

Welcome to the 12th Partnership e-update

Issue N° 12
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This electronic update is for staff and volunteers across all partners in the Children and Young People's Commissioning Partnership (CYPCP) and aims to update you on how we are improving services and outcomes for children and young people in Surrey. The CYPCP is comprised of all the key statutory and non-statutory partners providing services for children, young people and families in Surrey and is responsible for delivering *Every Child Matters: Change for Children* and the *National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services*.

Previous issues of the e-update can be found on www.surreycc.gov.uk/partnership.

To get in touch or if you would like to submit an article for the next issue please contact Sarah Wood in Policy & Public Affairs at Surrey County Council (sarah.wood@surreycc.gov.uk).

Update from Andy Roberts

Colleagues

As usual, there's lots of good news in this, the first CYPCP bulletin of 2009, reflecting the hard work going in the partnership, and across the Children, Schools & Families (CSF) Directorate. We've still got some way to go on what we always knew would not be a short journey, but we're receiving some very positive feedback from DCSF, GOSE and the Improvement Board, which bodes well for the future.


I'm very pleased to announce appointments to the permanent CSF Directorate Management Team, following a series of interviews over the last few weeks. Joining us in April will be two new heads of services. Our Head of Children's Services will be **Caroline Budden**, currently filling a similar role in Medway. Also joining us, as our Head of Services for Young People, is **Garath Symonds**, who is currently with Lambeth Council. Caroline and Garath, alongside Nick Wilson, our Head of Schools and Learning and deputy to myself, will create a new senior team with an excellent mix of experience, skills and vitality.

The new senior team will be supported by two appointees working across the Directorate, as well as senior managers within the services. The new post of Directorate Business and Admin Manager will be filled by **Mark Bisson**, and a new post of Directorate Strategy and Performance Manager will be filled by **Sean Rafferty**. Proposals for the next group of senior managerial posts will be published shortly so that we can move from the interim arrangements to something more sustainable in the future.

Some of you will also see other new colleagues around over the next six months. We agreed with DCSF to appoint a temporary Head of Change Management to help with delivery and coordination of the various Improvement workstreams, some of which are reported in this newsletter. The post is being filled by **Sarah Baker** and **Simon Westwood** from ChildrenFirst, who successfully applied to provide this DCSF funded support.

I would like to thank all the partners of the CYPCP for their support and hard work over the last year and I look forward to working closely with you all in the coming year to improve outcomes for the children and young people of Surrey and their families.

Regards



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Improvement Update from Surrey County Council/Children, Schools & Families:

Staying on track and reporting back

The JAR report and subsequent Improvement Notice highlighted a number of concerns about potentially vulnerable children in Surrey. The good news is that we can already see positive results about how quickly we are responding.

Fifty four of the fifty five Looked After Children (LAC) initial reviews we have done since the beginning of November were within the required 28 days. Our recent figures show that our results have risen to over 92% of initial reviews for Looked After Children (LAC) from November onwards being completed within the required 28 days as we work towards our 100% target.

We have also reduced the number of children in residential placements over the past six months putting us close to our statistical neighbours and at the same time, we have considerably exceeded our target to increase the numbers of LAC in foster care.

Our case file audit has shown that the percentage of Children in Need case files compliant with policies and procedures has risen by around 50%. Due to a concerted effort by our teams during the year end, the percentage of Looked After Children with a current Personal Education Plan (PEP), has increased by over a third.

**For more information,
contact Chris Pierce on
020 8541 9761/07976 885239.**



Safer Staffing in Action

The JAR highlighted a need to ensure that more thorough Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks and employment checks are in place for all staff working with children and young people. Currently, there are up to 10,000 applications that are processed from the Council and sent to the CRB each year, making this a top priority. We have introduced a range of measures with immediate effect and the Safer Staffing Workstream is now ensuring that we are taking the essential steps to vet all of workforce, both temporary and permanent who working closely with children and vulnerable adults

Qualified Social Workers

As part of our Improvement Workforce workstream, we are looking at recruiting to urgent posts to ensure we meet the needs of our most vulnerable local children and young people, their carers and families. We have fast-tracked the recruitment of qualified social workers to fill some current vacancies and held an assessment day, where social workers were interviewed and had their skills and knowledge assessed.

Surrey Children & Young People Plan 2009/10

Our vision in Surrey is that, "Every child and young person will be safe, healthy, happy, creative and have the personal confidence, skills and opportunities to contribute and achieve more than they thought possible."

The one-year plan being developed for 2009/10 has a particular emphasis on improving outcomes for vulnerable groups. A joint team from Surrey County Council and Surrey PCT has been working with key partners and partnership groups to develop clearly defined targeted actions to deliver the outcomes for each of the proposed priorities and the cross cutting themes.

Priorities and Themes

Priority	CYPCP Lead	Key Contact
Reduce health inequality and make healthy choices easier	Ruth Milton	Janet Lambley
Improve family safety, child protection and prevention	Kathy Bundred	Frank Offer
Improve education, training and employment outcomes, with a particular focus on the lowest achievers	Nick Wilson	Janice Anastasi
Enhance things to do and places to go, particularly for the vulnerable and disadvantaged	Toby Wells	Geoffrey Delamere/ Julia Worrow
Improving behaviour at home, at school and on the streets	Rob Price	Sarah Wood
Theme		
Right services, at the right time, in the right place	Jim Leivers	Sarah Wood
Working together to improve outcomes	Andy Roberts	Frank Offer

Next Steps

Andy Roberts will hold a challenge session on 3 February 2009 with each priority lead to review the proposed actions.

The draft plan will be the subject of scrutiny by Surrey County Council Select Committees on 4 February 2009.

The final version of the plan will be agreed by the CYPCP on 16 February 2009 and SCC Executive on 3 March 2009 and the PCT Board on 3 March 2009.

The full plan will be signed off by each partner organisation between February - March 2009. The plan will be published in April 2009.

Work will begin in the Spring on the 2010-13 CYP Plan.

For further details please contact Frank Offer frank.offer@surreycc.gov.uk

Aiming High for Disabled Children



The Aiming High for disabled Children initiative seeks to transform services for severely disabled children, particularly those who currently find it hard to access services, including children with ASD, complex health needs, physical disabilities, challenging behaviour and disabled young people aged 13+. Also directly linked to the Joint Area Review that requires us to better cater for vulnerable children and young people in Surrey, we have been consulting with parents on all aspects of planning and development of the right services. Parents have identified access to regular and reliable short breaks from caring as a top priority, which we are now looking at, as well as direct access to day care, holiday playschemes and after school clubs. There is also a shortage of services for disabled young people aged 13+ particularly to develop their independence skills at local level, and we will be consulting further on this with both disabled children and young people, and their parents.

We have secured over £5m for 2009-2011 for major projects including:

- Increased overnight/day care provision at Ruth House for children with ASD
- 'Applewood' new-build in the east of the county offering overnight & day care for children/young people with learning & physical disabilities
- New Family Link carers including two new fee paid carers who will offer regular short breaks to children with physical disabilities/complex needs
- Expansion of play and leisure activities in holidays, weekends and after school in partnership with our voluntary sector colleagues
- Additional day care places
- Expansion of direct payments, giving parents more choice about services
- Expansion of domiciliary care - support to carers in their own homes
- Increasing the availability of child care and inclusive provision

Capital funding will also be available to provide equipment and adaptations to support disabled children's access to services.

More information can be found on the [Surrey Aiming High for Disabled Children Programme webpage](#).



Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) is vital to preparing young people for adult life and this was highlighted in our recent JAR report as an area for improvement. In response to the review, we are offering more Continuing Professional Development training for teachers and nurses including best practice in Sex and Relationship Education (SRE), we have a focus on PSHE/SRE for all Healthy Schools moderation visits, and are sharing best PSHE best practice.

We are also evaluating PSHE in 15 secondary schools in consultation with young people and looking at ways to give more support to vulnerable groups including pregnant teenagers and teenage mothers. An additional SRE/drug education training session is planned for February.

For more information about Surrey's Healthy Schools initiative, contact Liz Griffiths on 07843 345328. liz.griffiths@vtplc.com.



Surrey Chlamydia Screening Programme

is part of the National Chlamydia Screening Programme, which is run by

the Health Protection Agency. The Surrey team provides Chlamydia education and screening Countywide.

1 in 10 sexually active young people have Chlamydia. Most people have no signs or symptoms of infection.

Untreated genital Chlamydia infection may have serious long-term consequences, in men and women.

It is a well-established cause of pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), ectopic pregnancy and infertility.

The screening takes place in a variety of community settings, including GP practices, family planning clinics, connexions centres and youth centres to name a few. Treatment is free and easy with a simple course of antibiotics.

To locate their local testing site or to request a postal test kit young people can log onto our website www.surreycscreen.nhs.uk. The postal test can be taken at home and posted to our laboratory in a freepost envelope.

Results can be received via text message. Treatment is easy with free tablets.

Young people who take a test are currently entered into a monthly prize draw to win an Ipod Nano.

Free Condoms for Young People in Get It On scheme

Get It On, a new Surrey-wide initiative has been launched to promote informed choice and safe sex, to help prevent teenage pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections by giving out condoms to people under the age of 21. The C Card condom distribution scheme aims to make condoms and sexual health information more widely available, promote safer sex and reduce the risk of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. Centres supporting the scheme include some doctors' surgeries, youth development service/youth centres, colleges, the Surrey Chlamydia Project and Redhill YMCA. More services are being recruited to offer the scheme across Surrey to increase access for more young people.

For more information, young people can go to www.surrey-cybershs.nhs.uk/get-it-on/ or call 020 8541 7559

Professionals throughout Surrey who work with young people can contact the team to request promotional material such as FREEPOST postcards and posters. If you are a service working with young people and are interested in finding out more about the Chlamydia Screening Programme or would like to be able to offer Chlamydia screening please contact the team on **0845 130 6589**. We are able to attend your workplace to offer information sessions to you and your colleagues about Chlamydia and the screening programme. We can train you and enable you to offer the tests to young people yourself. We are also extremely keen to support you with any events/fairs/sessions you may be organising aimed at young people. We can come along and hold information stands and also offer screening via our self-taken tests.

For any further information please don't hesitate to contact the team.

We look forward to hearing from you

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0845 130 6589

More from SCC and the PCT about what we are doing to tackle sexual health issues and teenage pregnancy, in a future issue of CYPSP Improvement update.

Over 300 Looked After Children receive Achievement Awards

Surrey County Council held an Oscarz awards night to celebrate the achievements of children and young people in their care aged four to 22. In total, 336 looked after children were awarded a statuette by Executive Member for Children and Families Dorothy Mitchell, with the inscription 'Oscarz 2008 I'm A Star'.

The young people were nominated by foster carers, social workers, teachers, tutors and the National Youth Advocacy Service and awards celebrated achievements such as securing a place at university; earning good GCSE results; caring for others; winning a place in the county table tennis team; learning dog training skills; and preparing and rehearsing the live music for the Oscarz.



Visit to Malawi for Looked After Teenagers



A group of looked after teenagers from Libertas Community Home in Guildford recently visited Malawi to help them understand the opportunities that are open to them compared with people living in a poor country. The experiences of the two-week trip left such a big impression on them that they now want to help out an orphanage they visited in the capital Lilongwe, run by the Sisters of Mother Theresa. People in Malawi provided most of the teenagers' accommodation and hospitality free during their stay, so in return the young people plan to send first-aid equipment and clothes that are no longer needed to Utatu Woyere orphanage. They are also exploring ways of sending money every month.

Advice Booklet available for 10,000 Young People in Woking area

A Surrey County Council-funded pocket-sized advice and information booklet is being made available to 10,000 young people age 11-18 in the Woking area. The 'Signposts' booklet includes information on a range of issues affecting them, from education, training and employment, housing and benefits, contraception and sexual health, to drugs and alcohol, general health, getting active and involved and transport. There are also details on The multi-agency Woking Local Action Group that produced the booklet and its members, including the county council, Woking Borough Council, Surrey Police, VT Careers Management Surrey and voluntary organisations.

Peter Martin, the county council's Executive Member for Schools, Children and Youth Services, said: "A lot of thought and effort has gone into this booklet and it will be especially helpful for those people who don't feel comfortable talking to their parents or teachers about difficult subjects. All young people need support at some time and this booklet will help them find it."

The booklet is available online by following this [link](#).