

# Kent Children's Trust & Local Trust Arrangements

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## Introduction

**WELCOME** to the third edition of the Kent Children's Trust (KCT) bulletin, designed to keep all those who work in a service for children and young people up to speed with the development of Children's Trust arrangements in Kent.

Thank you to all those who attended one of the recent Children's Trust multi-agency briefings. More than 800 staff attended, including delegates from Health, Police, Districts, KCC and the voluntary and community sector. The briefings and supporting pack were well received and feedback has been very positive.

In response to your feedback we are preparing a glossary of terms and case studies to further clarify the vision for children's trust arrangements. If you were unable to attend, you can view the presentations and supporting information at: [http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/Children/kct\\_newsletter.cfm](http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/Children/kct_newsletter.cfm)

In addition, there continues to be much debate at a national level about improving the experience of growing up in the UK and the policies needed to break down cycles of relative poverty. With such a wealth of publications it is hard to know what to read first. However, I would strongly recommend a recent report prepared by the Policy Research Institute at Leeds Metropolitan University for the Department of Work and Pensions. This report, "Factors Influencing Social Mobility" examines the factors that facilitate and inhibit social mobility in the UK. It is an enlightening read for anyone involved in policy making and delivery for vulnerable groups caught in cycles of relative poverty. A copy of this report can be found online at: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2007-2008/rrep450.pdf>

Joy Ackroyd, Trust Development Manager

## Participation Framework and the Survey of Children and Young People in Kent

In May this year, the Kent Children's Trust agreed a participation framework. The purpose of the framework is to promote a coherent approach to participation with children and young people across the county. The aim is not to be prescriptive so that everyone is doing the same – different children and children of different ages will need to participate in different ways and to different degrees. However, the framework includes some basic standards and principles that should be adhered to.

The framework seeks to promote participation so that it becomes integral to the planning, commissioning and evaluation of children's services. It is important that any participation and consultation is meaningful, with positive and discernible outcomes and not tokenistic. Children and young people, especially those who are seldom heard or "hard to reach", need to have their views listened to. It is expected that children's services at County and local levels will review their participation strategies and practices to

## In The Next Issue:

Case studies to represent various aspects of work within the Children's Trust arrangements

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ensure they conform to the principles and standards in the Framework.  
[http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/Children/kct\\_partframework.cfm](http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/Children/kct_partframework.cfm)

Also in May 2007 there was an extensive survey of over 40,000 children and young people in Kent. The survey, conducted by NFER on behalf of KCC and partner agencies, obtained a wealth of information on children's views about living in Kent and the themes of Every Child Matters. The results of the survey are informing the planning of children's services in the county. Anyone working in a children's service should consider how this survey impacts on their area of work.

For a copy of the Framework for Participation with Children and Young People in Kent please contact Lisa Oliphant on 01622 694533 ([lisa.oliphant@kent.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.oliphant@kent.gov.uk)).

## Slide Away: Bereavement Support for Children, Young People and Families



The latest round of the Big Lottery Fund's Reaching Communities Programme saw £1.3million going to organisations across the South East. Among the organisations receiving funding is the Slide Away project who received £137,438 to provide workshops for children and young people who are coping with bereavement. This fantastic news will enable the existing service developed in Maidstone 1 cluster to be extended and enhanced. Through taking part in activities such as creative writing, art and modelling, children are encouraged to talk about their feelings of grief and helped to find ways of coping with their emotions. The project also provides one-day workshops for parents and carers to help them develop understanding and support them in communicating with their child.

Denise Ross, Slide Away Founder, said "Because bereavement can impact on a child's ability to learn, we communicate with schools and parents to find strategies to help their child manage their grief and build their resilience. We would like all young people to have access to a bereavement service and for everyone who works with young people to feel confident in helping that child cope with their grief." [For more information about Slide Away, please email slideawayone@aol.com](mailto:slideawayone@aol.com)

## Anti Bullying: Kent's Strategy

Kent's first Anti-Bullying Strategy was finalised in 2007, following extensive consultation with key partners. This Strategy, developed by the multi-agency Kent Anti-Bullying Strategy Group, outlines how Kent's Children's Trust partners will work to support schools and early years settings to prevent and tackle bullying. Extensive consultation with children, young people, parents, carers and schools has told us that bullying is a key concern. Bullying impacts upon young people's attainment, attendance, health and overall wellbeing and limits their opportunities to fulfil the five ECM outcomes. Bullying is a key component of work to safeguard children. Key achievements of Kent's Anti-Bullying work over the past year include:

- The appointment of an Anti-Bullying Co-ordinator to support schools and settings ([Jan Tutill](mailto:jan.tutill@kent.gov.uk); [jan.tutill@kent.gov.uk](mailto:jan.tutill@kent.gov.uk). Tel: 07917 038175).
- The piloting of a "Safe Cluster" accreditation scheme whereby whole Clusters of schools sign-up to agreed anti-bullying standards.
- A seminar for practitioners, looking at tackling homophobic bullying of young people.
- Extensive consultation with children and young people on their experiences of bullying in order to target resources and support.

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- The CRAGRATS theatre in education anti-bullying programme for secondary schools, funded by Connexions.

In addition, Kent County Council is now hosting the role of South - East Regional Co-ordinator for the national Anti-Bullying Alliance and is working to build capacity and expertise across the South - East Region.

Immediate plans involve planning for 2007 Anti-Bullying Week, which takes place from the 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> November. The theme for this year, "Safer Together, Safer Wherever" enables a focus on bullying outside of school and on cyber-bullying. Activities being co-ordinated by the Anti-Bullying Strategy Group will be publicised on Clusterweb and all schools and settings are encouraged to participate. The NFER survey results are being shared with the Anti Bullying Strategy Group to inform practice and the annual on-line pupil "safe at school" survey enables us to assess the impact of our work on children and young people.

The Kent Anti-Bullying Strategy to support schools and settings can be accessed on the Kent Safe Schools site, [www.clusterweb.org.uk/safeschools](http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/safeschools). For more information please contact the Co-Chairs, Kent Anti-Bullying Strategy Group, Sarah Lewis on 01622 694716, [sarah.lewis@kent.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.lewis@kent.gov.uk), or Peter Heckel on 01622 696680, [peter.heckel@kent.gov.uk](mailto:peter.heckel@kent.gov.uk)

## **Kent Children's Trust County Board Backs Common Standards for Information Sharing**

Agencies represented on the Kent Children's Trust Board have given their backing to a cross-agency agreement on sharing information about children and young people. The Information Community Agreement (ICA) for Children and Young People will support integrated working by providing practitioners with clear and consistent guidance on the purposes of sharing information, the type of information that can be shared and duties, powers and standards relating to when it is appropriate to share. The ICA also includes a helpful flowchart that takes practitioners through eight questions to help them decide if it is appropriate to share information.

Training on the information sharing guidance in the ICA is included in the Common Assessment Framework/Lead Professional training programme being rolled out to multi-agency practitioners in Kent from November 2007 – March 2008. The ICA is part of tier two of the Kent and Medway Three Tier Model of Information Sharing, and can be viewed at: [http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/Policy/ig\\_home.cfm](http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/Policy/ig_home.cfm).

Contact: Penny Payne, Information Governance Policy Manager, Email: [penny.payne@kent.gov.uk](mailto:penny.payne@kent.gov.uk); Tel: 01622 696116

## **Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and Lead Professional - An Update**

The Kent CAF is being piloted in Shepway and Canterbury. These pilots will be evaluated to inform the Kent CAF process and the CAF practitioner guidance. The national e-CAF is due by mid 2009 and Kent is looking at an interim solution. The Lead Professional will act as a single point of contact for the child and family. They will co-ordinate the delivery of actions and increase coherence in the multi-agency services received. Practitioner guidance for the Lead Professional functions is being developed. More information can be found on the Kent Children's Trust web pages: <http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/Children/childrenstrust.cfm>

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## Useful Links:

**Every Child Matters**  
[www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/)

**Kent Children's Trust**  
[www.clusterweb.org.uk/Children/childrenstrust.cfm](http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/Children/childrenstrust.cfm)

**National Evaluation  
Of The Children's  
Trust Pathfinders  
Final Report**  
<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/strategy/nect/>

**Clusterweb Summary  
Of The Children's  
Trust Pathfinders  
Final Report**  
[http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/docs/polsum\\_trust.doc](http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/docs/polsum_trust.doc)

**The Participation  
Framework**  
[http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/Children/kct\\_participationframework.cfm](http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/Children/kct_participationframework.cfm)

## Training

Locality based practitioner training on CAF and Lead Professional is taking place between November and March 2008. 120 trainers are being trained to deliver this multi-agency training programme and 6,000 multi-agency practitioners are expected to attend. Details available on Clusterweb, via your manager or ASK Training and Development (01622 203800). [http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/communication/ebulletindetail.cfm?eb\\_bulletinid=2315](http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/communication/ebulletindetail.cfm?eb_bulletinid=2315). For more information please contact [Mary Burwell](mailto:Mary.Burwell@kent.gov.uk), ([mary.burwell@kent.gov.uk](mailto:mary.burwell@kent.gov.uk)).

## Kent Resource Directory

Kent is developing a comprehensive multi-agency directory of information on Children's Services. This will be a web-based standalone directory which will draw together in one place information about multi-agency services for children and their families. This will be an essential resource for all those involved in Children's Services and will be available from April 2008. A search facility on the database will ensure that links to existing resource directories are maintained. For more information please contact [James Harman](mailto:james.harman@kent.gov.uk), Education Support Officer ([james.harman@kent.gov.uk](mailto:james.harman@kent.gov.uk)).

## Study Visits to Other Local Authority Children's Trust Arrangements

Study visits to Essex, West Sussex, Newham, Brighton & Hove, Telford & Wrekin, Knowsley and Redbridge have either taken place or are about to take place to see how National Pathfinder Children's Trusts are delivering the Every Child Matters agenda and to learn from their experience. Key messages so far include:

- One of the biggest challenges is moving from strategy and commitment to changes that impact on the way services are delivered and the ways staff work together.
- It is easier and success is quicker when existing good partnerships work and multi agency services are developed and built upon rather than started from scratch.
- High level and sustained commitment from the top is essential, together with trust in local managers and staff to develop local solutions.
- The importance of all staff understanding what outcomes are (as opposed to outputs) and why establishing baselines and measuring and recording progress is important.
- The need to engage children, young people, parents and front line professionals in identifying needs and developing strategies right from the beginning to achieve real improvements.

Study visit reports are available at:

[http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/Children/kct\\_study-visits.cfm](http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/Children/kct_study-visits.cfm)

For further information contact Jill Wiles. (Policy Officer).

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## And Finally...

The Children's Trust web pages are refreshed fortnightly. You will find minutes and papers from the Kent Children's Trust County Board together with information about the Local Children's Trust (LCT) Pathfinders. Stay in touch with developments by visiting the "useful links" section of this newsletter. <http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/Children/childrenstrust.cfm>

If you have any suggestions for future newsletter items please contact [Paul Denman](#) (KCC Policy Development Officer & Trust Newsletter Editor)