

## Special points of interest:

- Voluntary Sector Support Strategy
- Children's Workforce Development
- Children's Fund Continuation
- Review of the Children & Young People's Plan

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.

**September 2007**



## Voluntary Sector Support Strategy

The Voluntary Sector Support Strategy is currently being consulted on by members of the voluntary and community sector. The Strategy aims 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.

I would like to take this chance to inform you that the consultation period has been extended from the 21<sup>st</sup> September, and feedback on the Voluntary Sector Support Strategy sent out to you previously will now be accepted up until 5pm on the 10<sup>th</sup> November. The Voluntary Sector Support Strategy is an important document and I would urge all to voice their comments.



Feedback can be given in a number of ways, either using the Consultation Response Form provided with the strategy, via email or by attending one of the consultation focus groups running on 13<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of September. If you would like more information or would like to discuss how to provide feedback in more detail, please contact Kuldip Singh Khela, the Voluntary Sector Support Officer for the Community Initiatives Team on 01902 550115.

## Children's Workforce Development

In last months YOW strategic update you may recall that we discussed Children's Workforce Development. Children's Workforce Development aims to improve the lives of children, young people and families by ensuring that the workforce has the best possible training, qualifications, support and advice.

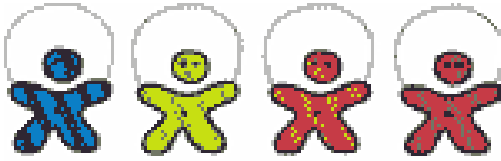
A bid was submitted to The Children's Workforce Development Council for funding available to support the involvement of the Private, Voluntary and Independent Sectors, in locally integrated children's workforce strategies in Wolverhampton.

I am pleased to announce that the bid has been successful and Wolverhampton will now be receiving funding to put towards supporting and developing the Children's workforce.

Work will be commenced immediately and an event will be held in the coming months to ensure that everyone within the Voluntary and Community Sector has the opportunity to engage with the programme and be fully aware of workforce developments.



## Children's Fund Continuation



Wolverhampton Children's Fund

The Wolverhampton Children's Fund was established in 2002, and its programme and governance arrangements pre-date Every Child Matters, the Children Act and the establishment of the Wolverhampton Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

The Children's Fund is recognised nationally and locally as an important test-bed for the Every Child Matters agenda.

On 26<sup>th</sup> July 2007, the Wolverhampton Director of Children's Services was advised that the Children's Fund was being extended for a further three years, with the sum of £2,216,159.00; this will be split evenly over each of the three years and will be included within the Local Area Agreement.

Resources will maintain a focus on prevention and early intervention with a focus on;

- Improving school attendance
- Raising children and young people's self esteem
- Preventing young people at risk from becoming involved in criminal activity.

The Children's Fund will continue to recognise the importance of the voluntary and community sector's activity in the delivery of innovative, preventative services and the sectors' involvement as a strategic partner.

## Review of the Children and Young Peoples Plan

The Children and Young People's Plan was written in 2005/06. It was based on extensive consultation and was published on the 1st April 2006. The Executive Summary of the Plan set out the Cities 14 priority outcomes.

Having had the Joint Area Inspection in March this year, the annual review of the Plan that is normally completed is not required. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership has nevertheless decided to undertake a review, to its own timetable, in order to address local imperatives in a co-ordinated way. The review will re-examine the 14 priorities laid out in the plan in light of those issues which had arisen in the past 15 months.

The target date for completion of the review is 30th September 2007. The amended and additional priorities that are likely to be included in the review include the following,

- Improving the health of babies
- Improving achievement in learning for all children and young people
- Improve outcomes for vulnerable children and young people, including those who are looked after, homeless, have learning difficulties and disabilities, and/or are vulnerable to crime, bullying and exploitation.
- Promote healthy lifestyles
- Improve the number of young people who are in education, training and/or employment age 18.
- Improve access to services and leisure resources for young people in locations which best suit their needs.
- Ensure that all children and young people are motivated to make a positive contribution to their community, and reject involvement in crime, including activity which is gang-related.