

# Regional Improvement Plan for Children and Young People

Bringing focus to improvement and creating efficiencies

Safeguarding

Joint  
commissioning

Workforce  
development

Health  
Inequalities



Be Healthy

Stay Safe

Enjoy Economic Wellbeing

Enjoy and Achieve

Make a Positive Contribution

A plan created by the Directors of Children's Services to tackle common issues in the East Midlands

## Newsletter 4 – June 2010

### Message from the Directors of Children's Services

This latest newsletter about our joint regional activity comes at a time of great political and financial uncertainty. As a group of Directors of Children's Services we are pleased that funding has been secured for the time being to continue the good work started within this joint regional improvement and efficiency plan (JRIEP) and we will continue to support and champion this plan as it helps us to tackle some common issues.

### Workforce development

#### ALICSE – Advanced Leadership in an Integrated Children's Service Environment

**Progress:** A high quality leadership programme with a distinctive regional dimension has now been developed. Three cohorts of 30 participants are currently being recruited through the 9 Children's Trusts in the region with cohort 1 starting in September 2010. This work is also being supported by a National College grant.

**Planned Outcomes:** By July 2011 approximately 90 senior leaders from all local areas and across all sectors of the workforce will have completed this programme to better prepare and equip them for leadership within the current children's service environment.

#### CAF / INTEGRATED WORKING REGIONAL STANDARDS

**Progress:** A set of proposed, quite detailed minimum standards for processes around the Common Assessment Framework has been developed by the JRIEP regional working group. These standards will now be presented to each Children's Trust by the DCSs for consideration and adoption.

**Planned Outcomes:** The standards will lead to a more consistent application of CAF processes between different organisations and areas, especially around service threshold levels. By July 2011 a website will be created to

share information and approaches that help organisations to attain the new minimum regional standard. A quality assurance group will be developed to moderate standards across the region.

#### WORKFORCE DATA

**Progress:** This is a new strand of work being introduced from summer 2010 to help all local areas develop an accurate, up-to-date analysis of their 'children's workforce'.

**Planned Outcomes:** By July 2011 all local areas will be in a position to build their workforce development plans upon a comprehensive analysis of their local workforce.

### Safeguarding

#### ASSURED SAFEGUARDING: DCS & LEAD MEMBER

**Progress:** A set of probing leadership questions has been developed and used with DCSs and LMs across the region to evaluate and identify effective safeguarding practice.

**Planned Outcomes:** These materials will be distributed within a small regional handbook during Summer 2010.

#### ASSURED SAFEGUARDING: OTHER LEADERS

**Progress:** This is a development of the work described above that will extend the method to other leaders with a statutory responsibility for safeguarding.

**Planned Outcomes:** Additional support materials to become available by July 2011.

#### REFLECTIVE SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE

**Progress:** A new strand of activity promoted and supported by the JRIEP for 2010/11.

**Planned Outcomes:** To have engaged social care team leaders and support organisations around the region to identify best reflective practice within social work. Outcomes to be disseminated in the form of guidance to help strengthen and embed case review processes 'before things become serious'.

## Joint commissioning

### SHAPING THE MARKET: LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

**Progress:** A regional framework agreement is being developed to deliver significant savings and improved outcomes in the supply of residential and foster care placements for looked after children.

**Planned Outcomes:** The provider framework will be presented for consideration and adoption by all nine local authorities that will enable them to make significant savings in the next financial year.

### HIGH COST PLACEMENTS, SERVICES & EQUIPMENT

**Progress:** The DCSs have identified other significant high cost, low volume expenditure areas (eg Disability and SEN placements, specialist equipment, transport, families with multiple complex needs) that could be improved in price and quality through a regional approach. This work is currently being planned.

**Planned Outcomes:** That significant price savings be achieved within the financial year by all local areas.

### REDUCING DEMAND THROUGH BETTER EARLY INTERVENTION

**Progress:** A seminar with Michael Little of the Social Research Institute has started a process to improve the commissioning of high impact programmes that reduce escalation to higher levels of need.

**Planned Outcomes:** To provide an effective regional learning programme for planners and commissioners to strengthen knowledge and understanding of the most effective practice.

### COMMISSIONING SUPPORT PROGRAMME

**Progress:** The range of regional activity to support commissioning is being aligned with this JRIEP.

**Planned Outcomes:** To focus the support of the CSP through specialist seminars on identified priority themes and to re-invigorate the Commissioning Champions Network to maintain essential links between Local Authorities and commissioners with PCT Providers.

## Health Inequalities

### RAPID RESEARCH REVIEW: OBESITY – WHAT WORKS?

**Progress:** A multi-agency regional seminar in May identified an urgent need to establish greater intelligence of effective practice in tackling obesity.

**Planned Outcomes:** To commission C4EO or a similar organisation to undertake a rapid research review of effective public service programmes that demonstrate positive impact upon levels of obesity. This review to be available in the autumn to support the following activities:

### REGIONAL SUPPORT FOR OBESITY PLANNING

**Progress:** Work being planned to begin in autumn 2010

**Planned Outcomes:** To convene a well-focused working group of Obesity Leads from all Children's Trusts (plus a few key supporters) to start from the rapid research review (see previous item) to create regional support for well co-ordinated multi-agency obesity planning. This group to also draw upon the expertise of C4EO and ChiMat/EMPHO to strengthen purposeful, local actions and to consider the added value of signing up to the Regional Platform as a mechanism for engaging more effectively with those other public and private sector partners with a part to play.

### DATA SUPPORT FOR CHILD POVERTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

**Progress:** Work being planned to begin in autumn 2010

**Planned Outcomes:** To provide support for all local areas in their Child Poverty Needs Assessments. To work with data organisations (esp C4EO and ChiMat/ EMPHO) to configure and create accurate local datasets to underpin and inform Child Poverty Strategies.

## Leading the JRIEP

The DCSs have created Steering Groups for each of the four themes within the JRIEP that can include senior officers from all nine local areas plus other relevant partner organisations. Membership at present is as follows:

	Workforce	Safeguarding	Commissioning	Health Inequalities
Lead DCS	Anthony May	Peter Duxbury*	Bruce Buckley	Carol Chambers
Derby	Tim Harrison	Keith Woodthorpe	Rita Silvester	Rita Silvester
Derbyshire	Les Biggs	Sally Savage	Sally Savage	Sally Savage
Leicester	Gill Stacey	Andy Smith*	Andy Smith	Deb Watson Kath Pritchard Trevor Pringle
Leicestershire	Lesley Hagger	Walter McCulloch	Peter Chester	Frances Craven
Lincolnshire	Sue Fletcher	Sue Westcott*	Justin Hackney Debbie Barnes	Meredith Teasdale
Northamptonshire	Kara Kim Wootton	Maureen Phillips	Mark Harris	Lesley Ann Hamilton
Nottingham	Candida Brudenell	Satinder Gautam*	Dave Ashcroft	Jane Brown Mark Andrews
Nottinghamshire		Helen Ryan	Les Cowling	Irene Kakoullis
Rutland	Chris Nerini	Steve Attwood	Janet Pink	Chris Nerini
Health Links	Sue Dryden Dot Gillsepie	Jane Appleby*	Heather Sahman	Jane Woodland Heather Sahman
GOEM	Austin Brady	Marcie Taylor*	Christine Cassell	Christine Cassell
Other members	Karen Parsons Pauline Smith Stephen Hopkins Monica Hingorani	All names above serve as Reference Group @ GOEM * names serve as project task group	Carol Ward Charles Greer	Dave Jenner Kath Childs

### Further information about the JRIEP

Further information about this plan and the actions that are being developed will be distributed on a regular basis in future newsletters. To add your details to the circulation list for newsletters, or to make any further enquiries about the JRIEP, please email [peter.chilvers@sdsa.net](mailto:peter.chilvers@sdsa.net) who is co-ordinating this plan on behalf of the region's DCSs.

