



Kent Children's Trust News

Kent Children's Trust & Local Children's Services Partnership newsletter

November 2009 issue 9

Introduction

Welcome to issue 9 of KCT news which includes some really interesting and positive information about Children's Services in Kent including news of a new Chair of the Trust and a visit to Downing Street for one of our Early Years colleagues!

Since the last issue in June 09 we have completed the first annual review of progress in implementing the priorities in our Children and Young People's Plan. As a partnership we are making good progress on a range of issues however there are some priority areas where despite much effort we are not seeing enough positive change. The KCT County Board have been reviewing how we can refocus our partnership energy to shift outcomes in these areas read more about the October KCT Board meeting on pages 6 and 7.

We are currently working with the national Commissioning Support Programme to review our children's trust arrangements in advance of new government legislation in the Apprenticeships, Skills Children and Learning Bill. This Bill builds on the Children Act 2004 and will require all areas across the country to review and strengthen their partnership arrangements at strategic and local levels. Read more about the KCT review on page 3.

During the summer I visited the Dandelion Trust in Maidstone who were delivering a family day as part of the Aiming High short break programme. Read more about the short break programme on page 8. Not only did I have great fun making a felt picture this was a reminder to me that there is so much great work taking place locally to improve life for local children and their families. Often this work does not get featured at more strategic levels. Through KCT news we are committed to sharing good news, and in this issue we have features from Dover and Dartford local partnerships.

Thank you for taking the time to read the KCT news – please pass onto a colleague and let us know what you would like to read about in future issues.



Where every child matters

Joy Ackroyd
Kent Children's Trust Partnership Manager

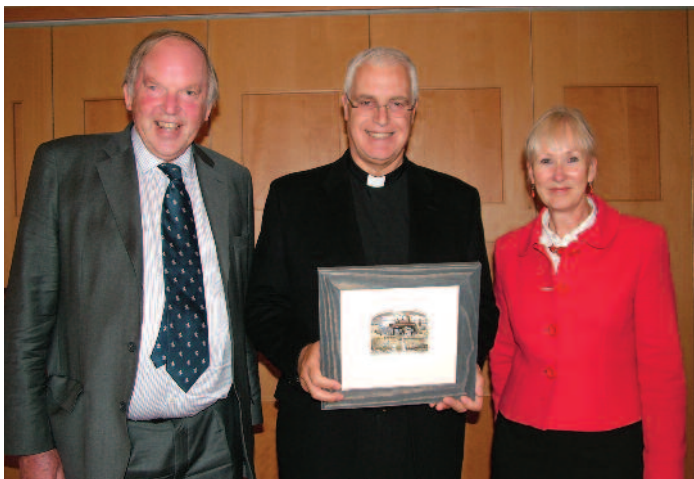
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Thank you and farewell to Bishop Venner

Bishop Stephen Venner, Chair of Kent Children's Trust for the past 12 months, and previously Vice Chair, stepped down from his role at the Kent Children's Trust Board meeting on the 7th of October. Bishop Venner is retiring from his position as the Bishop of Dover at the end of November and is taking up a new role as Bishop to the Forces. He has led the Trust with a real sense of purpose, and has championed the cause of better outcomes for children in Kent.



Leyland Ridings and Rosalind Turner present Bishop Venner with his print on behalf of Kent Children's Trust Board

In his final comments to the KCT Board, Bishop Venner encouraged the partnership to remain focussed on improving outcomes by working closer together and by staying in touch with frontline services and real life experiences.

Bishop Venner is replaced in his role as faith representative on the KCT Board by Canterbury Diocesan representative, The Reverend Nigel Genders, Director of Education.

Taking the KCT Board Forward

The Trust agreed to appoint Ann Sutton the Chief Executive Officer of Eastern and Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust as vice chair and Rosalind Turner, Managing Director of Children, Families and Education chair of the Board. This is a great opportunity to strengthen our strategic partnership arrangements with health. Ann who will represent both PCTs stated " Kent Children's Trust will ensure that together we work with children and their families to take the right action to improve the well being and health of Kent's children ."



Ann Sutton



Do you know who represents your service on the KCT County Board? The full membership is available on www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/kct_membership.cfm

The longer term aim is to appoint an independent chair (for the KCT County Board) who can champion the needs of children and young people across all children's services.



Kent Children's Trust Commissioning and Delivery Review

Children's trust arrangements are central to government policy for improving outcomes for children young people and families. The policy has been developing since 2003 through Every Child Matters, the Children Act 2004, and The Children's Plan and now the government is seeking to strengthen children's trusts through new legislation in the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning (ASCL) Bill.

All local authorities are being encouraged to evaluate the effectiveness of their trust arrangements and a national Commissioning Support Programme (CSP) has been established to support this process.

In June the KCT Board considered findings from the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) annual review and agreed that we need stronger commissioning arrangements that harness the ambition in our CYPP and shape new and improved integrated services that really make a positive difference. This particularly applies in areas where we need to make more progress for example teenage pregnancy and substance misuse.

In July the KCT Executive agreed we should work with the CSP to review our county and local children's trust arrangements with a particular focus on how we commission and deliver services.

So far we have gathered views from a wide range of groups and individuals and some clear messages have been coming through:

- we are making good progress in assessing and understanding needs
- we have improved opportunities for children and young people to engage, and
- there is a strong commitment at all levels to partnership working – 'no agency is walking away'.

However we need:

- much clearer accountability and a stronger focus on integrated commissioning
- improved communication between local and county levels
- streamlined group structures with a clearer sense of purpose
- clearer processes to help partners work closer together this particularly applies to sharing

History of the Children's Trust



- resources and procuring new services
- a stronger push to develop local integrated teams to support universal and targeted services

We are now developing options for change that will address these issues. Some potential changes are being openly discussed for example a reduced number of Local Children's Services Partnership Boards. It is really important that we explore these options carefully before taking decisions at the KCT Board meeting on 16 December.

More information about the review is available at www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/kct_whats_new.cfm

What do you think?

You can share your thoughts by emailing Joy Ackroyd at joy.ackroyd@kent.gov.uk



Kent CAN Conference and New Services for the voluntary and community sector

As identified in the Children and Young Peoples Plan, Kent Children's Trust have a commitment to supporting and working with the voluntary and community sector. At the recent Kent CAN AGM Event, at their new offices in Ashford, representatives from Kent Children's Trust and Kent Partnership were in attendance to support the great work Kent CAN have been doing this year. Keith Morris, Kent CAN Chief Executive announced the outcomes of the joint Kent CAN / Kent Partnership Conference held in May. All four recommendations related to Kent CAN were approved by the Kent Partnership at their recent meeting.



The recommendations were:

- An agreement that the conference will now become an annual event.
- That there will be a review of VCS representation on countywide strategic bodies.
- The Kent Compact will be signed by all public sector bodies on the Kent Partnership Board and reviewed in 6 months.
- Agreement to raise the profile of employer volunteering across the county.

A very successful year for Kent CAN means they repeated their support for the Voluntary and Community Sector with new services which included:

- Free Training
- Free Funding Events
- Free Fix-IT

Kent Children's Trust would like to thank all of its voluntary and community partners for its continued support and for the vital work undertaken across the county. We look forward to further developing links and partnerships with you over the coming months.

You will find further information on the work of Kent CAN, and what Kent CAN can do for you at www.kentcan.org

No 10 Visit for Children's Centre Co-Ordinator



Sue Gates the Dartford LCSP Children Centres Co-ordinator, was invited to attend 10 Downing Street last month to a Community Heroes event hosted by the Prime Minister. The visit was at the suggestion of Howard Stoaate, Dartford MP, who nominated Sue for the excellent and positive work Sue and her team undertake in Dartford. Sue attended the event alongside Mary Bailey, Children Centre Network Manager, (Temple Hill and Brent)

Sue was delighted to be invited to the event and have the chance not only to meet the Prime Minister, his wife Sarah and other ministers, but to meet other Community Heroes from around the country and get the rare chance of a guided tour around 10 Downing Street.

Sue said "I was made to feel very welcome by everyone on the day and got a chance to speak to Gordon and Sarah Brown, who appeared to be very knowledgeable and to share my passion for Early Years and SureStart. The whole day was a fantastic experience"

In the picture above, Sue is centre stage with Mary next to her. Hopefully the others are well enough known!! (Sarah Brown, Mary Bailey, Sue Gates, Howard Stoaate MP and Prime Minister Gordon Brown)



The sun is shining in Dover under the magic numberella!

Local Children's Services partnerships working with partners to improve outcomes in Early Years

Over the last two years Early Years practitioners across the Dover LCSP have been involved in a series of music workshops to enhance confidence, skills and understanding and improve experiences for children and babies in their care. This training was initiated by members of the Dover Early Years team in partnership with Primary Music Advisers. Practitioners attended three days' training focussing on different aspects of music and links with other areas of learning, for example, music and maths, outdoor learning in music, music and science. Impact is being evaluated through individual case studies which were recently shared with Margaret Martin-Griffiths (ex-HMI lead inspector for music) who is currently leading the county music review. Early Years Advisory Teachers, Children's Centres teachers, and members of the Surestart Speech and Language team have all shared in the training.

Case-study: Brambley Hedge Children's Centre - Dover

In October 2009, as part of the music review Margaret Martin-Griffiths made a half day visit to Brambley Hedge to assess the impact of the music training on practitioners and the way this has improved outcomes for all children in their care. She was fascinated by the 'Numberella' - a maths idea created by the staff to support children's awareness of numbers. This was one example of practitioners developing their own resources and activities as a result of being inspired by the music workshops.

In the outdoor area, children have a dedicated music space where they can explore sounds made with stimulating 'found and free' instruments of different materials – metal colanders, CD racks, pans, metal fruit baskets, wooden spoons, metal and plastic lids. One three year old was observed using her imagination to create and 'play' her own personal trumpet from an unidentifiable metal utensil as she proudly paraded around with other children joining in her imaginary band.



The Numbrella inspiration!

"Long gone are the days of 'no, not the instruments! The children just make a terrible noise with them'. We are now more likely to be heard saying, 'We know a song about that!' Alison, manager of Capel-le-Ferne pre-school.

Margaret was so impressed by the enthusiastic feedback from staff and children alike that she felt that this training model was a great example of working in partnership across teams and that it would be of value to all LCSPs.

For more information contact Brambley Hedge Children's Centre - 01304 211811



Anti-bullying Week in Kent

The national Anti-bullying week starts on 16 November 2009 and schools across the country will be holding activities to celebrate the work they do to prevent and tackle all forms of bullying. This year the theme is 'Stay Safe in Cyberspace'.

Many schools in Kent will be celebrating the week and holding competitions, themed assemblies and workshops, making posters, films, magazines and websites, writing poems and so on. Some will be working with other schools, youth workers and other partners such as Kent Police.

The week presents a great opportunity for those working in the local partnerships to make links with their schools and the priorities that are set out in local plans related to staying safe from bullying. It is also a great time to share with colleagues the Kent Safeguarding Children Board Anti-bullying Policy which sets out the policy framework for those commissioning and delivering Children's Services. The policy can be found at:

http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/new_kscb/kscb_bullying_policy.cfm

Kent Children's Trust County Board-committed to making a difference

The KCT Board established in late 2006 meets quarterly to provide strategic direction by agreeing priorities and reviewing progress in key areas of need for children and young people growing up in Kent. The last two meetings have had a strong focus on the issues highlighted in the annual needs assessment and the CYPP review where we know we must improve outcomes. The Board has also initiated a review of children's trust arrangements in readiness for the new Apprenticeship Skills Children and Learning Bill (ASCL) which will put the Board on a statutory footing.

The Board is committed to working openly and you can view papers and minutes on www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/kct_meetings.cfm

You can read more about the CYPP annual review on page 10 and view the 2009 needs assessment at www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/kct_performance_framework.cfm

The Board is large group and it can be challenge to provide opportunities for all partners to engage and really get to grips with issues we need to focus on. Over the last two meetings we have used small groups to tease out issues and give a chance for all partners to have a voice (See the pictures opposite from the October meeting)

Membership includes all partners with a statutory duty to cooperate. This range of partners will be extended through the ASCL Bill to include all front line providers of education and Job Centre Plus. The KCT Board already includes representatives from these sectors however we will be reviewing membership as part of the KCT review.

Major items at the next meeting on 16 December include:

- KCT commissioning and delivery review – options for change
- KCT workforce strategy and development
- Youth Justice - Scaled Approach

During the KCT review you have told us that the KCT Board feels distant to you and that we need to improve communication between strategic and local levels – we would really welcome your suggestions on how to improve this.

Tell us what you think by emailing:

James Harman, Children's Trust Development Officer - james.harman@kent.gov.uk Tel – 01622 694195.



KCT Board Meeting October 2009 - Working Groups

The KCT Board meeting on the 9th October divided into facilitated groups to focus on the following key areas:

- Teenage Pregnancy
- Rise in referrals to Children's Social Services
- Substance misuse



The Board has also recently welcomed new members;

Bob Porter - Housing Services Manager, Shepway District Council and Chair of the JPPB Housing Board

Stephen Grix – Principal of Mid Kent College and Chair of the 14-19 Strategic Forum

Alex Gamby - Head of Early Years and Childcare and Chair of the Early Years, Childcare and Extended Services Board.

Richard Eason – VCS Regional Development Manager representing the Voluntary Sector.

Welcome all.



News from Health

The Children's Health Commissioning Team are jointly funded by the two Kent PCTs and co-located in KCC to commission improved health outcomes as part of Kent's Children's Trust arrangements. This is part of an ongoing series of updates on the work of the team.

Disabled Children:

In June the DCSF announced that Kent had been successful in securing nearly £6 million pounds of funding for multi-agency specialist hubs offering Early Support services for disabled children aged 0-5 and their families. Funding has also been secured from Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT and KCC to develop hubs in Ashford, Thanet, Swale and Maidstone with talks under way for other sites. Work is already underway on the new buildings with a broad range of stakeholders including parents.

New Developments include:

Multi-agency specialist hub in Ashford for disabled children and their parents / carers

One of the priorities of the Kent Short Break Transformation Programme is to ensure short breaks form part of a wider continuum of care for the disabled child and his / her family. To achieve this, the Kent Pathfinder has successfully used its short break capital funding to lever in an additional £3.9m of NHS capital funding to establish a multi-agency specialist hub for disabled children and their families living in the Ashford district. The model for the new facility has been developed through the participation of disabled children, parents / carers and a range of professionals. The specialist hub will create a multi-agency assessment and support centre, carers centre, staff training facility and short break centre offering specialist short breaks during the day and evening, located on a school site. This will enable staff from the NHS, KCC and the Third Sector to be co-located in one building, offering a locally accessible one-stop-shop for disabled children and their parents / carers.



East Kent Short Break Network for Disabled Children with Challenging Behaviour

An innovative approach has been developed in partnership with parents and professionals to help disabled children (aged 2-8 years) with challenging behaviour to access short breaks. The NHS and KCC have formed a partnership to offer support as part of a wider Family Plan. The family will be offered an initial six sessions, plus the opportunity to participate in fun group based activities where parents can receive support from one another.

The service was originally commissioned as a multi-agency pilot, but has now attracted mainstream funding from the NHS and Kent Short Break Transformation Programme.

For more information contact: Martin Cunnington (martin.cunnington@kent.gov.uk) or Charlotte Ricci (charlotte.ricci@kent.gov.uk)

See our next issue for an update on CAMHS work being undertaken throughout the County.



The future's bright - the future's tangerine!

There are a lot of us working with children and young people in Kent. The estimate is at least 76,000 of us. The diagram below shows the segments that join together to make the whole and all the parts are essential. So from wherever you are in the workforce, now is your opportunity to influence the new Children and Young People's Workforce Strategy 2010-2020. It will shape the workforce that will deliver the vision of Brighter Futures for every child and young person in Kent so we need your views.

The Kent Children's Trust Executive has approved the draft Children and Young People's Workforce Strategy for consultation. The consultation process is being led in each of the Kent Children's Trust partner agencies by their representative on the KCT Workforce Strategy Group. There are also consultation meetings with District Council representatives, the Voluntary Community and Faith Sectors and Higher and Further Education colleagues to hear all opinions across the Kent Children's Trust partnership.

The strategy sets out an inspiring vision and includes a realistic analysis of the key barriers we need to overcome to ensure effective integrated working. The document proposes five high level strategic priorities:

Change the Culture – so the culture created by adults for children and young people in Kent works in an integrated way around their needs

Ensure Accountability – so there is clarity about the role of Kent Children's Trust Board members and the Workforce Strategy Group to ensure implementation of the strategic priorities

Work in Partnership – so that through a common set of values all partners agree shared workforce priorities linked to the Children and Young People's Plan

Strengthen Leadership – so key leaders across the Kent Children's Trust are supported and developed to take forward more effective integrated activity

Build Capacity – so there is collaborative workforce planning and investment in cross-agency skills, training, knowledge and qualifications development

The eight sectors that make up the children's and young people's workforce



The essential next step that the draft Workforce Strategy proposes is, that all KCT partners include 10 key standards in their own workforce strategies. This will give a common baseline for more effective integrated working across the whole workforce. Through working together in partnership, and guided by this new approach, the Trust aims to shape and support the workforce to deliver the best possible services for children, young people and families in Kent.

Please let the Workforce Strategy Group know what you think about the strategy by post or email. The closing date is November 30th 2009.

Further details about the strategy and the consultation can be found at:

http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/kct_cypstrategy.cfm

Contact Details

Ann Christina, Workforce Strategy Advisor

Ann.Christina@kent.gov.uk



Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and Lead Professional (LP)

The CAF process is now operational across Kent. To date over 440 CAFs have been completed and local networks are developing to support implementation and build manager and practitioner confidence and knowledge of the CAF process. Local CAF co-ordinators and administrators have been appointed in most LCSPs to provide a first point of contact for local practitioners and managers. They will provide advice and support on the operation of CAF processes.

For further information about implementation in your locality please contact your local CAF co-ordinator. Details of who to contact are available on http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/kct_CAF_implement.cfm

Training -

- Approximately 3,300 managers and practitioners have now attended CAF training in Kent. In response to feedback the training has been revised and all sessions are now available on a half day basis. The new multi-agency training programme available from November will consist of:
 - Core training for managers
 - Core training for practitioners
 - Practice modules on Information sharing, CAF and Lead Professional

Training for practitioners will be provided locally with local practitioners being trained to deliver these programmes. Information about training courses and how to book is available on http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/kct_CAF_multiagency.cfm

For national updates on integrated processes visit: www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/kct_CAF.cfm

Contact: Mary Burwell, CAF and LP Project Co-ordinator, 01622 696681, mary.burwell@kent.gov.uk

Case Study

How the CAF Process made a difference to Bobby

After completing the Common Assessment Framework the Single Point of Access (SPA) identified the support of a multi-agency Team Around the Child. Although many of the agencies were already working with Bobby before the CAF was undertaken, the formalisation of multi-agency working in this way has had several benefits.

Bobby had received many interventions from a variety of agencies and was very sceptical of any new professionals. He agreed to the CAF process during a very difficult and turbulent time in his life in the hope that agencies "would be forced to do what they say they're going to do when they say they're going to do it."

Bobby, and his parents, suggested a preferred Lead Professional. They believed that their Lead Professional would be honest and give realistic expectations about what could be achieved. Although there were some challenges in engaging all practitioners, Bobby's action plan worked well.

Feeling better supported, Bobby has now gone on to achieve goals he previously felt were unachievable. He successfully completed a trial period at a mainstream school (having been at specialist behaviour and learning provision since the age of 11) and has now been offered a part time place to study for a BTEC qualification. He is the first person from his school to be successfully integrated into mainstream education. His achievements have not gone unrecognised and he recently won an award for personal achievement. With renewed self belief, Bobby is looking to start his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

Bobby's parents felt very well supported by their Lead Professional. One of the most beneficial aspects of the process was that there was sufficient time for the Lead Professional to build a good 'two-way' relationship with Bobby.



Positive about Our Future

Kent's Children and Young Peoples Plan (CYPP) 2008 -2011

The Plan sets out our priorities for 2008 - 2011 to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. After a year of implementing the CYPP we have asked ourselves - are we making a difference?

From late 2008 – to early 2009 we reviewed our progress looking at how well we were performing as a partnership against our 8 priorities. This first annual review captured county and local progress to demonstrate:

- What we are doing well as a partners working together
- Areas for improvement where we really must refocus partnership energy
- Areas that need further investigation

The review also looks to the future and set outs a range of emerging agendas that the Kent Children's Trust and Local Children's Services Partnerships will need to address.

The review was published in June 2009 and has been well publicised. If the report has not reached you please read the executive summary at

http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/UserFiles/CW/File/Childrens_Services/Childrens_Trust/KCTNeedsAssessment_FINAL.pdf

It is really important that partners use this review and the accompanying needs assessment to inform business planning and decision making about services. At the June and October meetings of the Kent Children's Trust Board partners have focussed on those areas of need where we really must see more progress including teenage pregnancy, and substance misuse.

Through the Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning (ASCL) Bill the government intends to strengthen the planning responsibilities of Children's Trusts. In future all partners will be equally responsible for preparing and monitoring the CYPP which will need to include a clear statement on resources.

For more information contact

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Useful Links

KCT Homepage –

<http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/childrenstrust.cfm>

Children and Young People Plan –

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/publications/education-and-learning/kcc-children-young-people-plan.htm>

Planning Toolkit –

http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/kct_multiagency_data.cfm

2020 Children's and Young People's Workforce Strategy Consultation–

http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/kct_cypstrategy.cfm

Kent Resource Directory –

www.krd.org.uk

Kent Children's Safeguarding Service –

www.kscb.org.uk

Your Family Matters –

www.kenttrustweb.org.uk?YourFamilyMatters

Apprenticeships Skills Children and Learning Bill -

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2008-09/apprenticeshipsskillschildrenandlearning.html>



National Sure Start Children's Centre Week a success in Kent!

During September Children's Centres across Kent held special celebration events to mark National Sure Start Children's Centre Week. There are now more than 3,000 centres in England, providing access to services for almost 2.4 million children under five and their families. Staff at each of the centres laid on a variety of events such as Art in the Park, fun days, story sessions, cookery and special dads' groups which were attended by local families with children. Parents were also able to chat to centre staff and learn about all the facilities on offer at their local Children's Centre.



There was also a competition to name the two cartoon child characters which now represent Kent centres. The winning names have been chosen and are now known as Sam Sure and Sally Start. The characters visited various centres during the week to help draw attention to the events going on.

- Family fun and a place to meet friends.

Many centres also provide a range of additional services such as childcare, play and learning for babies and toddlers, healthy eating classes, baby massage and dads' groups.

Each centre provides:

- Expert advice on healthcare run by midwives and health visitors, e.g. breastfeeding for new mums or immunisations;
- Advice on parenting for mums and dads;
- New skills and skills refresher courses;
- Links to training and job opportunities;

Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education Sarah Hohler said: "We were delighted to take this opportunity to raise the profile of Children's Centres across Kent by celebrating with parents who already use our services. The week also highlighted what's on offer to those who are yet to discover what a difference our centres can make to their lives".

A Successful launch for Samphire!



Over 100 families joined Dover, Deal & Sandwich Children's Centres at the Launch of the Samphire Children's Centre working in partnership with Aycliffe Primary School on Friday 18th September.

Families received a free ploughman's tea and goodie bags. Children were entertained by Reg E Mental and Bobby and Poppy and enjoyed face painting, arts & crafts, music workshops, baby play and sports activities. Information stands provided details of the services on offer at the Centre and from a variety of other agencies and partners in the community. The Centre was officially opened by Rosalind Turner – Director of Children, Families and Education for KCC, and was followed by a balloon release (biodegradable of course!).

The Development of Children's Centres as multi agency frontline services is central to our drive to improve outcomes particularly in the early years. Children's Centres are managed locally through the LCSPs. Feedback from those attending the event was very positive, "love the venue, very impressive". Thank you to everyone who contributed to making the day such a huge success.



Samphire Children's Centre is open Monday to Friday 8.00am to 6.00pm. For further information contact Muntaha or Sylvia on 01304 202665.

www.clusterweb.org.uk/chc/chc_samphire_map.cfm



Data Bytes - From the KCT Multi Agency Data Group

The Multi-Agency Data Group reached its first birthday in the summer. It has now updated its Terms of Reference and expanded the membership to include the perspectives of more partners. In the coming months short profiles of members will be provided so that you can see who is involved from your own organisation as well as others.

The work of the Data Group and its place in the Children's Trust governance framework is being seen as a good model for partnership working, and as a result, group members Eileen McKibbin and Del Herridge are going to present at the regional Children's Services Network (CSN) session in London during November.

KCT Planning Toolkit

The toolkit is part of KCT's agreed performance management framework, it provides access to multi agency data about children and young people and it is an invaluable resource for anyone working in Children's Services.

The Planning Toolkit indicators are updated monthly as they are received from different partners, so make sure you check back each month for the very latest information.

A part of the toolkit that has proved to be really useful is the results of the annual Children and Young People of Kent survey. This autumn, the 2009 survey is being completed in schools and colleges. Results will be made available on the Planning Toolkit site in Spring 2010.

Autumn Tip - What do you do if you do not have indicators at the level you want?

Whilst we are endeavouring, through the Planning Toolkit, to provide data at locality levels for all of the indicators in the Performance Management Framework, there are still some gaps. We also recognise

that there will inevitably be instances when you may need local data at different levels.

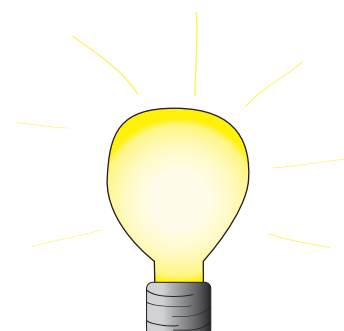
In these instances...

- consider using both formal and informal local intelligence
 - including administrative data and any research that has already been commissioned locally as well as the knowledge and experience that exists within the workforce
- look at County, and even National data
 - for example, if there is a gender gap evident at both county and national level it is extremely likely to exist in the locality of interest
- look at proxy indicators and data that is available for the locality
 - data gathered through the Children and Young People of Kent Survey is a good example of this, but there are many others
- be creative
 - by piecing together all of the information that is available you may well be able to put together sufficiently robust evidence to meet your needs/support the decision making process without having to resort to (expensive and time consuming) local data gathering

The toolkit can be accessed on-line at:

www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/kct_performance_framework.cfm

For further information about this group please contact Eileen McKibbin - CFE Research & Evaluation Manager email - eileen.mckibbin@kent.gov.uk





Kent school children excitement about the Olympic Torch's arrival

Hundreds of excited young people from across Dover, Deal and Sandwich took part in the Schools Olympic Torch Relay as part of 'Pass the Passion'. Conceived by Kent County Council's Sport, Leisure and Olympics service 'Pass the Passion' is the young people's element of Kent's Campaign to welcome the 2012 Torch in the UK at Dover, now involving all 52 schools across the Dover district.

'Pass the Passion' aims to inspire young people right across Dover, Deal and Sandwich partnerships. The prospect of the Olympic Torch relaying through their town has raised the aspirations of these children, enhanced learning across the curriculum and encouraged a more active healthy lifestyle.

The 'Pass the Passion' Schools' Olympic Torch Relay was reliant on excellent partnership working between KCC's Sport, Leisure & Olympics and Kent Extended Services, Vista Leisure, Sea Change, Music for Change and all 52 schools across Dover, Deal and Sandwich.

Secondary schools from the Dover district selected pupils to participate in a workshop at Sandwich Technology School to design their own Olympic Torch. These designs were manufactured into a flame-effect torch by Martin Smith of Sandwich Technology School. The Schools' Torch Relay itself then began on



25 September underneath glorious sunny skies at the Prince of Wales Pier, Dover. Hundreds lined the pier to see the Torch arrive by boat before being passed to the first school Capel-le-Ferne. Throughout the week the Torch was relayed between all 52 schools in the partnerships and being incorporated into a range of Olympic and Paralympic learning events. This included schools learning about Olympic nations, sports days and even exploring what it was like to live in 1948 (the last time the UK hosted the Games). The relay culminated at the Guildhall, Sandwich on 2 October. Each school was awarded a certificate for their involvement with the 'Pass the Passion' week, and a school competition Olympic Torch mural unveiled.

For further information on 'Pass the Passion' please visit www.kentsport.org/london2012/torch_update_relay.asp



Play for success

The Government announced its commitment to improving opportunities for all children and young people to access good quality public play spaces in every local authority in The Children's Plan in 2007. This was followed by its Fair Play consultation and the publication of The Play Strategy in 2008.

In response to this vision Kent has set up a Play Partnership which has members from a wide range of organisations with an interest in play. The Play Partnership has nominated an Executive Group to drive the agenda on its behalf and there are a number of working groups to take specific topics forward.

In Kent we are developing a county-wide Play Strategy that builds on local city, district and borough play strategies. The play strategy will support the achievement of key priorities in the CYPP.

The government's Play Strategy is backed by significant capital investment through the Pathfinder and Playbuilder programmes under which every local authority will receive a minimum of £1m to fund local play facilities. KCC has been awarded £1,166,707 capital and £46,005 revenue funding to develop a minimum of 22 fixed play spaces for 8-13 year olds between April 2009 and March 2011.

The following 12 city, district and borough sponsored schemes were offered funding in 2009-2010:

- Ashford - Mersham recreation ground
- Ashford - Hothfield play area
- Canterbury - Herne Bay Memorial Park
- Dartford - Darenth Park
- Dover - Connaught Park
- Gravesham - Judsons recreation ground - NOW OPEN
- Sevenoaks - Cherry Avenue, Swanley
- Shepway - Cheriton recreation ground
- Swale - Faversham recreation ground
- Thanet - Frank Mathews Memorial Garden, Northdown Park
- Tonbridge & Malling - Leybourne Lakes country park - NOW OPEN
- Tunbridge Wells - Frittenden recreation ground

10 remaining schemes are on target to open by March 2010.

There is £618,238 capital available to fund a minimum of 10 Playbuilder schemes from April 2010 for completion by April 2011. The formal application process started on 14th October 2009 with information going out to city, districts, boroughs, parishes, VCS and other possible interest groups.

If anyone would like information about Playbuilder grants they should contact the Project Manager, Angela Graham on angela.graham@kent.gov.uk





Kent Healthy Early Years Pilot across 13 LCSPs March 2009 - March 2010

The Extended Services team in KCC, Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT and West Kent PCT have joined forces to develop a Healthy Early Years pilot for Kent. Based on the National Healthy Schools Programme, the pilot will explore the potential of early years settings to be health promoting environments which encourage children, families, staff and the local community to lead a healthy lifestyle.

The first five years of a child's life is a critical time for establishing a healthy start to ensure positive health outcomes throughout adulthood. The pilot will help children develop healthy behaviours, raise levels of achievement, reduce health inequalities and promote social inclusion. In particular:

- Children will be encouraged to make healthier choices
- Parents, carers and staff will become more informed and involved in health issues.
- Consultation with children, parents and carers
- Links with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), Ofsted SEF and Every Child Matters will ensure settings can use the whole setting approach to bring about sustained improvements in the quality of their practice.

The pilot materials focus on four themes: Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED); Healthy



Eating; Physical Activity; Emotional Health and Wellbeing. These themes are based on the National Healthy Schools Programme but have been adapted for use in early years settings. During the pilot, each setting is focusing on one theme.

Currently 25 early years settings across 13 Local Children's Services Partnerships in Kent are taking part (Dartford East & West; Gravesham; Tonbridge; Malling; Maidstone 1 and 2; Ashford 1 and Ashford Rural; Deal and Sandwich; Dover; Shepway and Thanet 1). A range of settings have been identified to take part and include urban, rural, full day care and sessional. Five settings are linked to Children's Centres. The pilot runs until January 2010.

For further information, please contact Emma Thorne (emma.thorne@kent.gov.uk) or Penny Crouzet (penny.crouzet@kent.gov.uk).

And Finally...

Thank you to all those who have contributed to this newsletter and the Kent Children's Trust Commissioning and Delivery Review, your input and views have been invaluable in developing and informing the long term development of our children's trust arrangements.

Get Involved – This is your newsletter and we want to hear from you about what's happening and

your work. We are looking for updates and information on positive things and new initiatives you or your team are doing within Children's Services. If you have any feedback on any of the topics mentioned in this newsletter or suggestions for future newsletter items, don't hesitate to contact me, I'd love to hear from you.

James Harman, Children's Trust Development Officer, and Trust Newsletter Editor, james.harman@kent.gov.uk

The deadline for articles for the next edition is Friday 8th January.

You can also stay in touch with all the latest developments by visiting the Children's Trust web page <http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/childrenstrust.cfm>

This newsletter is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages. Please call 01622 694195 for details.