



North Yorkshire
Children's Trust

Changing Times

Issue 19 February 2010

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

Strong delivery to date against the CYPP 2009-10

The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2008-11, Year 2 revision outlines the actions the Children's Trust will undertake by March 2010. Between April 2009 and March 2010, the Trust committed to 481 actions. This tremendous undertaking has brought together agencies from across the county to work on improving outcomes for children in North Yorkshire.

The mid-year review is carried out to identify how progress is being made, and to highlight any areas

that need to be prioritised in the coming months.

At the time of the review, 309 of the 481 actions were 'on target' or already completed, compared to 261 this time last year. This is an impressive achievement, and is testament to the ongoing hard work and dedication across services in North Yorkshire.

There are a number of areas identified as 'high risk' of not being achieved by March 2010. These have been discussed at the Children's Trust board and are

currently being reviewed by senior managers to ensure that they can be progressed quickly.

Information about the CYPP delivery, and related Children's Trust activity, can be found at the new look website:

www.nysp.org.uk/children-and-young-people

For more information on the mid-year review, please contact Lynette Dodds, Principal Performance Officer at:

lynette.dodds@northyorks.gov.uk

Have your say – Children's Trust communications

North Yorkshire Children's Trust affects everyone who works with children and young people in the local area, but do you really know what it does, how it works, and how you can get involved?

The Children's Trust is reviewing its communications to make sure everyone has access to the latest information and can get their views across.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for how we can improve communications, we'd love to hear from you. You can drop us an e-mail with your ideas at cyp@northyorks.gov.uk or contact Barbara Shirt, Communications Officer, on (01609) 532014.




ContactPoint
has arrived...
and we're already
seeing the benefits
Find out more on pages 4 and 5

Every outcome, for every child, everywhere

Police talks aimed at protecting children online



Officers from North Yorkshire Police have received specialist training to deliver talks to school children with the aim of helping them stay safe online.

The training was carried out through the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre, part of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency who are dedicated to eradicating the sexual abuse of children.



Talks in schools have been targeted mainly at the 11–17 year age group, although Year 6 primary school children have also been educated, with talks adapted to their age and needs. The three main messages of the

presentations are: how to have fun on the internet; how to stay in control on the internet; and how to report any inappropriate behaviour encountered online.

The aim is not to discourage children from using the internet, but to empower them with information so that they know what they can do if things go wrong and how

they can report this to the police. Emphasis is placed on keeping personal information and photos private on social networking sites. Children are also encouraged not to meet or 'talk' online to anyone they don't know.

Across the Knaresborough and Boroughbridge area alone, over 2000 children have seen the presentation and responded very well to it. Several have been encouraged to report suspicious and criminal behaviour encountered online.

For more information on safer internet use, go to www.thinkyouknow.co.uk

Schools interested in the talks can contact their local Safer Neighbourhoods Policing team at www.northyorkshire.police.uk and presentations can also be arranged for parents.

Partnership seeks views

The North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership (NYSP) is seeking the views of North Yorkshire's residents about what it should be focussing on as its top priorities for the county's communities from 2011.

The NYSP brings together all of the key agencies from across the public, business, voluntary and community sectors in North Yorkshire with the common aim of promoting the economic, social and environmental well-being of the county's communities.

The Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) 2008/18 sets out the NYSP's long-term vision for North Yorkshire, focussed around ten themes, including issues such as 'children and young people', 'community safety' and 'health and well-being'. Each of these priorities links to a specific target which is deliverable through an agreement between local authorities and other partners and central government.

The SCS will be refreshed during 2010 to make sure that it continues to reflect the needs and priorities of the county's communities from 2011 onwards.

Views are now being sought on:

- whether the ten priorities of the strategy still reflect the needs of local communities;
- whether there are other priorities which need to be included in this list; and
- whether any of the current ten priorities are no longer critical to local communities for the medium term.

For more details on the current priorities of the SCS and details of how to respond to this consultation, visit either the NYSP website at www.nysp.org.uk or the North Yorkshire County Council website at www.northyorks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=11600 The consultation ends on 31 March 2010.

Aiming high for disabled children

This is a Government programme which aims to make sure that all families with disabled children have the support they need to live ordinary lives, as a matter of course. From 2008-2011, extra money has been provided for the local authority and the primary care trust to transform the quality, range, appropriateness and capacity of short break provision.

Short breaks come in all shapes and sizes. They could last a few hours, a day, an evening, overnight or a weekend and they can take place in the child's own home or away from home.

In North Yorkshire, we have:

- Increased the availability of overnight short breaks, both in residential centres and with approved family based carers.
- Increased support to children in their own homes and to enable them to take part in community based activities.
- Funded a range of activities, some provided by voluntary and independent sector organisations, which are available after school, in school holidays and at weekends.
- Developed opportunities for children to take part in some exciting outdoor activities.
- Set up a fund to purchase occupational therapy equipment for specific children to enable them to have a short break.

We are working with staff in Integrated Services to make it easier for disabled children to access 'universal' services such as children's centres, youth clubs, and after school clubs. We are also keen to link up with



Enjoying the outdoors with adapted bikes

district councils to look at how disabled children and their families can take part in leisure centre activities.

A parent forum has been established to make sure that parents of disabled children have a 'voice' in the kind of short break services they would like to see developed: they are currently busy organising a parent conference on 18 March. For more information, go to the Parent Network area of www.cypexchange.org.uk or contact Sara Christie on (01347) 825710.

A young people's participation group, *Flying High*, has been set up to make sure that disabled children, too, have a voice in the kinds of services they would like to see developed. They are supported by Barnardo's and can be contacted through:

jane.dodds@barnardos.org.uk

For more information about the programme in North Yorkshire, e-mail lindsay.f.may@northyorks.gov.uk or telephone (01609) 536392.

Investing in young learners

DCSF and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) have published the 16-19 Statement of Priorities 2010-11, which gives details of the planned investment in young people's learning. This is an



important document and represents a key milestone for the transfer of responsibility for planning and funding of young people's learning from the LSC to local authorities from April 2010.

The Statement of Priorities sets out key issues to be taken into account by those planning and commissioning education and training for 16-19 year olds, and 19-25 year olds subject to a learning

difficulty assessment, in the 2010-11 academic year. It is also intended as a source of information for education and training providers of all types. It also sets out the funding being made available in the financial year 2010-11 and the learner numbers for academic year 2010-11.

For more information, go to www.lsc.gov.uk/aboutus/lscstrategy/statementofpriorities

ContactPoint is here

ContactPoint, the national online directory, has been developed to help different children's services work together in a more integrated way. It will provide a quick way to find out who else is working with the same child or young person, making it easier to share information, work together as a team and deliver more co-ordinated support.

ContactPoint has already saved us considerable time and effort

Locality co-ordinator,
North Yorkshire

ContactPoint is a key part of the *Every Child Matters* programme and the Children and Young People's Plan, which are designed to improve the health, well-being and safety of all children. It is estimated that ContactPoint will save people working with children and young people five million hours a year, which might otherwise have been spent simply trying to find out who else is working with the same child or young person.

Between January and October 2009, a national ContactPoint 'early adopter' phase was undertaken with 18 local authorities in the North West, and two national partners, Barnardo's and Kids. During this phase, 800 practitioners became authorised users and of these, 75% said they believed they would find ContactPoint useful in their day-to-day job. Feedback from early adopters was positive and very encouraging; suggesting that even at a very early stage of delivery, ContactPoint was making a real difference.

It is very important that ContactPoint is managed and used appropriately. Organisations who use ContactPoint must first meet national ContactPoint accreditation conditions. The North Yorkshire ContactPoint implementation team has been working with a range of organisations in order to meet these requirements and, so far, within North Yorkshire, the County Council's Children and Young People's Service (CYPS) and North Yorkshire Police have achieved accreditation.

There are past cases where ContactPoint would have saved a lot of hours and helped us to provide services to the family sooner

Locality co-ordinator,
North Yorkshire

The implementation team ran a training pilot in November, during which 28 front-line staff from CYPS and North Yorkshire Police became authorised ContactPoint users. The training pilot was an important step as it enabled the implementation team to identify good practice and better understand the practicalities of using ContactPoint - which will help future planning of training sessions. From March/April 2010, there will be a full roll-out of ContactPoint in North Yorkshire and the implementation team will be working with accredited organisations to identify appropriate staff that would benefit from becoming ContactPoint users.

In the long term, ContactPoint will be updated by both local and

national data sources. Currently, data is fed into ContactPoint from a number of national sources, such as the NHS records and the general registry office. This means that each child's record currently holds their name, address, date of birth,

We have used ContactPoint successfully when there has been a need to identify the GP the family is registered with

Locality co-ordinator,
North Yorkshire

educational setting (if registered at a maintained school) and GP practice. The practitioners using ContactPoint have reported that they already find it useful, even with only this basic data available.

The new ContactPoint system will have particular advantages in reducing the possibility of children, for whom there are concerns, going unnoticed

Lord Laming

Over time, a variety of other national and local data sources (i.e. social care, youth justice, Connexions, etc) will be added to the directory, making it even more useful, particularly where children have additional needs and use services from several agencies. As the data held on ContactPoint increases, it will aid improved integrated working and provide greater benefits to front-line workers - meaning better services for children and young people in North Yorkshire.

For more information about the work of the Children's Trust, visit www.nysp.org.uk/html/thematic-partnerships/children-and-young-people

More information can be found at:
www.northyorks.gov.uk/contactpoint
www.ecm.gov.uk/contactpoint

*“ Every single practitioner
I've met has said
ContactPoint is something we
need*

Early Adopter ContactPoint Manager

Or you can contact the North Yorkshire ContactPoint implementation team, CYPS, County Hall, Northallerton, on (01609) 533332/533335, e-mail: contactpoint@northyorks.gov.uk

Get active at gimi.co.uk

Gimi.co.uk is North Yorkshire County Council's 'positive activities' website for 13 -19 year olds. It features the latest information on activities and events for young people, plus advice, news and a chance for them to have their say.

The site went live in November 2008, and since then the Gimi team have been out and about promoting it to young people, including taking their internet van to shows and festivals across North Yorkshire. Next stop will be some of the county's secondary schools where the team plan to drop by over lunch time with the internet van, a mobile stage, workshops - and lots of free goodies.

For providers, the website offers a great opportunity to advertise

activities and events to young people. Adding events is quick and easy; just go to 'Add Event' at the bottom left of any Gimi page and fill in the form - instructions are included on the webpage.

Articles are also very welcome for the 'News' section; it's a chance to promote your service to young people, perhaps by writing a short piece about your service or recent activities, or by getting the young people involved to write a review.

For further information, Gimi promotional items, or to submit an article, please contact Charlotte Simpson, Gimi Project Co-ordinator, on (01609) 534210 or e-mail charlotte.simpson@northyorks.gov.uk



Young people meet to discuss their ideas for Gimi at Carlton Lodge Outdoor Centre - joined by the Gimi robot

Audit into children's services – give us your views

In 2009, the One Children's Workforce Framework tool was used to measure how well the children's workforce is working together in planning and providing services to children, young people and their families. Using the 'rainbow' (right), the review looked across all sectors and professions to identify what needs to be done for us to achieve our aspiration to be world-class.

Key findings from the consultation were:

- Some people view integrated working more positively than others.
- Some front line staff feel managers do not always understand the pressures they face.
- Communication in some areas can be improved.
- A directory of 'who to contact' is needed.
- More involvement is required from children and young people.
- There is some confusion regarding the role of individual organisations within the Trust.

- People don't always understand their role in various plans and strategies.

From these results, several action points were developed which were incorporated into the Children's Trust Workforce Strategy and the Children and Young People's Plan.



Examples of these are:

- Ensure plain English is used in all communications and avoid the use of jargon or abbreviations.
- Promote better partnership working through training.
- Establish good practice case studies.
- Ensure staff feel consultation is meaningful and that contribution to strategy is being sought.

- Identify clear, career pathways across the wider children's workforce.

After the full review was submitted in June 2009, a self assessment was carried out by the Children's Trust on the green arc, to see more specifically where we are on integrated working practices and what needs to be done further.

From January through to June 2010, we are required to carry out the full review again to see how we are progressing. As before, we are looking to get as many people involved from across

the Trust, as well as children, young people and their families, to share views and experiences. This includes focus groups, questionnaires, 1 to 1 interviews and keeping diaries.

For further information, or to take part, please contact the Children and Young People's Workforce Development office on (01609) 533061 or e-mail jessica.wallis@northyorks.gov.uk

Counselling service for young people in Ryedale

Rite2Talk 13-18 is a free counselling service for young people aged 13-18, who live in Ryedale.

Young people can self-refer or be referred by a doctor, teacher, parent, school nurse, social worker or other agency support staff.

The service offers one-to-one counselling sessions at the following venues: Community House, Malton; Norton College; Malton School; Atmosphere youth centre, Pickering; Pickering GP Surgery and Ryedale School, Nawton.

Counsellors are experienced in working with young people, are CRB checked and eligible for registration with the British Association for Counselling & Psychotherapy (BACP).



For more information, please visit www.rite2talk.wordpress.com or telephone (01653) 690124. Alternatively, you can e-mail: counsellors@rva-cvs.org.uk

Making it easier to apply for free school meals

A new leaflet making it easier to apply for a free school meal has been launched by County Caterers, North Yorkshire County Council's school meal service. The leaflet explains to parents how their children may be eligible for free school meals and how to go about claiming for this benefit.

To make the process simpler, the leaflet also doubles as the application form. It has been widely distributed through libraries, Citizen Advice Bureau, Job Centre Plus, children's centres and access points in district council offices and to schools throughout North Yorkshire.

An electronic version of the leaflet is also available at www.northyorks.gov.uk and through the County Caterers' website at: www.myschoollunch.co.uk/northyorks

More pupils than ever before are enjoying school meals - recent figures show that in the last Autumn term, County Caterers served 1,000 meals a day more in primary schools, compared with the same period last year.



County Councillor, Jim Clark, enjoys a tasty meal with pupils at Mill Hill Primary school in Northallerton

School meals are tasty, nutritious and made from locally and regionally produced ingredients.

Those who are entitled to free school meals - which are worth nearly £400 per year - will automatically qualify for help with residential visits, school uniform (if starting primary or secondary school) and after school or holiday activities, providing they live in a participating area of the county.

Giving children the best start in life

Ryedale reception teacher, Rachel Gudgeon, has attained the prestigious *Early Years Professional Status* (EYPS), ensuring that the children she works with benefit from the highest level of training.

Rachel qualified as an Early Years Professional (EYP) after a year of intensive study, and hands-on weekend and holiday work experience at York College Nursery, which she completed alongside her full-time teaching commitments at Terrington Hall. The course, with its emphasis on up-to-date knowledge and understanding of early years practices, has equipped her with the skills and experience that will not only give the children under

her care a brighter future but will also enable her to lead and inspire others to do the same.

"It was a gruelling year," admitted Rachel, "but absolutely worth it. I'm passionate about early years education and the need to deliver excellence at this crucial educational stage. Training for EYPS has been a fantastic personal opportunity to develop professionally, added to which the course has been fully funded by North Yorkshire County Council, and the school itself has been financially supportive to allow me time off to attend lectures."

The Government aims to have an EYP in every children's centre by 2010 and in every full daycare setting by 2015. To realise this aim, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) is promoting the qualification through the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) which says:

"Having just one EYP in your team of early years workers will have a direct and hugely positive effect on every single child and early years worker in your setting."

For further information about EYPS and how to apply for training courses and funding, visit www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/eyps



Terrington Hall reception teacher, Rachel Gudgeon, with her class

Somebody else's child - everybody's responsibility!

From 22-28 February, a second national campaign is being run by the British Association for Adoption & Fostering to raise awareness, especially among teaching and health care professionals, about private fostering. To support this, North Yorkshire County Council has distributed 60,000 leaflets to schools across the county to make sure that everyone knows about private fostering.

What is private fostering?

Private fostering is where a child or young person under the age of 16 is looked after by someone who is not a parent or close relative, for more than 28 days. The law requires that parents and carers tell the local authority about private fostering arrangements. Close relatives are grandparents, brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts, or step-parents. However, the parent's *unmarried* partner is *not* a step-parent in this context, a common misunderstanding, and where unmarried partners become the sole carer for someone else's child they must tell Children's Social Care.

Children's Social Care checks whether the arrangement is suitable for the child. This includes visiting the child and carers, talking with the



parents, and carrying out Criminal Records Bureau checks on everyone over 16 years of age in the household. The social worker will visit regularly to make sure the arrangement is still suitable for the child and provide advice and support.

What everybody should do

Paul Nixon, Assistant Director for Children's Social Care in North Yorkshire, says: "Everybody has a role in keeping our children safe - whether you are a teacher, youth worker, neighbour or just chat to other mums and dads at the school gate. If you hear about a child who

is being privately fostered, please let us know immediately so we can ensure the child is being kept safe."

For more information, visit:

www.northyorks.gov.uk/privatefostering

Or you can contact David

Molesworth on (01609) 534117,

e-mail

david.molesworth@northyorks.gov.uk

If you would like to contribute to this newsletter, please e-mail Barbara Shirt, Communications Officer, Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire County Council, at barbara.shirt@northyorks.gov.uk

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



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