

Every Child Matters Update

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JAR inspectors set out their lines of enquiry

On 12 October Joint Area Review (JAR) inspectors outlined how they will conduct their inspection in Leeds. They explained the three core inspection areas common to every JAR, these are: safeguarding; looked after children; and children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities. Inspectors also outlined two additional areas specific to Leeds. They will look at child and adolescent mental health services and our 14-19 strategy.

For each area of investigation the inspectors set out the lines of enquiry and questions they will be asking. The lines of enquiry can be found in the JAR toolkit on www.childrenleeds.org.uk

JAR set up

Inspectors also talked about:

Recruitment practice. They will collect a random sample of 10 staff files and investigate our recording systems, arrangements for Criminal Record Bureau checks, and how we make decisions when checks reveal concerns.

Social care visits. They will visit at least two social care duty rooms.

Questionnaires. 20 questionnaires have been sent to the voluntary, community and faith sector (VCFS). Responses will go directly to the lead inspector, Wendy Ripley. She will then decide whether to include the VCFS in the schedule of inspection.

Inspector visits. Short briefings will be required for each visit. The JAR steering group will develop them and will let you know if your help is needed.

Service management. There will be a general examination of the effectiveness of our children's trust arrangements and impact of partnership working.

For more information about the JAR and the latest briefing note go to www.childrenleeds.org.uk Or contact Jackie Wilson by email. jackie.wilson@leeds.org.uk

Participation evaluation toolkit training

The latest training for the Leeds participation evaluation tool is now available. The training outlines how Children Leeds partners should record and evaluate the participation of children and young people in their organisation.

It aims to support professionals to reflect on existing practice and offer guidance on increasing participation where possible.

Sessions will be take place on Thursday 8 and 13 November from 1 - 4 pm. Is your organisation attending?

For more information about the training go to www.childrenleeds.org.uk or contact The Project. theproject1@btconnect.com



Rosemary Archer
Children's services

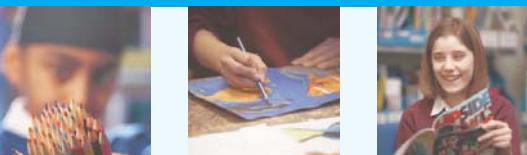
The 14-19 agenda is really important for all of us right now. Leeds has fewer young people in employment, education and training than the national average. And we know that young people who do not take advantage of the opportunities offered to them are less likely to be confident and skilled to thrive in adult life. This is an issue for the future of Leeds and why this area is one of our nine immediate priorities for everyone in children's services.

So while our colleagues across education services lead on this agenda, I need every one of you to think about how you and your organisation can help. Consultation will take place on long term proposals for change that were recently put to the executive of the council. (The paper can be found on www.childrenleeds.org.uk). Get involved in this consultation and make a contribution, so that through the strength of partnership we can really improve the lives of the young people in our city.

Rosemary K Archer

Rosemary Archer
Director children's services

25 October 2007 issue 7



Children Leeds



Children's centre staff spot fire hazards

Twenty staff from children's centres have just successfully completed a fire hazard training course run by the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (WYFRS). They learned how to identify fire risks in the home and give safety advice, making sure that specific risks are reported back to the fire and rescue service to follow up. Gordon Wright from WYFRS, said: "Training children's centre staff has many benefits. It means we have more people visiting homes, so more smoke alarms are fitted and advice given. More fires are prevented and people are less likely to be injured or killed. Councillor Richard Brett, executive lead member for children's services, said: "This partnership shows exactly what children's centres are all about – providing co-ordinated and caring services at the heart of our communities." In addition WYFRS offers free home fire safety checks, which includes the fitting of free smoke alarms. If you have a family who needs a smoke alarm call 0800 587 4536 and see how WYFRS can help.

For more information about the children's centre project contact Anne Kearsley by email. anne.kearsley@leeds.gov.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.

Parent and family support event

On 27 November parents have organised an event at Primrose High School to showcase the wide range of services available to them. This early evening event, from 4.30 – 7.30pm, will be in the style of a market place with stalls highlighting a range of support services from the statutory and voluntary sectors.

We need your help to make this event a success. Many of you will be aware of parents and carers who currently need some additional help and support. This event is for them and every parent, because everyone needs help and support from time to time. Please could you and your colleagues promote the event. For more details and for an electronic 'flyer' please go to www.childrenleeds.org.uk

We will also launch a new parenting and family support strategy for the city. This was developed with parents by the Children Leeds partnership.

If you have any questions or want some posters contact Vanessa Broadbent by email on vanessa.broadbent@leeds.gov.uk

Aiming high for disabled children

Chris Finnigan was appointed in July to support the joining up and development of services for disabled children in the city. Chris's role is broad and she works with many services across the Children Leeds partnership.

One area of Chris's work will be to help implement the new 'aiming high for disabled children' agenda. This agenda sets out to improve outcomes for disabled children by providing better support for families. It proposes that parents of disabled children need to be better informed, included and given open and transparent feedback about their children and young people. The agenda is specifically looking at improving the following areas: better short breaks; access to child care for working parents of disabled children; participation through parent forums; and improved transition for disabled young people to adult services.

For more information about the 'aiming high for disabled children' agenda read the report on www.childrenleeds.org.uk.

Alternatively get in touch with Chris Finnigan and find out about how you can get involved with improving outcomes for disabled children.

chris.finnigan@leeds.gov.uk

New on www.childrenleeds.org.uk

The Children Leeds website is regularly updated. New on the website is an evaluation report of the West Leeds Project. And the latest edition of the Children and Young People's Services Forum bulletin from the voluntary, community and faith sector.

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

