

ISSUE 6 MAY 2009

Connect

THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

Hampshire Children and Young People's Plan 2009-12

Every Hampshire child *really* does matter

The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2009-2012 was launched on 3 April, setting the direction and priorities for services for children, young people and families in Hampshire over the next three years.

The CYPP is the key strategic plan for Hampshire's Children's Trust. Children's Trust partners are responsible for delivering measurable improvements in the lives of children and young people across the five Every Child Matters outcomes, by tackling barriers to learning, improving health and breaking cycles of disadvantage.

The Trust is committed to the successful delivery of the plan, with the result that children and young people in Hampshire will be happier, healthier, safer, more valued citizens and able to fulfil their potential with good economic prospects. Its success will depend on the input of all agencies, voluntary and statutory, working with and for children and young people in Hampshire.

The vision for the Trust is:

Making Hampshire a better place for children and young people, where all of them, including those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged, have the best possible support in life and are supported by the whole community to reach their potential.

The CYPP identifies six priorities which align to the Every Child Matters outcomes and National Children's Plan 2020 goals:

Hampshire Priorities

1. Reducing the incidence and impact of poverty on the achievement and life chances of children and young people.
2. Securing children and young people's physical, spiritual, social, emotional and mental health, promoting healthy lifestyles and reducing inequalities.
3. Providing opportunities to learn that raise children and young people's aspirations, encourage excellence and enable them to enjoy and achieve beyond their expectations.
4. Ensuring that children and young people are safe and feel safe, enabling them to build resilience and personal confidence.
5. Providing vocational, leisure and recreational activities that provide opportunities for children and young people to experience success and make a positive contribution.
6. Removing barriers to access, participation and achievement, and not tolerating discrimination and abuse.

A copy of the Plan has been delivered to all Children's Services partners across Hampshire, so please see how you can support the priorities in your setting. For further copies, please contact childrens.services.enquiries@hants.gov.uk or 01962 845375.

The CYPP is available in a variety of formats including:

- full version;
- quick-read version;
- version for children and young people; and
- online version.

(www.hants.gov.uk/cypp)



Director's Cut



A warm welcome to the summer term edition of **Connect** – the partnership newsletter.

This issue brings you various good news from across the partnership and highlights the impressive way that members of the voluntary and statutory sections continue to work together to improve outcomes for children.

This instalment of **Connect** heralds the launch of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2009-2012 which will have a significant impact on all services that work with, or for, children in Hampshire. More information about the CYPP is on the front page.

Connect is now also available online at www3.hants.gov.uk/connect



Good news on Ofsted Adoption Services inspection

By Alistair Leeson-Smith

Initial feedback from Ofsted inspectors has rated Hampshire's Adoption Services as good overall. In particular, the inspectors reflected on the Service from the perspective of children, their needs and what would provide the best outcomes for them.

Much of the achievement is due to Karen Parkinson, Service Manager, and her staff whose practice clearly shone, with many aspects being judged as outstanding. It is clear that staff were able to maintain a positive approach to their work and to be child centred.

Some other points highlighted by the inspectors concerned the work of the administrative staff where the systems are sound and equally they commented on the excellent legal and medical advice given by the Service.

Commenting on the 'standards' of the Service, Ofsted noted -

1. Safeguarding: *Good* – we keep children safe
2. Enjoying and Achieving: *Good* – we support all parties in the adoption process well.
3. Positive contribution: *Good* range of services, some aspects outstanding.
4. Organisation, including diversity: *Good* – strong expertise in management and leadership.

This report is a tremendous testament to all the hard work and commitment over a long period of time and it is excellent that the Service has been recognised in this way.

Delivery options

Connect - The partnership newsletter is produced three times a year. Connect is now available as a PDF to download and print and also as webpages for you to browse online at www3.hants.gov.uk/connect. Hard copies will continue to be delivered, however, if you would like to discuss your delivery options please email: childrens.services.enquiries@hants.gov.uk or call: 01962 84 5060.

Building planes at Yateley School

Yateley School, in Farnborough has been named as the first school to take part in the Schools Build a Plane Challenge. The Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS) and Boeing will be working closely with the school in the project, which will bring together all aspects of the aircraft build process and actively engage pupils in every aspect of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Yateley School will aim to give around 25 young people, aged 14-18, the chance to build a real aircraft, a RANS S6, from start to finish.

Experts from Boeing, the Royal Aeronautical Society and the Light Aircraft Association will be on-hand throughout the build process to mentor the young people involved.

Building work will start in June and the School aims to have the plane completed and inspected to ensure it conforms to engineering regulations and flight certifications, for eventual unveiling at Farnborough Air Show in 2010. Throughout the project, the young people will be encouraged to report to and involve the wider community through presentations, blogs and video diaries.



Picture courtesy of Skycraft Ltd, www.sky-craft.co.uk

Yateley School pupil Matthew Davis, 15, said, "I'm really excited about building a plane and very pleased that Yateley School was selected. I think building an aeroplane will be a great way to learn about science and technology without having to sit in the classroom all the time."

ContactPoint update

ContactPoint, the national database developed by the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) to support professionals working with children and young people, will be accessible to the first users from spring 2009. It will be made available to all authorised users in England during 2009/10.

ContactPoint is designed to be a basic online directory of all children in England and will be the quick way to find out who else is working with the same child or young person, making it easier for practitioners to deliver more co-ordinated support.

ContactPoint holds the name and contact details for:

- all children in England up to their 18th birthday;
- their parents and carers; and
- services working with a child (school, doctor, plus other services such as a health visitor).

No case information is held on ContactPoint and access will be strictly limited to professionals who need it to do their job and who have been trained and security cleared. A username, password, security token and PIN number are required in order to use ContactPoint and all access is audited and monitored.

Prior to ContactPoint being accessed by the first users, we

ContactPoint
because every child matters

have worked with local agencies and services to screen (shield) the records of a small number of vulnerable children to prevent their location being identified.

The County Council and partners have the necessary processes and policies in place to meet DCSF conditions for using ContactPoint. Training for professionals will begin in January 2010.

More information about ContactPoint is available online at www.hants.gov.uk/contactpoint and www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/deliveringservices/contactpoint/

Focus on: Children in care

Laptops for foster carers project

By Rachel Walker

40 foster carers have been given laptops with access to mobile broadband technology' as part of a Care Matters grant funded pilot project.

Most children, particularly those of secondary school age, rely on computers for homework research and to access e-learning 'portals' for revision, such as BBC bitesize. Then there are the social networking possibilities of sites including MSN, Facebook and Bebo, which may be particularly important to children in care who have had to move away from their family and friends.

It is hoped that providing children in care with access to laptops and

the internet will help to significantly narrow the gap in educational achievement.

Carers are also supplied with a three-in-one printer, scanner and copier which is also important for school or college work.

Before carers receive a computer, they must take part in an internet safety and security awareness training session, provided by a CEOP (Centre for Online Protection) accredited trainer. The training includes an information pack, with a DVD that carers are encouraged to show to young people in their care. Ongoing support, both in relation to the hardware and to safety and security issues, is also provided.

The first 19 carers received their computers following a training session delivered on 13 March.

Next steps

A larger project, to provide broadband enabled computers to all family placement carers and care leavers, will be rolled out later in the year. This will be funded through a £656,000 grant from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), under the Government's Home Access scheme. There will be more news as the project develops.

For more information contact Rachel Walker rachel.walker@hants.gov.uk

Caretastic

Over the coming months, University of Winchester students will be working alongside young people in care on a drama production, called 'Caretastic'. The production is about what the Care Council means to them. The Care Council provides a voice for young people in care who wish to influence key decision-makers on issues that matter to them.

The students' research will include a taster day on learning theatre techniques. The group also recently visited the Children's Services Department where they learnt more about the place where



Participation Officers, Morag Currie and Lee Culhane meet with students from the University of Winchester.

important decisions are made and met John Coughlan to discuss the work they currently involved in.

Here are some reflections about the visit from students:

Sophie: 'I found the meeting extremely useful and informative. Prior to the meeting I had very little knowledge of how the care system operates. However, my understanding of it now has developed and I'm now far more

aware of how detailed and complex the system is'.

Tom: 'I felt the County Council made a huge effort to encourage our understanding of the work they do in the Children's Services Department. I really like the comment about Rights, Respect and Responsibility in schools and in the care system.'

In addition, young people in care are given the chance to apply for a place at the University of Winchester. This includes a three night residential in July 2009.

For more information contact Morag Currie on 01962 845310 / 07545 415247 or email care.council@hants.gov.uk. Find out more about Care Matters at www3.hants.gov.uk/care-matters

Royal honour for Ken Butcher

By Ian Beacham

Ken Butcher, a key figure in Hampshire school sports, has been presented with an award by HRH Prince Charles, to formally recognise his outstanding contribution to school sports.

Ken Butcher has given at least 40 years of voluntary service to the organisation of Hampshire schools sport as well as nationally.

Over this time, Ken has served as:

- President of the English Schools Basketball Association;
- Chair of the Hampshire Schools Sports Federation until last year;

- President of Southampton Gymnastic Club;
- Chair of Hampshire Schools Basketball Association since 1968;
- Vice President of Southampton City Sports Council;
- Active committee member of Hampshire Schools Athletics Association.

Importantly, Ken has not just been a mere committee member or administrator in any of the above, he has been committed and made school sport his passion.

Ken was previously a teacher and has promoted the importance of



school sport throughout his years of voluntary service. Ken is well known and respected in Hampshire for his commitment and achievements.

This award was well deserved and it highlights the important role that volunteers play in encouraging young people to be more active. It has provided a great boost to the work of the Hampshire Schools Sports Federation. Ken still remains very active himself and regularly plays tennis.

Social care teams restructure

Hampshire's social work teams are now in the process of restructuring to better meet the needs of those who receive their services. The new teams are more district based to facilitate partnership working.

The improved structure gives a clear focus on children in the care of the authority. It seeks to ensure that all those in greatest need experience a better assessment, planning and delivery service, less case transfer between teams, a more consistent relationship with their allocated social worker and teams with a more equitable and

manageable span of control.

The teams working for disabled children are unchanged at present, but are moving towards more integrated working with health and education colleagues as part of the 'Aiming High for Disabled Children' agenda.

The new teams have been in place in South East and Western areas of Hampshire since February 2009. New teams in the North and East of the county are due to be in place by mid 2009.

More detailed information about the new and existing teams is now available on Hantsweb www3.hants.gov.uk/socialcareteams.



For more information about the structure of social care teams, please contact Dave Watson dave.watson@hants.gov.uk 01962 847253.

Cash boost for family counselling

Winchester and District **RELATE** are pleased to report that they have received funding from Hampshire County Council's Children's Services and Recreation and Heritage Departments, through Supporting Extending Service Partnership Activities. The funding, £3720, is to be used by the end of July 2009 to provide 65 sessions of Family Counselling through a cluster of schools in the Andover area.

Manager Diana Hellsten says, "This is a much-needed grant to provide a much-needed service to families in the Andover district. The need for family counselling and young people's counselling has long been identified, and the schools involved are as pleased as we are that we are able to meet client demand, at least in the short term."

It is hoped that, further to monitoring and evaluation of the work delivered, further funding will be available next year to continue this valuable service. The Family Counselling will be delivered at Winton Community School, John Hanson Community School, and Harrow Way Community School.

For more information about these services, please contact Relate Winchester on 01962 861336 or visit www.relate.org.uk

Work through play? Framework for Enhanced Individual Support (FEIPS)



Teaching Assistants Sally Stride (Rownhams St John Primary School) and Pat Armour (North Baddesley Infant School) are Framework for Enhanced Individual Support Practitioners (FEIPS). Both are hard at work in their FEIPS supervision group at Kings Copse Primary School. So why does it look like they're playing?

FEIPS is:

A framework providing counselling skills training, followed by group supervision for practitioners who work with troubled youngsters in our schools and in other placements.

FEIPS is led by the Educational Psychology Service. The training and supervision is delivered by educational psychologists, counsellors and psychotherapists. Having attended the FEIPS training and joined an ongoing supervision group, FEIPS practitioners such as Sally and Pat have an enhanced pastoral role with troubled young people.

Why supervision?

Supervision provides support and challenge, enabling FEIPS practitioners to continually develop their skills, to ensure they deliver a safe, ethical and effective service to young people and to provide a space for offloading difficult feelings arising from the work.

Why does it look like fun?

The serious endeavour of supervision can include fun! Sometimes we use creative materials to facilitate the exploration of challenging issues that FEIPS practitioners face.

What outcomes are there for young people?

Our research indicates that young people value FEIPS sessions and are able to acknowledge positive changes they make in their thinking, feeling and behaviour. Research is ongoing to explore the views of teachers and parents and provide statistical evidence that FEIPS is responsible for positive changes in young people's lives.

For more information contact Kathy Johnston, Educational Psychologist (FEIPS project lead) kathy.johnston@hants.gov.uk 01962 876217.

Young Carers strategy launched



Hampshire's multi-agency strategy for Young Carers 2009-2012 has now been launched and takes forward the themes of national strategies including 'Carers at the heart of 21st Century families and communities'.

There are many children and young people in Hampshire who are young carers. They may look after a parent who is ill, disabled, or addicted to drugs or alcohol, or they may assist the rest of the family when their parent is unable to.

Young carers can face additional challenges in their lives and it is essential that Hampshire County Council, Health Trusts and all partners, both statutory and in the voluntary sector, work together to support this vulnerable group to achieve their aspirations, make informed

decisions and fulfil their true potential.

The strategy seeks to identify and significantly reduce the numbers of young people undertaking inappropriate and harmful caring roles, by reducing the incidence of families with unmet care needs relying on the care of a child, which impacts on the child's well-being and life chances.

It also aims to ensure that local young carer projects, and other targeted services working directly with young carers, should be available to provide safe, quality support to those children who continue to be affected by any caring role within the family.

For more information about Young Carers and the strategy, please visit www3.hants.gov.uk/youngcarers

Quality nurture groups in Hampshire

Sue Sheppard, Educational Psychologist

Four schools in Hampshire have been awarded the Nurture Group Network's Quality Mark Award (QMA), in recognition of their work to help children's personal and social skills.

There are now more than 60 Nurture Groups (NGs) in Hampshire schools. These NGs support children with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties (SEBD) in a small group, home-like setting.

The four schools: Gomer Infants; Mill Rythe Infants; Park View Juniors and Stoke Park Infants, achieved the QMA after undergoing a rigorous inspection process.

Lynn Clement, Headteacher at Park View Juniors explained the impact of the NG in her school:

"Our Nurture Group is important to our school because it has a tremendous impact on the ethos of the school. The staff are so dedicated and well trained that they affect and effect children across the whole school. Our most vulnerable children are 'saved' from permanent exclusion in some cases and temporary exclusions in others. Our exclusion rate has gone down from over 200 sessions lost in 2006-2007 to under 30 by 2007-2008. This is in part due to the high function of the Nurture Group and the introduction of Rights, Respect and Responsibilities (RRR) curriculum within the school. 'Tough love' entitlement and understanding go hand in hand with the structure that RRR brings. A sense of belonging is created especially with the integration and communication that the staff provide. The children's voices are better understood and listened to because of the part the Nurture Group plays in the whole school team work approach. I am so proud of the achievement of our staff and children in the Nurture Group and the contribution they make to whole school improvement."

More information about Nurture Groups in Hampshire is available at: www3.hants.gov.uk/heps-nurturegroups

Praise for ICT in Hampshire's schools

By Ed Budd

Hampshire County Council has received recognition for the high quality of its ICT services to schools.

EdICT (Education ICT business unit) supplies Hampshire schools with their hardware and software needs, both in the classroom and for managing the school. One of its most important software packages is SIMS (Schools Information Management System), which helps schools to manage their day-to-day tasks, from planning lessons to tackling truancy!

Capita, the company which owns SIMS, undertook an accreditation process which included asking schools to complete a survey. We are very proud of the results, which found that:

- we have good local schools knowledge;
- we are helpful, polite, patient and friendly;
- there is a good overall level of satisfaction.

EdICT's Development Manager Steve Riddle said "We're delighted to receive this important recognition for the range of quality services that we offer Hampshire schools – it is clear from the many detailed school responses that our services are held in high regard."

The formal accreditation from Capita confirms that our school ICT services are of the highest standard and that Hampshire County Council is doing all it can to make our schools run smoothly, now and in the future.

More information about EdICT can be found at: www3.hants.gov.uk/ictinschools.htm



Oak Meadow Young Parents' Club gets Big Lottery grant

A Big Lottery Fund grant of £79,622 will enable Oak Meadow Children's Centre to continue supporting young parents aged between 14 and 22 for the next five years. Three essential ingredients in the Oak Meadow Young Parent Club's success are the provision of transport, a crèche and professionals who understand the needs of young parents. These will all be paid for by the Reaching Communities grant.

The group is thriving, with 20 or more young parents and their children attending weekly. New members may be welcomed by another young parent who has trained as a peer mentor. Midwives and Health Visitors offer age appropriate support. Advice from the fire service, housing, smoking cessation, drugs and substance abuse, the sexual health nurse and

the family support team at Oak Meadow is easily accessible. A range of learning opportunities are offered; this term a group have been to Fareham College and had taster sessions in hair, beauty, photography, IT and cookery.

One young parent told us: "It's really good, I'm only sixteen but it's the only learning I do. It's the only time I can just be me."

The young parents have created a DVD called 'Surviving as Young Parents' which they presented to over 50 professionals.

One of the group said: "This documentary should be seen by anyone working with young parents. We're in it, we made it and it's as honest as it gets."

For more information please contact Diana Warburg diana.warburg@hants.gov.uk 01329 841097.

Feedback

Please let us know what you think of the Children's Services Partnership newsletter Connect. Suggestions for future articles can be sent to childrens.services.enquiries@hants.gov.uk

If you would like a large print version of Connect, please contact childrens.services.enquiries@hants.gov.uk

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