national**

Ministry of Justice

Closing 14 February 2011

Proposals for the Reform of Legal Aid

Views are sought on proposals for reform of legal aid in England and Wales.

<http://tinyurl.com/363mdl9>

Department for Work and Pensions

Closing 14 February 2011

Disability Living Allowance Reform.

The Government is proposing to replace Disability Living Allowance (DLA) with a new benefit – Personal Independence Payment.

<http://tinyurl.com/2ce99tx>

The Government's proposals have important implications for children. Click on the link below for a consultation summary produced by Contact a Family.

<http://www.hants-alliance.org.uk/userfiles/file/Flyers/DLA%20reform%20-%20consultation%20summary.doc>

Department for Education

Closing 15 February 2011

Tackling Child Poverty and Improving Life Chances: Consulting on a New Approach

This consultation is about the Government's approach to ending child poverty.

<http://tinyurl.com/3x7e9kq>

Cabinet Office

Closing 9 March 2011

Giving Green Paper

This Green Paper is about much more than the 'Giving' title may suggest, as it sets out 'encouraging social action', a key strand of the Government's 'Big Society' agenda.

<http://tinyurl.com/3xdpr38>

Department of Health

Closing 31 March

Healthy lives, healthy people: consultation on the funding and commissioning routes for public health

This consultation explores the proposed funding and commissioning routes for public health, including the ring-fenced budget provided to local authorities.

The consultation document sets out the proposed activities to be funded from the new public health budget, and who should commission them. Amongst the services it is proposed to assign to local authorities to commission are:

- physical activity promotion and programmes
- obesity programmes
- drug and alcohol misuse, prevention and treatment;
- tobacco control including stop smoking services;
- children's public health 5-19;
- community safety and violence prevention and response (e.g. domestic violence services, counselling and support services);
- support for families with multiple problems

The consultation specifically asks what mechanisms would best enable councils to use voluntary and independent sector capacity to support health improvement plans.

<http://tinyurl.com/27ewd9a>

Department for Work and Pensions

Closing 7 April

Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility: the future of child maintenance

This consultation seeks views on the Government's strategy for reforming the child maintenance system. It is based on the Coalition Government's principle of enabling parents to take responsibility for their families.

<http://tinyurl.com/6e9fo57>

events

- **local**

(Saturday) 26 February 2011

**Murder Mystery Evening
(In aid of Winchester Youth Counselling)**

Venue: 7.30 pm at Jubilee Hall, Kingsworthy, near Winchester.

Cost: £15 per person. Includes a simple but delicious meal. Licensed bar available.

Contact: Elizabeth Mckerracher, Deputy Chief Executive,
Winchester Area Community Action (WACA),
Email: emckerracher@waca.org.uk

- **national**

16 March 2011

Free Commissioning Workshop

Venue: Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith St, Westminster, London SW1P 3BT

The Department for Education (DfE), in partnership with the Social Investment Business, the Commissioning Support Programme and the Society of Procurement Officers is holding a series of free training workshops on modernising the commissioning of children's services.

This event is free to attend and places are limited so please RSVP as soon as possible. To register please email training.psr@education.gsi.gov.uk indicating your region (South East) and the organisation type you work for.

10 February 2011

Internet Safety Conference

Venue: City Temple Conference Centre, Holborn Viaduct, London EC1

Cost: £30 per person

The Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) is promoting this internet safety conference which will draw together many of the UK's leading experts in the field of internet safety. Although intended primarily for places of worship and faith organisations, its appeal will be far wider.

<http://www.ccpas.co.uk/InternetConference.html>

grants and tenders

- **grants**

Ernest Cook Trust

The Ernest Cook Trust gives grants to registered charities, schools and not-for-profit organisations wishing to encourage young people's interest either in the countryside and the environment or the arts (in the broadest sense), or aiming to raise levels of literacy and numeracy.

The Trust has two grants programmes that run throughout the year, a large grant award of between £4,000 and £10,000, and a small grants programme for awards under £4, 0000

Further details at <http://www.ernestcooktrust.org.uk/grants/index.html>

European Year of Volunteering

The Cabinet Office has announced that a number of small scale contracts and grants have been made available to support initiatives promoting the 2011 European Year of Volunteering in England. See directly below under **tenders**.

- **tenders**

European Year of Volunteering

The Cabinet Office has announced that a number of small scale contracts and grants have been made available to support initiatives promoting the 2011 European Year of Volunteering in England.

Three contracting opportunities are available:

- Employer Supported Volunteering Lead
- Volunteer Management Lead
- Opening the Door to Volunteering Lead

Additionally a number of grants will be made available to five organisations or consortia of organisations to deliver projects addressing five themes, one of which is young people and children. Further details available at <http://tinyurl.com/6c627zd>

news

- **local**

Shaping Children's Services

Hampshire County Council has released information about proposals to maintain high quality support for the county's most vulnerable children and young people in the face of a £55million funding gap in the Council's overall budget next year.

<http://tinyurl.com/5setncy>

GP pathfinder consortia in Hampshire

GPs working together in South East Hampshire and Basingstoke have been included in the Department of Health's GP Commissioning Consortia pathfinder programme.

The pathfinders have been selected to be the first to take on commissioning responsibilities as part of the Government's plans set out in the NHS White Paper 'Liberating the NHS: Equity and Excellence'. The groups selected will work together to manage their local budgets and commission services for patients direct with other NHS colleagues and local authorities.

- **national**

Cuts survey

This snapshot survey, by Children and Young People now, sets out the scale of the cuts facing children's services departments across the country.

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/bulletins/Daily-Bulletin/news/1050883/?DCMP=EMC-DailyBulletin>

Cuts website

Umbrella bodies like the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) and individual voluntary sector organisations are collaborating on a website that maps government spending cuts.

The Voluntary Sector Cuts website allow people to enter cuts they become aware of on a spreadsheet, and this will capture data about where cuts are being made and who is being hit hardest.

<http://voluntarysectorcuts.org.uk/>

Comprehensive Cuts – Part 2

This paper by the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS) takes stock of the Coalition Government's policies so far and raises concerns about their impact on young people, and in particular disadvantaged young people.

http://www.ncvys.org.uk/UserFiles/Comprehensive_Cuts_Part_2.pdf

ALSF COMMA Fund discontinued

ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) has announced that following the Spending Review settlement in October 2010, the Government has decided to discontinue the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) from the end of this financial year.

This means that the COMMA fund, which is part of the ALSF programme, is now closed. ACRE has delivered this annual grants programme since 2007. In total the fund has attracted over 900 applications and has awarded grants totalling £1,788,050 to 190 community projects which have provided genuine and lasting benefit in communities affected by aggregates extraction or transportation.

Fairbridge to merge with The Prince's Trust

Children & Young People now reports that the two youth charities will merge from 1 April.

<http://tinyurl.com/6aelj9y>

De-mystifying Government funding of local authorities

A Plain English Guide to the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2011-12 is available from the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) website.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/newsroom/1804892>

Also available is a table showing formula grant funding per head for 2011-12.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/newsroom/1786823/1804766.xls>

resources

- **publications**

Children England fact sheets

Short, sharp and to the point, these two page briefings translate complicated issues into plain English and explain how the subject impacts upon the voluntary sector.

Click on the link below to view the Children England 'Why Commissioning?' fact sheet.

<http://www.childrenengland.org.uk/upload/why%20commissionCE.pdf>

- **reports**

Early Intervention: The Next Steps

This is Graham Allen MP's report to the Government on his independent review of early intervention.

<http://grahamallenmp.files.wordpress.com/2011/01/early-intervention-7th.pdf>

The Big Society and Public Services: complementarity or erosion?

Published by the Public Agency and Community Empowerment Strategies (PACES), this report warns that the original aims of Big Society are being sidelined in favour of the 'contradictory' pursuit of involving communities in public service delivery. It suggests that rather than empowering communities and nurturing personal responsibility, the Big Society has become fixated on encouraging social enterprises and third sector groups to run public services.

The report argues that instead of pushing the idea that people should take over public services, policy needs to focus on the fact that society is run by local people and public services together. Every service needs both types of input. Change requires rebalancing, not substitution.

<http://pacesempowerment.co.uk/pacesempowerment/Home.html>

- **research**

Families in an age of austerity:

How tax and benefit reform will affect UK families

This Family and Parenting Institute research shows how a broad range of family types will be affected by tax and benefit reforms.

http://www.familyandparenting.org/Filestore//Main_report_families_in_an_age_of_austerity.pdf

- **statistics**

Children in need

The Department for Education (DfE) has published figures on the numbers of children referred to and assessed by children's social services. It includes information on the characteristics of children in need and information on children who were the subject of a child protection plan for the year ending March 2010.

<http://tinyurl.com/64nawod>

- **websites**

The Autism Directory

Run by parents with autistic children, this website aims to pull together the information, support and help which is available to autism families.

<http://tinyurl.com/6awewa8>

safeguarding

Recruiting Safely National Training Programme

Action for Children, under the auspices of the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC), is delivering the 'Recruiting Safely' National Training Programme - a series of recognised and certificated face-to-face training events for organisations of all sizes and descriptions working with children and young people.

The 'Recruiting Safely' certificated course is designed to provide those involved in the recruitment and management of paid staff and volunteers working with children and young people with the necessary skills and knowledge to conduct safer recruitment and employment practices.

How much does it cost?

This full-day course is £60.00 (plus VAT). There are a limited number of 'free of charge' places available on each course for small voluntary sector organisations that meet the set criteria.

Courses running locally:-

Basingstoke 4 March 2011

Fareham 20 May 2011

More details are available at <http://tinyurl.com/2we5lyw>

Children's Workforce Development Council - safer recruitment online training

The CWDC has also developed an e-learning tool and comprehensive safer recruitment guidance for the children and young people's workforce.

The safer recruitment materials consist of modules and information which identifies what abuse is, what recruitment processes should be followed, information on the Vetting and Barring Scheme and the role of the Criminal Records Bureau and the Independent Safeguard Authority and how to manage allegations. <http://tinyurl.com/nkvs4f>

training/workforce development



Learn Together Work Together

This Hampshire County Council/Alliance initiative has opened up Hampshire County Council Children's Services training to the voluntary sector.

A minimum of two free places are available to the sector on most Hampshire County Council Children's Services courses. Details of the learning opportunities available, together with booking information, can be found on the Children's Services section of The Learning Zone <http://htlc.hants.gov.uk/courses/provhome.asp?p=LDCS>

As learning opportunities information is being updated, individual course details may not necessarily reflect that the voluntary sector can access the training. If in doubt, please contact the Children's Services Workforce Development Admin team via email: cs.nominations@hants.gov.uk or call 01962 715669

There may be a charge for non-attendance at training, where no advance notification is given, as this leads to a considerable waste of resources.

The Alliance Bursary Scheme 2011-12

The Alliance Bursary scheme was established in 2009 as a means of providing learning opportunities for managers in the children and young people's voluntary sector. This has been achieved by subsidising places on the Institute of Leadership & Management (ILM) Award in First Line Management (Level 3) provided by Centre of Excellence for Learning and Development (CELD). The Alliance is pleased to be able to continue subsidising places on the CELD ILM Level 3 award course in 2011.

Also in 2011, and in recognition of a new funding environment where grant funding of voluntary organisations is increasingly being replaced with public service contracts, The Alliance is offering subsidised places on CELD's 'Are you Contract Ready?' course. This practical course will help participants understand the processes and procedures of contracting and tendering, and will help them focus on those areas where improvement will give their organisation the best chance of success. More details at

<http://tinyurl.com/2efe3yq>