

Special points of interest:

- Supporting Children's' Model & Safeguarding
- Young People at the Centre Project Evaluation
- Youth Crime Action Plan
- Tellus3 Survey

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.



October 2008

Supporting Children Model & Safeguarding Wolverhampton Supporting Children's Model (WSCM)

This model aims to support practitioners in choosing the most appropriate care pathway when they identify children & young people with unmet needs. The model was reviewed over the summer period and was approved by the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership for use within Children's Services last week. The WSCM sets out three pathways that may be taken when a child/young person with unmet needs is identified, the pathways are aligned to the threshold levels of need, universal services, targeted support and statutory or specialist services.

Safeguarding

The new Safeguarding Procedures were implemented 1 October 2008. What does this mean? There are now two referral forms to be used. All Child Protection referrals (children at risk of immediate harm) should initially be made by telephone to the Duty Desk 555664 or 555701, and then confirmed in writing within 24 hrs using the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Multi-agency referral form. The form should then be sent to Duty & Assessment Team, Civic Centre, St Peters Square, Wolverhampton, WV1 1RR. If your making a referral for a child you consider to be in need, complete the multi-agency child in need form. All child in need referrals should be submitted within 24 hrs of completing the form. The form should then be sent to the above address.

What is a Child in Need Referral?

There may be a requirement for a referral to Social Care in situations which do not represent immediate child protection concerns. These situations should have been the subject of a CAF (Common Assessment Framework) assessment and referrals should therefore include CAF documents. The two referral forms are available from the Safeguarding team based at the Jennie Lee Centre.

Young People At the Centre Project Evaluation

The independent evaluation of the Young People at the Centre programme was carried out in August 2008. It has arrived at some very positive conclusions regarding the programme, and in summary these include:

- There is evidence that the programme had a positive impact on the self awareness, confidence and aspirations of young people.
- The Young People at the Centre approach helped young people develop the confidence and skills needed to contribute to decision making.
- The programme had a positive effect upon the behaviours and attitudes of young people.
- Young people are starting to understand how they can be directly involved in the commissioning of services.

The evaluation made some clear recommendations regarding the future commissioning of Young People at the Centre, a decision which is now being discussed by the Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership.

Youth Crime Action Plan

The Youth Crime Action Plan was published by DCSF in July 2008.

The Action Plan sets out a triple attack approach of:

- Enforcement and punishment where behaviour is unacceptable,
- Non-negotiable support and challenge where it is most needed, and
- Better and earlier prevention.

The plan is intended for Youth Offending Team workers, magistrates, police, local authority children's services, youth workers Connexions advisers and education providers, as well as voluntary sector agencies providing services to families at risk, and young people in trouble with the law.

A copy of the Action Plan can be downloaded at;

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime-victims/reducing-crime/youth-crime

TellUs3 Survey

The Ofsted TellUs3 survey gathers information on the views of children and young people across England about their local areas. Its questions cover the 5 Every Child Matters outcomes and the results are a key tool for the gathering of user views that can be fed into the planning process for children and young people. The survey was carried out in Spring 2008.

A sample of schools in each Local Authority Area were selected to represent the different types of school. The schools were then provided with guidance detailing how to select pupils to take part in the survey. A total of 43 local schools participated in the survey. Some of the interesting findings of the survey include the following;

- 58% of respondents said that in the last 4 weeks, they had participated in a group activity led by an adult outside of a school lesson. (nationally 62%)
- 4% of respondents said that they had experienced bullying once or more in the last 4 weeks. (nationally 5%)
- 44% of respondents said that they are fairly of very satisfied with the parks and play areas. (nationally 44%)
- 75% of respondents said that they are quite or very healthy. (nationally 76%)
- 78% of respondents said that they had never smoked a cigarette. (nationally 75%)
- 9% of respondents said that they had taken drugs. (nationally 11%)

For more information from the survey email Damian Rainford on Damian.rainford@wolverhampton.gov.uk

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