

Every Child Matters

Update

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Government Review of CAMHS

Ed Balls, Children's Secretary, and Alan Johnson, Health Secretary, have outlined their plans to review Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

The aim of the review is to make sure that the emotional and educational needs of children who have mental health problems or are at risk of developing them are being met.

Around one in ten children and young people will experience behavioural, emotional and mental health problems at some point in their lives. Twice as many boys, aged five to ten years, are diagnosed with a mental health disorder compared to girls.

The government wants to see more early intervention in schools, as well as services working together better, to make sure that children and young people get the best support available, no matter how complex their needs are.

In addition to looking at specialist provision, the review will focus on general emotional health, looking at prevention and early intervention. Leeds' approach is already in line with this, with our emotional health strategy out for consultation.

Young people lead on environmental issues

The scrutiny panel met with the Leeds Youth Council recently to discuss what issue the Young People's Scrutiny Forum will be addressing in 2008

The young people chose to focus their activities this year on the theme of 'the environment'.

Leeds Youth Council are also having an environment meeting with Councillor Smith later this month, and are taking part in an important conference about the future of the city centre.

ROAR magazine

A new pilot magazine is currently being developed for the 14-19 age range after the work on 5.2.13 magazine, aimed at children and young people aged five to 13 in Leeds, received acclaim within the city and region.

The magazine will, like 5.2.13, be themed around the outcomes of Every Child Matters, and will also include an overarching focus on participation.

For more information, contact Jo Price at The Project, phone 0113 307 0905.

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.



Rosemary Archer
Children's services

A big thank you!

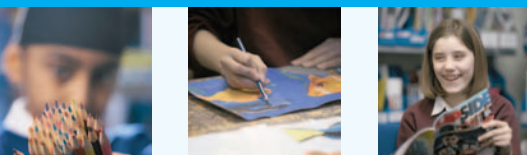
There's only one way to start 2008 and that's with a huge, heartfelt thanks to every single person involved in the Joint Area Review (JAR) of Children's Services that took place before Christmas. We look forward to learning from and building on the outcomes of the review, which will be published later this year. We already know the inspectors recognised the energy, commitment and determination of our staff, and that makes me very proud. Thank you.

It's the time of year for making resolutions and when thinking about mine I've been looking back over the past year's work. The JAR was inspiring: it showed what we can achieve when the spotlight is on us and we work together towards shared goals. I talked about that a lot last year and during the inspection we really saw it in action. We've proven that sharing information and expertise is the best way to deliver. Let's resolve to keep that momentum going so strong partnership underpins all we do this year. Let's stay focused on our priorities, and carry forward our enthusiasm to make 2008 a year when we deliver even more, beginning with our review of the children and young people's plan which starts at the Open Forum on 28 January!

Rosemary k Archer

Rosemary Archer

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Children **Leeds**



Looked-after children get home computer access

All looked-after children and young people resident in Leeds' children's homes are being provided with personal computer access and safe internet access.

The £1.8m project has been provided through the government sponsored 'Computers for Pupils' initiative, led by Education Leeds, which aims to help secondary school children and their families from more disadvantaged communities improve their education and life skills by installing a computer and internet connection into their home.

On Tuesday 18 December, Wood Lane Children's Home in Headingley became the latest site to be connected.

By providing pupils with access to new technologies, Education Leeds and Leeds City Council hope to contribute towards raising educational achievement and narrowing the attainment gap between these pupils and those from other areas of the city.

The initiative provides safe and secure internet access directly into the child's school environment. In addition, mentoring support and guidance is available for a number of pupils eligible through this scheme.

'Playing for Success' continues to achieve!

The eight secondary schools and 27 primary schools taking part in the 'Playing for Success' out of school hours learning programme at the Headingley Stadium were asked for their feedback in the summer term. They concluded that provision at the Yorkshire County Cricket Club and Leeds Rugby Learning Centres was meeting their needs. Schools reported that as well as raising their achievements in literacy, numeracy and ICT skills, pupils had attended school more regularly, gained in self-confidence, and developed an improved attitude to learning.

The scheme is looking to include new schools as part of the Headingley Learning Centre's 2007/08 business plan.

For more information, contact Louise Maciag, phone 0113 239 9720, email admin@headingleylearning.org.uk

The Integrated Youth Support

Service has been set up to improve partnership working and services delivered to young people aged 13-19. Leeds' response to the government requirements to deliver an integrated 'youth offer' is the Breeze Youth Promise.

Further details of the Breeze Youth Promise are available on the Children Leeds website.

Education Leeds is doing research to find out what works in reducing persistent absence from school. The findings will be used to inform the 2008 Children's Services Attendance Strategy. A short questionnaire is available on the Education Leeds website at: <http://www.educationleeds.co.uk/documents/viewdoc.aspx?cid=12775>

Dates for your diary

24 January 2008

Launch of "Info 4 U", a diversity booklet for looked-after children. 5-7pm, Civic Hall. Contact Pat Case, phone 0113 247 5554, email pat.case@leeds.gov.uk or Katie Cooper, phone 0113 395 0449, email katie.cooper@leeds.gov.uk

28 January 2008

Open Forum, a chance to discuss the annual review of the Children and Young People's Plan, and reflect on the new national Children's Plan, the Joint Area Review, feedback from children and young people, and plan for further developments. 9am – 12.30pm, Elland Road. Contact Aneesa Anwar, phone 0113 224 3977.

29 and 31 January 2008

Community Cohesion meetings, a project supporting Leeds schools to successfully integrate new to English pupils into their classrooms. South, West and East wedges. Contact Keelie Wood, phone 0113 214 4078.

Count Me In!

Tuesday 16 January saw the launch of the first 'Count Me In' session at Armley library.

During the one hour sessions, teachers, helpers, and parents and carers followed activities led by a professional entertainer aimed at developing children's numeracy skills in a fun way.

The sessions, the result of several years' partnership work with Yorkshire Bank and Leeds Library and Information Service, included number rhyme activities and a chance to look through the new 'Count Me In' bags.

These resources are available for loan from all libraries in the city, and complement the existing three 'Count Me In' bags for younger children already in libraries.

This is your publication...

so let us know about the great work you are doing in your organisation. 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

