

Every Child Matters

Update

children.leeds@leeds.gov.uk
www.childrenleeds.org.uk

Specialist trained nurses to support young families

An intensive family support and home visiting programme will be starting in Leeds to help improve the lives of first-time young mums and their babies.

The Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) aims to improve: pregnancy outcomes; child health and development; and parents' socio-economic status. This is an evidence-based programme funded by the Department of Health and co-ordinated by Leeds Primary Care Trust.

Specialist-trained nurses will deliver a structured programme of learning and support to young families in Leeds, beginning in early pregnancy until the child is two years old. Nurses will build close supportive relationships with families, and guide inexperienced teenagers to: build on their strengths and hopes for the future; adopt healthier lifestyles; develop their parenting skills; and build their confidence to feel self-sufficient.

Empowering our children and young people

Children and young people involved in youth groups across Leeds organised the Teens Transforming Leeds event, held on 2 April 2008 at the Royal Armouries. The aim of the day was to enable young people from across the city to meet, find out what's happening, and to realise that they can get involved. The Stay Safe campaign also had a presence at the event in advance of the launch.

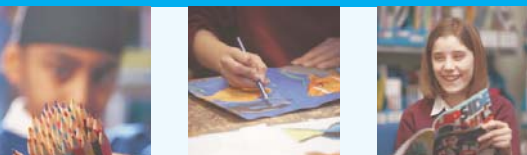
The Stay Safe launch event, held on 21 April 2008 was also organised by children and young people. The children and young people met with O2 and Real Radio, and received funding from the youth opportunities fund to cover the merchandise design costs.

The Be Healthy! Stay Safe campaign is a partnership between Education Leeds' healthy schools team and the Project. For more information, visit the Be Healthy! Stay Safe website at: www.educationleeds.co.uk/behealthy

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.

1 May 2008 issue 19



Sharing learning

It is important to share experiences, discuss our work, and learn together about new ways to improve outcomes for children, young people and families.

A pilots and pathfinders group, has been set-up to bring together colleagues working on the significant new initiatives in the city, along with a research and development group, which is looking at short-term research and long-term ways to improve our shared capacity for research and innovation.



Rosemary Archer
Children's services

Putting parents first

When I was interviewed to Director of children's services, parents were involved in the recruitment process. Interviews are an intense experience and being put on the spot and asked hard questions about my commitment to partnership really strengthened my resolve to put parents' involvement at the heart of our approach.

A range of work has helped take this forward: the development of our Family Support and Parenting Strategy; open forum and local 'marketplace' events run by parents; and now the plans we are progressing to develop a multi-agency approach to integrating parenting support across Leeds. You will know of a lot more yourselves.

It is vital to keep building on this, as parents and carers must be our strongest partners in working to improve outcomes for children and young people.

Rosemary K Archer

Rosemary Archer
Director of children's services

Children **Leeds**



Successful inclusion for children on the move

More and more children and young people are arriving in the city looking for school places throughout the year.

The 'successful inclusion for children on the move' conference was held on 11 April 2008 with some inspiring contributions from both national and local speakers. The conference focused on looking at the issues for schools in managing inclusion for these children.

The event was very successful, and valuable feedback from delegates will be used to inform future practice in the city. One delegate described how "the conference had highlighted that ethos and a real belief in inclusion can really make a difference".

Archway celebrates 10th anniversary

At its annual open day on 22 April 2008, Archway celebrated its 10th anniversary of providing a holistic range of services to young people. Archway has developed over the past decade in response to the needs of young people. For more information, visit the Archway website at: www.archway-leeds.org.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

'Top Six' rating for EMA team

The Local Government Association have named Education Leeds' Ethnic Minority Achievement team (EMA) as one of the top six in improving children's services.

'Narrowing the gap' is EMA's initiative to find out what works in improving the lives of vulnerable children and young people, and will run for two years. The team were invited to present the programme to a distinguished panel at a House of Lords hearing.

Pauline Rosenthal from the EMA team said: "We know that there is still a lot of work to do in this area, but this recognition shows that we are on the right track and making good progress."



Asaf Ali, Theresa O'Sullivan, Dorothy Smith, Pauline Rosenthal and Denise Trickett

Education Leeds is going for the Customer Service Excellence standard

Education Leeds is being assessed for a new standard which recognises excellent customer services and customer insight. The Customer Service Excellence award replaces Charter Mark. The parent partnership service recently received Charter Mark. This makes a total of 10 teams within Education Leeds successfully achieving the standard.

Education Leeds successfully achieving the standard. Education Leeds will need to demonstrate that it understands the demands and expectations of its customers to achieve the standard.

The final assessment will be held from 19 to 23 May 2008, and Education Leeds are asking partners and stakeholders to support them through the process. For more information, contact Jenny Marshall on: 0113 395 0916.

Latest information at www.childrenleeds.org.uk

Visit our website to find out more about the 'Find your talent' scheme that Leeds is bidding for at: www.childrenleeds.org.uk

Dates for your diary

15 May 2008

The 'families make futures' conference is an exciting opportunity for networking, exchanging ideas, and learning in the field of parenting and learning disability. For more information, phone: 0113 247 0411

10 June 2008

Children's services attendance strategy event

We know from recent research that the school absence can be a symptom of a wide range of issues, which cannot be addressed by a single agency. This event is an opportunity to hear the research findings and contribute to the strategy. For more information, phone: 0113 395 1351

