

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

RYEDALE AREA COMMITTEE

4 April 2007

INTEGRATED SERVICES IN LOCALITIES: PROGRESS REPORT

1.0 PURPOSE

To inform members of the Area Sub-Committee of progress in the development of integrated services within localities.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 The North Yorkshire Children and Young People's Plan articulates the ambitions of the County Council and its partners within the North Yorkshire Children and Young People's Partnership for young people in the county. It lays out strategies to promote the five statutory outcomes for children and young people, namely that they should:

Be healthy
Stay safe
Enjoy and achieve
Achieve economic well-being, and
Make a positive contribution to society

2.2 One of the key aspects of the work to which the council and its partners are committed is developing more integrated working at local level , in order both to bring services closer together, delivered in ways which are more convenient for families, and to ensure faster, more targeted and appropriate interventions for children who may have particular needs.

2.3 There is a detailed Action Plan for the rollout of integrated services which provides the structure within which this key strategic development is taking place. That Action Plan will form part of the formal performance assessment at operational level, and will be monitored by the Children and Young People's Partnership.

2.4 Responsibility for developing the infrastructure for this area of work lies primarily with the County Council. The former Extended Schools Team and the operational arm of Early Years and Childcare are being brought together as the Integrated Service Team.

There will be six Integrated Service Managers across the county. They will each have a small team of people and have responsibility for the operation of children's centres and extended services through schools in their area. They will also have the responsibility for ensuring the joining-up of services in their area and in particular the oversight of the common assessment framework surrounding the identification of the needs of children and young people.

3.0 PROGRESS

3.1 Staffing for integrated services

- 3.1.1 Approval for the new Children and Young People's Services having been obtained at the beginning of September, there then followed an intensive period of confirming some people in post, moving others into substantially changed posts, and going to national advertisement for other posts.

It is pleasing to be able to report that we have all six Integrated Service Manager positions filled. They are:

Central Vale: Alan Pitt

(currently Service Manager, Children's Social Care, Harrogate)

Coast: Tony Turner

(was Acting ISM Coast, but formerly Manager of Sure Start Scarborough – PCT)

Craven: Mandy Whitehead

Currently Children's Centre Development Officer, formerly Community Development Manager for Ripon)

Harrogate: Stuart Gregory

(formerly Extended Schools Officer for the South of the County)

North: Sue Smith

(formerly Extended Schools Officer for the North of the County)

White Horse: Julie Hatfield

(formerly Children's Integrated Services Project Manager for Redcar and Cleveland Primary Care Trust)

These people will be key to developing integrated services across the county. Within the Integrated Services Management Team there is experience of social care, nursing and midwifery, community education, teaching within schools, children's centre development, education action zones, libraries, and private sector work. This rich mixture of backgrounds is exactly what we wanted to achieve.

- 3.1.2 Appointment of Children's Centre Managers has not been so successful. Only 4 posts out of a total of 12 fte have been filled, despite a large field of applicants. The posts filled are in Scarborough, Filey, Brotherton and Harrogate. Interim arrangements have been put into place for the Selby, Skipton and North Craven posts, reflecting the particular developmental needs of these three areas. At the time of writing this report, re-advertising is taking place for other posts.

3.2 Bringing people together

There are three key components to this.

Each ISM will have a small group of senior managers responsible for service delivery within their area, with whom they will be able to liaise regarding specific cases, and regarding strategies for service development within the area, in order to fulfil the Partnership's aims as articulated within the Children and Young People's Plan. We are terming these "**Area Liaison Groups**". It is expected that they will be small, and that they will only physically meet as a group perhaps once every couple of months (although they may choose to meet more frequently).

There will then be people who meet to consider children and young people who are within the Common Assessment process. Although it is likely that there will be a core of two or three practitioners who, by the nature of their work, will be involved with many cases, others will be more infrequent attenders. The composition of the "**CAF Groups**" will therefore be more fluid with practitioners being invited individually, depending upon the cases under discussion. These meetings will take place more frequently in order to minimise delay in achieving a fully-rounded multi-agency approach. The ISM will have the responsibility of ensuring that the CAF process for all is monitored, that there is appropriate activity and that there are measurable outcomes for children and families.

There has been huge interest and goodwill across numbers of practitioners from many agencies in response to the Locality Meetings we have had over the last few months. It has not been unusual to have sixty or seventy people at those meetings. Inevitably, not all (and perhaps relatively few) of these people will actually be involved regularly in the Common Assessment process itself, but they all do need to work together supportively and collaboratively, in the spirit of the Children and Young People's Partnership and in support of the targets articulated within the Plan. Learning together helps people to work together. So we will continue to have **Locality Meetings** from time to time.

3.4 Timings

The first three rollout areas, Catterick/Colburn, Eastfield and Jennyfields, began to operate from the end of January. The second series of rollouts are being developed during March, to be operational during April. These are Selby, North Craven, the rest of Scarborough and the rest of Harrogate.

4.0 CHILDREN'S CENTRES AND EXTENDED SCHOOLS

4.1 Children's Centres will be vital components in the delivery of services to children and their families. Seven were developed in the first phase, and a further 22 are planned. Appendix 1 shows all the children's centres with a statement relating to each one's developmental position.

4.2 This area of work is undoubtedly challenging, but is also demonstrating the eagerness of agencies to work together and in different ways. In each, the development process starts with bringing together practitioners in the area to identify needs, opportunities and to start to put proposals together. It then broadens to discussions with parents, before resolving into detailed proposals.

It is important to bear in mind that we are developing children's centre services, not simply specific individual centres. The geography of North Yorkshire, the population distribution and the needs of communities do not lend themselves to the development of large, stand-alone centres. What we are doing therefore is to take a graduated approach, with a limited number of places where there will be moderate sized centres which will act as the hubs for children's centre services across a town, through to the more rural areas where the needs are not for buildings, but for a more "joined-up", coherent approach to service delivery, combined with additional services where needed.

4.3 Increasingly, discussions taking place around the development of children's centre services are taking place in tandem with the development of Extended Services through schools. They are, after all, closely linked and their core offers both depend on the development of localised services. North Yorkshire has taken a cluster-based approach to extended schools. 11 clusters were in our first phase of development; 13 were in a second phase, and by the Summer Term 2007 all schools will be part of an extended schools cluster.

5.0 CONCLUSION

We have made good progress, and there is much more to do. Partner agencies are responding well to the challenge of developing more localised, and in some cases remodelled services, and there is a great deal of good-will. Parents involved in the development of children's centres are similarly enthusiastic. Inevitably, from time to time there are difficulties surrounding the development of specific building programmes, which will only be resolved through the planning process. The focus for the council and its partners though remain the outcomes quoted in para 2.1 above, for every child, everywhere. The services developing through schools, and through children's centres, will be critical to that.

6.0 RECOMMENDATION

That the report be noted.

Cynthia Welbourn
Corporate Director: Children and Young People's Service
2 March 2007

*Report compiled by
Carolyn Bird
Strategic Development and Commissioning Manager, Children and Young People's Service*

APPENDIX 1

CENTRAL VALE AREA		
Selby Town		Core childcare places in existence. Bases already at Flaxley Road and at Barwic Parade School. Sure Start Selby developing services, and Sure Start Programme Manager to be seconded to NYCC to develop provision across the town and the wider area.
Sherburn, Brotherton		Children's Centre in Brotherton recently opened and currently run by Sure Start Selby. Work progressing well in Sherburn, Particularly strong links with the Portage Service and Young Mums to Be. Children's Centre Manager appointed and starts at the beginning of March.
Tadcaster		Very early stages.
Knarborough		Centre will develop in the premises of the former Manor Infant School building. Building work to commence later this year, following amalgamation of the school with Castle CE Junior.
COAST AREA		
Scarborough		Briercliffe Centre (Phase 1 centre) is the hub for development across Scarborough. Work being carried out with the PCT to "mainstream" the centre into the NYCC pattern of children's centres. Children's Centre Manager appointed. Childhaven Nursery School developing services with a view to becoming a centre. More work to do to develop services in Eastfield.
Filey		Filey Children's Centre open and childcare fully subscribed. Children's Centre Manager appointed.
Whitby		East Whitby Children's Centre already open as a Phase 1 Centre, plans well developed to site hub for the town at Stakesby CP School, and outreach planned to develop along the Esk Valley and northward up the coast. Building plans shortly to be submitted for planning approval.
CRAVEN AREA		
North Craven		Services developing well across a large area. Building to house core childcare at Hellifield now complete and expressions of interest have been advertised for to develop the childcare there. Successful development of new childcare and early education places elsewhere in the area, including after school provision. Childminding input is particularly strong. Children's Centre Manager role to be fulfilled by North Yorkshire Q&I Service for a further year as service development beds down.
Wharfedale		Early stages of discussions – very positive so far.
Skipton		Following lengthy consultations, plans at an advanced stage to site the hub of children's centre services on Brougham Street, in a development which rebuilds the current Brougham Street Nursery School. Work beginning with Brougham Street Nursery and Otley Street Nursery to develop their role

		in wider children's centre services. Discussions taking place with Greatwood, Ings and Christchurch schools to develop satellite provision.
HARROGATE AREA		
Harrogate Town		Three-centre provision, based upon Woodfield, Starbeck/Wedderburn and Saltergate schools. Good multi-agency work already taking shape. Plans for major build at Saltergate at an advanced stage and shortly to be submitted for planning approval.
Ripon		Good joint working developing between schools, providers and other agencies, supported strongly by Ripon AVS.
NORTH AREA		
Colburn/Catterick		Phase 1 centre open at Catterick, run by Sure Start Colburn and the Dales. Discussions taking place with the PCT over migration of the programme into North Yorkshire children's centres. Readvertising for Children's Centre Manager post. .
Richmond		Early stages.
Northallerton		Hub for town to be based upon Alverton Infant. Plans agreed for minor building works. Multi-agency liaison developing well.
Bedale		Early stages.
Stokesley		Very early stages.
Wensleydale		Work to develop services across Wensleydale progressing in tandem with Extended Schools development. Potential for additional provision at Askrigg, making use of the former Yoredale School.
WHITE HORSE AREA		
Thirsk		Plans for major build shortly to be submitted for planning approval. Work on service development taking place in conjunction with both Thirsk and Sowerby CP.
Easingwold		Very early stages.
Ryedale North		Very early stages. Potential premises in Pickering being investigated as a hub.
Ryedale Central		Plans for build to replace temporary building at Norton CP shortly to be submitted for planning approval.