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April 2007

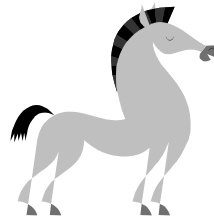


Welcome to the Strategy Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of the Youth Organisations Wolverhampton Strategy Newsletter. Every month the Wolverhampton Children & Young Peoples Strategic Partnership Strategy and Development Board meet to present and review papers. The Voluntary Sector Representatives attend this meeting and evaluate actions on behalf of our members. This monthly update is intended to let you know what happens at this level so that you are aware of things that may affect you in the future, or things that you may want to find out more about. If you have any concerns or suggestions that you wish to be fed into this process please contact Sally Perks at YOW on 01902 71163.

Be Safe in Wolverhampton

In November 2006 a multi-agency meeting was set up to respond to the concern surrounding the large number of young people gathering in Wolverhampton City Centre, predominantly meeting by the Prince Albert statue in Queen Square (known to many people as The MOTH – man on the horse.)



West Midlands Police were approved to issue Section 30 Dispersal Orders for people congregating at the statue. The Section 30's are due to expire in May and we think that you and your young people will be pleased to know that, **'out of a total 92 dispersal orders issued, only 4 were to young people, and none of those were arrested.'**

Children's Workforce development

Workforce Development aims to improve the lives of children, young people and families by ensuring people working with children have the best possible training, qualifications, support and advice; and helping children's organisations and services work together so the child is at the centre of services. It includes all Private, Voluntary and Independent organisations.

Susan Serventi, the Workforce Strategy Manager is keen to engage the views of the Voluntary sector in developing the Workforce Strategy for Wolverhampton and will be holding an event in April to raise the awareness of the purpose and potential of Workforce Development. The event will also launch some research into the key challenges facing the sector in the respect of Workforce planning and development. A key outcome will hopefully be identifying potential joint training and development needs and opportunities across the sectors. If you wish to attend the Workforce Development awareness raising session please contact Susan Serventi on 01902 555140. The event will be on 20th April 2007 at the Bingley Centre, Norfolk Rd, Pennfields, 10 -00 am – 3pm. A light buffet lunch and refreshments will be provided.

The Common Assessment Framework

The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is basically an approach to assessing a child's unmet needs and deciding how those needs should be met. It is about promoting effective, early intervention, and providing a co-ordinated approach to service delivery. It will improve joint working and communication within and across the statutory and voluntary sector and will be used when there are concerns about a child's progress or when their needs are unclear. The CAF process is now live in the Dovecotes Estate in Penderford, and will be rolled out to the Heath Town Ward by the end of March 2007, and Bilston by April 07. After this initial phase, the full implementation will take a further 12 months. Everyone that works on the front line with children and young people (including those in the voluntary sector) need to be aware of the Common Assessment Framework, it is a standard national approach and if anyone has concerns about a child's progress they will have to go through a CAF referral but, don't panic! Although the voluntary sector has been invited to the numerous 'Awareness Raising' sessions that have been taking place across the city of late, we recognise that due to limited resources many voluntary and community groups have not been able to attend, we will therefore aim to keep you updated of any developments with regards to CAF and in the meantime if you have any questions or concerns regarding the Framework please don't hesitate to contact Ersuline Whittle the CAF Project Manager on

01902 558073.

Teenage Pregnancy

The National Teenage Pregnancy Strategy was launched in 1999 and set the Government target which aims to halve the under 18 conception rate by the year 2010. The target for Wolverhampton is to reduce the under 18 conception rate per 1000 female population aged 15-17 by 60%, starting with the 1998 baseline. In Wolverhampton the latest teenage pregnancy figure showed a slight increase. However, overall, since 1998 the rate for Wolverhampton has decreased by 7.4%. This is not as big when compared to national reductions or the regional figures, which clearly indicates a need to review current work. To achieve our target, it is essential to involve the

voluntary and community sector. To ensure local coordination and improve local communication both at strategic and operational level, an analysis has been commissioned to ascertain the views of voluntary and community groups about the teenage pregnancy strategy and, to identify their role and contribution to reducing the levels of teenage conception in Wolverhampton. WVSC will be coordinating this analysis starting with a survey questionnaire. For more information on the strategy or issues related to Teenage pregnancy please contact; Kush Patel, Teenage Pregnancy Commissioning Officer. Tel 550354 or email kush.patel@wolverhampton.gov.uk



The Draft Maternity Strategy

The Draft Maternity Strategy was developed with a range of partners, including the voluntary sector. The strategy recognises that the start to life is recognised as the most important period for the future health and well being of an individual, and this strategy aims to improve that start to life. The strategy outlines the key actions as; making pregnancy and birth normal by supporting more care as close to mothers homes, improving mental health during and after pregnancy, improving care in pregnancy for women suffering domestic abuse, and reducing smoking rates in pregnancy. The strategy states that delivering healthy babies is not just the responsibility of the formal maternity services, but that the families, neighbours, communities and the voluntary sector all have important parts to play. The draft concludes with a consultation document which is structured to maximise services input into the process. If you have an interest in this area and would like to 'have your say' and be included in the consultation process then please contact Sally at YOW and a copy of the draft strategy will be sent to you. Feedback must be received by the 8th June so don't delay!