

oxfordshire CYPP

children & young people's board



Newsletter

This newsletter is designed to keep people working with children and young people updated on the progress with the Children and Young People's Plan. There will be updates from the Children and Young People's Board and Partnership and also regular factsheets for professionals working in localities – so look out for these too!

For further information please contact:

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Joint Area Review

On Friday 14 December last year, a team of 10 inspectors concluded two weeks of intensive fieldwork, the last phase of our Joint Area Review (JAR). During the inspection fortnight, the inspectors held over 100 interviews or conversations, met over 40 groups of people and met over 250 children and young people. On 22 April, this year the report was published. A copy of the report may be found on the OCC website via the following link:<http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cypfjar>

The inspection process is built around the need to come to a view about the extent to which, jointly, all services in an area (hence the 'JA' in JAR) contribute to the lives of children and young people in it. Thus it is a measure, not just of what we, in Oxfordshire County Council have achieved but what we, with our partners, have achieved, collectively. The process is driven by the need to evidence demonstrable differences in outcomes for children and young people. Our plans, strategies and good intentions for the future, however well meaning, robust and likely to succeed, count for relatively little.

The report provides a ruthless analysis of our performance; it contained no surprises and inspectors confirmed that our services are adequate overall, with some good features, but important inadequacies. We are determined to improve our weaker areas as quickly as possible, whilst continuing to build on the stronger aspects. Indeed, improvements have already been made since the inspection and our action plan, in response to the report, will be reported to Cabinet on 20 May.

Publication of the report is timely as we start to restructure the directorate on the basis of proposals which have been informed, in part, by the report and which will help us with our aim of providing high quality services to the children, young people and families in Oxfordshire.

Janet Tomlinson - Director for Children, Young People & Families

Locality Working

In the last issue, we made a mistake in outlining the 13 localities and the three areas that currently make up the Joint Area Management Groups. We have corrected this in the table below.

For further information, please contact:

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North	Central	South
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Banbury• Bicester/Kidlington• Witney/Eynsham/ Woodstock• Carterton/Burford/ Chipping Norton	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Headington/Wheatley• Cowley/Iffley• North Oxford/Cumnor/Botley• Oxford South East	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Didcot• Thame/Watlington• Abingdon/Berinsfield• Henley/Sonning Common/ Woodcote/Wallingford• Wantage/Faringdon/Grove

Targeting Localities in Oxfordshire

A core set of demographic, social need and health indicators have been jointly developed to provide information on outcomes for children and young people.

These indicators are available at Locality level and in most cases at sub-locality level and will

- Enable strategic planning by comparing the needs of different areas.
- Help measure the effectiveness of services in improving outcomes for children & young people
- Support the work of teams on the ground

One of the first uses has been to advise the Children and Young People's Board on which localities to target in order to both **“break the cycle of deprivation for children, young people and families”** (DPH Annual Report) and improve outcomes for children, young people & families in areas of deprivation (CYPP priority year 2). This was achieved by assimilating the indicators, so that patterns of health need could be clearly identified and compared across localities.

Three localities emerged as scoring highest in terms of need:

- Banbury
- Oxford South East
- Abingdon/ Berinsfield

This data will be used to inform resource allocation and decision-making processes for this year and the future.

However, in recognition that in rural areas small pockets of poor outcomes are 'masked' by general well being, the Children and Young People's Board supported targeted work through the rural Children's Centres.

The indicators will continue to be monitored, at a strategic level, to ensure that resources and the current model of service provision are having a desired effect on outcomes for children and young people and to ensure that the outcomes in other localities are not adversely affected.



For more information on locality profiles, please contact:

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Oxfordshire Children and Young People's Survey - June 2007

An online survey of children and young people was commissioned by the Oxfordshire Children & Young People's Board (CYPB) to increase understanding of the behaviour and attitudes of Oxfordshire's children and young people, and to establish baselines to monitor performance targets included in the Oxfordshire Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2006 - 2009.

Who took part?

6,539 children and young people took part from 35 schools in the county (23 primary and 12 secondary). The data was weighted to reflect known profiles by gender, year group and ethnicity within each District Council area. In addition, 2 separate projects ensured the views of children and young people with severe/ complex disabilities and 'fringe' groups were included.

What were the key findings?

80% of all children and young people said they felt very/ quite healthy.

52% of children and young people at primary school felt very healthy compared with **31%** at secondary

Other findings in this section relate to exercise, eating patterns, smoking, drinking and buying alcohol, drug use and information/ advice.

71% of all children and young people always/ sometimes felt safe at school (in & out of lessons)

9% never/ rarely felt safe at school (in & out of lessons)

81% of all children and young people always/ sometimes felt safe when at home

2% never felt safe at home

51% of Year 7-11s said that, in the last year, they had been bullied, called "gay" or racist names, been attacked/kicked/ punched, threatened, or had a mobile phone or something else stolen

The full [Children and Young People's Survey](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk) report is available on www.oxfordshire.gov.uk





73% of all children and young people said they were doing very/ quite well at school, **5%** said they were doing very/ quite badly

26% said they always enjoy school, **52%** sometimes do, **10%** say they never do

All pupils rated school toilets poorly, but **53%** of secondary pupils said the toilets were very/ quite bad

Over **50%** thought there was enough to do out-of-school and it was easy to get places. Most agreed that their local parks had good equipment, though many said they felt unsafe in parks.

Two thirds of children and young people said they were involved in recycling schemes and eco-projects, and about a **quarter** said they do some sort of volunteering



30% of primary school children and young people said their school listens to their views a lot, compared with **8%** of secondary school children and young people

Less than a quarter of children and young people knew much about what their local councils do or about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



About **a quarter** of young people said they plan to stay at school to complete A-levels and **over a third** hoped to go to university

20% of Year 7-11s have a part-time job, averaging 5 hours per week

For further information, contact:
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What's happened since the survey?

- The results have been widely disseminated at conferences and other forums, a number of articles have been published, and the findings entered on the Consultation Tracker and the public website
- There has been further analysis in key areas to understand some of the data more fully
- The findings have been compared with TellUs2 and other national surveys
- All participating schools have been contacted to discover the impact and use of the findings, and the involvement of the school council/ Governing Body in addressing the findings

The Children & Young People's Sounding Board discussed the findings and presented their thoughts at the Children and Young People's Board.



What actions are planned to address the findings?

At their meeting in January 2008, the Children and Young People's Plan Leads Group agreed:

- to run further follow-up consultations with key groups identified in the survey, including
- a) some Black and Ethnic Minority groups
 - b) children and young people in temporary accommodation
 - c) young parents
 - d) some groups of children and young people about their school experiences.

These will be done through the Children's Rights & Involvement Team during 2008/09

Findings relating to children and young people's experience of 'feeling safe' will be taken up through the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board

All CYP&F directorate strategies will be expected to include actions in their plans for 2008/09 that specifically address relevant findings in the survey.

Section 12(7) Childcare Act 2006 Duty

to provide information, advice and assistance

From April 2008, in addition to information on childcare, local authorities are required to provide a range of information which parents/carers may need to support their children through to their 20th birthday. There is also a requirement to ensure that the information is made accessible to all parents/carers who might benefit from it.

This single point of access will signpost to local and national organisations and support networks, voluntary sector, health, police, county and district councils, guidance and publications. As a first step, there is a new area for parents/carers on the Oxfordshire County Council website at [Information for..Parents](#)



For further information on the vision and requirements, please visit the guidance on the [Every Child Matters website](#)



Is Oxfordshire Good Enough for Parents?

The County Council has just completed a consultation on its draft strategy for supporting parents. Parents, carers, children, young people and practitioners have all been consulted in order to find out what kind of support people felt parents needed. Early indications are that the strategy has won substantial support

Our vision

We want **every** parent/carer to feel valued, skilled and inspired to be the best parent they can be for their children

Why do we need a strategy?

The County Council believes that parents and carers have a crucial influence on what their children experience and achieve. Every child matters, and so does every parent and carer. The Council therefore needs to consider its role in supporting parents and carers in the most important job they will ever do. The strategy needs to show how all who require support can access it.

What is parenting education and support?

It includes a range of services from information, help and advice to parenting courses, specialist support and statutory interventions. The aim is to promote the confidence, skills and knowledge of parents and carers in their parenting.



Parenting Education and Support Consultation

What are the main proposals?

- A strong partnership to be developed, led by the County Council, bringing together parents, carers, organisers of parenting programmes, local authorities and the health service to drive forward the strategy and advise the Children and Young People's Partnership on priorities.
- Multi-agency planning of parenting support at county and locality levels, with local parenting networks coordinating increased local provision in response to needs.
- Regular monitoring of provision, the number of parents and carers taking part and the outcomes for children.
- The development of high quality evidence-based provision through the promotion of quality standards, evaluation, training and support for practitioners.
- Services should always ask parents, carers, children and young people about their needs and involve them in planning services
- Information for parents and carers (and for those working with families) should be available in a wide range of formats from websites and telephone help-lines to leaflets, booklets and briefing meetings.
- Increased funding for more parenting education and support and value for money through multi-agency pooling of budgets and joint commissioning based on clear criteria and evidence of effectiveness

Where next?

Once the strategy has been amended in the light of feedback and then approved, the Parenting Education and Support Reference Group will take responsibility for overseeing its implementation and for advising the Children's Trust on funding and commissioning priorities.

Kathy Peto

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Review of Oxfordshire's Children's Trust Arrangements

Oxfordshire's Children's Trust arrangements were established in April 2006 following an 18 month project to look at how organisations in Oxfordshire could work together more effectively to deliver the 'Every Child Matters' agenda and the new statutory requirements in the Children Act 2004. For the past two years, the Children and Young People's Board and Partnership have been working:

1

To join up the planning of services and to replace the plethora of single/ joint agency plans with one overarching plan owned by all agencies across the public, voluntary and private sector.

2

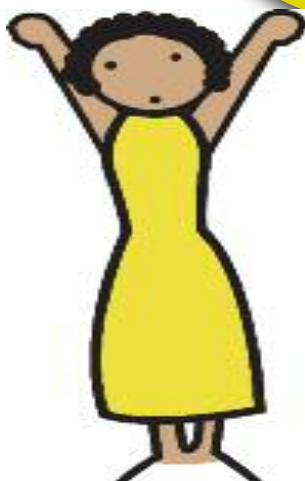
To join up our approach to commissioning, particularly around groups of children and young people who were most disadvantaged and where outcomes were poorer than comparable counties.

3

To provide leadership to the integration agenda particularly around Common Assessment Framework, Team Around the Child and locality working through multidisciplinary teams.

4

To put outcomes for children and young people at the centre of our 'business' and in doing so to champion the active participation and engagement of children and young people, parents and carers in the strategic planning and decision making processes.



Two years on, it seemed prudent to review whether these multi-faceted arrangements are 'fit for purpose' in the medium term. It is clear that we are not working from a blank sheet and there are some sensible pre-requirements. Firstly, there is a statutory requirement for every Local Authority to have a Children's Trust. It is clear in the guidance that the County Council has responsibility for leading the Children's Trust. Finally, given the huge momentum around locality working any proposals will need to take into account the 13 localities and the three areas that currently make up the Joint Area Management Groups.

Following discussion at the Children and Young People's Board it was agreed that:

- There is a need to rename the Board as the Children's Trust Board, therefore removing any ambiguity about its role and function.
- The Board will oversee the planning and delivery of major service change programmes that drive outcomes for children, young people and their families.
- The Board will plan and commission agreed services together, aligning and pooling resources as appropriate.
- In order to strengthen the relationship with the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board, the chair of the OSCB will become a member of the Children's Trust Board.
- The Children's Trust Board will contribute directly to the Oxfordshire Partnership's Sustainable Communities Strategy and is a key thematic partnership

Currently there is a single Children and Young People's Partnership comprising senior officers from partner agencies. The County Council and PCT services are increasingly aligned in 13 localities and 3 areas. Over the next months, the County Council is moving to the creation of integrated services, many at local and some at more specialised area level. The creation of three Children and Young People's Partnerships would align with these developments and, where appropriate, allow for more locally informed decision making in the light of overall county strategies.

Local Partnerships will be accountable to the Children's Trust via a nominated chair and membership of each could be determined by local discussion. The Chair of each Partnership would be a member of the Trust Board

For more information on the proposals as they develop, visit:

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cypboard



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