



## Message from the Director



Thank you all for the magnificent way in which everyone involved contributed to the Joint Area Review. It was a very complex process with so many different people interviewed, case files audited, projects and places visited and information provided. The flexibility and responsiveness of everyone involved made the whole process run relatively smoothly which is a real credit to us all. As we predicted the requests for information during the fortnight of fieldwork were several, and we were able to respond to those promptly because of the commitment of everyone to make certain we gave access to everything that was needed.

We are waiting for the draft report now, and once we've commented on that it should be published (and public) in September, when we will share it with everyone. We can share that the inspectors were impressed with the way we work together between teams and across partners, and that they did see much that impressed them. We will work on the action plan for those areas identified for improvement and publish that soon after the final report is received.

In the meantime, we hope that colleagues will have a good summer break.

*Therese Gillespie*

Director for Children and Young People  
South Gloucestershire Council



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## South Gloucestershire CAMHS Update

We have successfully implemented CAPA (Choice and Partnership Appointments), in February this year. This has meant that we are now offering more appointments in different locations across South Gloucestershire. We now have the use of clinic space i.e rooms, within some GP practices and Health Centres, which we are hoping to expand on. We also have clinics in Frenchay Children's Centre and Buckingham Gardens at Downend. This has meant that our clients are now offered a choice of appointments i.e we always offer them the next available appointment but at the same time we offer the option of a clinic date nearer to where they live, it may be a week later, but they are given this option and often do take it.

CAPA has also meant that we have reduced our waiting list from 6 months to 8 weeks, a huge improvement and this wait will come down further once we are up to full capacity staff wise. We currently have 4 vacancies that we are actively recruiting too.

SG CAMHS is also moving! we are leaving Bradley Stoke Community School, which was always a temporary address, to Warmley. From Monday 28th July we will be at Corum Office Park, Tower Road North, Warmley. This location was chosen due to its easy access i.e it is on a main bus route and opposite The Grange and Warmley Park Special School. It was also chosen because it has enough space for us to move our clinic space out of Buckingham Gardens to Warmley, plus more, this will enable us to increase our clinic capacity which in turn will also reduce our waiting list still further. Mike Connolly 01454 865970

## YOUNG SPORTS STARS SHOWCASE THEIR TALENTS TO OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALLIST

### South Gloucestershire Festival of Youth Sport Results

Sport	Winners	Fair Play Trophy
Basketball	St Stephens Junior	Meadows Primary
Girls Football	Hanham Abbots Junior	Christ the King Primary
Hockey	Mangotsfield Primary	Pucklechurch
Lacrosse	Hawkesbury Primary	The Park Primary
Netball	Horton Primary	Little Stoke Primary
Tag Rugby	Charborough Road Primary	St Mary's Primary ,Yate

On 21/04/08 600 young stars across South Gloucestershire gathered for their very own district-wide "mini-Olympics" – the Festival of Youth Sport. Filton College's WISE campus played host to the festival which is part of a partnership programme between South Gloucestershire Council and Airbus. The event has been so successful over the last seven years that it has established itself as a key event for schools and sports clubs across the district.

The festival, which is sponsored each year by Airbus and organised by South Gloucestershire Council has firmly established itself as a key event for schools and sports clubs across the district since its launch in 2002.



## YOUNG SPORTS STARS SHOWCASE THEIR TALENTS TO OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALLIST...continued

This year, the event is also supporting the UK School Games community development programme, which is encouraging youth sport in the lead up to the 2012 Olympics. As a UK School Games ambassador, Olympic sprint star Jason Gardener MBE was present to give advice to the young athletes. Great Britain's Basketball hero Jo Sarjant was also there on behalf of Sporting Champions organisation.

65 primary, junior and special schools in the district took part in the spring festival this year. While over the past seven years 21,000 children have already benefited from coaching since the festivals launched and around 6,500 have gone on to take part in the Festival of Youth Sport tournaments.

The festival aims to introduce young people of all abilities to sport and exercise. As well as having a fun day, coaches encourage the pupils to participate in the events and teach them new skills, in the hope that they will join local sports clubs. In the run up to the festivals the young athletes have been receiving training and coaching in a variety of sports which is provided by the Council's community sport and active lifestyles department and funded by Airbus.

Due to the high demand, two festivals are now held each year, in the spring and summer. The summer festival took place on Saturday 21 June, at the Yate Outdoor Sports Centre (YOSC), near Yate, from 9am until 1pm.



Kim Hazeldine, the head of community sport and active lifestyles at the council, said: "The Festival of Youth Sport is a great opportunity for youngsters to take part in a range of sporting events and activities. We hope it will inspire them to be the best they can be. The Council is very committed to increasing participation in sport and physical activity and promoting healthy lifestyles and we're delighted that Airbus is sponsoring the event once again."

Keen sportsman and representative of sponsors Airbus in the UK, Chris Sparkes, said: "I am delighted that we have been able to sponsor this

programme of sports coaching as well as the spring and summer competitions again. The Spring festival has been a fantastic success and credit must be given to those who have helped to make the event what it is as well as all the hard work put in by the young people."

Jason Gardener said: "With the UK School Games coming to Bristol and Bath at the end of August it is vitally important that efforts continue to provide young people with opportunities to take part in sport, as well as compete against other young people and experience what it means to be part of the sporting environment of the West of England area.

"The first of this year's South Gloucestershire Festival of Youth Sport provided an excellent opportunity to do this and they are an integral part of the ever developing school sports programme in the West of England."



Airbus is an EADS Company <http://www.eadsdsuk.com/>

## Right2Bcared4

South Gloucestershire has become a pilot authority for the Right2Bcared4 programme. This pilot programme is exploring ways in which young people in care aged between 16 and 18 can become more involved in decisions which involve significant changes to their care, so that they do not feel forced to leave stable placements. As part of the pilot, young people are able to nominate an independent person to help them make their wishes and feelings known and to help them fully understand the full implications of any decision they make. This pilot will allow us to test whether or not young people have a particular preference in choosing an advocate and how far advocacy contributes to improved outcomes and the quality of young people's engagement in their care planning. Findings from this pilot will inform how the Right2BCared4 lessons are rolled out nationally in 2010 and be helpful in providing evidence of the value of advocacy in the care planning and review process. Nigel Shipley Beacon Coordinator / Partnership Officer 01454 865939

## Children in care doing well with council support

The 'Children in Care' annual report has now been approved by South Gloucestershire Council. It shows that the district's looked-after children are well cared for.

The council has been awarded Beacon Status for improving outcomes for children in care – one of four Beacon awards held by the council.

And its fostering service has been recognised as 'excellent' by the Commission for Social Care Inspection and been awarded top marks by Ofsted for two years running.

The report, outlines a wide range of initiatives put in place by the council and partners under the Corporate Parenting Strategy. The strategy sets out how the council takes collective responsibility to provide the best possible care and protection for this vulnerable group.

Among the projects featured is the 'What Next?' work experience project, which provides challenging but supportive work experience for looked after young people in all sections of the council. To date 33 placements have been made.

A 'trainer flat' where young people in care can spend up to three periods of three weeks living independently has been opened to help young people prepare to leave care.

Young people in care are also involved in the recruitment of staff in the department for Children & Young People, and there are nine young people who are trained and sit on the interview panel. The scheme has boosted the confidence of the young people, while they offer valuable contributions to the recruitment process.

Children cared for by the council have a dedicated nurse and the level of annual health and dental assessments is above the national average.

Those in education have a personal education plan, which is reviewed every six months. Personal tutors and additional classroom assistance are available where needed.

Every effort is made to give young people stability. Only 9.8 per cent of children were moved more than three times in the first year they were in care during 2007-08.

Of those children who had been in care for more than two and a half years, 72.5 per cent had stable placements in 2006-07, and 68 per cent in 2007-08.

Councillor Sheila Cook, executive member for children and young people, said: "Children and young people are this council's top priority and we are delighted that our services for children and young people in care are so successful. "This report highlights the excellent work done by our staff but also reflects well on the young people who we support.

Several of them were involved in producing the Beacon Award application, and they accompanied us to the award ceremony in London.

"We will continue to work with children and young people to improve our services further and ensure that all reach their potential."

Lesley Raison 01454 866497





**AVON**  
FIRE & RESCUE

### School Visits

Operational firefighters from the four fire stations in South Gloucestershire have visited 137 year 4/5 classroom groups, where we delivered our 'SPARKS' educational package, which provides young students with fire safety information related to keeping themselves and their families safe from fire.

Each young student receives practical advice on:

- The consequences of making a hoax call
- The consequences of starting fires (Arson)
- What to do if their clothes catch fire (Stop, Drop and Roll)
- How to make a 999 call
- How to test a smoke alarm
- How to plan a fire escape plan, and what to do if they are trapped in a burning house



Each student is awarded a certificate, once they have carried out and completed a fire risk assessment of the family home.

### Road Skills

Community Fire Safety officers, and operational firefighters in South Gloucestershire delivered our Road Safety education programme - RoadSkills to over 900 year 11 plus students in schools in South Gloucestershire. This academic year, visits have been made to the following schools;

- Parkway College
- Filton High School
- Grange School
- City of Bristol College - Soundwell
- Mangotsfield PRU
- The Ridings High School
- HMP Ashfield
- Sir Bernard Lovell
- Filton College
- Patchway Community College



The RoadSkills presentation is a hard hitting, thought provoking presentation, aimed at young people who are about to enter the world of driving cars and riding motorcycles. The presentation is designed to prevent our young people from being killed or seriously injured in a road traffic collision.

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

## Safer Recruitment and Beyond

The safeguarding of young people is a major responsibility for this Department and directly or indirectly everyone has some contribution to make.

One key strand is the responsibility for safer recruitment - doing all we can to ensure that unsuitable people do not have the opportunity to be working with or abusing young people. This topic has had a high national profile since murders of two girls in Soham, Cambridgeshire which were carried out by Ian Huntley a school caretaker in 2002. This is an extreme case but there are many lower level concerns that are being addressed across the work of this Department and its schools on a regular basis.

Much of the work on safer recruitment has been driven by recommendations from the Richard Enquiry which followed the Soham murders. This has required all of us involved with providing services for young people (and also vulnerable adults) to review our recruitment practices and to ensure that all relevant managers and staff have an understanding of their responsibilities for safeguarding.

A high priority has been given to schools and the associated training of Headteachers but the same considerations apply equally across the rest of our services, particularly those areas working directly with young people. The recent JAR inspection paid particular attention to safer recruitment practices for the centrally employed staff and also others (paid or unpaid) who contribute to our services for young people.

Safer recruitment includes thinking about the relevant aspects of safeguarding throughout the recruitment process and after, e.g. how can the advertisement deter unsuitable people from applying through to how child protection awareness is included in the induction and training of staff. The use of CRB disclosures is a part of Safer Recruitment but is only one consideration. In practice very few abusers have a previous conviction history, albeit that in many cases there have been other indications of concern.

One of the benefits of bringing together services in the C & YP Department is the sharing of knowledge and expertise and it has been very helpful linking up with colleagues with more specialist roles in safeguarding and child protection work. Indeed I now share my office with Sean Tarpey, the Safeguarding Board Manager which further assists with the integration of our work.

Ron Bull

Schools Workforce Strategy Manager,

Schools Personnel (01454 86 3212) – School Staff and Settings.

### Other Key Contacts:

Tara Knight (01454 86 4429) – Central Services and Social Care and Youth Services Sean Tarpey (01454 86 5954) & Vicky Green (01454 86 5933) – Safeguarding Team

## Safeguarding Children



### The Care Forum

In July The Care Forum hosted a Joint Bristol and South Glos Children & Young People Networks Meeting on the subject of Safeguarding Children and Young People. Local authority lead officers Ian McDowell from Bristol and Sean Tarpey from South Glos updated attendees on the new safeguarding boards and explained how they are responding to “Staying Safe”, one of the five key outcomes of the Every Child Matters Programme. They outlined some of the latest developments in safeguarding including regional work on child death procedures and local work on children engaged in sexually harmful behaviour. Some of the focus of future work will be on e-safety, child trafficking, female genital mutilation and young runaways. Prevention is a key aim to be strengthened by better collaboration regionally and locally through implementation of the Children’s Workforce Development Council (CWDC) funded projects.

Area-based facilitated workshops followed where participants had an opportunity to find out about training available and the benefits of multi-agency training, and to discuss their needs locally in relation to ensuring children and young people stay safe. The voluntary and community sector were given the opportunity to share their views with the statutory boards. Many issues were discussed including the provision of training, the mechanisms for parental involvement, the new Common Assessment Framework, the needs of deaf children and self-harm and suicide.

To find out about safeguarding training in South Gloucestershire telephone Vicki Green on 01454 865933. For further information about future network events for children and young people at The Care Forum visit [www.thecareforum.org/events](http://www.thecareforum.org/events) or telephone Louise Hudson on 0117 958 9337.

## Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2008-09

The 2008-09 South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board annual report including business and multi-agency training programme is now available to download from the CYP partnership website.

<http://www.southglos.gov.uk/safeguarding>



## www.youthunltd.com – Activities for Young People

South Gloucestershire Youth Service are pleased to announce the Launch of their new website [www.youthunltd.com](http://www.youthunltd.com) which has been created with young people to provide one place that young people can go to find positive activities in their area.

It features an events calendar where activities can be found by date and a search facility where young people can look for specific things that interest them.



The website also includes :

- A Chat Zone (forum)
- News page
- Youth Information with links to transport as well as advice on sex and relationships, drugs and alcohol and other issues important to young people.

The website is developing all the time with new features soon to appear including a games and quiz section, a podcast page which will feature shows produced by young people from youth centres across South Gloucestershire.

One exciting addition will be the creation of a Virtual Youth Centre, where young people having created an avatar (a computer representation of themselves) will be able to travel round the virtual world meet and chat with other young people not only from the UK but from the rest of the world. In this digital world, galleries can be set up to display young peoples art and photographs, videos can be shown and concerts held.

The potential of this website is unlimited, for more information or to have something included on the site contact Jeremy Wide on 01454 865750 or email [Jeremy.Wide@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:Jeremy.Wide@southglos.gov.uk)

## Cattle Country and the Cyber Crew

Cyber bullying is an issue that has increasingly come into focus as a growing range of technology becomes accessible to more young people. In order to gather information around what young people perceive to be cyber bullying and how from their perspective it could be challenged, a peer led project was devised.

A group of 8 young people aged between 12 and 17 years came together and have been involved in steering the piece of research. In order to develop the group with the appropriate group skills to research this possibly litigious issue, a team building trip was organised.

The group decided on 31st of May to go to Cattle Country (which is situated near Berkeley Gloucestershire) this adventure park offers a variety of challenging equipment. For example, climbing ropes, death slides and paddle boats.



## Cattle Country and the Cyber Crew

The group supported each other to participate in activities that individually challenged each of their comfort zones. The whole day was a great success from a youth work team building perspective and the young people had really good fun as well.

The project has now been gathering data in a variety of ways. In some youth provisions the Crew ran workshops that consisted of tile and mirror painting which created an atmosphere where young people were able to discuss issues. In some places a questionnaire was appropriate, however, the questions were delivered as a fun agree /disagree game elsewhere. All the young people involved have received certificates and the Cyber Crew will receive accreditation in the format of both South Glos recorded and accredited outcomes.



The data collected is now being collated and will be presented in a power point format. Also resources are being currently devised by The Crew; these will offer young people strategies and information around staying safe and what to do in a case of cyber bullying. These will likely be a DVD, posters and a drop down leaflets all will then be available for young people in South Glos.

Tracie Hindle 01454 865759



### Team Read—Don't just sit there – get reading

Every library in South Gloucestershire will be taking part in this year's exciting reading challenge for children – Team Read. Join in the sports buzz this summer as the Olympics are celebrated in Beijing by calling into any library to sign up and collect your membership card and poster. Your challenge over the summer is to read 6 books and achieve your gold medal. Along the way there are stickers and other goodies to collect. Libraries will also be offering free drop-in activity sessions with puzzles and games and helping children choose top reads from the thousands of books available. Check out the website [www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries) or contact the libraries on 01454 868006



## Sing Up

Sing Up is a government funded national programme to make sure that singing is at the heart of every primary school child's life. (The challenges of continuing the work in secondary schools have yet to be addressed) During its relatively short existence the Sing Up campaign has begun to make a significant impact, not least through the national song bank which is available on-line to every school at <http://www.singup.org>



There are a growing number of songs – currently over 100, which can be downloaded and used in a variety of ways. Every song comes with a variety of backing tracks, lyrics, information about the song (and songwriter when relevant), printable interactive song sheets, activities and lesson plans!

Apart from the two projects listed below, Sing Up is also funding whole day training sessions for staff in South Gloucestershire to encourage Singing Schools.



### 'Sing up Infants'

All our 9 infant schools are currently receiving four visits from a specialist vocal teacher - Cara Clark. Pupils are being encouraged to become song leaders and support the singing in class. Teachers have commented how the singing has increased in the classrooms, playgrounds and everyone is keen to participate.

### 'Your Song'

This song writing project is based at Bowsland Green and Frampton Cotterell Primary schools. Tutors Pete Glover and Andrew Lawrence, have encouraged and supported year 5/6 pupils in writing their own songs linked to themes in SEAL. (The Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) Every week involves a live performance of a song that is used to support their own ideas. It is hoped that some of the songs may be suitable for further use in South Gloucestershire.



Christine Wright  
Teaching & Learning Adviser - Music  
01454 863147  
[christine.wright@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:christine.wright@southglos.gov.uk)

## SWGfL Merlin – the foundation for schools' learning platforms

SWGfL Merlin will provide the foundation for schools learning platforms across the South West of England. Designed for educators, local authorities, children, young people and a host of other audiences, it will also support important government agendas and initiatives, including Every Child Matters, Personalised Learning and Access to information.

The SWGfL Merlin service will include simplified sign-on services, an easy to use virtual desktop, regional collaborative tools, and space for all users and learners to store files, accessible anytime, anywhere there is an internet connection.



The service will offer interoperability, integrating management information systems, virtual learning environments and additional tools. Because SWGfL Merlin will adopt national standards for authentication, in time schools will also be able to access through their SWGfL Merlin username web-based content and services they choose to subscribe to and content. Safety and security are paramount, so it will be an e-safe environment too.

A fuller and more colourful guide on Merlin can be found at:

<http://www.sgcyp.org/SWGfLMerlin/tabid/123/Default.aspx>

This provides a summary of the main features within the SWGfL Merlin service (more detailed information, included technical specifications and training materials will be available later this year).

In South Gloucestershire Local Authority, we currently have two schools piloting an early release of Merlin before the full launch of the product this Summer after which we are planning a phased roll out across schools. Once trained, our plan is to support LA users of the existing SWGfL Portal by supporting their migration to Merlin for use as their core collaboration tool and to engage with other partners and services who may wish to benefit from the Sharepoint technology that Merlin offers.

For further support and information your contacts are:

Jo Briscombe	Teaching & Learning Adviser (ICT & Resources) Tel: 01454-863349 for support on Learning and Teaching using LPS
Ian Southall	Secondary Teaching and Learning Adviser (ICT) Tel: 01454-863398 for support on Learning and Teaching using LPS
Gary Andrews	Information and Management Systems Manager Tel: 01454-868657 for support on integration with SIMS and Merlin
Stuart Lees	Learning Platforms Manager Tel: 01454-868966 for support on the Portal, Merlin and SWGfL
Harry Langston	e-Strategy Manager for support on Merlin and the SWGfL Tel: 01454-863226

Gary Andrews IMS Officer, 01454 868657

## More to Life

94% of people in the UK participate in some form of cultural activity at least once a week, this might range from taking part in sport to visiting a museum or playing in a park, culture has been described as the cement which binds communities and individuals together.

As it is so important to the community, South Gloucestershire Council is developing a Cultural Strategy to ensure that the cultural needs of people are being met. The strategy will outline the importance of culture to people's everyday lives and how people can become more involved in the cultural life of South Gloucestershire .

The strategy includes case studies relating to various aspects of the work of South Gloucestershire Council and how culture impacts on peoples lives.

One such study is the whole-class string project at Little Stoke Primary School, provided by the Music Service, and the impact that this holistic approach to music-making is having both socially and in the group dynamic of the class.

The group have played on the stage in the Colston Hall on June 27 as part of a South Gloucestershire Primary Schools music Festival.

The first stage in the development of the strategy was an open meeting for anyone who is involved with culture to discuss what they feel about culture in South Gloucestershire. The event took place at the Filton WISE Campus, New Road, Stoke Gifford on Thursday 10th July 2008 at 7.30 p.m. A paper on the strategy can be accessed on the South Gloucestershire website at [www.southglos.gov.uk](http://www.southglos.gov.uk)

There will also be an opportunity at the event to find out more about the Cultural Olympiad. From August 2008 the UK will be hosting wide range of cultural events to celebrate culture in the run up to the Olympics in 2012. Richard Crowe who is the South West Cultural programmer will be speaking at the event on how groups can get involved.

For further details contact Martin Burton 01454 865782

## Good Progress Made – The Every Child Matters (ECM) Survey 2008

We conducted our first 'Every Child Matters' questionnaire survey in 2005 when almost all schools ensured that a sample of pupils and their parents were represented. The results highlighted many areas of strength and some areas where further work was needed in areas such as 'Being Healthy', 'Staying Safe', 'Economic Well-being', 'Making a Positive Contribution' and 'Enjoying and Achieving'. Earlier this year we repeated the survey to see what progress we had made. Again, we had a strong response and some 7500 pupil and parent surveys were analysed to provide the following highlights.

### **Economic Well-being**

We have seen more positive responses from all ages in the way they value diversity. All age groups have grown in confidence and their ability to manage feelings and inter-personal relationships. Stronger positive responses were received on awareness of the world of work as a result of the more relevant vocational curriculum offer, better information and guidance and more attention to the enterprise agenda. We still need to work on the skills of managing money, participation in community activities and developing young people's understanding of how business works.

## Good Progress Made – The Every Child Matters (ECM) Survey 2008...continued

### Staying Safe

We have seen improvements in the confidence of older pupils in the school to manage bullying. This is as a result of better behaviour management and good personal support plans developed through team working on the anti-bullying agenda at school level.

Children and young people feel safe in corridors, they are aware of risks and how to avoid them. Pupils strongly supported the view that they have talked about and understand how to make decisions that keep them safe. Clearly, the flourishing Healthy Schools Programme and the programmes on Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) are having a positive impact for young people.

More work is needed on teaching about drugs, alcohol and informing more parents about substance abuse teaching in schools. These responses were weaker this time round for all.

### Being Healthy

Typically there continue to be strong positive responses in this area. Children and young people report good engagement and report being strongly encouraged to participate in physical activities. This shows the very positive impact of the Schools Sport Programme and the Healthy Schools work.

Some Children and young people consider that adults are not as helpful when they feel unwell. It is unclear why this response has weakened since the previous survey. Schools could explore this issue with their pupils in order to get more clarity and ideas for improvement.

### Enjoying and Achieving

Again, steady improvements are evident in the responses. Whilst more secondary pupils say they enjoy school, this remains an area where the responses of all pupils, except the youngest are relatively weaker than other areas sampled.

Substantial programmes supporting the implementation of Assessment for Learning (AfL) have contributed to the improvements in pupil's perception of the improved quality of teaching. More pupils say their teachers talk to them about the next steps, they are taught well, they know how to improve and so on.

More parents report that their children attend clubs or they activities outside school hours. However, a few more this time are not sure or feel that their child is treated as an individual.

While we continue to see the strengthening of responses in this outcome area, we still need to continue to work on making sure parents are well informed about work being done, pupils enjoyment of school, and more choice of activities outside school hours.

### Making a Positive Contribution

Curiously, there was some weakening of responses from the youngest children in this outcome area, so fewer felt that they were talked to about changes, for example. However, improvements in responses were seen in all the other groups. More secondary aged pupils reported that the school helps me to be confident or the school teaches me to manage my feelings. These two aspects remain areas for more development work. For parents of older pupils, schools need to do more on taking pupils opinions seriously.

### Conclusion

The survey of pupils and parents has been very valuable in helping us to explore the impact of our work and to look carefully at the progress we have made on what were strong outcomes in 2005. While the responses have strengthened in most areas, our internal analysis is pointing to areas where we continue to need to make improvements, so that there is consistency in good responses across the range of aspects sampled. We will continue to target areas for improvements through the reviews of the Children and Young People Plan which is due for April 2009 onwards.

Denis de Souza Inclusion Strategy Manager, 01454 863347

## The Josie Project

South Gloucestershire Council is piloting a new initiative at St Stephen's Junior School called the Josie Project. It has been inspired by the work of Mary Gordon and the Roots of Empathy programme which has become well established in Canada. The programme is grounded within social and emotional learning and in promoting empathy among children and young people through exploring the developmental milestones of a child's first year.

The project consists of 10 units. Each unit is made up of 3 lessons. 1 lesson is based around the visit of the baby into the classroom and the other 2 lessons are delivered by the teacher using the emotional development of the baby as a focus for exploring and developing the children's own emotional development. Each unit has a homework activity to ensure that parents are involved as much as possible and to promote dialogue at home around child development and experiences.



The Josie Project aims to develop social and emotional skills and to promote resilience among children by focusing on empathy, communication, self awareness, coping skills and positive relationships. The evaluation of the first year has been really positive. Below are some comments by Josie's mother, the class teacher and children:

'Josie, albeit never a reticent individual seemed to relish the chance to spend time with the students and I have no doubt that as her relationship with the students grew

and flourished further, she benefited immensely from interacting with them. I think it has played a part in starting to build her social skills and her confidence to try new things, and her trust in others. ' *Josie's mum Sally*

'I loved "teaching" these lessons because it was easy! Easy, in that the children were in control of their own learning outcomes. It was a very positive experience for all the children. Some children were 'only children', or the youngest and this provided them with an experience that they had never had before. Also, some children who had SEN issues became the "expert" as they had lots of experience with looking after babies'.

*Bekki, class teacher*

'I've learnt how to control myself'. 'Not to hurt other people'. 'About being friends'. *Year 3 child.*

We are looking to deliver the project in many more schools as a way of enhancing the learning from SEAL and developing work with parents. If you would like to know more about the project please contact Sam Drew at [sam.drew@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:sam.drew@southglos.gov.uk)

## Launch of the Education Business Partnership at Connexions West of England

On Wednesday 2nd July the Education Business Partnership at Connexions West of England was officially launched at Ashton Court in Bristol. The event proved a great success with 85 delegates attending to hear about the services and support the Education Business Partnership will be able to provide.

Attendees heard from 14-19 advisors, Sarah Williams from Bristol and Andrew Barker from B&NES, representing the four local authorities in the West of England, Julie Hellens from University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation trust and Sue Crew from North Bristol NHS Trust talked about the Ambassadors Network and Work Related activities they are already involved with supported by the EBP. Phil Lidstone, Head- Teacher from Chipping Sodbury School gave examples of some of the work they are already involved in with employers to support the curriculum and how the EBP will be able to support future activity. From the EBP Carolyn Griffiths, 14-19 Partnership Manager, outlined the benefits and need for brokerage services for employers and education to support experiences of work (WRL and work experience). Alison Chlebik, Teacher Placement Manager, outlined Professional Development Placements and workforce development for teachers and the work she already does with employers to support this important activity. Sue Lewis - 14-19 Development Manager gave an overview My Plan 4 Life - electronic systems that support young people's progression and achievement.

As part of the packed programme there were four information and discussion workshops:

Electronic Education Business Links Directory – Carolyn Griffiths - Outlining plans for a web based directory to support Education Business Links.

A Good Quality Work Experience Process: Electronic systems that can help – Sue Lewis  
Work Experience Online Plus: A system that enables young people to search an approved database of opportunities. Work Experience Log Online: A new electronic system that will create a log book to meet the needs of learners on a range of courses, including Diplomas (to be launched in Jan 09)

Employer Toolkit: how can employers engage with education? – Adam Elgar. Practical ways of engaging with schools/colleges in many meaningful activities, both small and large. Although primarily aimed at employers this workshop was also open to teachers and other school/college representatives to gain a greater understanding of employer engagement.

Bristol Work Related Learning Projects – Jo Adlam. Lessons learned around embedding Work Related Learning in core and vocational curriculum.

For further information on the services and support the Education Business Partnership at Connexions West of England can provide email [ebp@connexionswest.org.uk](mailto:ebp@connexionswest.org.uk)

You will also be able to find out more by visiting the re-launched Connexions website (available at the end of July) – [www.connexionswest.org.uk](http://www.connexionswest.org.uk)

The work of the Education Business Partnership at Connexions West of England is funded by LSC and the four local authorities in the West of England.



## Investors in People (IiP)

IiP

is a National quality standard. It offers a framework against which organisations can measure and improve planning and people management. The standard is regularly reviewed. All departments in South Gloucestershire Council have achieved the award and the Department for Children and Young People are due for re-assessment in November 2008. In order to maintain the award, Departments will be required to demonstrate continuous improvements in their people planning and management practices.

### What does it mean to you?

As an Employee you gain:

- Job satisfaction
- A good working environment
- Recognition and development
- Pride in being part of a successful organisation.



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

The organisation gains:

- Competitiveness
- Greater profits and outputs
- Customer Loyalty
- A motivated and loyal workforce.

The customers gains:

- Better customer care
- Satisfactory service
- Confidence in the organisation's ability to meet their needs.

The Department for Children and Young People will be reassessed for Investors in People (IiP) status in the week commencing 10 November 2008. This time the department has opted to be assessed using Profile which grades level of performance (levels 1-4) and will enable us to benchmark ourselves and maintain sustainable continuous improvement. As part of this assessment, staff may be invited to take part in a discussion session.

As the assessment approaches the pace of our preparation work is picking up. The training monitoring group have examined the IiP profile framework and indicators, and information is being prepared to be sent to the assessors. For staff invited to discussion sessions, a series of briefings will be organised prior to these for raising any questions or concerns. Further details will be published on our IiP intranet site as they are available.

<http://intranet/content/CYP/Department/edcentral/pacs/iipArchive/iip.htm>

## Working in partnership with Safer South Gloucestershire, Anti-social Behaviour Team

Data Protection Act 1998 and Freedom of Information Act 2000: Avon Fire and Rescue Service has fulfilled its legal obligations under these Acts and is now working towards implementing all the Information Commissioners recommendations for Good Practice.

## Community Services –restructuring –Safer and Stronger Communities division

You will all be aware of changes that have taken place which have resulted in the new Safer and Stronger Communities team being established within Community Services. The new division is an amalgamation of the former Communities division in Community Services and the Safer South Gloucestershire team from Corporate Services. Both divisions were working closely on developing the theme of Safer and Stronger Communities theme in the Community Strategy so it made real sense to bring them together.

We recognise that the theme is a corporate issue and not deliverable through a single division so partnership will play a central role in delivering the key outcomes set out in the Community Strategy. We will particularly welcome close working with Children and Young Peoples department as we have very mutual interests. The structure enables these to be achieved through 5 functional units.

### 1 Community Projects Unit

Core work

The team manages a range of community based projects these are mostly related to property and asset management transfer, the establishment of community sector organisations and some community events.

The team also oversees community development work associated with New Communities during their development.

### 2 Community Engagement Unit

**Priority Neighbourhoods** This team focuses on tackling multiple deprivation and promoting inclusion in areas most in need. It co-ordinates work with communities themselves, other departments and agencies. The focus is on reducing deprivation and promoting community engagement.

It also provides community safety advice and support to Safer and Stronger Community Groups.

**Parish and Rural Communities** The team focuses on building capacity in parishes and rural areas and promoting community engagement. It also provides community safety advice and support to Safer and Stronger Community Groups.

**New Communities** The team focuses on the planning for new communities to ensure high quality design and appropriate infrastructure.

**Corporate Equalities** This team co-ordinates the development of equalities across the council. It supports the Head of Safer and Stronger Communities with regard to policy and strategy work, and monitors progress on the delivery of equality schemes and the local government equalities standard.

It works with external partners, especially in the Voluntary and Community Sector, promoting community engagement with vulnerable and excluded groups.

**Learning and Skills** This team focuses on working with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to plan for and facilitate learning and skills for individuals in priority neighbourhoods. It is wholly funded by the Learning & Skills Council.

**Voluntary and Community Sector Support** To lead on the support to the voluntary and community sector through the Compact, grants and commissioning processes, including Advice and Advocacy Commissioning. Also provides a lead on developing the business volunteering projects.

## Community Services –restructuring –Safer and Stronger Communities division...continued

### 3 Anti Social Behaviour Unit

This team will:

Lead and support the overall antisocial agenda for the Partnership. This is done by:-

- The delivery of an Early Intervention Programme through Acceptable Behaviour Contracts.
- The delivery of the Respect Agenda and the use of Anti Social -Behaviour Legislation powers such as ASBO's and Dispersal Notices.
- The lead and support to a Partnership Criminal Damage Task Group.
- The lead and support to a regular Partnership Anti Social Behaviour Review Panel and Strategic Group.

### 4 Crime and Drugs Unit

This team will provide the delivery of the statutory crime and disorder agenda, and the delivery of the drug and alcohol treatment services as required by the National Treatment Agency.

To deliver this the team has 4 functional areas and should resources be available for CCTV development it would incorporated within this Unit.

Treatment Team – Joint Commissioning	Delivery of all Drug and Alcohol Treatment services.
Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence	Delivery of the Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence agenda including the lead of the DV Strategic Partnership Group. To lead and co-ordinate the delivery of the DV strategy.
Violent Crime	To lead, co-ordinate and deliver the Partnership Violent Crime strategy.
Finance and Technical	Financial support particularly in terms of external funding streams to the Crime and Drugs Unit. Including commissioning of all treatment services.
CCTV	To provide a strategy for the upgrading and long term delivery of effective CCTV services.

### 5 Performance Management, Information and Support Unit

This team will provide through 5 function areas, the preparation of the Statutory 6-month Strategic Assessment and Partnership Plan with Partner's, together with timely intelligence of community safety issues.

Performance Management	Collation and distribution of information to a range of key stakeholders, GOSW, Home Office, LA, Police, and other partnerships
Research & information	Provide the research and information needs of all partnership groups.
Communications	Lead and support the delivery of a communications strategy. This includes the development of public reassurance strategy.
Office Management	Management and co-ordination of issues related to the Severnside Office

If you have any questions you would like answered please contact Josie Appleton on 01454 865811

## A new Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Co-ordinator for South Gloucestershire

The Care Forum has appointed a new Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Co-ordinator for South Gloucestershire and Bristol. Louise Hudson is providing maternity cover for the South Gloucestershire Co-ordinator, Lucy Rowe who gave birth to a healthy boy, Oscar, at the end of June.

Louise comes to The Care Forum with a background in communications with the voluntary and statutory sectors and voluntary experience chairing her local after-school club management committee. "I'm looking forward to this new challenge," said Louise. "One of my first priorities will be to work collaboratively to establish a new local network for organisations and groups that provide services for children and young people in Yate. I'm looking forward to meeting many voluntary sector organisations in the coming months and supporting their work in a variety of ways."

To contact Louise Hudson, telephone 0117 958 9337 or email [louisehudson@thecareforum.org.uk](mailto:louisehudson@thecareforum.org.uk)

## A new Chief Executive for The Care Forum

Congratulations also to Rachel Robinson who had been appointed as the new Chief Executive of The Care Forum.

Rachel will be leaving the Council's employment on 19th September to take up her new post.

## Severnvale Children & Young People Local Network

A new local network of individuals, local groups and voluntary sector providers interested in children's services in Severnvale has been set up by Southern Brooks Community Partnership with support from The Care Forum and funding from the Children's Workforce Development Council. The network has achieved a flying start with its database of local contacts increasing from 100 to 200 contacts in just one month. Lesley Causon from the PCT came to talk at the first community lunch on 9 July about the parenting strategy. Her presentation sparked an engaging discussion about the role of the voluntary sector in delivering the parenting strategy. Provisional dates for future community lunches have been set. Volunteers to speak at the meetings are welcome. The meetings are locality wide and will be held in different venues. All meetings will run from 12 noon until 2pm with lunch provided. The dates are Monday 29 September in the Stokes; Tuesday 4 November in Thornbury; and Tuesday 20 January 2009 in Patchway. It is hoped to organise a lunch in the rural villages, once network membership is established. To confirm the dates and venues, for more information and to join the network contact Julie Snelling, Director, Southern Brooks Community Partnership, ( 01454 868570) [juliesnelling@sbcommunitypartnership.org.uk](mailto:juliesnelling@sbcommunitypartnership.org.uk)

Similar local networks will also be set up in Kingswood and Yate. If you would like to join either of these networks, contact Joss Tagg at CVS South Glos (Kingswood) , ( 01454 865205) [youthdevelopment@cvs-sg.org.uk](mailto:youthdevelopment@cvs-sg.org.uk) or Louise Hudson at The Care Forum (Yate), ( 0117 958 933) [louisehudson@thecareforum.org.uk](mailto:louisehudson@thecareforum.org.uk)

## Update on Locality Hub developments

Planning for the hub to be built on the Alma Road health centre site (i.e. behind that Kingswood Civic centre) is picking up momentum. Whilst details of the use of the site are still to be finalised, a project manager, Gerald Wood, has been appointed to oversee this development alongside the refurbishment of the Civic centre. The Bristol based architects Alec French have been appointed to prepare an options appraisal by the autumn for both projects.

The Hub will sit alongside the GP's surgery which is also planned to be re-built on the site. Users of the new Locality Hub (children, young people, families and staff) will be consulted during the design period. Our aim is for this project to be completed during 2010.

### Severnvale

A suitable site for the Severnvale Hub has not yet been confirmed and options are currently being explored. We remain committed to ensuring these 2 new Hub projects are aligned as much as possible in terms of planning and design.

### Yate

Planning for the new Yate Community Health and Children's Hub is well advanced and building began in March this year in the centre of Yate. The new centre will provide core Locality Hub services for children, families and young people in the locality alongside GP and outpatient health services. Plans are on track for the new centre to be completed by Autumn 2009.



### Developing Integrated Team Working in Localities

Integrated working processes are becoming well established in each Locality with regular Multi Agency Preventative Panels and increasing use of CAFs. An external evaluation of these processes is available on the Partnership website and has provided an important review to

support the next stage of development.

### Integrated Working Team

Provides training, information, advice and support on:

- ▶ Common Assessment Framework
- ▶ Lead Professional
- ▶ Information Sharing
- ▶ ContactPoint

Call on  
01454 86 5734/43/22

Or email us at  
[integratedworking@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:integratedworking@southglos.gov.uk)

Or look up  
[www.southglos.gov.uk/integratedworking](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/integratedworking)



Alongside these developments, our priority is to further build locality 'teams'. This is essential to facilitate current integrated working processes and to prepare for co-location in hubs. A series of locality events to bring together first managers of teams who will be located in hubs, then practitioners who will be located in hubs and finally the wider network of practitioners and agencies involved in locality working will begin in the autumn.

## Integrated Working

The work of the Integrated Working team has been going from strength to strength over the last year. We have now trained over 1200 staff across a very wide range of agencies and sectors, multi agency preventative panels have been running for nearly a year in Yate and Kingswood and for a year and a half in Severnvaile. 150 CAFS have been completed across a wide age range, from unborn babies to 17 year olds. Lead Professionals continue to be drawn from many agencies and sectors co-ordinating action plans in a way that has been hugely appreciated by families.

The Project has increased its range of information and support materials; for example, the Common Assessment Framework toolkit on the internet now has example CAFs and we are producing information leaflets for parents and carers, children and young people and professionals.

The Project commissioned an independent evaluation in Autumn 2007 which reported back in March 2008. The evaluators looked at the Common Assessment Framework and the role of the Lead Professional. Some very positive results came back including evidence that Integrated Working is beginning to make real changes in the way that services are being delivered to children, young people and families. It was also reported that there is much better understanding between agencies with more clarity about roles and increased working together. Parents find the panels welcoming and non-judgemental, and are pleased at the range of support available; outcomes for children, young people and families include: improved attendance at school, improved family relationships, more realistic assessments of needs, improved access to services and support and improvements in behaviour, self esteem and resilience. This report provides a really solid basis for moving forwards, developing further the positives and giving clarity about where more needs to be done. It is also a strong testament to the commitment in South Gloucestershire to working together for better outcomes for children, young people and their families.

For more details look up [www.southglos.gov.uk/integratedworking](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/integratedworking) or call 01454 865734



## Update on Sure Start Children's Centres

There are currently 11 SureStart Children's Centres open and running throughout South Gloucestershire. During May, the newly built outdoor play areas opened in each Centre and the children and their families have been enjoying the opportunity to play together in a secure outdoor environment.

Each Centre provides a local community base for a range of services at neighbourhood level, supporting all parents and carers of young children. The range of services offered depends on local need and parental choice and includes Stay and Play sessions, many different health groups such as ante/post natal, parenting support, childminding groups, specialist support and much more.

A growing number of parents and carers are accessing the regular Stay and Play sessions with their children or children in their care, where together they can enjoy the quality resources and activities and receive information and support from their local SureStart Team.

Electronic information kiosks have recently been installed in every Centre giving parents and carers the opportunity to access pre-determined websites to support their information needs. The websites include Children and Young People Information Service, JobCentre Plus, Welfare and Benefit Advice, Child Protection, 1BigDatabase, Citizen's Advice Bureau and NHS. There is a 'What's On at this Centre' site which will soon be accessible and will reflect the activities taking place at each Centre.

The kiosks complement the extensive library of information available at Children's Centres, along with the regular information drop-in sessions carried out by staff from the Children and Young People Information Service during Stay and Play.

Each Centre has an Advisory Board panel made up of parents and carers, and representatives from a range of groups and organisations who meet on a quarterly basis to discuss local need, current services and future development.

If you would like to find out more about the full services offered by your local SureStart Children's Centre, or if you wish to become a member of the Advisory Board, please contact the administrative team on 01454 862974, who will be happy to provide further information.

## SureStart Children's Centres



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](mailto:samantha.phillips@southglos.gov.uk)

