



This Strategic update lets you know what is happening at a strategic (planning) level that may affect your work in the future. It contains information about local, regional and national developments.

If you want to find out more about any of the items, or if you have any concerns or suggestions that you would like to raised at an appropriate strategic forum, please contact:- **YOW on 01902 877545**

## Children and Young People 's Plan, Children's Trusts and shadow Health and Well-Being Boards

Local Authorities no longer need to have a Children's Trust. However, in Wolverhampton the local Children's Trust Board has agreed that it has been a productive way of working together to improve the lives of children and young people in the city.

So, the Board has developed a **new Children and Young People's Plan for 2011-14** (available on YOW website at <http://www.yow.org.uk/cypplan2011> ) to show what the whole of the Children's Trust is working towards. A series of workshops have recently been held to focus on the difference the Plan will make, how we will measure the difference it does make, and asking all organisations and groups to share how they will contribute to the priorities in the Plan. Details of the outcomes for each of the 6 priorities of the Plan.

- Narrowing the gap in outcomes between different groups of children and young people
- Reducing the impact of child poverty on children & young people
- Maximising the safety of all children and young people (especially the most vulnerable)
- Work with families
- Celebrating the achievements of children & young people, and creating new opportunities for them to develop personally and socially, and shape services to meet their needs

At the same time the **Children's Trust structure is being reviewed** to make sure it drives the work in the Plan and has oversight of the progress being made to improve life for children and young people.

This has been complicated by the Government making it a requirement that every local authority area establishes a **Health and Well-Being Board (H&WB)** by April 2013 as part of the reforms laid out in the Health and Social Care Bill 2011.

The H&WB Board is designed to enable the new Clinical Commissioning Groups (previously called GP commissioning groups) to get involved in the strategic life of the local authority area in which they operate. A shadow H&WB Board for Wolverhampton has already met once—the voluntary sector along with other groups has so far only been granted observer status on this board.



**For more info contact Stephen Dodd at YOW on 01902 877545 or [steve@yow.org.uk](mailto:steve@yow.org.uk) or Nicky Taylor on 01902 551216 (email [nicky.taylor@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:nicky.taylor@wolverhampton.gov.uk)**

## Ofsted Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children in Wolverhampton—June 2011

An Ofsted inspection of services relating to Safeguarding and Looked After Children was carried out over two weeks in June 2011. Inspectors found that Safeguarding Services were adequate with good capacity for improvement. Services round Looked After Children were judged as Good with Good capacity for improvement. Congratulations to all our partners on the report and what is considered a fair reflection of the state of services in the city. The report makes a series of recommendations and acknowledges that a lot of work is already being done to improve services and outcomes for children.



The voluntary and community sectors were active participants and partners in the inspection process in a number of ways:-

- Inspectors visited voluntary sector provision inc. Base 25 and Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum
- Representatives from 12 VCS groups were involved in a focus group with the Lead Inspector
- And the YOW co-ordinator took part in a range of strategic focus groups as an active strategic partner

Comments specifically relating to the voluntary and community sector included

- “a range of good quality services is delivered by the voluntary and community sectors”
- “There is a solid foundation of good early intervention and prevention services, which includes a wide range of good quality voluntary and community sector provision with good partnership arrangements in place”
- “The role of the local authority designated officer (LADO) is generally understood across statutory agencies, **although it is less well known in the voluntary and community sectors**”
- ensure that thresholds for referring children in need are clearly understood across the partnership
- There is a broad and varied range of services to help children and young people stay safe and feel safe. For example Base 25, a voluntary organisation, undertakes effective interventions with some of the most vulnerable young people, such as those at risk of sexual exploitation and young males who exhibit sexually harmful behaviour.
- Effective training on safer recruitment has been delivered across statutory agencies including all schools as well as the voluntary and community sectors.

**A full copy of the report is available on the YOW website.**

**For more information contact Stephen Dodd on 01902 877545 [steve@yow.org.uk](mailto:steve@yow.org.uk)**

## Thresholds — how best to meet the needs of children & young people

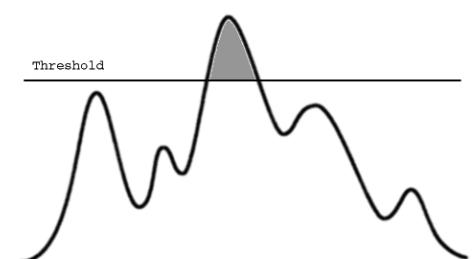
One of the areas highlighted by the Ofsted Inspection is the need for a better understanding across all partners of the THRESHOLDS for referrals to the Duty & Assessment Team in Children’s Social Care and use of the Common Assessment to address the needs of children and young people.

Work is already underway to update the thresholds policy document as well as the practical resources which are there to help everyone working directly with children, young people and their families. These resources support the process of deciding on the most appropriate way of meeting the needs of

the children and young people that you work with.

In order to make sure that these documents reflect the needs

and experiences of voluntary and community groups, YOW will be co-ordinating a VCS scrutiny group to look at these resources and make recommendations for improving them in September.



**If you are interested in finding out more or would like to be involved in the VCS threshold scrutiny group, contact Stephen Dodd at YOW on 01902 877545 [steve@yow.org.uk](mailto:steve@yow.org.uk)**