

Children and Young People's Trust

newsletter

December 2009

S The Solihull Partnership

Children and Young People's Trust
Improving outcomes for children in Solihull

Welcome

Welcome to the December edition of the Children and Young People's Trust newsletter. Inside you'll find updates about all the priorities in our Children and Young People's Plan and details of how you can get involved in developing our new Plan for 2010.

We would like your feedback on how involved you feel in the work of the Trust so please take a few minutes to complete the evaluation form that we sent you with this newsletter.

Ben Lewing
Change for Children Programme Manager



Hi, I'm the new Marketing and Communications Officer for the Children and Young People's Trust and one of my responsibilities is to produce the Trust's newsletter.

We haven't published a newsletter for a while, but we are now back and will be producing a quarterly newsletter. I hope you like the new look.

I am always on the look out for relevant articles, news and events for the newsletter so please feel free to email me on clsalter@solihull.gov.uk or call **0121 704 8474** if you would like to include an article.

I also look forward to receiving your comments on our new style newsletter.

Claire Salter

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Children and Young People's Plan 2010 - 2013: a new plan for a new decade

We are developing a new Children and Young People's Plan for 2010. This plan will identify Solihull's priorities for change that will be used by all of the Trust's partners when deciding how to use their resources. In our last plan published in 2007 we chose six priorities. These were;

- Healthy lifestyles
- Anti-bullying
- Raising achievement
- Positive activities
- Targeted support for vulnerable children and young people
- Integrated working

Whilst good progress has been made, there's much more to do.

Many of you will have been involved in the consultations for the new plan at the Trust Assembly which was held on 15 October. This was a successful event with representatives from a variety of organisations working together to come up with ideas for the new plan.

You can help us develop our new plan by getting involved in future consultations. Consultation will take place on the draft plan with practitioners, children, young people, parents and carers from 11 January to 31 March. Look out for details about how you can get involved in the new year.

Contact:

Shahida Khokhar on 0121 704 8480 or email cyptrust@solihull.gov.uk or go to www.solihull.gov.uk/cypt

Involving children, young people and their families

Active involvement of children and young people

Involving children and young people in decision making is very important to how our Trust works. We've published a pledge and standards for active involvement and we've recently commissioned The Children's Society to support active involvement in Solihull.

We now want to go much further to make sure that every child and young person in Solihull has a positive experience of being listened to and feels valued for the important contribution they can make.

We have just recruited a young person as our Young People's Participation Worker to support our active involvement work across the Trust and to put this at the heart of the new Children and Young People's Plan. Children and young people are helping us to find the best ways to involve them in decision making, looking at what works well and talking to their peers in other parts of the country.

Contact: Ben Lewing on 0121 704 6691 or email blewing@solihull.gov.uk

Active involvement of parents and carers

A new strategic Parents' Forum has been set up to support the work of the Children and Young People's Trust. The group is made up of parents and carers from across the borough and has a responsibility to;

- Act as a consultative and advisory group for the Children and Young People's Trust
- Provide information and support to the Trust on engaging and communicating with parents
- Help share information and key policies with other parents
- Encourage other parents to become involved and have their say in developments

Forum members are developing an action plan for their first year. They will also be deciding how best to consult parents on the new Children and Young People's Plan.

If you know any parents who would be interested in joining the Parents' Forum or would like to know more please contact us.

Contact: Carol Andrew on 0121 704 8398 or email candrew@solihull.gov.uk

Updates on Priorities

Priority 1 - Healthy Lifestyles

Preventing obesity

We are working hard to prevent obesity in children and young people. Children's weight is measured as part of a national programme at reception and year six. In Solihull, there are more obese children in year six than at reception.

Our SHINE programme for children aged 8-15 years old provides support with diet and activity over an eight week period. Early results show that the programme is working well. Pilot sessions for the under sevens and 16-18 age groups are now being planned.

Support for parents is available through the Make and Taste programme that aims to improve confidence and skills in preparing healthy meals for the family. The programme comprises of five two-hour sessions and includes help on preparing basic meals, tips on cooking on a budget and using fruit and vegetables.

Contact:

SHINE - Mark Roscoe, Solihull Library, on 0121 704 8551
Make and Taste - You+Health Shop, Chelmsley Wood on 0800 015 32656 (9.30am - 5.30pm Monday - Saturday)
 Alternatively, contact Hannah Fishlock or Helen Mercer specialist dieticians on 0121 713 8925.

Increasing breastfeeding

Rates of breastfeeding are increasing in Solihull but we still have a long way to go to achieve government and local targets.

Promoting and educating mothers about the benefits of breastfeeding is a priority in Solihull's Breastfeeding Strategy and new initiatives are being developed to change the 'bottle-feeding culture'. The breastfeeding team are providing antenatal breastfeeding workshops and working with mothers who have had a positive experience of breastfeeding to provide support to other mothers. A breastfeeding facilitator has joined the team and will be based at the new lifestyle shop in Chelmsley Wood, where a new breastfeeding café will be open on a Saturday morning.

The innovative campaign 'Be a star' was launched in October which aims to promote breastfeeding to young mothers in Solihull.

Solihull Care Trust was recently awarded the UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI) certificate of commitment which means that we have made a serious commitment to breastfeeding. We are now working towards the prestigious BFI accreditation award.

Contact:

Carmen Baskerville, Infant Feeding Co-ordinator, Public Health, on 0121 713 8924 or 07970 811026

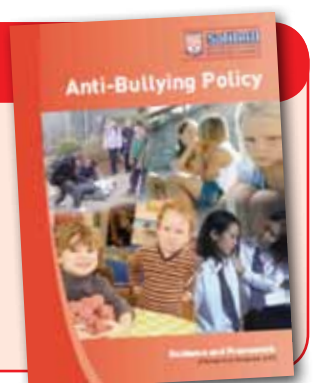
Priority 2 - Anti-Bullying and Personal Safety

STOP Bullying NOW! Take a stand. Lend a hand.

Solihull's Anti-Bullying Policy guidance and framework

This document has recently been recommended by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) as an example of good practice. It has been distributed to all schools and services for children and young people in Solihull.

You can request this document by emailing educationalpsychology@solihull.gov.uk



Schools audit

Educational Psychologists and Anti-Bullying Behaviour Alliance (ABBA Professionals and Young People) have been visiting schools to find out how we are preventing bullying and providing support to children, young people and their families when bullying happens.

"Bullying happens everywhere - at the park, in school, lessons, on the way home, on buses - it is everywhere. Happens to me every day - I get called (offensive names)."

Male, aged 14, white British, with emotional, social behavioural difficulties, attending a special school.

A survey for 11-18 year olds took place during October and November. The findings will help shape local priorities and help us make Solihull safer for all young people. Educational Psychology will be working in partnership with our local ABBA Professionals and Young People and national Anti Bullying Alliance www.antibullyingalliance.org.uk

Preventing bullying outside school

With support from our elected members, we will be considering how we can make a local response to the latest government guidance on preventing bullying outside of schools, including tackling bullying in:

- Children's Homes
- Play and leisure
- Extended services in and around schools (for example before and after school groups)
- Journeys
- Further education colleges
- Youth activities

New DVD

A new DVD will be available from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) called **'Make Them Go Away'** that deals with bullying of young people with special needs and disabilities.

The film and the resource booklet can be viewed at www.clients.mediaondemand.net/take1flv/dcsf/send/sendonline/index.htm and will be on Teachernet shortly. Further copies will be available to order on this site.

Free copies went to all schools in September.

Get involved

If your service would like to contribute to our Local Authority Anti-Bullying Strategy or become a member of our local Anti Bullying Behaviour Alliance Professionals Group, contact Mo Bham on 0121 770 6030 or email your enquiry to mobham@solihull.gov.uk



Priority 3 - Things to Do and Places to Go

Inclusive play

'Inclusive Play' is a project run in partnership between Solihull Extended Services and Solihull Life Opportunities (SoLO). Solihull Extended Services provide all the play equipment and trained play workers and SoLO provide additional support workers trained to help include disabled children.

Throughout the summer we supported over 50 children with a variety of additional needs to participate in free outdoor play with their peers at a play day that started at 10am and finished at 4pm. Children took part in activities such as outdoor cooking, climbing, sports, water activities, arts and crafts. Everyone had a good time and many children made new friends.

Contact:

**Cookie Vektor, Inclusive Play
Co-ordinator, Solihull Leisure Opportunities
on 0121 788 3469**



'Playing Out' outdoor play activities

Playing Out is funded by the Big Lottery and is based on three 'free' principles:

- Free of cost
- Free to choose what you do
- Children are free to come and go when they want

The Playing Out play scheme offers play activities for children, rather than childcare for parents. It is very different from the traditional childcare orientated play schemes on offer during the summer holidays.

This year Playing Out provided five weeks of free outdoor play activities at ten school sites and in sixteen parks and green spaces across Solihull. Over 900 children took part in Playing Out activities during the summer.

For more information about Playwork in Solihull please contact:

The Play Development Worker for Solihull Integrated Extended Services at Coleshill Heath School on 0121 770 4340.



Playbuilder project

Over the next three years, we are transforming play areas in public parks across the borough after securing £1.1 million of government Playbuilder funding. We are developing 27 play areas, including community and third sector led projects -15 sites are already completed.

We are talking with the local communities to make sure we provide innovative, stimulating equipment and landscaping that will provide attractive play areas for all children, including 8-13 year olds. The new equipment includes group swings, high climbing nets and natural features such as mounds, boulders and trees.

All play areas have better access and play experiences for children with disabilities. Additional funding has been secured from DCATCH to provide equipment chosen after consulting with disabled children.

The project follows the guidance in Solihull's Children and Young People's Plan and Fair Play and aims to:

- Support play throughout childhood
- Create more high quality places to play
- Help children play safely
- Make public space more child -friendly
- Continue to sustain and embed play locally



Priority 4 - Raising Achievement

Closing the gap in the early years

'Closing the Gap' has become a key focus of the work of the Early Years team. Currently children in the north perform less well in personal, social and emotional development and language and literacy skills than their peers in the south of the borough.

There is a lot of work being done to close the gap which includes:

- A number of language and communication programmes.
- More support for vulnerable children.
- More work through children's centres to reach vulnerable families.
- Training to ensure that all key stakeholders understand their role and contribution to early years outputs.

We are also looking at developing new systems to identify strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement so that support can be offered as early as possible.

Contact:

Kathy Slinn kslinn@solihull.gov.uk on 0121 704 8218 or email kslinn@solihull.gov.uk

Free nursery education places for two year olds

The Government is committed to narrowing the gap in educational achievement. One of the ways in which they are doing this is by providing free nursery education places for some of the most disadvantaged two year olds in each local authority area. Support is also being offered to their parents. Their aim is to reach approximately 23,000 children per year.

The Government has provided Solihull with funding to provide 51 two year olds with ten hours of free early education per week. This is a pilot programme running from September 2009 to March 2011. There is no indication at the moment whether this funding will continue beyond March 2011.

The DCSF has set national eligibility criteria and additional local criteria will also be applied to those taking part in the programme. Parents must be in receipt of Income Support, Family Tax credit or Job Seekers Allowance (national criteria) and children must have developmental and learning delay, including speech and language needs (local criteria).

We are currently identifying eligible children and suitable nurseries where children can receive their ten hours provision. A package of family support is also available and parents will be expected to sign up to this. Nearly 40 places have already been allocated. We will continually be seeking referrals from partner agencies in order to allocate further places.

All three and four year old children are entitled to free nursery education. To find out more please contact the Family Information Service.

Contact:

For more information about free places for three and four year olds contact the Family Information Service on 0800 389 8667 email familyinfo@solihull.gov.uk or visit www.solihull.gov.uk/familyinfo

For more information about the free nursery education places for two year olds pilot or to get involved contact:

Carole da Costa on 0121 704 8511 or email cdacosta@solihull.gov.uk

Priority 5 - An equal chance

Celebrating the achievements of looked after children and young people

Part of our role as good corporate parents is to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of our looked after children and young people.

On 9 May 2009 we held a large scale event to celebrate achievements and to launch 'The Promise' - our promise to all children and young people in our care.

This event had a Hollywood and glamour theme and was named 'The Awards Bash' by young people who were involved in planning the event from start to finish.

The Awards Bash was thoroughly enjoyed by all the children, young people, carers, professionals and workers who attended. Here are some quotes from young people who were at the event:

"The whole night was unbelievable and so amazing".

"Now that's what I call a well arranged event and I would just like to say a big thank you to everyone for a fantastic night out. It was a night of lights, cameras and action, but instead of watching it on TV we were actually there being treated very special."

Celebrating the achievements of looked after children and young people (cont)

"I was impressed and I loved the bit when I got my photo taken. Then seeing all my old friends and getting up on stage with them all made me feel important".

"On the night I felt just like a celebrity".

"As we entered the room where all the 'magic' began, we had our hands stamped, and were given a little booklet to put around our necks telling us what was happening. It was like we were VIP's, and I just couldn't help but smile".

As well as being an enjoyable event The Awards Bash helped to embed the philosophy of corporate parenting.



Short Breaks for disabled children in Solihull

Short Breaks provide parents and families with a much needed break from their caring responsibilities. Breaks also give disabled children and young people an enjoyable experience away from their family, with the chance to make new friends and try new things. Short Breaks can include overnight stays at a residential unit or with another family, breaks during the day with groups of other children or support at home.

Consultation showed that:

- Most families wanted more support at weekends and holidays.
- Children and young people wanted to go swimming and take part in leisure activities.
- Parents wanted a choice of break that included specialist and mainstream opportunities.
- The chance to make friends was important.
- Many parents who do not get a short break at the moment would like one in the future.

In response to this, four types of Short Breaks have been commissioned:

- Overnight breaks
- Breaks during the day at weekends and school holidays
- Breaks at home or in the community
- Inclusive Breaks in play, sport and leisure

The next step is to promote what is available to families so that they can make the most of the opportunities. We will be writing to parents soon about Short Break services. Short Break services and other activities and services can also be found on the Family Services Directory, held by the Family Information Service.

Contact:

**Family Information Service on
0800 389 8667**

**email familyinfo@solihull.gov.uk or visit
www.solihull.gov.uk/familyinfo**

Priority 6 - Integrated Working

What is integrated working?

Integrated working is about joining up universal, targeted and specialist services to better meet the needs of children, young people and their families and improve their outcomes. It's also about culture and relationships. Our focus in Solihull is on strong relationships across the workforce to enable a shared responsibility for outcomes.

In order to make this work, we need to make sure there is a consistent way of working across the borough, whilst taking into account local circumstances. We also need to establish processes such as the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and Contact Point and make sure that issues which need to be resolved by more than one agency are dealt with effectively. CAF is a standard approach to the assessment of children's additional needs and involves organisations working together to meet those needs. Contact Point is explained in the next article.

Three local area leadership teams come together at a local level to support the integrated working agenda and build strong partnerships. These leadership teams will take responsibility for the planning and delivery of integrated working for their area. They meet on a monthly basis and routinely monitor the effectiveness of integrated working at a local level and consider any issues. To find out more, please contact the relevant development officer for your area.

Contact:

North: Fiona Phillips on 0121 770 6267
or email fphillips@solihull.gov.uk

Central: Jane Wilton on 0121 788 4350
or email jwilton@solihull.gov.uk

South: Rachel McArthur on 0121 712 8101
or email Rachel.mcarthur@solihull-ct.nhs.uk

Introducing Contact Point: a tool to help children receive better support

Contact Point is a national database that will make it much easier for practitioners to find out who else is working with a child. It includes the name and contact details for:

- All children up to their 18th birthday, plus their date of birth and gender.
- A child's parents/carers.
- Services working with a child for example, their school, doctor, plus others such as speech therapist, youth worker or social worker.

Only people who need to use Contact Point for their job will be able to access it and all users will be trained and security cleared.

Shielding

Some children and young people will need to have their records shielded so that their information can't be seen by Contact Point users. Records might be shielded because the child or young person is fleeing violence or has been adopted. If you know of any children or young people who may need their information shielded, please contact Andy Killeen.

Contact:

For general enquiries: Family Information Service on 0800 389 8667 or email familyinfo@solihull.gov.uk

For more detailed enquiries: Andy Killeen on 0121 704 8512 or email akilleen@solihull.gov.uk

Contact Point website:
www.solihull.gov.uk/contactpoint

A new Children and Young People's Workforce Strategy for Solihull

The Children and Young People's Trust has a responsibility to support and develop the children and young people's workforce in Solihull. The workforce includes anyone working in education, early years, youth services (including Connexions and Youth Offending Teams), health services, sport, culture and leisure services and police services. In fact, everyone who works with children and young people.

The priorities for the workforce are set out in the Children and Young People's Workforce Strategy. This covers

- Workforce planning
- Recruitment
- Retention
- Training
- Leadership and management

Safeguarding and integrated working are strong themes throughout the strategy.

What does it mean for me?

- The introduction of a common induction for all new people starting work in Solihull.
- The requirement for all new starters to complete safeguarding level 1 and Common Assessment Framework (CAF) awareness training.

- The introduction of the new vetting and barring scheme that has been developed by the Independent Safeguarding Authority in order to prevent unsuitable people from working with children and young people.
- The roll out of a nationally developed leadership and management programme for senior leaders and managers and aspiring leaders and managers.
- The development of a national leadership and management programme for middle managers.
- And much much more...

Our plans for the next three years are outlined in our Workforce Strategy action plan and we will be communicating with you about the strategy and the action plan over the next few months. We also have a booklet that covers all of the training which we are currently distributing and can be found on our web pages.

Contact:

For further information on the strategy contact Claire Moore, Workforce Development Manager on 0121 788 5385 email cmoore@solihull.gov.uk or visit www.solihull.gov.uk/cypt

(click on key documents on the left navigation bar for a copy of the strategy, training booklet and action plan)

Introducing LINCS

LINCS is the new name for the Solihull Child and Family Support Model. The Model has been revised and updated in consultation with practitioners and parents and provides a simple, practical framework for multi-agency support of children, young people and their families.

The LINCS 'How to' booklet, available free to practitioners, is a step-by-step guide on what to do if you have concerns about a child. It provides advice on issues such as:

- What to do when you have made a referral to the Duty Assessment and Referral Team (DART) but have been advised it does not meet their threshold.
- When to carry out a Common Assessment Framework (CAF) assessment and why you should bother.
- How to decide on a lead professional/ lead person.
- When and how to close involvement.

Introducing LINCS (cont)

As part of these changes there are some new terms:

Currently	Now
Team Around the Family (TAF) and Team Around the Child (TAC)	LINCS teams
Family Support Meetings (FSM)	LINCS meetings
CAF Coordinators	LINCS Officers
Lead Professional/ Lead Practitioner (LP)	Lead Person
Common Assessment Framework (CAF)	Remains as CAF

Look out for more changes on the way, including a simplified CAF form. If you want to know more, or would like a LINCS booklet and/ or free training on LINCS, CAF and LP, please contact the LINCS team on:

Contact:
 Call 0121 788 5356
 Email lincs@solihull.gov.uk

Providing information to children, young people and their families is crucial to make sure that they are able to access the right services at the right time. There are a number of initiatives that support this.

Information for parents

The Family Information Service (FIS) continues to provide information and advice to parents on a wide range of topics. Staff have attended various team meetings to make sure partner agencies know what the FIS does and how it can support parents. The service also helps parents of children with additional needs and/or disabilities to access childcare and services that can support them.

A new on-line directory of services is currently being developed nationally to allow parents and others to access information about childcare, activities and support services. The new 'Parent Know How Directory' will be launched in the new year and will be available through the FIS website at www.solihull.gov.uk/familyinfo. Local, regional

and national services will be listed. If you run a service that you would like included, please contact the FIS.

A number of leaflets for parents are included in a 'core set' which cover a range of topics and are published by both local and national services. Information about the core is being sent to key locations including schools, Children's Centres, libraries and health centres.

Contact:
Rosie Buntun on 0121 788 5340 or
rbuntun@solihull.gov.uk

Information for young people

A new working group is meeting regularly to co-ordinate and improve information for young people. The group is currently gathering information from local and national research and will then put together an action plan to take the work forward. Please let us know if you would like to get involved.

Contact:
Martin O'Connor on 0121 521 1841 or email martin.oconnor@solihull.gov.uk

Safeguarding

Domestic Abuse Referrals

A new way of responding to domestic abuse referrals where children and young people are in the household is being piloted in Solihull, initially for a six month period. The aim of the pilot is to provide a more co-ordinated, speedy and multi-agency response to police referrals.

It will involve a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Triage Screening team made up of police, children's social work and health supervisors. They will act as a single point for information sharing, contact, assessment and intervention for all domestic abuse incidents referred to the police when children/young people are involved. They will use a specifically designed risk assessment tool to assess the level of risk. Referrals are considered initially at meetings that take place three times a week and actions will be agreed. This may lead to follow up action by the three agencies, to a referral elsewhere or no further action.

Urgent or high risk situations will continue to be dealt with by individual agencies in line with the statutory responsibilities of each agency and Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) safeguarding procedures.

All child protection investigations will continue to be dealt with in line with the Solihull LSCB safeguarding procedures and West Midlands joint protocol. Each agency should continue to apply their existing child protection procedures.

The six month pilot began on 6 July and was reviewed in October. If it proves successful, the pilot will be extended to become a permanent way of responding.

Contact:

Keith Portman on 0121 704 8576 or email kportman@solihull.gov.uk

National News

Change4Life - working together to improve children's health

Change4Life is a national campaign bringing together a partnership of health and education practitioners, the voluntary sector, community groups, industry and the media with the shared aim of improving children's diets and levels of activity.

The Change4Life team has created a series of toolkits and materials that allows local supporters to create their own Change4Life marketing materials and/or run their own activities.

To find out more about how your organisation can support Change4Life look at the Change4Life local supporters guide on: www.nhs.uk/change4life/Documents/pdf/292140_A4_supporters_guide_acc.pdf

Sign up as a local supporter on www.nhs.uk/change4life/pages/partners.aspx

Once registered, you can order Change4Life resources on-line www.dh.gov.uk/change4life

Solihull College part-time courses

Look out for the Solihull College Community Choice Part-time Prospectus which provides details of a variety of courses in outreach centres in both the North and South of the borough. Community Choice can be found in all libraries, Children's Centres, Citizens Advice Bureau offices, housing offices and other community venues, as well as on the Solihull College website at: www.solihull.ac.uk/community_education-32798.htm

About us

What is the Children and Young People's Trust?

The Children and Young People's Trust is a partnership arrangement that brings together key agencies to improve the lives of all children, young people and families in Solihull. It aims to make Solihull a place where all children and young people have an equal chance and are able to achieve their full potential.

The Trust is responsible for delivering the Children and Young People's Plan (pdf attached to email) which looks at improving outcomes for children and young people in Solihull. It covers any service and any organisation which affects those outcomes, from health to housing, education to employment, culture to care.

The Trust is part of the Solihull Partnership. The Solihull Partnership is the strategic partnership responsible for improving outcomes for all people in Solihull. The whole Partnership includes local communities and their elected representatives working with public, private, voluntary and community sector organisations.

Who's who in the Trust?

Find out about the Trust Board Members
<http://www.solihull.gov.uk/cypt/17493.htm>

Find out more about the Trust Management Team
[link as above](#)

What is discussed at Trust Board meetings?

Our eBulletins provide a summary of Trust Board meetings.

<http://www.solihull.gov.uk/cypt/17500.htm>

Where can I find copies of important documents?

You can find key documents such as strategies, plans and reports on the Trust's website.

<http://www.solihull.gov.uk/cypt/17502.htm>

More information on the Trust can be found on www.solihull.gov.uk/cypt

Get Involved

You can be actively involved in the work of the Trust by:

- Coming to a trust board meeting as an observer - contact us to find out more.
- Joining one of the many project groups - contact us to find out more.
- Contact us to tell us what you think about the articles in this newsletter or any of the work that is going on across the Trust.
- We produce an eBulletin every six weeks which provides a summary of trust board meetings. If you would like to join the mailing list please contact us.

Contact:

Shahida Khokhar on 0121 704 8480 or email cyptrust@solihull.gov.uk