

Special points of interest:

- Child Poverty
- Health Eating
- The Youth Café
- Aiming Higher for Disabled Children
- CAF Evaluation
- Review of the CYPSP
- ContactPoint



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 and discussed at a strategic level, then contact Sally Perks at YOW on 01902 771163.



February 2009

Child Poverty

In November 2008 Wolverhampton City Council hosted a Child Poverty Conference, aimed at establishing priorities for tackling the issues and reducing poverty levels. The conference provided the basis for key recommendations and prompted the development of a 'Child Poverty Action Group.' As one of the Local Area Agreement Priorities, reducing child poverty is a priority for Wolverhampton, and with this and the drive of the Child Poverty Conference, the Child Poverty Action Group has now been established. The terms of reference have been written and representation from key stakeholders sought where appropriate.

The group have started work by identifying four projects that they will initiate all aimed at reducing child poverty. These projects include a Peer mentoring Project, an Integrated Support Package, a Consultation Project and the establishment of a framework or strategy to tackle Child Poverty. If you would like more information on the work of the Child Poverty Action Group, please contact Sian Lewis Williams on 01902 555941.

Healthy Eating

The Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Strategy for Children action plan was last updated in 2006, following conception in 2004. The aim of the strategy is to deliver action on the target to halt the year-on-year rise in obesity among children under 11 years by 2010.

Since then there have been a number of significant developments at a local level to both prevent and treat obesity. For example, as a result of Lottery funding, Wolverhampton became a pilot site for the national MEND (Mind, Exercise, Nutrition, Do It) programme. This initiative supports children aged 7 – 13 who are either overweight or obese. For a child to attend the twice weekly sessions for 10 weeks, a parent or carer also has to attend. Sessions have been running since Apr 08, managed through the Royal Hospitals NHS Trust and DC Leisure.

Ninety five children have registered for the programme, 72% completing it. Results show that 85% of those completing have lost weight. The pilot will conclude in December 09. If you would like more information on the MEND programme, or would like to make a referral contact Nicola Roberts on 01902 384760.

Youth Café Update

The proposals for a Youth Café situated in Litchfield Road are now with the planning department who are seeking quotes for the building work. Despite all the work that needs to be done before hand, the proposed opening date is July 2009. We will keep you posted.

To find out more about any of the items mentioned in the YOW Strategy Update or the process of having your views, comments of concerns voiced at a strategic level, contact Sally at YOW on; Telephone: 01902 771163 Email: sally.perks@ymca-wolverhampton.co.uk

Aiming Higher for Disabled Children (AHDC)

The report AHDC was published in May 2007 and contained the Government's recommendations with regards to services for disabled children, young people and their families. The Government aim was *"to ensure that every child, irrespective of race, gender, background or circumstances gets the best possible start in life and the ongoing support that they and their families need, also reduce social inequality, and allow communities to benefit from the contribution that disabled children and their families can make, fostering tolerance and understanding of diversity."* (AHDC, HM Treasury & DfES, 2007) Put simply the government wished to see services that enabled disabled children, young people and their families to live 'ordinary lives'.

One of the areas of priority in the report, and the one that has attracted the largest amounts of funding encompasses short breaks, accessible childcare, community equipment and wheelchair provision. Short Breaks can be defined as 'the opportunity for disabled children and young people to spend time away from their primary carers. These include day, evening, overnight or weekend activities that take place in the child's own home, carers home or a residential or community setting.' Short breaks come in a variety of formats and each one can last from just a few hours to a few days, and occasionally longer, depending on the type of provision and the needs of the child and their family. Short break provision should be reliable, so that carers can plan around the breaks provided.

To take this work forward in Wolverhampton it was proposed in September 2007 that a Task and Finish Group be established with the remit of developing a short breaks strategy for the city. This has now happened and the group have been meeting every 2 months to take this work forward. They have since completed a large scale consultation exercise with parents/carers and disabled children and young people, conducted a mapping exercise of current provision and employed a Project Manager. If you would like more information on the work of the Short Breaks Task and Finish Group (which will soon be evolving into the AHDC Board) or would like to become a provider of Short Breaks care, please contact Rob Siarkiewicz on 01902 555874.

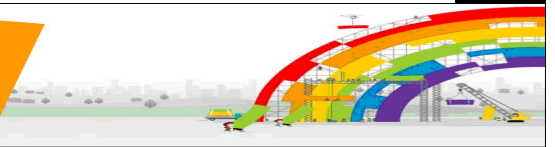
Common Assessment Framework Evaluation

Wolverhampton City Council is one of 32 Local Authorities participating in a national evaluation around the Common Assessment Framework (CAF.) The research question that has been identified for Wolverhampton is *"the needs of children at risk of poorer outcomes, in specific areas of deprivation in Wolverhampton, are identified at the earliest opportunity because there is a common understanding around the use of the CAF process by professionals, and so leads to more appropriate targeted support within schools"*. The evaluation will be focused on the South East of the city and practitioners who have been involved in the CAF process in this area will be contacted and asked to attend a focus group. If you would like more information on the evaluation, contact Ersuline on 01902 558090.

Review of the CYPSP

It has been proposed by the Governance Board that a review be carried out on the Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership in line with guidance from the DCSF. Information sessions will be held in April and May to provide information for frontline staff and also ask views and opinions about the structure and role of the Partnership. We will keep you informed and let you know when dates have been set.

ContactPoint



The YOW Strategy Newsletter

ContactPoint is the quick way for a practitioner to find out who else is working with the same child or young person, making it easier to deliver more coordinated support. It is a basic online directory, available to authorised staff that need it to do their jobs. ContactPoint will only hold the following basic information for all children in England (up until their 18th birthday);

- Name, Address, Gender, Date of birth
- **Unique identifying number**
- Name and contact details for a child's parent or carer
- Contact details for services working with a child: as a minimum, educational setting (e.g. school) and GP practice, but also other services where appropriate
- A means to indicate whether a practitioner is a lead professional and if they have undertaken an assessment under the Common Assessment Framework

Organisations providing sensitive services e.g. sexual health, mental health and substance abuse will be required to seek informed, explicit consent before recording clients contact details on ContactPoint. Informed, explicit consent will also be required for care leavers or those with learning difficulties to remain on ContactPoint up to age 25, to facilitate the transition to adult services

ContactPoint will **not** hold, any assessment or case information, details such as birth weight, exam results, medical records, or diet, subjective information about a child or their parent

ContactPoint will go live in Wolverhampton in June 2009 and training will be available for practitioners after this date. The ContactPoint team is currently supporting organisations with accreditation.

Security around ContactPoint is paramount; and organisations who wish to make use of ContactPoint will need to pass accreditation. Accreditation consists of a standard set of criteria required for ContactPoint access set by the DCSF. It ensures a consistent approach nationally, while allowing for variation between agencies working with children. It is important to note that many elements are already part of best practice in organisations when working with children and young people. Accreditation also ensures the security precautions of ContactPoint are adhered to which include:

- Current enhanced CRB checks on all users
- Line management authorisation
- Full and complete training on ContactPoint
- Workstation and network infrastructure security
- Appropriate HR, audit and organisational procedures
- Access restricted by two-factor authentication

For more information call: Richard Bladon, Implementation Manager: 01902 550238, email the team: ContactPoint.IISaM@wolverhampton.gov.uk or alternatively visit: http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/health_social_care_2/children_young_people_social_care/contactpoint/



Independent Safeguarding Authority —Vetting and Barring Scheme

Following the murders of Jessica Chapman and Holly Wells by Ian Huntley (a school caretaker) in 2002, the Bichard Inquiry was commissioned. One of the issues this Inquiry looked at was the way employers recruit people to work with children and vulnerable adults. It asked whether the way employers check the background of job applicants is reliable enough. It also asked whether employers should be responsible for deciding whether a job applicant can be safely employed. The Inquiry's recommendations led to the ['Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act' 2006](#), which recognised the need for a single agency to vet all individuals who want to work or volunteer with vulnerable people.

The Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) was created to fulfill this role across England, Wales and Northern Ireland and will play an important role in safeguarding children, which is a top priority for the Government.

The new Vetting and Barring Scheme, involving the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA), comes in to force in October 2009, and will have a major impact on the recruitment and monitoring practices of people working or volunteering with children.

From October 2009, employers will need to check the ISA status of everyone recruited to work in a paid or voluntary capacity with children or vulnerable adults. This will determine whether or not they can be employed (or take them on as volunteers), and may affect what activities they can undertake.

The ISA divide work with children and vulnerable adults into two categories:

Regulated: Activity of a specific nature that involves contact with children and vulnerable adults, frequently, intensively and/or overnight (i.e.: play groups, sports groups, support services, drivers).

Controlled: Any work, frequent or intensive of a general or supportive nature, taking place once a month or more (i.e.; administration staff or volunteers, caretakers).

Only an ISA-registered person can undertake **regulated** activity – it will be illegal to employ an unregistered person and can result in imprisonment or a fine of up to £5000. An unregistered person means that a person has either not applied to register or that they are on an ISA Barred List.

For **controlled** activity it is still mandatory to check the ISA status of an applicant before they are employed. However, in some cases a barred person can be employed providing certain safeguards are in place.

The ISA will assess every person who wants to work or volunteer with children or vulnerable adults. By working closely with the [Criminal Records Bureau \(CRB\)](#), the ISA will gather, monitor information, assess and decide whether to give the individual concerned ISA registration or put them on one of the ISA Barred Lists.

ISA: Continued...

Records will be constantly updated as fresh information is gathered. If new data indicates that an individual might pose a risk to children and/or vulnerable people, they will be put on one of the ISA Barred Lists and their current employer will be informed immediately.

The cost of applying to register with the Vetting and Barring Scheme will be £64. This is comprised of a £28 fee to cover the ISA's costs and £36 to cover the CRB's costs as administrator of the applications.

The fee will be a one-off payment and is intended to cover the applicant for the duration of their career, therefore transportable. Only those involved in unpaid voluntary activity will not have to pay the application fee, however once in paid employment the same charges will apply.

Local Arrangement and Preparation

In readiness for this change, Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board has been rolling out 'Safer Recruitment' workshops to managers' and those who are involved in recruitment and selection process.

DCSF have made this workshop mandatory for staff in education who are involved in the processes of recruitment, and within Wolverhampton, the statutory services are also heading in the same direction, with perhaps about 80% having attended one of the 17 safer recruitment sessions that have been delivered since April of last year.

With the aim of having a consistent approach to preventative strategies and standard of good practice measures for all organisations to adopt, there is a need to make this training available to the wider service areas including the voluntary, community and independent sector.

Forthcoming workshops are:

9th June 2009

2nd October 2009

In light of the role of the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA), and the recognition of the implications these changes will have on organisations there will also be a series of briefing sessions available closer to the time. These are anticipated to take place during the month of September, by which time all systems should be in place. Should you need further details, support and/or an application form for the mentioned workshops, please contact:

Gillian Ming, WSCB Training Coordinator

Jennie Lee Professional Centre

Tele: 01902 550477

Fax: 01902 553048

Email: Gillian.Ming@wolverhampton.gov.uk