



North Yorkshire  
Children and Young People's  
Strategic Partnership

# Changing Times

Issue 16 June 2009

*The newsletter for anyone working with children, young people and their families, or whose work impacts on them*



## New inspections for children's services

The Annual Performance Assessment for children's services has been replaced by a new process called the *Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)*.

The Audit Commission leads two strands of the CAA. Firstly, the Area Assessment evaluates how well all public services contribute to quality of life in North Yorkshire. It looks at whether services reflect local needs and secure good outcomes for residents, including children and young people. Secondly, the Organisational Assessment evaluates North Yorkshire County Council itself, judging how well the authority manages its finances, resources and performance.

Ofsted is using CAA as a platform to introduce two new inspections of children's services. Firstly, each local authority will receive an annual unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements. Inspectors will spend two days assessing procedures, scrutinising case files, and talking with managers and staff. The main focus is children's social care, but there are crucial links with integrated services and the Customer Service Centre.

Secondly, every three years each local authority will receive a full inspection of safeguarding and services for

looked after children. This evaluates the whole children and young people service and its partnerships, with a particular emphasis on the safeguarding, welfare and life chances of all children, plus an in-depth look at services and outcomes for looked after children. Inspectors will be on site for two weeks and the authority will receive two weeks notice.

A steering group has been established to co-ordinate preparations for these inspections. The full inspection will be especially thorough and many colleagues are likely to contribute to our readiness activities. Important evidence for the inspectors will include our Children and Young People's Plan annual review and refresh documents, which will be available in July.

The best way to secure a positive inspection outcome is to ensure that our day-to-day work is consistently good, whether we deliver frontline practice or fulfil administrative, support or managerial functions.

For further information about CAA and the new Ofsted inspections, please contact David O'Brien, North Yorkshire County Council's Performance and Outcomes Manager, on (01609) 536022 or e-mail [david.f.o'brien@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:david.f.o'brien@northyorks.gov.uk)

For more information about the work of the strategic partnership, visit [www.nysp.org.uk/html/thematic-partnerships/children-and-young-people](http://www.nysp.org.uk/html/thematic-partnerships/children-and-young-people)

# New finance service for higher education entrants

A new student finance service for students in England, Student Finance England, was launched in February, building on a scheme piloted in parts of the country over the last two years, including North Yorkshire.



The new service is designed to improve the way students and prospective students find information, advice and guidance on financing their higher education studies and how they apply for support. It will be easy to access and flexible in

meeting students' needs.

It has been designed following extensive consultation with students, parents and practitioners and will continue to develop over the next three years to become an increasingly simplified, multi channel service, with links to the higher education (HE) application process.

A range of online services are available, including information and guidance, an improved online

application process and the ability for students to manage their student finance accounts. The service also offers telephone support and specialist help for those with additional needs. Paper applications will still be available to those who prefer them.

New full-time students entering HE this September have been able to apply for support since February 2009. For students applying in future years, the aim is to bring the application process forward to enable them to apply even earlier.

**For further information:**

**Students** can find information, advice and guidance, and make an online application for support, at: [www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)

**IAG partners** can use the resources available on the Student Finance England practitioners' website to explain the service to students and provide information and guidance. A wide range of material is available at: <http://practitioners.studentfinanceengland.co.uk>

**IAG partners** with further queries about the application process or the resources available, can contact Ian Sinkinson, Student Finance Consultant for Yorkshire and Humberside, at [ian\\_sinkinson@slc.co.uk](mailto:ian_sinkinson@slc.co.uk)

**student finance england**

# School cook serves up success on a plate

School meals have never been so popular at Danby C of E primary school with every pupil now opting to stay for lunch each day. Lorraine Howell, the school cook, has worked hard to improve the take up of school



meals and, thanks to her efforts and the appeal of her food, she has achieved 100%.

Lorraine cooks for 62 pupils a day, plus all the teaching staff who also enjoy her meals. Her healthy and nutritious menu includes vegetarian options so everyone is catered for.

The school provides a traditional 'family service' at lunchtime with the older children helping out by taking it in turn to serve the younger pupils.

Lunch is an important and exciting part of the day with pupils eager to find out what's for lunch and who's been selected to write up the day's dishes on the menu board.

Lorraine is pictured, left, with her appreciative pupils.

# Information sharing: guidance for practitioners and managers

Information sharing is integral to the Government's vision for integrated working and for achieving improved outcomes for all. Sharing information is essential to enable early intervention and preventative work to help children, young people and families who need additional services. It is also vital for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

Recognising that most decisions to share information require professional judgement, new cross-government guidance has recently been published to provide clarity on when and how information can be shared legally and professionally, in order to achieve improved outcomes. This guidance will be especially useful to support early intervention and preventative work where decisions about information sharing may be less clear than in safeguarding or child protection situations.

The development of the cross-government guidance was led jointly by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG). Representatives from a wide range of government departments, professional and regulatory bodies and statutory and voluntary agencies across health, education, social care and justice also contributed to the development of the guidance.

## Who is the guidance for?

The guidance is intended for practitioners who make case-by-case decisions about whether to share information, and what information to share. It is also for managers and advisors who support these practitioners in their decision making.

## Where to find out more

The updated guidance and further supporting materials, including a pocket guide, are available on the information sharing pages of the County Council and Every Child Matters websites at:

[www.northyorks.gov.uk/infosharing](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/infosharing)

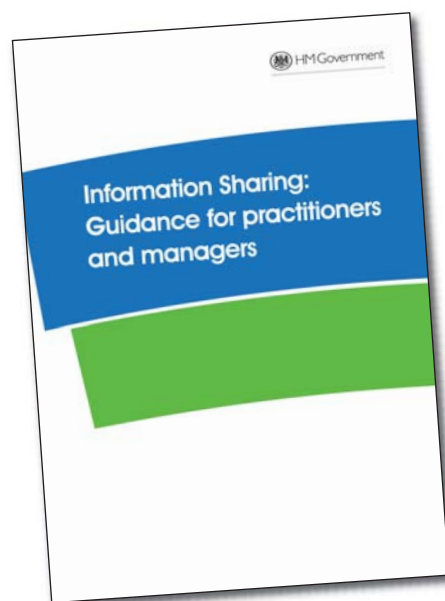
[www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/informationsharing](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/informationsharing)

## Seven golden rules for information sharing

1. **Remember that the Data Protection Act is not a barrier to sharing information** but provides a framework to ensure that personal information about living persons is shared appropriately.
2. **Be open and honest** with the person (and/or their family where appropriate) from the outset about why,

what, how and with whom information will, or could, be shared and seek their agreement, unless it is unsafe or inappropriate to do so.

3. **Seek advice** if you are in any doubt, without disclosing the identity of the person where possible.
4. **Share information with consent, where appropriate**, and, where possible, respect the wishes of those who do not consent to share confidential information. You may still share information without consent if, in your judgement, that lack of consent can be overridden in the public interest. You will need to base your judgement on the facts of the case.
5. **Consider safety and well-being:** Base your information sharing decisions on considerations of the safety and well-being of the person and others who may be affected by their actions.
6. **Necessary, proportionate, relevant, accurate, timely and secure:** Ensure that the information you share is necessary for the purpose for which you are sharing it, is shared only with those people who need to have it, is accurate and up-to-date, is shared in a timely fashion and is shared securely.
7. **Keep a record** of your decision and the reasons for it – whether it is to share information or not. If you decide to share, then record what you have shared, with whom and for what purpose.



To obtain a copy of the seven golden rules for information sharing and a flowchart of the key questions for information sharing, please visit [www.northyorks.gov.uk/infosharing](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/infosharing)

# Government support for social care workforce

In November 2008, following the tragic death of Baby P, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families appointed Lord Laming - who chaired the inquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié - to undertake an independent report into child protection in England. The report, published in March 2009, has enabled the DCSF to issue an action plan to take forward his recommendations.

As part of this, the Government has recognised the problems faced by children's services in recruiting and retaining social workers and has announced an additional £57.8 million to train and support them. Steps to be taken will include:

- A national recruitment campaign to persuade former social workers back into the profession. The target is for 500 social workers to be back in the workplace by autumn 2009, supported by refresher training where required. From July 2009, a helpline will be introduced to help returning social workers identify their support and training needs.
- A graduate recruitment scheme to sponsor 200 high quality graduates to undertake social worker training.
- Rolling out Newly Qualified Social Worker (NQSW) pilots so that new social workers can receive high quality supervision and protected time for training to support them in becoming confident and competent in their first year of practice.
- Funding a new practice-based Masters in Social Work, starting early 2011, so that social workers can further develop their knowledge, skills and expertise.
- A new Advanced Social Work Professional Status programme, creating senior practice-focused roles to keep excellent and experienced social workers in children's services. Local authorities and the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) will be assessing candidates in October so that they can be in post in early 2010.

# Milestone for Sure Start Children's Centres



On 8 May, the Government celebrated the opening of the 3000th Sure Start Children's Centre. The centres - which provide services to over 2.4 million families across the country - are a one-stop shop for young children and parents. They provide access to family health care, early education and care for youngsters, and advice and support for parents. They also provide links to training and employment services.

By March 2010, there will be a further 500 centres nationwide, providing access to services for all families in every community, ensuring that every child gets the best start in life.

Each centre provides access to:

- Childcare, play and early learning for babies and toddlers;
- expert advice on healthcare such as breastfeeding for new mums and immunisations for babies;
- advice on parenting for mums and dads;
- brushing up on skills and learning new ones;
- links to training and job opportunities; and
- family fun and meeting friends.

For more information, go to

[www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/earlyyears/surestart/whatsurestartdoes](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/earlyyears/surestart/whatsurestartdoes)

## Development workshops on offer

The One Children's Workforce Professional Development Programme is a programme of workshops aimed at North Yorkshire County Council Children and Young People's employees and partners.

For more information on the range of workshops on offer or to request a hard or electronic copy of the programme, please e-mail [ocw.cyps@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:ocw.cyps@northyorks.gov.uk)



## Youth workforce reform programme

The Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) has set up a Youth Workforce Reform Programme Board to deliver a programme of reform over the next three years.

The youth workforce provides much-needed services to young people and their families across the country and while it has many strengths, there are some areas where further support is needed.

Work is taking place in three areas to drive forward an ambitious change agenda to improve the skills and status of the workforce.

For more information, please visit [www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/youth-workforce-reform-programme](http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/youth-workforce-reform-programme)

*Changing Times* is taking a break in August but we'll be back with an October issue. If you have any interesting stories or information you'd like to contribute to the newsletter to share with partners, please e-mail Barbara Shirt, Communications Officer, Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire County Council, at [barbara.shirt@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:barbara.shirt@northyorks.gov.uk) by 29 September.

# ContactPoint

because every child matters

The first frontline professionals have recently been given access to ContactPoint, the Government's online directory of children's services.

ContactPoint holds basic contact information for all children living in England and is designed to ensure there is easier and faster contact between professionals who work with children. ContactPoint will provide a quick way for authorised practitioners to find out who else is working with the same child or young person, supporting improved communication among practitioners across education, health, social care and youth justice, in the statutory and voluntary sectors.

Around 800 practitioners, who have been hand-picked to reflect the broad range of professionals working for children's services who will use ContactPoint, began training mid May. These practitioners are based in 17 'early adopter' local authorities in the North West and national voluntary sector partners, Barnardo's and KIDS.

For the first time, professionals - who have all been through stringent security measures and training - can see in one place some of the different services involved with the children they are working with and start to feel some of the early benefits ContactPoint will offer them.

Children's Minister, Delyth Morgan, said: "Under current arrangements if a practitioner believes that a child is at risk or may need additional support, for example if they have a disability, they may have no way of knowing whether other services might already be in contact with that child. We estimate that ContactPoint, when fully operational, can save at least five million hours of professionals' time, freeing them up from trying to track down other practitioners and enabling them to spend more time on the child."

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and LAs are responsible for the ContactPoint system. Each LA will manage the information for the children living in their area. The North Yorkshire ContactPoint management team are due to attend accredited ContactPoint training in July 2009, at which time they will become responsible for operating and managing ContactPoint within North Yorkshire.

The North Yorkshire ContactPoint Manager, Lucy Darwin, said: "ContactPoint will be a valuable tool for practitioners in North Yorkshire. It will enable frontline professionals to see quickly and easily who else is involved with a child or young person in order to share information appropriately. It will also aid integrated working by encouraging agencies to work across professional boundaries to deliver co-ordinated support for children and young people living in North Yorkshire. ContactPoint will therefore be a key tool to help enable practitioners to work together more effectively on the front-line."

Over 3400 practitioners in North Yorkshire have been identified as potential ContactPoint users. They will start to gain access to the ContactPoint system from autumn/winter 2009, when the two-year initial ContactPoint training programme is due to commence.

For further information and examples of how ContactPoint will help improve services, please visit: [www.ecm.gov.uk/contactpoint](http://www.ecm.gov.uk/contactpoint) [www.northyorks.gov.uk/contactpoint](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/contactpoint)

Or you can contact the North Yorkshire ContactPoint team, Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire County Council, on (01609) 536665 or e-mail: [contactpoint@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:contactpoint@northyorks.gov.uk)

## Young film makers win 'Inspiration' award

Five young people from the Harrogate district who once faced homelessness, collected a major national award from Olympic Minister, Tessa Jowell, at a ceremony at the House of Commons in April.

Anthony Dacre, Emily Hesketh, Natalie Robinson, Harley Regan and

Amy Dawes took the title of 'Best Contribution to Youth Issues' in the Kids Count Inspiration Awards for their work in helping prevent other young people losing their homes.

Working with Harrogate Borough Council's Youth Homeless project (HowzTalk) and Inspired Youth of York, the young people produced

the film 'Behind No Doors' to raise awareness of, and help prevent, youth homelessness. The film is currently being shown throughout secondary schools in the Harrogate district and there are plans to show the film across all of the County's secondary schools.

This is the second year of the

national Kids Count Inspiration Awards, which is a continuing campaign to put children and young people at the heart of policy making and of the family.

The five, who are all now doing exceptionally well either in education or on a career path, were praised by the council for sharing their experiences to prevent others facing the issues they did, which will also help policy making in the future.



Film makers Amy Dawes, Harley Regan, Natalie Robinson and Emily Hesketh are flanked by Olympic gold medallist Darren Campbell, Mike Penning MP and Spandau Ballet's Tony Hadley, who also attended the awards ceremony.

## Jobs website for young people goes live

The website for Get Connected Now, the Connexions' vacancy service for North Yorkshire and York, is up and running. This exciting development is designed to connect young people with apprenticeships, training opportunities and jobs across North Yorkshire and York.

The site is updated every day with latest vacancies, and includes a wide range of information to help young people make informed choices about their future, as well as links to other vacancies. It also provides information for parents/carers.

All this would not be possible without the support of employers, who are also catered for with lots of useful information about apprenticeships and employing young people. The Connexions' teams across the County will

shortly be introducing a programme to engage with employers and encourage them to consider employing young people.

To view the website, go to [www.getconnectednow.co.uk](http://www.getconnectednow.co.uk) If you have any questions or comments, please call Anne Almond, Connexions' Recruitment Adviser, on 0845 0349577.

**connexions**  
Information • Advice • Guidance

**Get Connected Now**  
great training, great jobs great futures

# Students design new police uniform for 'mums to be'



North Yorkshire Police and students from King James's School in Knaresborough have joined forces to design a new maternity uniform.

Although they cannot perform frontline duties while pregnant, a growing number of female officers are opting to remain in uniform.



Assistant Chief Constable, Sue Cross, and PCSO Rebecca Moorhouse with textile students Amy Sheehan, Emily Shillito, Charlotte Halliday, Sarah Dalton, and Margaret Newsome, the school's head of textiles.

The existing maternity uniform was in need of an update and Sgt Jane Guymer of the Knaresborough Safer Neighbourhood Team thought it would be an interesting project for students at the school.

A-level textiles students were given the challenge of coming up with an improved design that met existing

national guidelines and was suitable for a pregnant member of staff from approximately four months to the end of pregnancy.

Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Rebecca Moorhouse, who is pregnant, was also involved in the

project, offering her advice on what an expectant mum would ideally like in a uniform in terms of comfort and support.

The new uniform was unveiled in April at a fashion show to showcase the work of technology students. Their design was a triumph with the finished result better fitting, more tailored and very smart.


Assistant Chief Constable, Sue Cross, who backed the project, also attended the show and was very impressed with what she saw.

She also highlighted the project as a great way for the police and local communities to work together, particularly young people, breaking down barriers and building future relationships.

## Children's workforce e-Learning



The North Yorkshire Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership has recently launched a new CYPS Induction e-Learning package and an updated Information Sharing e-Learning package. Both packages are available by logging into the North Yorkshire Learning Zone

(<https://learningzone.northyorks.gov.uk>), and can be found by clicking the CYPS title 

### CYPS Induction package

The Induction e-Learning package provides an overview of the partnership, the Every Child Matters agenda and the Children and Young People's Plan. The package also introduces different tools that are available to aid integrated working, which enable services to work together more effectively on the front line. This e-Learning package also helps staff working with children and young people to appreciate their role as part of their locality, and supports the delivery of integrated services in order to make a difference to the lives of children and young people living in our County.

### CYPS Information sharing package

Better information sharing between professionals is vital to integrated working and underpins the Every Child

Matters agenda. It is important that everyone within the children's workforce understands when, why and how they should share information so that they can do so confidently and appropriately as part of their day-to-day practice (see article on page 3). This e-Learning package aims to give staff clear guidance on when and how they can share information legally and professionally. The package also supports the new cross-government information sharing guidance, which is available to download at

[www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/informationsharing](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/informationsharing)

Completion of both e-Learning packages is mandatory for all staff within the children's workforce, in order to support integrated working and to ensure everyone working with children and young people is able to share information with confidence and clarity. Further information is available at

<https://learningzone.northyorks.gov.uk>

You can also contact the Learning and Development team on 01609 532814 or by e-mail at [learninganddevelopment@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:learninganddevelopment@northyorks.gov.uk)

## Conference focuses on children in care

In May, North Yorkshire Children and Young People's Service hosted the *Talking about Care Conference 2009*, on behalf of Yorkshire and The Humber.

Over 170 delegates from children's services across the region attended the event at Selby High School, held to share and celebrate good practice that improves outcomes for children in care.

In 2006, the Government announced its intention to transform the lives of children and young people in care. Martin Narey, Chief Executive of Barnardo's (pictured), who chaired one of the four working groups that culminated in the 2008 Care Matters Act, gave the opening address at the conference.

Delegates were shown a DVD, 'No Roof, No Job', commissioned for the conference and involving young people from North Yorkshire's Children in Care Council, who explored the link between good outcomes for care leavers and being able to achieve economic wellbeing.

Mark Burrows, Team Manager from the DCSF's Care Planning Division, addressed the conference to explain how the 2008 act will improve outcomes for children in care.

Workshops included 'Staying Put' (post 18 fostering) and 'Preventative Fostering', schemes which North Yorkshire has been selected to pilot by the DCSF.

Howard Smith, Placement Planning Manager, helped organise the conference and commented that Talking



about Care 2009 had been a tremendous success and was a reflection of how seriously Yorkshire and The Humber region regard the need to improve outcomes for children in, and leaving, care.

## Young people's project celebrates successful year

The Harrogate and District *Actively Involving Children and Young People* project has come to the end of its first phase and, to celebrate its success, a showcase event was held in April at St John Fisher School in Harrogate.

Over the last year, the project has worked with over 400 children and young people in the Harrogate district. They have shared their ideas for planning and evaluating a number of services including development of play areas, improving youth clubs for children with disabilities and how the Youth Council works to give young people a voice.

The showcase event involved a number of 'marketplace' stalls from a variety of local agencies to present the project's work and successes over the last 12 months. Amongst these agencies were representatives from North Yorkshire County Council's 4Youth, Harrogate Borough Council, NYCC Extended Services, Howztalk, Barnardo's, North Yorkshire Youth and the Bereavement Consortium.

Phase two of the project is currently under development and should begin autumn 2009.

### Who are the partners?

North Yorkshire County Council, North Yorkshire schools, North Yorkshire and York PCT, district and borough councils, North Yorkshire Police, Connexions, Youth Justice Service, North Yorkshire Probation Service, Learning and Skills Council, Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership, North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service and the voluntary and community sector.

### How do I get copies?

The newsletter is e-mailed to partner organisations and is available via North Yorkshire County Council's website. You can also call Barbara Shirt on (01609) 532014 or e-mail [barbara.shirt@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:barbara.shirt@northyorks.gov.uk)

If you would like this information in another language or format such as Braille, large print or audio, please ask us.  
Tel: 01609 532917 E-mail: [communications@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:communications@northyorks.gov.uk)

