

Documents and news from and for local authorities and Children's Trusts



## In this issue:

### Participation

Takeover day, an opportunity for children to work alongside adults; a summary of children and young people's views in NE Lincolnshire and a report on children's involvement in decision making.

### Child poverty

A submission from the Children's Commissioner, an event in Luton on tackling family poverty and reports from Liverpool, Save the Children and DfE.

### Integrated working

Prevention in Practice, a cross-sector workforce conference in Nottingham.

### Community cohesion

Hackney's cohesion review and Hertfordshire's cohesion strategy.

### Family support

Leeds publishes a working protocol for parents with substance misuse, mental health or dual diagnosis problems and a report by its LSCB on a pilot that tested the protocol.

### Inclusion

Worcestershire's policy on education inclusion.

## Participation

### Takeover Day

Children's Commissioner,  
12 November 2010

Takeover Day is a national event offering children and young people across the country the chance to work alongside adults and get involved in decision making in a wide range of organisations. Now in its fourth year, the event has grown from strength to strength since it was launched. Last year, around 30,000 children and young people worked with hundreds of organisations, including businesses, schools, police and fire services, newspapers, banks, TV and radio stations, charities, local councils, MPs, hospitals and government departments.



[A Summary of Children and Young People's Views in North East Lincolnshire 2009-10](#)

North East Lincolnshire, June 2010

In 2008, the Council for Young People and the National Youth Agency worked together to create the first advisory training for children and young people in the United Kingdom. An advisory group is made up of young people aged 11-19 years who have been trained to represent other young people's views through looking at information collected, summarising the key points and making decisions on what are the most important messages to share. The critical role of this group is to share information from a young person's perspective, contributing to decisions about the services young people access or need.

This report outlines the training and process the latest group underwent in order to gain the views and opinions of 23,118 children and young people and their families. The group used these views to identify the top nine priorities which will be used with other information and data to influence the Children and Young People's Plan 2011-14 and the Participation Strategy 2011-14.

This report will also be available to be used by services throughout North East Lincolnshire including Health, Police, Fire and Voluntary and Community Organisations to improve the services they provide for children, young people and their families.

[Children's Participation in Decision-Making: A Summary Report on Progress Made Up To 2010](#)

Participation Works, June 2010

In the autumn of 2009, NCB and the Children's Rights Alliance for England were commissioned by the Office of the Children's Commissioner to examine children's participation in decision making in England. The overarching aim of the study was to provide an up-to-date insight into the extent to which children are currently involved in decision making.

These studies were developed to inform the National Participation Forum in developing a National Participation Strategy for England from 2010 onwards.



## Child poverty

### [Submission to the Independent Review on Poverty and Life Chances](#)

Children's Commissioner,  
October 2010

The Children's Commissioner has made a submission to the Review on Poverty and Life Chances, which is being chaired by Mr. Frank Field, M.P.

The submission focuses on addressing those issues raised by the review for which the Commissioner's Office has evidence of the views of children and young people, or where it feels the views of young people may have particular relevance to the inquiry.

### [Tackling Family Poverty Stakeholder Event](#)

Luton, 14th July 2010

This event gave partners an opportunity to network and share best practice. There were three presentations: Morag Stewart, Deputy Director of Public Health, NHS Luton, introduced the event with details of the national picture of child poverty and the Child Poverty Act 2010 timetable. Len Simkins, from Infotrain, then gave a presentation about the development of a local needs assessment, entitled What do we know so far? Layla Richards, Service Manager from Tower Hamlets, presented information about the work which has been going on in Tower Hamlets, a Child Poverty Beacon Council. Copies of the three sets of presentation slides are available.

### [A Brighter Future: Working Together to Tackle Child and Family Poverty](#)

Liverpool, June 2010

The Liverpool City Region Chief Executives, City Region Cabinet and the City Employment Strategy Board have identified tackling child and family poverty as one of their key priorities. This Framework Interim Analysis Report sets out a cross-cutting strategic approach to addressing the high levels of child and family poverty in the city.

An accompanying series of [Child and Family Poverty Briefing Papers](#) for a range of service areas, including education, is also available.

### [The Child Poverty Act 2010: How Local Authorities Can Involve Children and Young People](#)

Save the Children, August 2010

This includes a checklist of 20 policy ideas that will make a real difference to children and families living in poverty. The checklist gives Save the Children's suggestions for what local authorities can do now to support their activities in the coming months, such as budgeting and planning the needs assessment.



[No Child Left Behind: A Child Poverty Strategy 2011-14 - Recommendations to the UK Government on its Child Poverty Strategy.](#)

Save the Children, September 2010

This paper is divided into three parts:

- a breakdown of recent child poverty statistics, an overview of the causes and characteristics of child poverty and Save the Children's view on the best measurement of child poverty
- comments on the strengths and weaknesses of the government's current approach, paths to the 2020 target and the moral and economic case for action
- the policy solutions the organisation would like to see in the government's first strategy.

## Related research

[Local Authority Child Poverty Innovation Pilot Evaluation: Second Synthesis Report](#)

DfE, September 2010

## Integrated working

[Our Workforce: Prevention in Practice](#)

Nottingham, 30 September 2010

This was the fourth in a series of workforce cross-sector conferences. Presentations on topics including evidence-based practice on investing in prevention and key factors that promote the effectiveness of interventions using the CAF are available on Nottingham's website.

## Community cohesion

[Hackney Cohesion Review: Full Report](#)

Hackney, July 2010

During 2009, the Hackney Cohesion Review asked local organisations and people what contributes to a good community life. It looked at some of the challenges facing Hackney's communities and considered what different organisations could do to support strong, cohesive communities where people were happy to live.

It examined whether communities were cohesive and resilient, meaning that people and communities were able to cope with changes in their lives and communities without blame or undue tension.

Overall, the review found that while Hackney was a cohesive place, there were some strains on community life. This report looks at the findings and makes some recommendations for future directions.



## [Building Stronger Communities in Hertfordshire](#)

Hertfordshire, March 2010

Hertfordshire Forward has recognised the need for a strategic approach to maintain and strengthen community cohesion across the county. As a result, a group was formed to develop a cohesion strategy for Hertfordshire. This group consisted of a wide range of stakeholders and used professional expertise and a detailed evidence base to develop the draft strategy. This work supports the Safer and Stronger Communities Thematic Partnership of Hertfordshire Forward.

The vision is distilled into four key themes, each with its own objectives:

- building inclusive communities
- developing confident citizens
- promoting good relations
- respecting Hertfordshire's diverse culture and heritage.

## Family support

### [Think Family: Valuing Parents and Improving Safeguarding for Children and Young People](#)

Leeds, August 2010

A joint working protocol for parents with substance misuse, mental health or dual diagnosis problems in the context of improving outcomes for children and young people living in these families.

It sets out the agreed expectations and responsibilities of children's and adults' services when working with individuals or whole families who are likely to require the support of more than one service.

### [Think Family: Valuing Parents and Improving Safeguarding for Children and Young People](#) [A Report of the Initial Findings of the Pilot](#)

Leeds, June 2010

This report has been compiled for the Leeds Safeguarding Children Board using the data produced through a pilot which tested a joint working protocol over a small but in-depth sample, and found that it worked within the context of services in West Leeds.

The piloting activity was carried out by BARCA-Leeds and their partners on behalf of the Board and Safer Leeds. BARCA-Leeds is a neighbourhood-focused, voluntary sector, community development organisation.



### Policy on Education Inclusion

Worcestershire, September 2010

The intention of this policy is to raise achievement for children and young people with a learning difficulty, disability or disadvantage, or special educational needs. It aims to improve outcomes by bringing together the inclusion and standards agendas to become complementary rather than competing priorities.

It replaces the existing Special Educational Needs (SEN) and inclusion policies and supports all settings. Work is now being developed on a strategy for this policy.

