

Special points of interest:

- Contact Point Update
- Children and Adolescent Mental Health
- Integrated Contracts
- Young People in the City Update
- Pushed into the Shadows
- Councilors and Cabinet Members
- Training Needs Assessment

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 71163.

June 2007



ContactPoint Update

Contact Point is an index containing basic information on all children in England, to be rolled out across authorities by the end of 2008. This will enable people delivering services to children (including those in the voluntary sector) to identify and contact one another quickly. It will be an online directory and will be available to authorised individuals who need to have access to it to do their jobs.

The purpose of ContactPoint is to help improve services to children with a strong emphasis on early intervention and prevention. Currently practitioners can spend days trying to find out who else is working with the same child or unknowingly duplicating work that is already being carried out by another service. ContactPoint will help to eradicate this duplication. We will keep you informed of developments with ContactPoint, but if you have any questions contact Sally at YOW.

Children and Adolescent Mental Health

The Children and Adolescent Mental Health draft strategy is about Wolverhampton's children, young people, families and carers. It has been produced by people working within Children and Adolescent Health services in Wolverhampton City Council and Wolverhampton City Primary Care Trust (PCT). The proposals place particular emphasis on improving services as set out in the Children Act 2004, and requires all agencies to work together to plan, design and deliver 'joined up' services to meet the needs of their children and young people. The priorities for improving Child and Adolescent Mental Health are as follows;

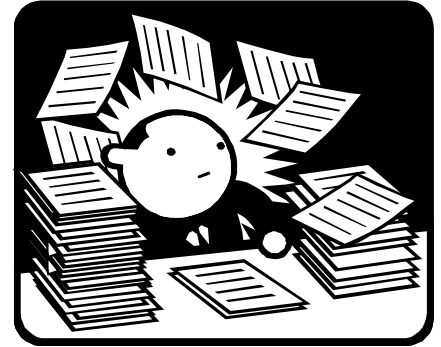
1. Strengthen therapeutic work with looked after children and those placed for adoption.
2. Improve integration and response in a crisis (also to prevent out of the city placements.)
3. Integrated approach to specific disorders (e.g. autism, Aspergers, ADHA)
4. Integrated approach to early years assessment and prevention with complex disorders.
5. Integrated approach to the development of parenting skills.
6. Improve arrangements for transition to adulthood (Mental Health Service) and leaving CAMHS
7. Improve the delivery of services through neighbourhood/locality working.
8. Strengthening management capacity for CAHMS.

The City Council and PCT are keen to hear your views on the draft and ideas from everyone with an interest in child and adolescent mental health in Wolverhampton are welcomed. The consultation is taking place from May to the 6th August. If you would like to get a copy of the draft summary or full document and a consultation questionnaire, please contact Sally at YOW.

Integrated Contracts

It has been recognised that a number of organisations are in receipt of a range of funding from different streams within the Council and Primary Care Trust. This places a significant and largely unnecessary administrative burden on organisations which have to comply with a separate monitoring and reporting regimes for each funding stream.

In doing so, this perpetuates a culture where the primary monitoring and evaluation focus is in terms of outputs, rather than outcomes. The process of integrated contracts will bring together multiple funding streams into one contract and therefore minimise unnecessary time spent on monitoring from both the organisations and commissioners point of view. This process is being piloted with Children's Information Services and we will keep you updated on the progress.



Pushed into the Shadows

'Some young people experienced a good level of care and support on adult psychiatric wards.'

A piece of work called 'Pushed into the Shadows; young peoples experiences of adult mental health facilities' has been commissioned by the Children's Commissioner due to concerns about the inappropriate use of adult mental health wards for young people, the slow rate of progress for phasing this out and the deficiencies in the quality of treatment and care provided to the young people placed on adult psychiatric wards. The information gathered from the young people, parents and staff across England who took part in the consultation presents a mixed picture. Some young people experienced a good level of care and support on adult psychiatric wards. However, these positive examples are largely overshadowed by the more widespread negative experiences of young people.

Many were left feeling isolated, bored, uninformed and uninvolved in decisions about their mental health care, others felt unsafe. The report makes a number of recommendations which will receive attention from Wolverhampton in the future. We will keep you informed.

Councillors and Cabinet Members

The local elections were held on the 3rd May 2007, as a result a number of changes have occurred. Specifically, the Cabinet member for Children and Young People is no longer Cllr Christine Irvine, but the newly elected Cllr Paula Brookfield. Cllr Irvine is now the Cabinet member for Schools and will therefore remain closely involved with issues affecting Children and Young People. Cllr Roger Lawrence remains the Chair and Leader of the Council.

The Training Needs Assessment

Many thanks to everyone that has filled in a Training Needs Assessment, which is aimed at finding out more about your training needs and preferences. The results are being evaluated as we speak and we will shortly begin compiling a training agenda for the coming months. If you have not been able to fill in an assessment, please either contact Sally at YOW for another copy or fill it in electronically via email. Many Thanks.

