

Every Child Matters Update

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Time to talk in the diary room

Young people in Leeds were the stars of a unique reality TV-style roadshow when the government's 'time to talk diary room' set up in Garforth Community College last Tuesday. Up to 60 young people confided their views on a wide range of issues in the diary room, with a trained facilitator playing the hugely successful 'Big Brother' role. The roadshow, and a recent event at the Queen's Hotel with Ed Balls the secretary of state for children, schools and families, are part of a major government consultation called time to talk.

This consultation will inform the development of the national children's plan for Ed Balls' new department. The plan will outline how the whole of government will work together to deliver better outcomes for children and young people.

Ed Balls said: *"I want a debate about what more we can do to help children. We want to tap directly into the experience and expertise of the children, young people, parents and professionals who work with them to find what the big issues are that need addressing. We have made huge strides over the last decade to improve services both in and out of schools for young people and parents. But now is the time to listen to people about what we can do better to help children achieve the best education, have a happy, healthy and safe childhood and prevent young people going off the rails and getting into trouble."*

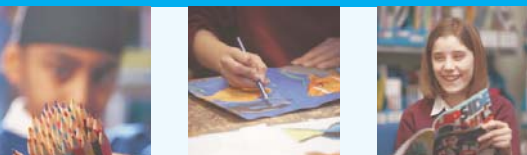
Your thoughts and ideas, and the views of those you work with, are important to the consultation. It runs for another week until 19 October. For more information and to take part go to www.dcsf.gov.uk/timetotalk

Joint Area Review (JAR) case files

The December JAR is an inspection of all the services that help deliver the five outcomes for children and young people. It will have a focus on safeguarding, children with learning difficulties or disabilities and looked after children. One way you could become involved in the inspection, is if inspectors select a case file of a child that you or your organisation has worked with. Inspectors may visit you to talk to you, your colleagues and young people.

The inspectors may want to look at files, and observe or ask you to be involved in a focus group. Working with the director of children's services unit, the JAR project team has now submitted 100 case files to Ofsted. From these files Ofsted will then select 10 files to investigate further. We will be in touch shortly if a child or young person you have worked with is selected. We will then support you in providing any additional information required, and keep you briefed on the inspection process.

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For more information go to www.childrenleeds.org.uk or email Jackie Wilson. jackie.wilson@leeds.gov.uk



Rosemary Archer
Children's services

For me, listening to children, young people, parents and carers is crucial. I am sure you agree it is the main way we learn about what needs to change. So I'm pleased that the new department for children, schools and families is listening to young people and giving them 'time to talk' in the current national consultation.

Here in Leeds, parents are planning another one of our open forums, a parent and family support event, on 27 November. This event will be aimed at all parents and will provide a chance for us to listen carefully to what they have to say.

Both these initiatives need your help and support. Please help young people, parents and colleagues take part in the national consultation at www.dcsf.gov.uk/timetotalk and also think about parents who can attend the event on 27 November. More information is available at www.childrenleeds.org.uk

Rosemary K Archer

Rosemary Archer
Director children's services

Children **Leeds**



2007 Leeds TellUs survey

A thousand children and young people in Leeds answered the national TellUs survey in the spring. This important national survey asks for their views about their local area with questions being based around the five Every Child Matters outcomes. The survey results will inform the Joint Area Review (JAR). Views are outlined by area and by gender. It contains findings on smoking, bullying, and out-of-school activities.

Leeds does not significantly differ from national opinions. A summary of the findings for Leeds is available at: www.childrenleeds.org.uk For more information contact Peter Storrie by email: peter.storrie@educationleeds.co.uk

Voluntary sector bulletin

The latest edition of the Children and Young People's Services Forum bulletin is available now. The bulletin keeps the voluntary, community and faith sector informed about opportunities in children's services.

To read the bulletin, go to www.childrenleeds.org.uk For more information email: jeannette.morris-boam@leedsvoice.org.uk

Please pass this publication on to colleagues in children's services

If your organisation or colleagues do not have access to email or the internet, or would like this update in another format, please let us know. You can call us on 0113 395 0247.

Leeds children's fund looks to the future

Last week the Leeds children's fund celebrated its achievements in developing preventative services for children, young people and families. It also set out plans for the future.

The work of the children's fund will be extended to run till 2011, with plans for the fund to administer about £6 million of spending. In addition a children's fund team will now be employed by Early Years and Youth Services as part of Leeds City Council. This will make it easier to share best practice across areas, for example sharing the fund's expertise of working with the voluntary and community sector. By working closer together, the team will develop, commission and quality assure a wider range of preventative services for children, young people and families. An executive will advise the fund.

For more information contact Jody Sheppard by email: jody.sheppard@barnardos.org.uk

Children's services training

The latest training for managers in children's services is now available. This multi-agency training contains practical guidance on integrated working, information sharing, the common assessment framework and the role of the lead professional. It will also inform managers of their responsibilities around the induction of new staff into the children's services workforce.

For more information about the training go to: www.childrenleeds.org.uk or contact Jenny Wager, email: children.services.training@leeds.gov.uk

This is your publication...

so let us know about the great work you are doing in your organisation. How are you including children and young people in the changes you are making? We all want Leeds to have the very best children's services to make sure that every child matters.

Please send all your comments and suggestions about this update to the children's services unit. Email: children.leeds@leeds.gov.uk Phone: 0113 395 0247



Lord Mayor and friends from the 'crew', cut the celebration cake.

Tackling knife crime

The Royal Armouries will host an event on Friday 26 October where Hilary Benn and Kevin Everard will address the problem of knife crime. It will look at successful strategies for stopping knife crime and how to challenge the attraction of some young people to 'gangster culture'.

The event brings together those who work with children and young people, law enforcers, researchers, funders and victims to explore these important issues. More information is available on www.childrenleeds.org.uk or book directly by email: jon.copley@armouries.org.uk

