

Special points of interest:

- Joint Area Review — Results
- Young People in the City Update
- Voluntary Sector Support Strategy
- Children’s Workforce Development.

This monthly update is intended to let you know what happens at a strategic 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 771163.

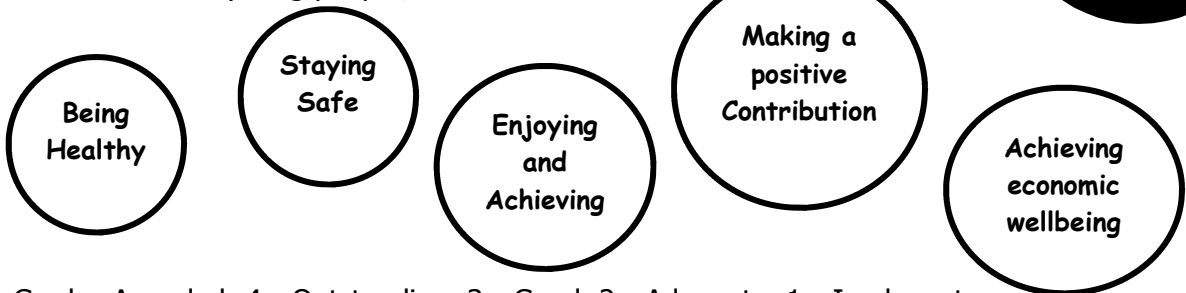


August 2007

Joint Area Review — Results

The Joint Area Review (JAR) of Children’s Services took place during 2006-2007 culminating in an inspection during 12th – 23rd March 2007. The review was undertaken by a team of eight inspectors. The final JAR report was published on July 3rd 2007 (a copy of which you should have received, if not and you would like to see one please contact YOW)

We are pleased to report that the overall impact of Children’s Services on outcomes for children and young people in Wolverhampton has been judged **‘GOOD’**. Consequently, services have been awarded an overall score of 3. This final score is made up from 12 scores for separate and joint services, including one for each of the 5 Every Child Matters outcomes for children and young people;



Grades Awarded: 4= Outstanding, 3= Good, 2= Adequate, 1= Inadequate

	Local services overall	Council Services	Health Services
Being healthy	3		
Staying safe	2		
Enjoying and achieving	3		
Making a positive contribution	4		
Achieving economic well-being	2		
Service Management	3		
Capacity to improve	3	3	
Children’s services		3	
The education service		3	
The social care services for children		2	
The health service for children			3

Well done Wolverhampton!

Voluntary Sector Support Strategy

The Voluntary Sector Support Strategy of the City Council has been rewritten. This is in order to give a clearer steer to Voluntary and Community groups in the city on: the priorities upon which funding decisions are based, the approach to funding issues throughout the project cycle, and the approach to non-financial support and capacity building.

The main focus of the strategy is to put in place a process whereby we can continue to improve and strengthen the relationship between the voluntary and community sector and the City Council, for the benefit of the people of Wolverhampton.

The strategy is currently in draft form, and is ready to be consulted on. A series of planned consultation events have been planned over the next twelve weeks. YOW is currently in the process of obtaining copies of the strategy which will be sending to you as soon as possible along with details of the consultation events.

'We will be sending you copies of the Voluntary Sector Support Strategy'

Children's Workforce Development

In the April edition of the YOW strategic update we introduced the concept of Children's Workforce Development. Children's 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.

The Children's Workforce Development Council is a national body, and has funding available to support the involvement of the Private, Voluntary and Independent Sectors, in locally integrated children's workforce strategies. A funding bid for Wolverhampton has been compiled and we hope to have a decision on this shortly. We will keep you updated on its

Young People in the City Update

You may recall that in the May addition of the YOW Strategic Update we discussed the 'Young People in the City' initiative to establish a suitable meeting place or Youth Café for young people in the city centre.

This project was initiated in response to the large numbers of young people gathering in Wolverhampton by the MOth (man on the horse) in Queens Square. Unfortunately, we have no positive news to pass on at this time, as suitable premises have still not been located. We will let you know of any further developments.

