



In this issue:

Integrated working

An event at Hillingdon promotes better multi-agency work.

Family support

An update on the Think Family initiative in Liverpool.

Parental engagement

A workshop for parents and carers in Sheffield, plus a new parental involvement strategy and toolkit.

Safeguarding

Recent reports look at the impact of increased child protection and safeguarding activities, the impact of the Baby Peter case and progress made by Southend LSCB.

Integrated working

Children's Project Showcase event

Hillingdon Children and Families Trust (HCFT), April 2010

One of the key objectives of the HCFT is to bring together resources in Hillingdon to deliver better outcomes for children, young people and their families.

HCFT sponsored this event in order to:

- enable frontline staff in all agencies to develop knowledge and understanding of other projects in Hillingdon that support children, young people and families, and to build relationships with them
- inform frontline staff in all agencies of opportunities to work together with other projects
- further develop the use of preventative services in all agencies to aid better outcomes for children.

The event was delivered for frontline staff in health, social care, education, schools, children's centres, extended schools, youth service, voluntary sector, police, early years and any others working in Hillingdon with children, young people or families. [Presentations](#) from the event are available to view on the Hillingdon website.



Family support

[Think Family: Update](#)

Liverpool, April 2010

In July 2009, Liverpool was asked by the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) to be an implementation site for its latest guide: [Think child, think parent, think family: a guide to parental mental health and child welfare](#).

Barnardo's Action with Young Carers started the Keeping the Family in Mind collaborative in 2000 and it was this work that led to the city's present involvement with SCIE's guide.

Liverpool City Council is leading this work and chairs a monthly implementation group. As well as the council, this group consists of Barnardo's Liverpool, Liverpool PCT, Mersey Care NHS Trust, child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS), Sure Start and Liverpool Mental Health Consortium.

Since late 2009, the group has been involving practitioners across the city through a series of lunchtime learning sessions. The [presentation](#) used at the sessions is available from the Liverpool Council website.

The group has also developed a [work plan](#).

Parental engagement

[Bitesize Consultation Workshop](#)

Sheffield, May 2010

Sheffield's Parents' Assembly, launched during National Parenting Week from 19-23 October 2009, brings together mothers, fathers and carers from across the city to be part of decision making around services for children, young people and families.

Members of the Assembly were invited to this workshop, held on 21 May 2010. At the event:

- the One Children's Workforce framework and tool were introduced
- the need for team work across the City was agreed
- the current effectiveness of this team working was discussed.

The participants broke into three groups to discuss capacity to deliver, focusing on positive outcomes and shared purpose, identity and vision.

The [notes from this group work](#) are available on the Sheffield Children and Young People's Partnership website.



Parent and Carer Engagement Toolkit

Staffordshire, April 2010

Staffordshire Children's Trust has led the national development of a *Parent and Carer Engagement Toolkit*. The toolkit, released in April 2010, is a free web-based resource designed for all agencies and services that work with children and young people. It includes:

- tools and training material to help increase knowledge about parental engagement, what it is, its benefits, the various methods of engagement and the foundations that need to be in place to make it successful
- a self-assessment kit for services and parents to use while working together, to rate how good their parental engagement practice is
- tools to help develop parental engagement practice, including tips and ideas on how to engage parents, how to maintain engagement and how to overcome barriers
- a self-endorsement award to identify organisations as having high standards of parental engagement.

Parent/Carer Involvement Strategy

Cambridgeshire, February 2010

This strategy aims to build on existing good practice and help embed parental involvement into the day-to-day work of services and organisations represented on Cambridgeshire's Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, by securing support at a senior strategic level as well as at delivery or operational level.

It provides a framework for expanding and coordinating parental involvement opportunities and for ensuring their quality and equality. Improved coordination and partnership working will help make better use of existing resources and reduce duplication and consultation fatigue.

A job description for the role of Parents' Champion is included in the appendices.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding Pressures Project: Results of Data Collection

ADCS, April 2010

A report on a national project undertaken by the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS), supported by the National College, to evaluate the impact of increased child protection and safeguarding activities as well as budget pressures associated with those increases. This report provides results of the initial phase, a high-level analysis of the data collection.



The Impact of the Baby Peter Case on Applications for Care Orders

NFER, June 2010

The Local Government Association (LGA) commissioned the NFER to look at the impact of the case of Baby Peter Connolly on local authorities' applications for care orders and on child protection more widely.

Local Authority staff are broadly optimistic about the future for child protection and safeguarding activity. Most welcome the findings of the Laming Review, in principle. However, this is tempered by a view that the degree to which they can make changes depends on a range of workforce developments and resourcing issues. They point out that significant investment in additional resources is needed to implement many of the review's recommendations.

Analysis of Progress and Revised Business Plan 2010-13

Southend, March 2010

Southend Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) has looked at the progress it has made over the last year to help to make sure children and young people are kept safe. As a result, it has made some changes to its priorities for the future in its revised business plan.

The LSCB has identified a key three-part theme of recognition, communication and response to safeguarding children and young people. This will be the focus of its work in the coming year.

The LSCB Business Plan also links to the priorities in [Southend's Children and Young People's Plan](#) to:

- continue to improve the safeguarding of children and young people in Southend through multi-agency work
- reduce the need for children and young people to be looked after
- reduce the number of children and young people who have experienced bullying (including face-to-face, text or internet)
- reduce the impact of domestic abuse on children and young peoples' life chances.

