

Connect

SPECIAL EDITION MARCH 2008

THE PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

Services for Young People

The secondary and post-secondary curriculum is in the midst of what has been referred to as the most important development since 1902. Schools, colleges and employers are gearing up to offer new courses from this September, as part of the Government's 14–19 education reforms. The changes mean not only will young people be required to remain in education or employment with training for longer but they will have an unprecedented range of academic, applied and vocational options from which to choose. It is planned that by 2013 there will be a total of 17 diplomas offering even greater choice and opportunity and combining essential skills and knowledge with hands-on experience.

In this complex and changing world it is more important than ever that all young people are able to access well-informed advice and appropriate guidance in their school or college and in the community in which they live. Changes to Services for Young People, which bring together staff from South Central Connexions with the County Council's youth and Children's Services from 1 April 2008, will respond to these

developments through investing in front-line staff and making advice and guidance more accessible to all young people for more of the time.

Personal Advisers (PAs) will continue to be based in schools and colleges as they are at present but will be on site and accessible on a full-time basis. PAs will also be available to young people in a range of community settings, including libraries, discovery centres, community centres, youth clubs and children's centres so that anyone who is not in school or college can still receive advice and guidance. PAs will work within the boundaries of the existing partnerships between schools, colleges and training providers which make up the nine 14–19 consortia and each team will also be able to provide some outreach support, ensuring that the most vulnerable young people have access to intervention or advocacy when they need it.

PAs will continue to provide information, advice and guidance on the full range of issues such as careers, further education, training, relationships, physical/sexual health, housing and substance misuse. They will be available to work with individuals on their personal development and

preparation for work and adult life and in building confidence and self-esteem. Personal support, which may involve work with parents or carers, home visits, family mediation or practical help, for example with job or college applications will also be available for young people within their own school or college. PAs also act as advocates for young people and will continue to work with a range of organisations on their behalf, helping to secure specialist support if needed.

This is a positive change for young people which will increase the availability of the excellent service which has been provided by PAs for some years. It will also increase the resource for schools and colleges, helping them to provide up-to-date careers education and a responsive service for their students to enable them to benefit from the wide and increasing range of opportunities available.

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Words from the Director

The new structure for Services for Young People, which will begin to be put into place on 1 April, will bring changes to many of you. However, it will put investment in resources for frontline services and increase direct support to those who need it.

The work to develop the service is built on the key components of the current services provided by Connexions, the County Council youth teams and others to ensure that what we do is the most effective way of supporting young people in Hampshire.

Details on Services for Young People

Services for Young People are being transformed in Hampshire. Beginning on 1 April, staff and services from South Central Connexions and the existing youth teams will be brought together into Children's Services at Hampshire County Council.

This new structure is in line with the national Change for Children programme. The focus of the changes is to put resource where it is most needed, to invest in frontline services and increase direct support to young people. There will be more access to the service – both in the form of locations within the community where practitioners will be based and in the time practitioners can spend with young people and at their schools and colleges.

We want to make sure that every young person in Hampshire, regardless of where they live in the county, can get support when they need it. We want to link up with all the services within other organisations that are there to offer advice for young people. We want to offer targeted and personalised support while

making sure the service is open and available to any young person who needs advice at any time. In short, we want to ensure Hampshire's young people get all the support they need to fulfil their ambitions and reach their potential.

The process will take some months to complete, and we envisage that all teams will be in place by September. In the meantime, young people, and their parents and carers, will still be able to talk to their personal advisers as they normally would.

The main change in access to the service during this time is that, in order to focus resource where it will be best used, practitioners will stop delivering out of Connexions centres and instead be based in schools, colleges, e2e and youth centres. Practitioners and personal advisers who use these centres are making sure that the young people they work with know how to get hold of them and that the service they receive will carry on; the national Connexions Direct helpline will have details of access points

for the service; and a number of other initiatives are being employed to reassure young people that the support they benefit from is still there.

Once the changes are fully in place, near the end of 2008–2009 practitioners will spend more time working with young people than they do now. They will be working in consortia and district teams, and seconded to specialist teams such as the Wessex Youth Offending Team.

The work of consortia teams will be directly through educational and training establishments. Additionally, each consortium team will also have a dedicated resource for 'outreach work', that is to offer support to young people who have been excluded for a substantial period of time, who have learning difficulties or disabilities and are not educated in Hampshire, Year 11 leavers who are not in further education, training or employment and young people who



need structured activities within the community.

The district youth teams will include practitioners who have expertise in supporting young people through teenage pregnancy and with housing problems. In the district teams, practitioners will work with young people whose needs are not met by the consortia teams, such as asylum seekers, travellers, young people in care, young people with special needs, those leaving mental health institutions and young people educated at home through parental choice.

We are building on the best of what currently exists and know that we can offer a service that is responsive and relevant to the needs of young people. We are determined to promote responsibility within young people by offering them opportunities and support, and we are looking forward to a new integrated service, where partnership working directly results in better outcomes for young people living in Hampshire.

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Youth offer

Young people in Hampshire gain a great deal from their involvement in a wide range of positive activities in their leisure time. Many of them participate in sports, adventurous activities, and creative arts, giving their time to a range of voluntary organisations and groups.

Not all young people are aware of the activities and opportunities available and so the Hampshire's Children and Young People's Partnership Management Board (CYPPMB) is developing and promoting the Youth Offer.

The aim of this is to improve access to a wide range of activities for young people, leading to improved outcomes for them and increased engagement with their local communities.

The Youth Offer will bring together opportunities offered by a range of partner organisations in the private, public, voluntary and community sectors, identifying where there are gaps in provision, and will be promoted during 2008 as part of the new Services for Young People.

Major young volunteering award for Portchester Community Association

Portchester Community Association (PCA) has been awarded £133,000 funding by V, the youth volunteering charity, to get young people positively involved in their communities. The Programme is one of 152 projects across the country who will be funded by V as part of V involved, a new national youth volunteering programme backed by £75 million funding, which aims to inspire half a million more young people to volunteer in England.

Over the next three years the Portchester Young Volunteer Project aims to get 120 young people aged 16–25 working in the community in a range of initiatives aimed at supporting local residents, and especially other young people.

Initiatives will include:

- building on existing activities run by the Association.
- fundraising and participation in local events
- working with marginalised young people.
- supporting new community initiatives both in, and outside the centre
- forging partnership and working links with local businesses, voluntary organisations and public bodies.

The programme will be led and directed by young people themselves who will receive training and support in being able to do this effectively. Volunteering opportunities – which will start in April 2008 – will be short, medium or long term to suit all levels of involvement and availability, for

example: a few hours helping in a club for senior citizens to a three-year programme developing a new community business venture.

Portchester Community Association, itself a charity – undertook local surveys in 2005 and 2006 to look at what people wanted locally. High on the agenda was more for young people to do in a way which helped them feel more part of the community.

This project will help address many of those issues alongside the development of the new (graduated) Children's Centre in the community building. The most recent survey undertaken by the Extended Services and Children's Centre Steering Group confirmed and further identified both gaps



in provision and new projects that will be supported by our Portchester Volunteers.

Portchester Community Association wish to acknowledge the excellent support and information provided by Hampshire's Children & Young People's Alliance.

The Andover Partnership

The Andover Partnership is a group of primary, secondary, special schools, the sixth form college and the pupil centre. We are at the embryonic stage of our re-launch. It is very exciting and as they say on the recycling advert 'the possibilities are endless.' We are planning to start with a Rights, Respect and Responsibilities (RRR) day across the town. RRR helps everyone see that rights and responsibilities go together and it encourages everyone to develop as citizens. The rewards of the Partnership will be in increased Continued Professional Development opportunities and a greater range of opportunities for children and young people as we share more and the curriculum can only improve. It is great to work in a town where people genuinely want to work together to benefit all the children who live here.

For more information on RRR look on the UNICEF website: www.unicef.org.uk

Foster carers are professionals too

The Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) was established in April 2005 and is one of five bodies which make up the UK Sector Skills Council for Social Care. It has a major role to play in ensuring the delivery of Every Child Matters. It exists to improve the lives of children, young people and their families. The CWDC Induction Standards have been published and launched for staff in September 2006 to ensure that those working in children's social care develop an appropriate knowledge and understanding of all

elements of their role. All new staff must be able to demonstrate that they will meet the Standards within six months of starting work.

Following the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and Department of Health review (October 2006) of the social care workforce it highlighted the important contribution of foster carers and identifies them as a professional group with specific skills and knowledge who play an essential part of the wider children's workforce. From April 2008 all foster carers in England will

have to demonstrate they meet the CWDC Standards. These Standards build on the CWDC Induction Standards for staff and have been adapted to meet the needs of foster carers, to reflect their unique position of looking after children in their own homes. The Standards set out clearly what foster carers should know, understand and be able to do.

It is essential that all Children's Services staff are aware of the new standards as they will play a key role in supporting the foster carers in gaining the knowledge, skills and evidence needed to meet the requirements.

A launch for staff and foster carers is being held at Winchester Guildhall on April 23rd. From 9:30am to 12:30pm (lunch provided) and to book a place contact Sandra McKay on 01329 844120 or sandra.mckay@hants.gov.uk

If you would like further information you can log onto the CWDC website at www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/projects/fostercare

Or contact me, as I would be more than happy to come along and discuss this with your teams.
Debbie Adamson-Young
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Discovery Centres

Hampshire's second Discovery Centre opened in Winchester at the end of last year with the aim of becoming an inspirational centre of learning, leisure and creativity. Young people are always welcome – there is a range of CDs, DVDs and PlayStation games to borrow; books, graphic novels and magazines to browse; listening posts, free internet use, a café to meet with friends and quiet areas to meet Services for Young People staff and to read or study.

Feedback

Please let us know what you think of the Children's Services Partnership newsletter Connect. Suggestions for future articles can be sent to children.services.enquiries@hants.gov.uk.

Changing how you contact the County Council

In the February edition of *Connect*, we told you that there would be changes taking place to how you request social care services from Hampshire County Council. By way of a reminder, all new initial requests for social care services will begin to be handled by the County Council's new contact centre over the next few months. While these services are phased in, customers and the public can still continue to use the existing numbers which will be diverted to the contact centre.

However, if you are aware that a social worker or specialist worker is involved with a client who is already receiving services from Hampshire County Council then please continue to contact them on their direct telephone number and not the general office number. In all other circumstances, please continue to use your existing



numbers which will be diverted while new numbers are phased in and established. There will be a dedicated number for Children's Services and a dedicated number for young people as well as a number for professionals to call and speak to a specialist advisor. We will bring you an update on the services and the new numbers to call in the next edition of *Connect*.

For more information about the contact centre visit www.hants.gov.uk/hantsdirect or if you have any questions or queries regarding social care service requests, please call 01329 225379.

Making the link

Do you care for a child with a disability? Are you short of time to find vital information to help get the best for your child? Now, by placing your child's name on the Joint Information Link, you can receive the Linklines newsletter. Linklines is packed with news about:

- grants, funding, benefits, discounts and things for free
- support groups, helplines, courses, clubs, inclusive play and leisure activities.

It's free and sent six times a year. Find out more at: <http://www.hants.gov.uk/>. Click on Social Care and Health/ Caring for a child with special needs/Disabilities/ or ring Fiona Hall on 01962 846123

THE HAMPSHIRE SIXTH FORM COLLEGES' PARTNERSHIP'S CURRICULUM SUPPORT GROUPS

Every term Hampshire teachers and tutors come together to discuss curriculum developments explore teaching and learning ideas. Together they tackle everything from curriculum change to the challenges of getting students started in a new subject and finding the best resources. For further information contact Barbara Spender 07917 454096.

YOUTH ARTISTS

Visitors to Winchester University were able to discuss with young artists their exhibits at Hampshire's Sixth Form Colleges' Partnership Art show. This was a unique and stunning showcase for young talent from across the county with paintings in a variety of traditional and more challenging genres beautifully displayed.



If you would like a large print version of *Connect*, please contact children.services.enquiries@hants.gov.uk

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