

Kent Children's Trust & Local Children's Services Partnerships

March 2008

Issue No. 4

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Introduction

WELCOME to the fourth 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.

The vision for children's trust arrangements in Kent is of highly strategic county arrangements to commission improved outcomes through the Kent Children and Young Peoples Plan and strong local partnerships to deliver integrated services that are responsive to local needs. You will be aware that since October 2006 pathfinders in Maidstone, Shepway and Tunbridge Wells have been exploring what local children's trust arrangements should look like.

I am pleased to confirm that the Kent Children's Trust (KCT) have agreed to introduce 23 Local Children's Services Partnerships (previously known as Local Children's Trusts) across Kent from September 2008. Building on best practice in District Consortia and clusters and learning from the pathfinders the local partnerships will strengthen integrated working to improve outcomes for local children, young people (CYP) and families. The Local Children's Services Partnerships (LCSPs) will be based on the geography of the existing school clusters and will increasingly draw together all public and voluntary services for CYP and families in that locality.

Key elements of Local Children's Services Partnerships

1. Local Children and Young Peoples Plan

Each LCSP will agree and deliver a LCYPP based on the Kent CYPP and focussed on the particular issues that local CYP face. All localities have been asked to start work on a LCYPP in readiness for September 2008 and we have provided a range of multi agency data to support early planning. Data for your locality can be viewed on:
http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/kct_localdata.cfm

2. Local Children's Services Partnership Board

This new Board will carry forward the work of the cluster and the District Consortia work with existing partnership groups, for example Crime Disorder Reduction Partnerships, and seek to maximise opportunities for integrated working. The Board will report to the Kent Children's Trust and be accountable for delivering the LCYPP and ensuring the new partnership arrangements are effective.

3. Local Children's Services Partnership Manager (LCSP Manager) and Teams

Following consultation the new post of LCSP Manager will be introduced from September to lead the development of integrated working, to support the Partnership Board and to ensure outcomes are improved. The aim is to recruit 23 LCSP managers for September 2008.

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Useful Links:

The Children's Plan
<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/childrensplan/>

Every Child Matters
www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/

Kent Children's Trust
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

**The Participation
Framework**
http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/Children/kct_partframework.cfm

All staff currently part of the cluster teams will transfer to the new LCSP and further staff will be deployed as the LCSPs develop. There will also be much stronger links with professionals across partner agencies particularly as integrated processes for CAF, lead professional and Contact Point are implemented.

Improving outcomes across the ECM framework is acknowledged to be a long term agenda. The introduction LCSPs in September is a significant milestone in Kent and forms part of a long term change programme to embed highly effective children's trust arrangements.

This is a great time to be working in a children's service and I am aware of the enormous energy across Kent to secure real change for children and young people, particularly those living in relative poverty. Change inevitably creates uncertainty and we need to listen to and support each other. Communication is always critical and even more so in period of significant change. Graham Badman, Director of Children Services, invites you to a further round of multi agency briefings in June 2008 – dates are given on the final page of this newsletter.

Joy Ackroyd, Trust Development Manager

The Children's Plan - Building Brighter Futures

The Children's Plan – Building Brighter Futures, published in December '07, has been designed to help make this country "the best place in the world for children and young people to grow up".

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/childrensplan/>

The plan has been informed by Children and Young People Today: Evidence to support the development of the Children's Plan which gives an insight into the national dataset used and also the future role of schools and the challenges for headteachers as community leaders.

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/7343-DCSF-YPT.pdf>

Five principles underpin the Children's Plan:

- Government does not bring up children – parents do – so government needs to do more to back parents and families;
- All children have the potential to succeed and should go as far as their talents can take them;
- Children and young people need to enjoy their childhood as well as grow up prepared for adult life;
- Services need to be shaped by and responsive to children, young people and families, not designed around professional boundaries and
- It is always better to prevent failure than tackle a crisis later.

Three expert groups (ages 0-7, 8-13, and 14-19) have produced recommendations to support the Government in its long-term objectives to:

- Secure the well-being and health of children and young people;
- Safeguard the young and vulnerable;
- Achieve world-class standards in education;
- Close the gap in education achievement for children from disadvantaged backgrounds;
- Ensure young people are participating and achieving their potential to 18 and beyond; and
- Keep children and young people on the path to success.

For information on the LCSP pathfinders:

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There are a host of recommendations that aim to support families and help parents take a more active role in their children's education. In Kent we will be strengthening links between all children's services through the KCT and Local Children's Services Partnerships.

The Plan also initiates several reviews:

- A root and branch review of the primary level curriculum led by Sir Jim Rose
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- The quality of special education needs provision led by OfSTED (in 2009)

The document provides a blueprint for the future development of children's services and drives forward the national framework put in place by the Children Act 2004. A summary of the plan is available on:
http://www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/childrensplan/downloads/Childrens_Plan_Executive_Summary.pdf

Local Children's Services Partnerships Pathfinders Evaluation

The Local Children's Services Partnership (LCSP) Pathfinders final evaluation is now underway in Tunbridge Wells, Maidstone 2, Shepway Urban and Rural. The experiences and learning from the Pathfinders provide essential material to inform the development of Local Children's Services Partnerships across Kent from September 2008. This final evaluation will focus on the main themes identified in the initial report and draw out further learning. To provide some insight into pathfinder activity please see the following pathfinder case studies

- Maidstone: Families First
- Shepway: Partnering Across Sectors and Cultures
- Tunbridge Wells: The Acorn Early Years Project 2007/2008

http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/Children/kct_casestudies.cfm

Joint Area Review (JAR)

The JAR fieldwork was concluded on Friday 8th February. This complex assessment process involved hundreds of interviews with parents, teachers, headteachers, staff from the Learning and Skills Council, Police, Health, Connexions and JobCentre Plus in addition to the interviews with the Elected Members and staff of the County Council. Inspectors have visited schools and units and talked to children and young parents. They have reviewed files, sat in on meetings and read a huge amount of information and data that we have given them to demonstrate the effectiveness of our services. With the caveat that there is still a moderation process to follow and we have yet to see the report in writing, **the initial feedback has been immensely positive. Our services have been described as good overall with excellent features across the range of the inspection.**

The inspectors went to great lengths to stress how impressed they had been by the confidence, commitment and enthusiasm of staff. They were very clear that all our services were imbued with a sense of moral purpose and a desire to do what's right for families.

The findings of the JAR will be fed into the Corporate Assessment process

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and will be reported over broadly the same timescales. You will also be delighted to learn that colleagues in the Youth Service have done equally well. There are inevitably issues to address but this report prepares us well for our next stage of development – in particular, our movement towards a local multi-agency structures which has received such positive comment.

Thank you all for the commitment and responsibility that you show for the services we provide.

Kent Achieves Pathfinder Status to Expand Short Breaks for Disabled Children and Their Families

Kent has been chosen as one of twenty one local authority areas to lead the way in transforming short break services for disabled children, as part of the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme. This status will fund significant investment over the three year period 2008/11.

Kent County Council, together with its NHS partners, can now develop a range of new services that will give children enjoyable and valuable experiences away from their parents and carers. In turn, parents will have the chance for a break from caring.

Short breaks can include daytime, evening, and overnight activities, and can take place in the child's own home, a family based setting, or a residential or educational or community setting. They are specialist additional services to support disabled children and their families, over and above the universal services available to all families. They can include services arranged and purchased by families themselves, funded by a direct payment from KCC's Disabled Children's Service. In our bid for pathfinder status, KCC and the PCTs have given a commitment not to cut existing short break services or to use this investment for existing services.

A delivery plan will be developed by the multi-agency group that worked up the original bid. The implementation of new projects will be overseen by the reconstituted multi-agency County Service Development Partnership, which includes parent representatives. There will be no internal bidding process.

For more information please contact Rose Dillon, Strategic Development Manager, Disabled Children's Services (rose.dillon@kent.gov.uk; 01233 652107).

Every Disabled Child Matters

On 31st January 2008, a presentation was made to the Kent Children's Trust entitled, "Every Disabled Child Matters". This three-year campaign is designed to get rights and justice for every disabled child. A powerpoint presentation, highlighting the main points can be found at:
http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/UserFiles/CW/File/Childrens_Services/Kent_Childrens_Trust/Meeting_and_Papers/31.01.08/kct_item4_edcmpresentation0108.pdf

Please contact Alan Milner at the Parents Consortium for further details.
Email: milnera@parentsconsortium.co.uk. Telephone: 01322 668501

Healthy Schools

The Kent Healthy Schools Programme is going from strength to strength. Over 300 Kent schools now hold Healthy Schools status and 98% of schools

NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK:

Your opportunity to tell us what you think...

These newsletters are designed to keep all those who work in a service for children and young people up to speed with developments in Kent.

Communicating effectively with all those who are part of this agenda is a huge challenge and as such, we are looking for ways to improve this newsletter as we move towards LCSP's becoming operational across Kent from September 2008.

Please take a couple of minutes to complete the short URL survey which can be accessed via the following link:

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

The closing date for responses is Friday 25th April.

are well on their way. The team has been working with school communities on a variety of activities from skipping challenges and healthy living events to peer listening programmes and no-smoking campaigns. We're also busy planning for the future, with a series healthy eating pilots lined up for next year including cooking classes and competitions, fruit and vegetable bag schemes and train the trainer programmes. Read all about what schools have been doing to ensure the health and happiness of their pupils in our latest newsletter. Find it at the link below or request a copy by emailing healthy.schools@kent.gov.uk.
www.clusterweb.org.uk/children/healthyschools2.cfm

The Units and Designations Review

The aims of the Review are:

- To ensure the pattern, diversity and organisation of provision reflects the changing needs of learners with Special Educational Needs.
- To support schools in becoming more inclusive and accessible to all learners.
- To reduce the long distances travelled to school by children thus limiting stress for them and their families and reducing the expenditure on transport.
- To ensure complementary provision to that available in special schools and to work more collaboratively with them.

A key element of the Review is to enable localities to make local decisions about how best to meet children's needs. This involves the idea of expertise being maintained by Lead Schools for particular need types and arranging patterns of provision through joint planning with health colleagues. It is very important to retain the confidence of schools, parents and professionals, expressed during the Joint Area Review, in these developments and new communication plans are being drawn up.

A self evaluation survey about preparedness for change is being sent to schools shortly, and the Steering Group will be reconstituted to include more school based staff in the planning.

For more information please contact Joanna Wainwright, Director Commissioning (Specialist Services), CFE on 01622 696595 or by email on joanna.wainwright@kent.gov.uk

Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and Lead Professional

The response to the locality based practitioner training on CAF, Lead Professional and Information Sharing has been very encouraging with a wide range of agencies engaged. This training is ongoing; details are available on Clusterweb, via your manager or ASK Training and Development (01622 203800). The national e-CAF is now expected late 2009 and Kent is trialling an interim solution through the Kent CAF pilots.

The Kent Children's Trust has agreed the multi-agency policy and procedures for CAF and a multi-agency working group is developing operational procedures for the implementation of CAF and Lead Professional from April 2008. The evaluation of the Kent CAF pilots will inform the

process.

For more information please contact Mary Burwell, CAF and Lead Professional Project Co-ordinator (mary.burwell@kent.gov.uk).

March 2008: Survey of Children and Young People in Kent.

In the October '07 KCT newsletter, we reported on the 2006/07 NFER survey of children and young people in Kent. Over 42,000 children and young people completed questionnaires, providing a wealth of information on views about their health, safety, learning and life in Kent. This information has been invaluable in helping to inform policy and decision-making.

Following the success of the 2006/07 survey, the decision has been taken to complete another survey in March 2008. This should provide schools, the Local Children's Services Partnerships and the Kent Children's Trust with the opportunity to review changes in perceptions over the past year. The survey will be supplemented by a series of focus groups with seldom heard or "hard to reach" young people.

If you didn't catch our November 07 article on the Participation Framework, can I encourage you to take a look:

http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/UserFiles/CW/File/Childrens_Services/Childrens_Trust/kct_newsletter_3.pdf

For more information contact Anthony Mort on 01622 696363 or by email on anthony.mort@kent.gov.uk

Multi-Agency Staff Briefings: New Dates for 2008

In October 2007 a series of staff briefing sessions were arranged for anyone working in a children's service in Kent. Following on from the success of these sessions and in response to further demand, another series of briefings are planned in June 2008. The purpose is to provide an update on our developing children's trust arrangements. There will be a strong focus on turning our vision into reality. You will need to book your place by emailing childrenstrustadmin@kent.gov.uk

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Venue</u>
9 th June 2008	1.00 – 4.00pm	University of Greenwich, Kings Hill
11 th June 2008	9.00 – 12.00pm	Marine Hotel, Tankerton
12 th June 2008	9.00 – 12.00pm	Ashford International Hotel
13 th June 2008	9.00 – 12.00pm	Sessions House, Lecture Theatre, Maidstone

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 Services Pathfinders. Stay in touch with developments by visiting the "useful links" section of this newsletter. <http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/Children/childrenstrust.cfm>

Please note that as of Monday 25th February 2008, the ClusterWeb web site becomes www.kenttrustweb.org.uk to illustrate that the work of this website is fully in line with plans to develop the Children's trust arrangements across Kent.

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