



Message from the Director



Welcome to the Christmas Edition of our Partnership Newsletter. Once again we are grateful to everyone who has contributed.

On behalf of the Department for Children and Young People, I should like to take this opportunity to thank all partners for their commitment to working together to support children, young people, and families in South Gloucestershire and to wish everyone a happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

Best wishes

Director for Children and Young People
South Gloucestershire Council

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South Gloucestershire Smokefree Homes Project

South Gloucestershire's Smokefree Homes Project is a partnership initiative between the Council and NHS South Gloucestershire.

The project provides outreach support and advice on the health benefits of maintaining a smokefree home to the most vulnerable members of the community, particularly those who live in areas of deprivation and high health need. Even small changes to lifestyle can produce huge benefits to health. People who are provided with advice on how to make their homes smokefree and given information about the harm-



ful effects of second-hand smoking, are then empowered to make an informed decision about protecting the health of their children. Anyone wishing to quit smoking is directed to the NHS South Gloucestershire stop smoking service.

The project was launched in February this year and since that date 2,000 smokefree homes information packs and 8,000 information leaflets have been distributed. The packs and leaflets are distributed with the assistance of health care professionals, fire safety officers, housing officers and other professionals who visit people in their own homes. Information and advice has also been provided to all registered childminders in South Gloucestershire.

If you would like more information or would like a free smokefree homes pack please contact:

lorraine.green@southglos.gov.uk tel: **01454 863702**



South Gloucestershire

For stop smoking advice, contact: the **NHS South Gloucestershire Stop Smoking Service**, tel: **0117 3302439**. You are four times more likely to quit with support from your local service

Primary Care Trust Consultation on Strategic Plan

South Glos Primary Care Trust is consulting on its five year [Strategic Plan](#) which sets out how they will improve the care that they commission and provide for patients in South Gloucestershire.

The Strategic Plan and executive summary are available on the PCT's website www.sglos-pct.nhs.uk

They want to hear your views on the plan before 21st January 2009. Tel: 0117 330 0213, write via Pam Harwood, South Gloucestershire PCT, 1 Monarch Court, Emerson's Green, BS16 7FH or email pam.harwood@sglos-pct.nhs.uk

Only Young People Have Sex!

The second annual Sexual Health Event was held in Kingswood on the 22nd October. Entitled *Only Young People Have Sex!* the event was organised by the Sexual Health Forum for South Gloucestershire and was held at the Old School Youth Centre.

The aim of the event was to raise awareness amongst those working with young people of the impact that health and social issues can have on the sexual health of young people. Also, to help practitioners develop a range of strategies that could be applied when working with young people. There were 54 participants on the day representing a broad range of organisations including schools, youth clubs, Connexions, GP Practices, UWE, Adolescent Support Teams and the voluntary sector.

The day started with an excellent presentation by Neil Davidson who is the Sex and Relationships Education Consultant for Bristol Children & Young People's Services. This was followed by the workshop sessions. Participants could choose to attend two of the following:

- Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Peer Pressure and Sex
- Boys and Young Men
- Sex and Religion

In the afternoon, there was a very successful interactive session with the participants facilitated by InfoBuzz from Gloucester. InfoBuzz is an independent charity, helping young people negotiate their transition to adulthood. Working in groups, the participants were able to consider issues around sex and relationships and practical activities that could be employed when working with young people.

A variety of organisations had stalls at the event promoting advice, support and services for young people.

The evaluations received on the day indicate that the event proved to be extremely successful and well received by the participants.

For further information, please contact: Richard Merrett, Sexual Health Programme Lead 0117 330 0210 email: richard.merrett@sglos-pct.nhs.uk

South Gloucestershire PCT - Change of name

South Gloucestershire PCT is to become known as NHS South Gloucestershire. Like many PCTs around the country, we are changing our logo to better reflect our increasing role as a leader of the NHS in South Gloucestershire and as a commissioner of patient care for everyone living in the area.

I would like to reassure you that we are making this change gradually as we reorder equipment and stationary in line with our normal programme. This will ensure that it does not divert resources or increase our costs. The full legal name of the PCT has not changed and remains South Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust.

Penny Harris, Chief Executive

Chlamydia Screening Programme in South Gloucestershire

Chlamydia is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the under 25s. There is a 1 in 10 chance that sexually active young people in this age group could have and pass on the infection without even knowing it. In response to this, the Chlamydia Screening Programme was set up and is now well established in South Gloucestershire. The aim of the programme is to raise awareness and encourage the opportunistic screening for Chlamydia in the 15 – 24 year old age group. Chlamydia is passed on by sexual contact and most people with the infection will have no symptoms. Although treatment is easy and painless, early detection is important because left untreated it could cause long-term health problems.

NHS South Gloucestershire (PCT) has a target this year to test or screen for Chlamydia 17% of all 15 – 24 year olds by the end of March 2009. From April to October this year, 9.96% of the target age group have been tested or screened, so the PCT is on its way to achieving its goal. Screening sites have been established in GP practices, Contraception and Sexual Health Clinics, Young People's Clinics, Filton College, UWE, a number of youth clubs and the three prisons in the area.

There has been an extensive media campaign established across Avon wide to promote the awareness of the programme and to encourage young people to be screened. A campaign entitled 'So *who's* Chlamydia?' has been rolled out this year. There was an AdVan tour during April and August. Also in August there was a South Gloucestershire Pharmacy Campaign for one week to raise awareness and provide postal screening kits to young people. An advertising campaign during the same month was on GWR Radio and a bus shelter poster campaign in October. Advertisements have also been placed in the Venue magazine and the Bristol Rugby Fixtures List.

There are further plans in place to run a year long advertising campaign on cinema screens and in cinema toilets, which is expected to commence this month. Around the New Year there will be more advertising on GWR Radio.

The Chlamydia Screening Programme in South Gloucestershire has achieved a great deal so far this year. To avoid complacency the programme will be further expanded and promoted. Young people can contact the Chlamydia Screening Office on **0845 180 0050** for advice, information and where to obtain a free confidential screening kit.

For further information, please contact Richard Merrett, Sexual Health Programme Lead, NHS South Gloucestershire, 0117 330 0210 email: richard.merrett@sglos-pct.nhs.uk

Stronger Local voices for Health and Social Care in South Gloucestershire

The Local Involvement Network (LINK) for South Gloucestershire

The LINK is a network of local people, organisations and groups that want to make health and social care services better. The LINK's membership is small at the moment and urgently needs people from the local community who feel strongly about local health and social care services.

The LINK is very keen to recruit young people who would like to have a say in the way that the services that affect them are developed, commissioned, provided and evaluated.

Young people and those who work with them can become part of the new way for local people to have their say about local health and social care services, and about the way they are run and developed by joining the South Gloucestershire Local Involvement Network.

The LINK will be expected to represent everyone and will also work with health and social care professionals to make sure your voice is heard. As a member of the LINK you will have the chance to influence health and social care services. This could include: day centres; care homes; home care; family planning; Hospitals; GP surgeries; pharmacies; physiotherapy; health visits; chiropody; direct payments.

Stronger Local voices for Health and Social Care in South Gloucestershire

LINKs do have teeth and have been given powers as part of their role. The LINK will be able to make reports and recommendations and get a reply within a set amount of time, go into some types of services to see what they do, comment on local services and receive a response from local authority commissioners and overview and scrutiny committees.

The LINK will make it easier for the young people's voices to be heard about health and social care.

You can participate in the LINK as much or as little as you wish from receiving information regularly to being involved in working groups. You can join the LINK as an individual or as a representative of a voluntary or community group.

The LINK is beginning to set up working task groups around specific issues such as mental health services, the work of the Primary care Trust, Frenchay Hospital and Equality and Diversity.

For more information about the South Gloucestershire LINK contact:

Sarah Booker - Development and Information worker

Telephone 0117 9589351/9589349

E-mail: sarahbooker@linksouthglos.org.uk

Or write to the LINK at:

The Care Forum, Vassall Centre, Gill Avenue Bristol BS16 2QQ

School receives food award in presence of royalty

At the first ever Food for Life Partnership Awards Ceremony, held in London, Cherry Garden Primary received the Food for Life Partnership Bronze Award for good school food culture. This is a great achievement and only 20 other schools in England received the Bronze Award at the Awards Ceremony, where The Prince of Wales was present.

Jeanette Orrey, Food for Life Partnership School Meals Advisor and the school cook who inspired Jamie Oliver's School Dinners campaign, says: "We campaigned for better school dinners, but it's not just about school meals anymore, it's also about practical food education like learning to cook, growing food and visiting farms to learn where food actually comes from. This is what we, at the Food for Life Partnership, work with schools across England to achieve."

Cherry Garden Primary has shown that it is possible to transform school food culture by changing school meals and integrating practical food education into their school.

Now Cherry Garden serves seasonal school meals that are at least 75% freshly prepared by trained school cook, Mrs Karen Powell. Pupils and parents are involved in planning improvements to school menus and the dining experience via a school nutrition action group, boosting school meal take-up. Every pupil has the opportunity to visit a farm during his or her time at school, and opportunities are given for cooking and food growing activity.

Headteacher at Cherry Garden Primary School, Jackie Le Couteur says: "I am incredibly proud of the loyalty and commitment of all members of the school community but especially leaders of this project Liz Strover, Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) co-ordinator, and Sharon Godfrey, PSHE Staff Link Governor who have worked incredibly hard to achieve this award for the school. Cherry Garden is a school that is never complacent, it always strives to give the pupils the best opportunities in life to succeed. I would also like to thank South Gloucestershire Council's Catering Service for working together with school to achieve this award."

The Food for Life Partnership's ambitious goal is to have 3,600 schools enrolled by 2011 and, through our work with these schools and their communities, improve the well-being of 150,000 people, helping them to understand where food comes from and take control of their food lives.

Jamie Oliver praises council

Celebrity chef and broadcaster Jamie Oliver has praised the quality of food produced by South Gloucestershire Council.

Jamie was speaking before a House of Commons health select committee about health inequalities and the work he has done to raise the profile of healthy eating.

When Jamie was discussing meals produced by local authorities, he praised the quality of the ones made by South Gloucestershire, and the work of Kay Knight, who oversees catering at the council.

Jamie told MPs: "If you take an incredible council that was incredible six or seven years ago, like South Gloucestershire, I can look you in the eye and say Kay Knight made that special, inspiring her team made that special."

In 2007 the council received a Beacon award for Healthy Schools, which promotes children being healthy in schools, including healthy eating, with all schools in the district being involved. Councils are awarded Beacon status for the expertise they have gained in a particular area and this knowledge is then shared with other councils for them to learn from.

Councillor Sheila Cook, executive member for children and young people, said: "In South Gloucestershire, the health of our young people is not an area for compromise, so we are delighted to get this recognition. Using good quality local suppliers for the food we serve to our pupils is something we take very seriously."

Kay Knight, head of traded and support services, said: "My staff deserve all the credit for this praise, they work very hard to provide good quality food for people in the district, from school pupils to older people. "

The council carries out innovative projects to improve the quality of food it produces and to promote healthy eating.

A special multi-cultural menu will be launched shortly in schools, so pupils can learn about other cultures and the types of food that different ethnic groups eat.

Staff at the council have worked with a range of ethnic groups in the district to produce a magazine – "What My Friend Eats" – which will be circulated amongst pupils aged seven to 11, including a competition they can enter.

Kay said: "We have worked with different ethnic groups to help make the food as authentic as possible. Part of the aim of the project is to raise awareness, help overcome prejudice and the meals have been really popular in the schools they have been initially piloted in."

The council uses local organic suppliers for many products, including meat and vegetables.

Cyber Bullying Peer Research Project Summer 2008

Cyber bullying is an issue that has increasingly come into focus as a growing range of technology becomes accessible to more young people. Therefore a peer led research project was commissioned to ascertain the perceptions of South Gloucestershire's young people around this issue. This was facilitated by Connexions and the Youth Service.

In order to take the project forward young people were recruited from a variety of already established groups working with the Youth Service. The project group consisted of seven young people who named themselves 'The Cyber Crew'. The Cyber Crew had ages that ranged between 12 and 18; this allowed the accessibility for consultation with a variety of age groups.

Initially the group met up for three sessions and participated in an art-based workshop, this offered an atmosphere in which the group could develop positive relationships.

In order to research this litigious subject it was anticipated the Cyber Crew would need to be a self-supporting group. Therefore they attended a team-building trip to an outdoor activities park. During the day the group were challenged by activities for example, death slides, rock climbing and water sports. Each of the young people's comfort zones were challenged by at least one activity. The way in which the young people supported each other made this possible, also they all had a fun time.

To gather data a workshop was designed by the Cyber Crew; this had two aspects to it. The first was to deliver an art based activity to produce an atmosphere where the notion of cyber bullying could be introduced. The second aspect was an agree/disagree game, where the young people ran to agree or disagree signs when statements had been read out. These statements measured young peoples' perception of cyber bullying and results were recorded. The statements were also delivered in a variety of questionnaire type formats, being amended as required.

Over 222 young people's opinions were gathered in 16 different youth provisions throughout the local area. These statements aimed to explore the perceptions of young people around what is cyber bullying, how serious it is, how prevalent it is and what to do to stop it. The data collected shows:

- How emotive this subject is to young people.
- Young people making sensible suggestions but also the extreme measures that other young people suggest in order to stay safe in the e-world, indicating a lack of knowledge in this subject.
- From the data there appeared to be no correlation between age and perceptions - the same notions applied to all ages.
- The majority of respondents were aware of the seriousness of the issue; although a few were complacent and did not perceive it as a problem.
- Many of the young people suggested that it was fine to share information about others with their friends, however what information should be shared with anyone else was vague. This may indicate that young people could be at risk from close peers.
- When a young person is being cyber bullied many responses indicated that an action would be to tell someone, nevertheless it was felt unlikely to be parents.

The project accessed current resources available, which in the main are not appropriate for young people. Leaflets about the issue are difficult to source and information available on line is too wordy and relies on young people to be literate. Therefore, this information may not be accessible to some of the more vulnerable young people. The Internet's social networking sites do have, by law, warnings nevertheless, these are often put in an unobvious place and young people are unlikely to read them.

As a result, The Cyber Crew have produced a short DVD, based on their research findings, to highlight what cyber bullying is, the affect it can have and the consequences. Images from this DVD will be used in a poster and a z card leaflet which will be produced to give advice on how to stay cyber safe and what to do when being bullied. It is anticipated a resource pack will be available in the New Year.

Trace Hindle, Youth Opportunity Fund Development Worker



"Consequences" Event, 22 Oct Thornbury Youth Centre

Thornbury Youth Centre played host to the Emergency services, for an evening of information and advice. In attendance was an appliance and crew from Thornbury, and members of the Yate CFS team, as well as Local PCSO's and Safer South Glos Anti Social Behaviour officer. The aim was not to lecture young people, but show them the consequences of antisocial behaviour as well as giving them knowledge to keep them safe.

Youth club members aged 12 -16 were shown DVD's on Road Safety as well as the implications of Arson and hoax calls.

The young people sat in silence as they heard presentations from FF's Steve Harding and Eddy Harris. Eddy recounted the story of Keith, a four year old boy who lost his gran and sister in a fire in a caravan,

because the closest fire appliance was dealing with a bin fire started deliberately. From Steve they heard "Sarah's Call", the taped last words of a 16 year old girl, calling 999 and speaking to Fire Control whilst trapped in a burning house. The Fire Service were delayed by a hoax call and Sarah died of smoke inhalation.

Vicki Waldron ASB Coordinator, (Early Interventions Officer), related to issues on anti social behaviour around Halloween and the dangers of playing with fireworks, with young people being shown pictures and listening to stories of children with burns.

"Care to Drive" Event, 23 Oct Thornbury Youth Centre

15 young drivers were invited to a pizza and coke evening that hopefully may save their lives and the lives of others. This was a partnership event between Avon Fire & Rescue Service, Avon & Somerset Police and PSCO's for Thornbury, the Great Western Ambulance Service, South Gloucestershire Council Environmental Health Officers, Safer South Gloucestershire Anti Social Behaviour Team, and Thornbury Youth Centre.

The young people watched AFRS RoadSkills presentation of some of the dangers to themselves and their passengers given by Stuart Matthews from Yate CFS, as well as being given the opportunity to view appliances and cutting equipment carried on the appliances from Thornbury and Avonmouth. They also had the opportunity to go inside an ambulance and see specialist life saving equipment that maybe used when someone is involved in a road traffic collision.

They were invited to bring their cars to the event, which many had tested by the Environmental health officer for noise pollution.

Both events were organized as a response to issues raised by the Safer and Stronger Thornbury Partnership.

The events were a great success that will hopefully have a positive impact on various forms of anti social behaviour in the area. Events were timed to coincide with half term, Halloween and Firework night and the emphasis was education not enforcement. If it prevents injury or death in just one accident it will have been worth it.

Once again this demonstrates great partnership working from all the agencies involved.

Stuart Matthews – Risk Reduction Community Safety Officer (South Gloucestershire)
Avon Fire & Rescue Service, Tel: 0117 9262061 Ext: 8255



Youth Offending Team performing excellently

South Gloucestershire's Youth Offending Team 'performs excellently', a report by the Youth Justice Board has found.

Following an assessment, the Youth Offending Team (YOT) services, which seek to reduce offending and reoffending, were judged to be excellent.

The YOT was praised for good integration with its partner agencies, and was described as highly regarded and well placed to ensure that youth justice priorities are appropriately represented at strategic level.

It also has excellent systems in place for good quality and consistency in its service delivery and data analysis is used effectively to inform its own development.

Steve Waters, manager of South Gloucestershire's YOT, said: "I am very pleased that the Youth Offending Team have had their consistently excellent performance recognised by the Youth Justice Board. This acknowledgement is testimony to the hard work of the staff and to the commitment and support of all the partner agencies to tackling this very important community issue.

"The consequences of this excellent performance has many benefits, for the young people involved with youth offending services; for the victims of crime who are made a priority and are supported by the team and are involved in the justice process in the offence committed against them; and for the community who obviously benefit from the reduction in offending and reoffending."

The principle aim of South Gloucestershire's YOT is to prevent children and young people from reoffending, which is achieved by working with young people and their parents or carers, the victims of crime and other agencies/organisations including the local community.

The Youth Justice Board monitors all YOTs in England and Wales against a broad range of measures. It plans to share South Gloucestershire's good practice more widely so that other Youth Offending Services who perform less well can learn the lessons from South Gloucestershire in attempt to replicate their excellent performance.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS (again)

Ofsted have recently inspected two of the Council's services for children living away from their birth families. Both of these services rely on good working relationships with partners in order to provide support to placements and to achieve positive outcomes for children and young people.

Adoption

In October inspectors spent a week at Cadbury Heath inspecting the Adoption Service. Their inspection included looking at a sample of case files, interviewing social workers, adopters, team and senior managers and Sheila Cook.

The inspection report rated the service as 'Good' in all areas inspected and made the following comments:

'The quality of the recruitment, preparation, assessment and approval of adoptive parents is good and ensures that children are placed in safe, stable and secure placements.'

'For adoptees and birth relatives of adoptees using the counselling services some very skilled and sensitive work is carried out.'

'...the calibre of social work staff is good and a child-centred approach is taken to all of the adoption work; outcomes for children are good.'

Private Fostering

Later in the month an inspector undertook the first inspection of our Private Fostering services. Private fostering arrangements are those where someone not closely related to a child has been looking after a child on a full time basis for more than 28 days. Individuals in this situation are legally required to notify the council and we have duties to undertake checks on the suitability of these arrangements in partnership with the carer and birth parent involving other services such as GPs and schools.

The inspection rated the service as 'Satisfactory', making two minor recommendations to the information provided to private foster carers and social workers.

The inspection report identified that there are good systems, policies and procedures in place to ensure staff are aware of their duties and that the service is monitored effectively and that the welfare of young people is promoted.

South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board (SGSCB)



As we approach the end of the Year it is timely to reflect on the progress of the Safeguarding Board and to share with colleagues our plans, priorities and aspirations for the coming Year. SGSCB is made up of representatives of the main statutory agencies with representation also from the Voluntary Sector, it has a wide responsibility to keep children in our area safe, not only from abuse and neglect but also other things that can impair the health and development of children and young people such as accidents, the impact of domestic violence, bullying and e-safety.

Further detailed information on the work of SGSCB including a full listing of training events can be found within the Annual Report and Business Plan available on the Safeguarding Board website at www.southglos.gov.uk/safeguarding



South West Shared Procedures recognised as best practice!

As many of you will be aware our Child Protection Procedures are produced and Shared with 13 Local Authorities across the South West of England. Being web based and written in language that is easily understood, sharing our procedures in this manner leads to clear economies of scale and improved safeguarding practice as cross Agency/ Authority working is enhanced. During early summer, the DCSF recognised the effectiveness of this approach publishing the Shared Procedure initiative as an exemplar of best practice.

Revitalised by such recognition, the Shared Procedure Steering Group, with a new Chair in the form of Maurice Lindsay from B&NES, sought approval from partner Safeguarding Boards to move on to a fresh phase of activity. This is to agree and share best practice guidance on a further range of Safeguarding activity including Safer Recruitment, Pre-Birth Assessments of Risk, Children who go missing from care or home. Visit the website at www.swcpp.org.uk for further detail and use the procedures in your work!

Goodbye to the Child Protection Register!



The Child Protection Register, a computerised list of children considered to be at risk of significant harm, was phased out of existence in April of this year. In its place, children who are considered to have suffered or are likely to suffer significant harm will become subject to a **Child Protection Plan**. Each Local Authority is required to maintain a list of those children who are subjects of a child protection plan. Professionals who have concerns about a child are required to discuss these with the Locality Social Care Team where the child is

normally resident who will be able to check if the child is already known to Children's Social Care and whether they have a Child Protection Plan.

All children and young people with a child protection plan will have an allocated social worker responsible for co-ordinating the plan and ensuring that professionals meet regularly to review the services being provided to reduce risk and support the child and family most effectively.

All other Child Protection Processes remain the same including Strategy Discussions and Child Protection Conferences.



**West of England
Child Death
Overview Panel**

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2006 introduced new processes and procedures to be followed when a child dies. The West of England Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) will focus on all Child deaths and has been formed in partnership with our own Safeguarding Board and those of Bristol, BANES and North Somerset. The

CDOP has a fixed core membership and will meet monthly to review child deaths seeking to establish any patterns or trends as well as considering the appropriateness of professional's responses to unexpected child deaths.

South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board...

Such work is augmented by the establishment of Rapid Response Teams, a core group of professionals who come together for the purpose of enquiring into and evaluating each unexpected child death with a view to identifying preventable factors, if any. Further detail is outlined in Working Together or contact me, Sean Tarpey 01454 865954 as the Local Authority lead on this work.



A highly successful Conference on the Child Death Processes was hosted by SGSCB at BAWA in September to raise awareness of developments in this field.

Allegations Management

Working Together 2006 also contained requirements to formulate policies and procedures for dealing robustly with any allegation made against a professional or volunteer working with children and young people and/or vulnerable adults. This aspect of work is one strand of a much broader strategy aimed to create and sustain a suitable workforce, including those who work as volunteers. Much of the work stems from a reappraisal of systems following the events of Soham in 2002 and the deaths of Jessica Chapman and Holly Wells.

Within each Local Authority the post LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) has been created and he/she holds responsibility for considering each allegation and agreeing the next steps, including a criminal investigation, disciplinary measures, training and advice or no further action. The LADO also collates data regarding allegations and reports Regionally on a six monthly basis. Further information can be found on the Safeguarding Board Website at www.southglos.gov.uk/safeguarding



And so to the future...

SGSCB held a development day in October and in general terms we are pleased with our progress and development described as "ambitious" within the JAR. Recent events and publicity, most notably in Haringey serve only to demonstrate there is still much to do, and do it we must. To this end SGSCB will be working hard to ensure that the monitoring and scrutiny function of the Board is prioritised and we continue to work in partnership to ensure effective systems and processes are in place to safeguard children. We have recruited a further multi-agency trainer to support this aspiration and will look to respond to the training needs of all professionals in the coming year. We will adopt the Stay Safe element of the new Children and Young Person Plan and therefore urge you to involve yourself in the current consultation.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank you for your hard work on behalf of the children and young people in South Gloucestershire and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Sean Tarpey

Safeguarding Business Manager

Supportive Parents SEN Partnership Manual - Making the most of a child's school years

This manual provides information for parents and teachers of children with special educational needs [SEN] and disabilities to support them to work more effectively in partnership for the benefit of children in the educational setting. It aims to provide and promote a positive way of sharing information and experience about children with SEN. It has been written for parents by parents who share similar experiences.

All eleven Chapters include Summaries, and cover a variety of topics from factual information about the SEN process eg Individual Education plans to useful suggestions from parents about what they can do to help their children to be successfully included in school and how they can prepare for meetings.

We hope that with the support of school staff in promoting the Manual, parents will feel better able to access the kind of information that they need, when they first need it. Copies have recently been delivered to primary and secondary schools in North Somerset. If you would like to take a look at this version, go to our website at www.supportiveparents.org.uk, then to the quick links on the right hand side of the home page and you will see a direct link to the electronic version.

This term we have been working with SEN Section staff to identify the necessary updates and changes needed to accurately reflect the differing processes and practices in South Gloucestershire. Sections on SEN funding and Early Years have needed to be rewritten for example. Once these updates have been made, we will be making arrangements to deliver this Manual to the SENCOS of all schools in the Authority. We aim to establish links on the Yellow Book and SEN website pages to the Manual and it will also be available to download from the South Gloucestershire section of our website

<http://www.supportiveparents.org.uk/southgloshome.htm>

We hope this Manual will help parents and carers and schools and settings to develop closer working partnerships, that it will prove a useful tool to support schools in work with parents around the SEN process, and last but not least improve the information and support systems for parents of children with SEN.

Anne Jerrom
Local Coordinator South Gloucestershire

Top marks in South Gloucestershire schools

This year national test results for 7-11 year olds have remained above the national average. The number of pupils achieving the expected level in writing has increased significantly with boys doing particularly well. There has also been a real increase in results for mathematics. The percentage of pupils achieving English and mathematics has risen again for the third year and are well above the national average. 75% of our pupils entering secondary schools are now achieving or exceeding the expected level in both English and mathematics. Whilst results for 14 year olds are still awaiting ratification from the DCSF, the emerging picture is positive for English, mathematics and science. In addition all primary schools in the district have been judged favourably by Ofsted.

Secondary schools in the district are celebrating improved standards for 16 and 18 year olds. There has been an 8% increase in the number of 16 year olds achieving 5 or more A*-C grades and a 4% increase in those where English and mathematics is included. Overall 87% of secondary schools have improved since last year and all secondary schools have improved since 2006. A level results have also shown improvement in many of our schools.

Alongside the more traditional GCSE and A level courses, it is positive to see that many more young people have successfully completed courses containing significant elements of applied learning and work related learning.

KIDS Young People's Inclusion Network

The In-clusion in Practice Roadshow—Sharing our learning to help you find answers

Young Disabled people from across England who make up KIDS Young People's Inclusion Network (YP-in) shared their experiences of what makes inclusion work in youth work settings through delivering six Roadshows throughout England. The one day Bristol Roadshow was held on the 3rd October at Arnolfini in the centre of Bristol. Over 30 delegates attended. Two young people ran and carried out a presentation and workshop explaining what they had learnt from the project. They spoke about learning to travel independently, building confidence and self esteem as well as carrying out a photo exhibition which explored issues around identity, new opportunities, friendships and exclusion. Also promoted was the online guidance toolkit produced by YP-in based on the right of all Disabled young people to be included, promoting effective inclusion policy and practice across youth and leisure services. The event was designed to share our learning and introduce delegates to the tools and resources YP-in have developed out of the learning over the last three years. With the strong youth agenda within Government and the DCSF emphasizing the need for young people to be active within the development and design of services and facilitates this event placed Disabled Young People at the centre of these processes.

With support from the Big Lottery Fund, YP-in works with Disabled young people aged 11-25 to challenge discrimination to examine the barriers that prevent disabled young people's inclusion in youth and leisure services and explore potential strategies to overcome them. The project has been based on the belief that all young people have the right to be included in services and it is the physical, attitudinal and institutional barriers in society that prevent them from doing it. With the right support, environment and attitude, inclusion is possible and can be a positive experience for everyone involved. The project says it seeks to promote this climate of inclusion and positive attitudes right across youth and leisure services. If you are interested in finding out more about the online guidance and would like practical ideas on how to make your service fully inclusive please contact info@yp-in.biz

This is a poster we designed when working in partnership with First Buses.

The project was funded by The Big Lottery Fund.

Notes to Editors

1. Images from the project are available for press use, subject to photographer's consent.
2. For further details or to arrange any of the above please contact Carly Brown: carly.brown@kids.org.uk/ 020 7359 3073
3. KIDS works towards the vision of a world in which all Disabled children and young people realise their aspirations and their right to an inclusive community which supports them and their families. KIDS enhances the lives of Disabled children, young people and their families, through play, leisure, education, family support, information, advice and training, empowering them to change their society
4. YP-in, the Young People's Inclusion Network, is run across KIDS' 5 regions. It aims to create good practice models and guidance to help mainstream youth and leisure services provide inclusive experiences for Disabled young people. The project is funded by The National Lottery through the Big Lottery Fund www.yp-in.net

Using the bus

1. Check the timetable on the website or at the bus stop so you know when & where to wait for your bus.
2. Phone customer services to check that the bus you want to get is a low floor bus, if required.
3. Wait for your bus at the bus stop.
4. When the bus arrives, ask for the name to be lowered if required.
5. Get a ticket & show your bus pass if you have one.
6. There is a designated wheelchair space if required.
7. Enjoy the journey!

How can I complain?

If you have a bad experience on the bus, you can tell the bus company about it so they can try to stop it happening again.

1. Make a note of:
 - the date and time of when the problem happened
 - the bus route (i.e. 'Yale to Bristol')
 - the bus code. This is a 5 digit number on the front every bus.
2. Keep your ticket to prove when you travelled.
3. Then you can contact Customer Services to complain about what happened.

You can phone Customer Services on 0645 601 8020.

You can write to: Customer Services Department, Firstinfo Limited, Inverity House, North Road, Plymouth, Devon PL4 8AB.

Or you can e-mail contactus@firstgroup.com

Contact us

If you have any questions or if you need to find out if the bus you want to get is an accessible low floor bus you can contact Customer Services between 7:30am and 9pm by phone on 0645 602 0155 or visit the website at www.firstgroup.com

Forthcoming improvements

First is working closely with Bristol City Council to introduce Real Time Information across the city. This means that there will be digital screens at bus stops and shelters which display the actual arrival time of the next bus, instead of the time they are supposed to arrive. This is so that you will know when buses are running late and how long you will have to wait.

Other improvements include:

- CCTV on buses and in shelters
- Bus lanes to give priority to buses
- Traffic signals that change to green if a bus is running late
- More low floor buses which are accessible for wheelchair users

Bus passes

Disabled people can get a Disabled bus pass, which is called a Concessionary travel pass.

If you show a valid Concessionary travel pass when you get on a bus in England you can travel free of charge between 9am and 11pm.

You can also apply to have a companion travel card, which means that a companion can also travel with you free of charge.

Access for All

First transforming travel

School Organisation News

It has been a busy time in School Organisation in recent months.

The Schools Adjudicator has approved the proposed amalgamation of Cranleigh Court Infant and Fromebank Junior Schools. A new primary school will open on the existing campus on 1 September 2009. A temporary governing body is being established to oversee preparations for the opening of the new school. The first task will be to appoint the Head Teacher Designate.

The Secretary of State has given the go ahead for the Council to issue formal proposals for the opening of a new special school. This will be without a competition to consider any other possible promoters. The school will provide for children aged 7-16 with behavioural, social and emotional difficulties. New buildings will be provided for primary aged pupils on part of the Courtney site and for secondary aged pupils on the former Falconride site. The planned opening date is September 2011. The proposals are now with the Schools Adjudicator for approval.

The Ridings High School and King Edmund Community School have applied to the Secretary of State for approval to become federated academies from September 2009. Public consultation is taking place, and the DCSF is looking at detailed feasibility studies. If the proposals go ahead the schools would "close" in legal terms and re-open immediately as academies. The Council is carefully considering its approach, bearing in mind the current agenda for diversity in types of school provision. The final decision rests with the Secretary of State.

Public consultation is taking place on a possible amalgamation of Brockeridge Infant and Highcroft Junior Schools in the light of declining pupil numbers in the area.

As always, possible new schools to meet housing growth in South Gloucestershire are under consideration. However, the current economic situation and the severe downturn in new house building are creating great uncertainty over the timing of any new provision.

In 2009, the Council will be publishing its first Commissioning Strategy for the provision of places for 0-19 year olds. This will replace the old School Organisation Plan publication, and take account of the changing role of local authorities in ensuring sufficiency of places across the whole age range in a more diverse organisation.

Tony Saunders, Planning & Policy Team

What Next? Recognition of the achievement and success of young people

Young people from South Gloucestershire have once again demonstrated their abilities and achievements in the work place, by successfully completing work experience placements organised by the What Next Project. A group of young people from the project organised an award evening at the Holiday Inn at Hambrook to celebrate this success with the presentation of the nationally recognised South Gloucestershire Award for Young People to all those young people who have



taken part in the scheme in 2008. The valuable support given to the work experience by employers was marked by the presentation to these employers of certificates of recognition and thanks.

Holly gave a personal account of her work experience as an introduction to the event, which was followed by the presentation of the certificates by Sheila Cook, the Executive Member for Children and Young People on South Gloucestershire Council.

The music for the evening was selected and organised by Jamie, Dion and George.

Some of the young people and employers who were involved in the work experience project this year.

Locality Hubs Primary School Consultation 1

Aim

To introduce the concept of Locality hubs to young people and to consult on what the hub should offer them and their families.

Objectives

To ensure children's ideas about the design of the hub are shared and taken into account.

To use dolls and scenarios to explore what children may need from the hub.

Overview

9 Primaries Schools (Iron acton, Alexander Hosea, Cherry Garden, Holy Family, The Meadows, St. Marys, Charborough Rd, Emersons Green, The Manor) in South Gloucestershire took part in this piece of work. 3 in the Severnvale Locality, 3 in the Kingswood Locality and 3 in the Yate Locality. Schools involved were in both rural and more urban areas.

Ninety nine children gave their views on what the hub should offer young people and their families and the workshops demonstrated that young people's needs for accessible information and advice, are similar in each locality.

Support and skills development for parents/carers was also a continuing strand in most workshops. Many children felt that this would be a great place to address community cohesion and that more people in their communities could help each other.

Children's ideas for the ethos of the building focusing on the reception area encompassed a positive bright atmosphere, where staff are 'young people friendly' and welcoming.

The design of the reception area needs to take into account the needs of all ages to create a positive and stimulating environment that reduces anxiety and provides a good experience.

The information gained from the school visits will be send to locality teams in each area of South Gloucestershire, for comment and feedback on how this information will be utilised.

Chrisanthea Cashley
Children's Participation Officer

Lucy Hackett—Work Experience

During my two weeks work experience with South Gloucestershire Council I was involved with the filming of a DVD. This DVD is going to be about good working practises with the Councils' partners within the Department for Children & Young People. I visited youth centres, children's centres, schools and attended conferences. During these visits we interviewed and filmed, young people, members of the public, head teachers, firemen, policemen and connexions staff. I will also be able to help with the editing of the film. I am currently studying Film Media and Communications at college and hope to go to university next year to study a BA in Film Production so this opportunity has given some good experience.

Use Your Voice 2008

The second USE YOUR VOICE event took place in Winterbourne during the November half term for young people in South Gloucestershire. Over 40 young people attended the day giving their views and ideas in a range of workshops. Young people were invited from Schools (including Special schools and PRUs), Youth Fora, Youth Centres, Connexions, Children's Social Services, CAMHs and UK Youth Parliament.

The workshops included:

Regional Transport Plan

One of the workshops was part of a consultation to find out how young people want to see a concessionary transport scheme for South Gloucestershire implemented. Fun activities were used to find young people's attitudes to using public transport now and what developments that they would like to see in the future. All the young people completed questionnaires at the end of the session. These questionnaires are also being distributed throughout South Gloucestershire including to schools and youth centres.

Contact Point

The Contact Point workshop was a huge success. Thirty five young people and five staff now know about Contact Point. Young people appeared to be aware of agencies available to help them with issues in their lives. Through an activity in which young people drew round a body, young people learned how vital it is that all agencies communicate with each other in order to recognise all individual needs.

There are eight young people interested in forming a group to produce an information resource for South Gloucestershire. Many ideas about resources were considered and one idea for a leaflet was really good. The group will now work on ideas to improve the existing resources. Young people from the KIDs Project will also be part of this group to ensure that resources are accessible for all.

The Children and Young People Plan

Young people participating in the workshop were given a short introduction about what the plan is and its importance in ensuring that everyone working with children and young people are working to the same goals.

The workshop firstly focused on gaining young people's ideas on solutions to risk-taking behaviour. Other activities included thinking about how raising aspiration, so that all children and young people achieve a good quality of life and reach their goals. The results of the workshop will be fed into the Children and Young People's Plan currently out for consultation.

The Future Youth Service Strategy

The workshop exploring young people's views on the Future Youth Service Strategy was an opportunity for a wide variety of young people to express their opinions about what is important to them in their youth projects and centres. In particular, it focused on how the young people's vision of the proposed "centres of excellence" for young people could be developed. The interactive nature of this workshop ensured that young people with varying levels of ability were able to take part and have their views recorded and feel valued.

The departments/projects that take part in such events contribute to the personal, social and political development of young people. It is crucial that young people in the county see themselves as valued individuals in their own right and as experts in their own lives.

Use Your Voice 2008...

This inclusive way of working is supported by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 12 which states that governments:

'shall take the views of children into account when devising policy that affects them. All adults should be encouraged to listen and act on the views of children and young people.'

During the lunch break young people and staff either took part in a hula hoop workshop or a poster competition. At the end of the day all young people received a Youthunltd canvass bag, filled with: a fair trade chocolate bar, a key ring, contact details for future events/projects and a small gift to thank them for their contribution.

Fliss a young person who co-facilitated a workshop wrote:

"My experiences of Use Your Voice were very positive and enjoyable. I was involved in running a transport consultation workshop, so I was able to work with all kinds of people my own age. I enjoyed working with them; everyone had such good ideas and lots of energy and enthusiasm. I feel my confidence has improved and that I can communicate with people much more freely. I really enjoyed the day and would love to be involved in a similar project again."

Use Your Voice also gave young people the opportunity to find out about 'Participation Opportunities' in South Gloucestershire and their Areas e.g. Youth Forums, UKYP, Big Stash and other groups they might wish to join.

All those attending the workshops will receive young people friendly feedback from the day, which will include information on how their ideas will be listened to, a certificate and a collage of photos to celebrate their participation. A group of young people are currently involved in ensuring that this feedback is user friendly.

Chris Cashley (Children's Fund) on behalf of the Participation Team

Free Training Opportunities: Involving Young People as Volunteers

You are invited to one of our free training sessions on "Involving Young People as Volunteers". They will be half day sessions to help you to successfully engage young people (aged 16-25 years) as volunteers in your organisations. We will also provide a free lunch (either at the end or the beginning of the session, depending on the time of day).

The dates of the sessions are:

Tuesday 20th January 2009, 1.00pm - 4.30pm Armstrong Hall, Thornbury

Monday 16th March 2009, 9.30am - 1.30pm Ridgewood Community Centre, Yate

Wednesday 24th June 2009, 1.00pm - 4.30pm The Kingswood Foundation.

For more information please call 01454 317 289, or email southglos@youngbristol.com.



Bristol Youth Volunteering Network

Investors in People standard retained for Department

South Gloucestershire Department for Children and Young People has recently been visited by external assessors to judge whether we continue to meet the requirements for the Investors in People Standard.

We are delighted that we have retained the Standard, meeting a range of evidence requirements at the higher levels and that in elements our practice is judged as excellent.

- We were given a long list of noteworthy strengths, a sample of which are
- Valued leadership at all levels with many inspirational leaders
- Shared values and robust team cultures
- Challenging and satisfying roles and projects for almost everyone
- Staff who say they love their jobs and enjoy coming to work
- A continuing commitment to everyone's learning and development
- People who say that their contribution is properly recognised and appreciated



We do have areas to work on and we will make sure these are integrated into our plans. Many, many thanks to everyone who contributed to the process.

Model Publication Scheme 2009

In May 2008 the Information Commissioner, Richard Thomas, wrote to all senior members of public authorities urging them to adopt the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) new model publication scheme. All public authorities should adopt the new model publication scheme from 1 January 2009. The ICO has produced a series of sector-specific definition documents and template guides to information to assist public authorities with this. The scheme, and guidance on what needs to be done before the 1 January 2009, can be found on the Information Commissioner's Website



[http://www.ico.gov.uk/Home/what we cover/freedom of information/publication schemes.aspx](http://www.ico.gov.uk/Home/what_we_cover/freedom_of_information/publication_schemes.aspx)

South Gloucestershire 2009-2012 Children and Young People Plan

There is a South Gloucestershire Children and Young People Network Meeting being held on Thursday, 15 January, 9.45am-12.15pm at The Vassall Centre, Gill Avenue, Bristol BS16 2QQ.



The Care Forum

The aim is to help South Gloucestershire shape a plan that meets the needs of children, young people and their families.

The event, organised by The Care Forum, will be on the subject of South Gloucestershire 2009-2012 Children and Young People Plan. Come along to find out the implications of the plan for the voluntary and community sector. Share your views on the plan, what you would like to see included and any changes that would benefit the children, young people and families that you work with.

The meeting will hear from Jane Spouse, Deputy Director, Department for Children and Young People, South Gloucestershire Council.

There will also be the opportunity to give your views during Q&A sessions and discussions groups. These will be led by the Department for Children and Young People's theme leads.

Contact Katharine Gonzales as soon as possible to indicate whether you can attend or not. Please let us know if you have any access needs. You can contact Katharine on events@thecareforum.org.uk or 0117 958 9340.

Backfill Payments Protocol: CONSULTATION AND PILOT

With funding from the Children's Workforce Development Council, The Care Forum has drafted a protocol for small voluntary sector organisations to claim money for attending meetings. We would appreciate your comments on it and at the same time we want to pilot it to see how well it works.

Please read the first two documents for more details.

The third and fourth documents are the lists of The Care Forum's reps in Bristol and South Glos for your information.

You can download these four documents from the News section of our website www.thecareforum.org.uk or go to:

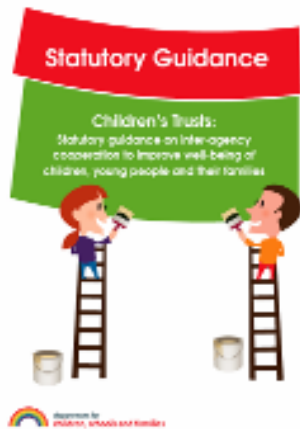
http://www.thecareforum.org/voluntary_sector/Bristol%20%20S%20Glos%20CWDC%20Partners%20Programme%20Backfill%20Payments%20Protocol%20Consultation%20and%20Pilot%20Covering%20Letter%20Nov%2008.pdf

http://www.thecareforum.org/voluntary_sector/Bristol%20%20S%20Glos%20CWDC%20Partners%20Programme%20Backfill%20Payments%20Protocol%20DRAFT%20FOR%20CONSULTATION%20Nov%2008.pdf

http://www.thecareforum.org/voluntary_sector/Bristol%20CYP%20VCS%20Reps%20Nov%2008.pdf

http://www.thecareforum.org/voluntary_sector/SGlos%20CYP%20VCS%20Reps%20Nov%2008.pdf

New guidance on strengthening Children's Trusts



Research by the Audit Commission into the progress local councils and their partners have made in developing Children's Trusts has highlighted confusion in the role of Trusts and welcomed further guidance and support. In view of this and reflecting the lessons learned since the publication of Every Child Matters, revised guidance on the 'duty to cooperate' was published by the DCSF during November 2008.

The updated guidance focuses on the next 18 months at which point it will be updated to reflect proposed legislative changes. In particular it reinforces the need for robust and effective arrangements under the section 10 'duty to cooperate' in implementing the vision of the Children's Plan.

The key themes are:

- broadening the range of statutory partners;
- the importance of having a children's trust board;
- the relationship of the trust board to other partnerships;
- the essential features of a trust and the associated challenges;
- the importance of the Children and Young People Plan.

The South Gloucestershire Strategic Partnership established in 2004 is the children's trust arrangements for South Gloucestershire. The role of the Children's Trust Board is to make the five essential features of a trust a reality through:

- developing a vision for delivering a child and family centred approach to improving outcomes, informed by children, parents and carers and the joint strategic needs analysis;
- embedding robust inter-agency governance;
- developing integrated strategy, joint planning and commissioning, pooled and aligned budgets and the Children and Young People Plan;
- Supporting this through integrated processes, effective joint working with shared language and shared processes;
- developing and promoting integrated front line delivery organised around the child and young person and family, rather than professional or institutional boundaries.

New guidance on strengthening Children's Trusts ...

The main objectives of a trust include supporting families, involving and empowering parents, narrowing the outcomes gap between disadvantaged children and their peers, focusing on prevention and early identification, responding to the views of children and young people, and tackling child poverty. In addition there is a need to develop integrated and strategic infrastructure planning and drive integrated working between all professionals.

Legislative changes are also underway to support local partners including:

- Schools and schools forums, sixth forums and FE colleges to be included under the 'duty to cooperate'
- Job Centre Plus included as a statutory relevant partner
- Establish a statutory basis for Children's Trust Boards

In addition all local areas will be required to have a Children and Young People Plan and ownership is extended to all statutory relevant partners represented on boards.

To read the full guidance, including a leaflet describing "What is a children's trust?", follow the links below:

What is a Children's Trust?

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/files/02BEE5AA44E3711C4DF9D796C1AAE3F0.pdf>

Statutory Guidance

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/files/48459BE8717A3D2E3C71501D44FA60BF.pdf>

Every Child Matters
Change For Children

Working Together dates

The timetable for future publishing dates and deadlines for submission of articles are listed below.

Spring 09

Deadline for articles: 2nd March

Publish: 23rd March

Summer 09

Deadline for articles: 29th June

Publish: 20th July

Autumn 09

Deadline for articles: 28th September

Publish: 19th October

Christmas 09

Deadline for articles: 23rd November

Publish: 14th December

If you are interested in contributing to our partnership newsletter, please contact the editorial team on 01454 868959 or email samantha.phillips@southglos.gov.uk

