

Children's Services Newsletter

for all those working with children

Issue 09

Autumn 2009

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Academies open their doors



Four of Manchester's seven planned new academies opened their doors this month paving the way for further major improvements in educational standards for the city.

Manchester Creative and Media Academies in Charlestown, north Manchester opened their doors for the very first time on Friday 4 Sept, followed by Manchester Enterprise Academy and The Manchester Health Academy, both in Wythenshawe, south Manchester on Monday 7 Sept. The remaining three new academies, The Co-operative Academy of Manchester, The Communication Academy and the East Manchester Academy will open their doors in September 2010.

Manchester is the only city in the UK to have four academies opening this September and the first to have a health academy.

The Manchester academies programme differs from others across the UK in that Manchester City Council

is a co-sponsor of the academies along with locally based businesses. The academies will ensure young people have the skills they need to make the most of future employment opportunities in the region's growth industries.

The programme is part of a £700 million investment to improve buildings and facilities across Manchester. Learning transformation – changing how learning is delivered - is at the heart of city-wide activity to improve education outcomes.

In addition to academies, the programme has completed the rebuild of nine schools, with a further twelve currently on site and two to start by the end of the year.

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Enterprise Academy takes off

Students from Parklands High School made their mark on their new school when they took part in a ceremonial beam signing at the new Manchester Enterprise Academy (MEA).

Construction work on the new £19m Academy building, which will replace the former Parklands High School building, is now well under way with the steel structure in place.

The Academy, one of seven across the city and one of the first to open, will provide 750 places for 11-16 year olds and post 16 provision for 120 students. It will be based in the former Parklands High School buildings for its first year, before moving into brand new purpose built facilities on the same site in September 2010.

Take a look East

The East Manchester Academy hosted a successful family day to launch the new academy to local residents and prospective students.

The event, which took place at the City of Manchester Stadium, gave visitors the chance to find out what the new academy will offer, as well as take part in family activities.

Guy Hutchence, Principal Designate for the East Manchester Academy, said: "It was a great day and a huge success. Around 300 people came along and stayed to enjoy the afternoon. We were able to promote the academy and give people a glimpse of some of the amazing new facilities it will offer."



It's a Brother and Sister Act celebrating first day of Creative and Media Academies

The first day at the two new Creative and Media Academies in north Manchester was a real brother and sister act.

At least two sets of siblings started at the two new academies as the schools opened their doors to pupils for the first time.

Niall Case aged 14 and his sister Bethany aged 12 years were welcomed on their first day by Principal of the Academies Barry Fishwick. Niall is about to start his GCSE studies in Year 10, whilst sister Bethany is in Year 8 at the school. Second brother and sister act Rayni Murray aged 11 has just moved up from her primary school into Academy life, whilst her brother Connor Murray, aged 13, is just moving into Year 9.

Manchester Creative and Media Academies are two single sex academies - a 900 place girls academy and a 600 place all boys academy for 11-16 year olds with co-ed post 16 provision for 120 students from September 2010.

They will form a national centre of excellence in creative and media education and digital learning technologies. The academies will have multimedia zones allowing students to explore both technical and creative skills and learn in a flexible way.

The academies are currently housed on the premises of the former North Manchester High Schools for Boys and Girls.

Percentage of 'A' graders in Manchester schools is higher than schools nationally

The percentage of A levels taken by students at Manchester schools and awarded top 'A' grades in this year's exam results is higher than that nationally. Students at the three Manchester schools that offer A levels are celebrating record results that prove continued hard work by pupils and excellent teaching really do add up to success.

Results show that provisionally 28.2% of exams taken at Manchester schools were awarded top marks against a national average of only 26.7%, and that locally 57.1% overall of exams were awarded grades A-B against a national average of only 52%. The percentage of exams sat in Manchester awarded grades A-C is also higher at 79.1% than the national average of only 75.1%.

At Parrs Wood High School in Didsbury pupils and staff are celebrating the school's best ever A level results with 31% 'A'

grades (up from 26% last year). The number of pupils achieving grades A-C is also up with 84% of all exams taken graded A-C (up from 75% last year).

At Whalley Range High School for Girls results saw 50% of exams taken awarded at grades A-C, and 7% given top 'A' grades.

In north Manchester at King David High School, Crumpsall pupils and staff are celebrating 38.9% of exams being awarded at grade A, and 92.2% of exams being awarded at grades A-C.

Councillor Sheila Newman, Executive Member for Children's Services, Manchester City Council, said: "These are fantastic results for the city and they show that hard work by pupils and excellent teaching really do add up to success."

Celebration time as Manchester GCSE results hit new record

Young people across Manchester were celebrating this summer as schools report record provisional GCSE results.

Early indications are that the proportion of pupils achieving the key benchmark standard of 5 or more good GCSEs has reached 60% for the first time in Manchester - up from 57% last year.

Councillor Sheila Newman, Manchester City Council's Executive Member for Children's Services, said: 'I'd like to congratulate our young people and schools for their achievements of today.

"These record results are the reward for many years of hard work and reflect the excellent support pupils have received from their families and schools.

"We can be safe in the knowledge that the future of the city is in good hands. These young people will be moving into further learning, training and employment in Manchester well-equipped to make their mark on the growing economy of our city.'

Two-thirds of schools have reported improvements or sustained performance at last year's record-breaking levels.

King David High School has once again achieved the highest results in the city, with the most significant gains made by schools that have previously achieved below key benchmarks.

Loreto High School in Chorlton and Parklands High School in Wythenshawe report double-digit gains that have seen results exceed the Government's key benchmark of 30% of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grade A* to C, including English and maths.

Provisional overall results for the city show that the proportion of students achieving five or more grades A* to C including English and maths is steady at 37%, with the proportion gaining five or more grades A* to C in all subjects up to a record 60% from 57% last year.

Comparisons with national performance will not be possible for some weeks when all results have been collated.

Schools continue to achieve outstanding reports from Ofsted

Manchester schools are continuing to achieve the high standards being set by Ofsted inspectors. We had already seen a great start to 2009 with St Catherine's RC Primary School and The Willows Primary achieving outstanding reports earlier in the year.

The success has been followed by five more schools achieving outstanding status in five consecutive months.

Alma Park Primary School

Alma Park Primary School was awarded outstanding status in February 2009. Inspectors note that most parents are extremely impressed with the school. One parent commented: "This is an excellent school with first-class teaching. It is highly regarded in the local community and my child has shown fantastic improvement both educationally and socially."

The report also highlights:

- The many children who learn English as an additional language make excellent progress because they are supported very effectively by their teachers and skilled classroom assistants.
- Teachers are particularly skilled in helping pupils new to the school. A large proportion join the school later than usual. The support they receive is of high quality and ensures their rapid integration and accelerated progress.
- Pupils' personal development is excellent. Attendance is good and pupils become mature, sensible and thoughtful learners who are equipped well to make decisions for themselves.
- The quality of teaching and learning is first rate. Excellent relationships between teachers and pupils help to create a very positive working atmosphere where everyone gets along well together and there is usually a buzz of excitement.

The school has also achieved the National Healthy Schools Gold Award, the Activemark, the Inclusion Standard Gold Award and the silver Eco-Schools award.

St Francis RC Primary School

St Francis RC Primary welcomes pupils from different cultures into 'a very happy and safe community where achievement is outstanding'. Inspectors point out: "The excellent progress made by the school is due to highly effective leadership and management and the development of high-quality provision." The school has a Healthy School Award and has been awarded the Artsmark gold.

The report goes on to highlight:

- The development of excellent community links, close working with parents and carers, high expectations in relation to behaviour and attendance, and a strong ethos of mutual respect and co-operation have created a safe environment for pupils to grow in confidence and become independent learners.
- The care, guidance and support of pupils is outstanding. Pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are swiftly identified and skillfully supported.
- This strong provision has made a very significant contribution to the outstanding personal development and well being of the pupils. They are highly responsible, taking care of each other and the community. They value diversity, health, safety and learning.
- The outstanding leaders, managers and governors work together as a very strong team to deliver their vision of a school with the happiness and success of pupils at its heart.

Outstanding status was awarded to St Francis RC Primary School in March 2009.

St Edmund's RC Primary School

Inspectors praised St Edmund's RC Primary School as an outstanding school where parents feel very much a part of the school family, which is extremely supportive and caring. Many parents admire and respect the headteacher's experience, expertise and devotion to the school and its pupils, describing the headteacher as a 'fabulous leader' and a 'perfect role model for pupils'. The school also has Healthy Schools and Activemark awards.

The report also highlights:

- Pupils' personal development is outstanding. Community spirit is strong, and all pupils – including those from the closed school – clearly enjoy coming to school. Most pupils relish the responsibilities bestowed on them, performing their duties as monitors with pride.

"This is an excellent school with first-class teaching. It is highly regarded in the local community and my child has shown fantastic improvement both educationally and socially."

- The national league tables show that the school is currently top of the league of schools in the local authority for achievement, and tenth nationally.
- The school is designated as a champion school for mathematics, and staff share their considerable expertise in this subject with staff from a small group of other schools in the area.
- The quality of teaching and learning, and the curriculum, are outstanding and largely responsible for the high standards. Standards are rising because teachers have high expectations of pupils and plan challenging work to hold their interest in lessons.

Varna Street Primary School

Varna Street Primary School was inspected and received their outstanding status in May 2009. Inspectors observed that "Exceptional leadership has brought about outstanding quality of teaching and of care and support. Pupils' personal development thrives and pupils make excellent academic progress".

National Healthy School's status has been achieved at Varna Street, as well as Activemark and the Basic Skills Quality Mark.

The report goes on to highlight:

- Their outstanding spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is amply demonstrated in the respect pupils have for one another, and in the way in which they learn from each other about their many different faiths and cultures.
- Procedures for assessing and planning for individual pupils are highly effective. Classroom practice is continually reviewed and the best is shared throughout the school to ensure that all pupils make the best possible progress.
- An outstanding development is the organisation, support and teaching for pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, for those from minority ethnic groups who learn to speak English as an additional language and who enter the school mid-term.



- The school is the hub of the community. It reaches out, beyond expected boundaries, to provide learning opportunities. Equality of opportunity underpins the school's ethos and directs outstanding promotion of community cohesion.

St Mary's CofE Junior and Infant School

Awarded in June 09, inspectors compliment St Mary's as an outstanding school which operates in challenging circumstances. Pupils thrive in its extremely nurturing atmosphere and parents have great confidence that the school values their children and keeps them safe. 'This school is a dream come true', and, 'We are all part of one family', are typical of the comments made by parents and carers.

The report also highlights:

- The key to its success is the uncompromising search for improvement driven by the inspirational leadership of the headteacher. Staff know they are valued and have a genuine say in school improvement.
- Leaders have a determination and passion to raise pupils' self-esteem and achievement, and to improve the way they carry out their own work. As a result, pupils have strong self-belief and staff have very high expectations of just how well pupils can do.
- Pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, those at an early stage of learning English, and newly admitted pupils all make excellent progress in relation to their starting points.
- Teaching and learning are outstanding overall and a major factor in enabling pupils to achieve so well. Exciting teaching methods and a brisk pace brings learning alive for pupils.

The fantastic reports from Ofsted show the hard work and dedication of the staff and pupils at our schools. Well done to them all!

Manchester Educational Awards 2009 – schools praise pupils for excellence

Once again the Manchester Educational Awards took place in June to recognise and reward pupils who have shown outstanding achievements at school. Twenty eight secondary-aged pupils in Manchester were acknowledged for their accomplishments and successes shown in everyday school life. Each special young winner was carefully chosen by their headteacher, and each pupil proudly represented their school at the event.

The event was hosted by Kieran McDermott; Assistant Director for Children's Services. The Lord Mayor, Councillor Alison Firth attended the ceremony to congratulate each child individually on their achievements as she presented them with a certificate and gift voucher. Councillor Sheila Newman, Executive Member for Children's Services, John Edwards, Deputy Director for Children's Services and the Lord Mayor's consort, Andrew Fox were also present at the celebration to applaud the young people.

Jordan Wardlaw Ewing School

Jordan has a 'never-give-up' attitude that will serve him well as a young adult in the future both at college and in the workplace.

Aaron Broughton Manchester Hospital School and Home Teaching Service

Aaron is a self-assured and generous young man who is mature and happily supports other pupils.

Yasser Kalombo Burnage Media Arts College

Yasser has given inspirational talks to school assemblies on a wide range of topics from world suffering to the slave trade.



Ben Zoezee Burnage High School

Ben has excelled in all areas of school life both curricular and extra curricular. He has been selected to be both House Captain and Head Boy.

Sarah Richler-Kleiman King David High School

Sarah has matured into a strong personality with outstanding leadership qualities. Sarah is currently Head Girl.

Andrew Lawrence King David High School

Andrew brings a consistent high level of motivation and commitment to both his academic studies and his work as Head Boy.

Gila Pine King David High School

Gila is an extremely gifted student and has made the excellent choice in opting to study Dentistry at University.

Yasmin West Lancasterian School

It has been an absolute privilege to work closely with Yasmin and to watch her become an increasingly independent young woman.

Hoda Suleiman Lancasterian School

Hoda has been an active member of the school council and has participated in extra curricular activities such as Athletics and Wheelchair Dance.

Taya Plant Levenshulme High School

Taya is a positive role model for younger students at our school because she actively participates in all areas of school life.

Hannah Fielding Levenshulme High School

Hannah has supported younger pupils through her peer mentoring work and has represented the school both locally and nationally.

Richard Rowe Newall Green High School

Richard is a perfect role model to others. He coordinated a fundraising "Children In Need" day and organised Red Nose Day for the whole school.

Ashley Gomersall Newall Green High School

Ashley is a House Captain and a member of both the school council and Specialisms Council. He is also a volunteer for St John's Ambulance.



Christian Lee North Manchester High School for Boys

Christian is a top musician and a dedicated and prominent member of the school band. He is a credit to himself, his family and the school.

Tanaka Copa North Manchester High School for Boys

Tanaka was selected to be a mentor for new boys attending the school. He has also been involved in helping to raise money for charity.

Ryan Bradley North Ridge High School

Ryan has a positive attitude towards everything he does. He treats everyone with respect and sensitivity. He is an inspiration to other students.

Lauren Singh Parklands High School

Lauren is a mature, bubbly and conscientious student. She has been a superb ambassador, representing the school at a number of events.

Ian Cope Parklands High School

Ian's attendance is outstanding both at school and at his work placement. Ian has passed his GCSE English early and secured a job for September.

Wayne Donohue Piper Hill High School

Wayne is generous, mature and has a fantastic work ethic. He is sensible, caring and willing to help those less able than himself without counting the cost.

Jessica Hatton and Hannah Donoghue (Dual nomination)

Plant Hill Arts College

Jessica and Hannah have both played a key role in school life. They have both been prefects for the last two years and have set up various initiatives and events which have enhanced school life for other students. They are also on the gifted and talented list at school and have excelled right across the curriculum.

Richard Walker Southern Cross

Richard has worked extremely hard this year and has progressed significantly. He perseveres with all activities to achieve his highest potential.

Marie-Alice Umuhoza Saint Paul's Catholic High School

Marie-Alice is a role model for younger students. She works with a smile on her face and has a desire to succeed at the highest level.

Curtis Massey Saint Paul's Catholic High School

Curtis has been a valuable influence on other pupils in the school. With his maturity and diligence I have no doubt he will go on to great things.

Zenab Yusuf Whalley Range 11-18 High School

Zenab has demonstrated great leadership in her regular attendance of extracurricular activities and also her charity event planning.

Arika Aslam Whalley Range High School

Arika is a self assured and articulate young lady. She is always positive about her studies and this summer should achieve some outstanding GCSE results.

Crystal Quist Wright Robinson College

Crystal is currently studying for GCSEs and has been estimated top grades in every subject. She is also a very talented musician and artist.

Chelsea McCluskey Wright Robinson College

Chelsea McCluskey is by far and away one of the most academically talented pupils at our school. Only in Year 10, Chelsea has already achieved an A in Maths.

First Response Service

Social Care steps up its First Response to referrals

A specialist First Response Service (FRS) is now in place to handle referrals to Manchester Children's Social Care, freeing up duty social workers' time to concentrate on their core role of safeguarding children.

Children's social care services in Manchester are provided by six separate Districts; many requests are received every day, through the department's Contact Centre, for cases to be referred to social workers. While certain cases do indeed require social worker involvement, some can be dealt with more appropriately by other services. Before the FRS was introduced, the time consuming job of screening these requests was carried out by the managers responsible for running the duty social work service in each District.

Kathryn Pengelly, Deputy District Manager and overall Operational Lead for FRS says there are proven benefits attached to introducing a First Response Service: "The system ensures that every referral receives a child-centred response from a qualified social worker; and because of the strong links it fosters between the FRS, Contact Centre and District social work teams we can make that response more consistent across the city.

"Duty team managers now have more capacity to concentrate on essential management functions like providing high quality supervision, effective performance management and the promotion of evidence based, reflective practice. Another advantage of the FRS system is that it helps to promote a better understanding, by other professions, of the role that social work plays and of the information they need to supply when making a referral. It should also encourage them to make better use of the Common Assessment Framework; by stepping up multi-agency working at an earlier stage we can safely reduce the number of young people who require referral to Children's Social Care.



Launch of new children's services and closure of Booth Hall Hospital

Some big changes to children's health services have just taken place to give Manchester families some of the best, most modern NHS facilities in the country.

Following a multimillion-pound investment, everyone from tots to teens will benefit from a brand-new 371-bed children's hospital in central Manchester and new children's services at North Manchester General Hospital in Crumpsall.

Accident and Emergency at Booth Hall has closed and been replaced with a dedicated new children's A&E at North Manchester General, off Delaunays Road, where a variety of other new services for children, including outpatient clinics and inpatient wards, have also relocated from Booth Hall.

Dr Sa Narang is a consultant in emergency medicine at North Manchester General Hospital and the lead clinician in children's emergency services. She said: "The new children's A&E is staffed with doctors and nurses who have been specially trained in the care of children, and all areas will use the latest medical equipment and technology. Many of the consultants and nurses have been working at Booth Hall Children's Hospital prior to the move and will therefore be bringing their skills, experience and local knowledge to the new department."

Meanwhile with services not only from Booth Hall but also from Pendlebury and St Mary's Women's and Children's

hospitals relocating, a host of services have moved to the new children's hospital off Oxford Road. Known as the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, it is the biggest children's hospital in the UK and will provide a wide range of services for families from Manchester and beyond.

Laura Roberts, Chief Executive of NHS Manchester, said: "These changes will help NHS staff to give local children and their families the very best care now and for many years to come."

To find out more visit www.newservicesforchildren.co.uk



How the First Response Team works

Based on 2nd floor of Fujitsu Tower in West Gorton, the First Response Team is made up of six social workers, one from each District; three team managers, each responsible for two Districts with whom they are in close, regular contact; three family support workers, who work under the direction of the social workers and three administrative staff. The social workers are attached to the team for several months before being replaced by colleagues from their District.

Every referral that arrives at Children's Social Care via the Contact Centre is received and processed by the team. Social work staff determine the need for an Initial Assessment by social workers; they check Social Care records and make enquiries by telephone but do not visit families. Where social worker involvement is thought necessary, the case is passed out to the District within 48 hours of being received – it can be fast tracked if necessary - together with the information

gathered. In all other cases the referrer is advised as to why social worker involvement is not required and informed about alternative, more appropriate services.

Contacts:

Overall Operational Lead, Kathryn Pengelly, Deputy District Manager, tel 219 2840

Strategic Lead, Bridget Keane, District Manager, tel 219 2205.

Team managers:

Sam Murphy, tel 274 6715

Kate Culshaw, tel 274 6747

Michelle Bernasconi, tel 274 6661.

Referrals into Children's Social Care should still be made via the department's Contact Centre, telephone 0161 255 8250.

FREE Mediation Service for Schools, Parents, and Agencies Working with Families

Mediation is a process that helps people sort out their difficulties for themselves with the aim of finding a solution that everyone is happy with.

Who can use our service?

Parents or carers, schools, the Council or any other agency working with a family can make referrals to our service if they are involved with a school and want impartial help and support to sort things out.

- For schools in the Manchester City Council area this service is funded and therefore **FREE**.

Mediation is a confidential service and a tried and tested way of getting a solution that really works. Our aim is for people to express their views openly and honestly, to keep children in school wherever possible and to resolve disagreements without the need for more formal processes.

For more detailed information please use contact Ruth Crossley or Karen Considine on 0161 908 8375 or email: mediation.services@manchester.gov.uk

You can also find more information at <http://www.manchester.gov.uk/housing/mediation>



A morning in the life of Gorton North Sure Start Children's Centre

Monday morning in the centre is very busy with a number of popular and exciting activities for families with young children. These include:

- Birth registration: Appointments are made each week 9am–12 noon. On arrival parents are greeted by outreach worker Angela Gorton. All parents are presented with welcome packs and a Book Start pack.
- Baby clinic: Parents drop in to the centre between 9.30am and 12 noon to meet health visitor Catherine Stoddard. First-come first-served systems are in place ensuring parents have enough time with the health visitor.
- Baby massage: Beverley Coleman runs a very popular and relaxing baby massage session. Parents are invited along with their babies to experience the beneficial relaxation techniques delivered in the session.
- Talk time: Debbie King comes into the centre every Monday morning to offer support and advice, and addresses families' concerns and queries.

Angela Gorton, Outreach Worker, says:

"This is a brilliant one stop shop for families. As well as families being able to register their babies' birth, they also have the opportunity to meet health visitors and family support and get involved with the baby massage session. I have seen many parents coming into the session, and many have often formed friendships and given advice and support to each other."



Early Years: Acting on recommendations

Manchester's Early Years Programme – established in the wake of the Early Years Review Phase I and made up of six projects designed to help the city achieve its future vision for the city's youngest residents - is picking up speed.

Our Early Years Vision to see **'Everyone working together to make sure that every Manchester child in their early years has every opportunity to be the best they can be'** was agreed in September 2008 following consultation with the Early Years Stakeholder Group (EYSG). Twelve months on, Children's Services is acting on a series of far-reaching recommendations that will set us firmly on the path towards making this vision a reality.

We intend to create new opportunities for celebrating and engaging children, families, neighbourhoods and communities; to develop a range of high quality, integrated services for children and families that respond to local needs and set standards of excellence in child development; to establish a fully integrated, highly skilled workforce with high grade leadership; and provide access for children within their local community to a range of high quality experiences and environments that inspire learning, enjoyment and achievement.

In July this year the Programme announced its recommendations for the actions that should underpin our work to achieve these objectives. These actions have been incorporated into a project plan that is now unfolding and will be in place by December.

The Recommendations in summary

- **The implementation of a Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) for all Early Years settings – to mirror that in place for schools - which will be used to develop future commissioning, de-commissioning, funding and early years strategy;**
- **The development of one additionally resourced Sure Start Centre (Centre of Excellence) in each of the six districts to provide a range of specialist agencies, services and a number of designated places for children with learning difficulties and disabilities (LDD);**
- **To consult with all stakeholders on our proposals for meeting the Government's requirement that Local Authorities use a common funding formula for the free entitlement to nursery care for 3 and 4 year olds from April 2010;**
- **Endorsement of the action taken in advance of the proposed 0-5 nursery review, to increase the number of nursery places in areas of particular shortage;**
- **To promote the use of accredited childminders with recruitment of 20 networked childminders per district with all Network Childminders to be qualified at a level 3 or working towards a level 3 qualification;**

- **From September 2009, all Children's Centres, Family Support teams and the Pre School Special Needs (PSSN) team to be transferred to district management under the line management of District Managers. This includes all staff teams linked to Sure Start Children's Centres and their linked day care sites;**
- **From January 2010, the staffing structure to support the quality assurance function to mirror that of Education Services with a Senior Setting Effectiveness Officer role to be managed by the Head of Education Services (Commissioning and 0-7) and Setting Effectiveness Officer roles developed to focus on settings delivering early years provision across the city;**
- **LA duties related to the Childcare Act to sit with Business Support and Commissioning division. This should include the sufficiency duties and free entitlement along with contract compliance and commissioning;**
- **The Early Years allocations and payments function have already transferred to the integrated admissions service;**
- **The nursery class allocation system is coordinated by the LA for September 2010 admissions for all community schools and for those VA schools and Academies who agree to be included in the process; and**
- **The current Early Years data system to be developed within the E-nurseries module of ONE**

What's next?

The Recommendations are currently being discussed with Early Years teams and services. An Education Services Quality Assurance Team is being established and will be in place by December.

Feedback from the EYSG on the Early Years Funding Formula was presented to Schools Forum in July 2009 and a three month consultation on the subject with all providers is set to end in October. Final recommendations on the Funding Formula will be produced for discussion with the EYSG and Schools Forum before approval is sought from the Executive in December 2009 / January 2010.

Meanwhile, the EYSG reconvenes in November to discuss the recommendations and review the implementation plan. The new QAF will be piloted in one Manchester District between September and December.

You can find out more about the Recommendations and action plan from:

Wendy Middlemas, telephone 234 7060
Pam Tideswell, telephone 274 6275
Sarah Murray, telephone 234 7471

National Volunteers Week

National Volunteers Week runs every year from 1 to 7 June. To celebrate this and the work of other young volunteers, Manchester Youth Service enlisted the help of two young volunteers from Voluntary Service Overseas' Global Xchange programme. Global Xchange is currently running an exchange between Manchester and Pakistan, giving young people the opportunity to work in teams to volunteer in their home country and abroad over a period of six months.

The young volunteers acted as researchers, looking into the reasons young people volunteer and the type of opportunities available in the Youth Service.

They found that young people are keen to volunteer, as they recognise the benefit to their community and themselves. Jordaine Owen-Williams volunteers at the 'Move-In' project in Longsight. She recognises the value her volunteering will have when applying for part-time jobs and for her career aspirations as an author for young people'. Aaron Parry-Stevens wanted to act as a role model for young people, encouraging them to get involved in positive activities rather than hanging out on the streets.

Speaking to youth workers supporting young volunteers, they found that the key to involving young people was flexibility, creating opportunities that could fit around school, college and employment, and being creative, allowing the young people to choose how they want to help in a way that interests them. They also recognised the value of accreditation to the contribution and skills development of the young volunteer.

Young people in the Youth Service also have the opportunity to volunteer in an exciting international dimension. Participants from the North West, North East, Central East, and Wythenshawe Youth Forums recently represented Manchester young people at a European Children's Summit in Karlsruhe, Germany, under the slogan 'children talk – adults listen'. They were happy to discover how easy it is to make friends from other countries, and to find out about the issues facing young people around Europe and how they deal with them.

Volunteers are essential to the smooth-running of Manchester Youth Service. Councillor Alistair Cox had the following message for those interested in volunteering:

"Take the first step and you will be opening doors to a whole range of new and exciting opportunities. But beware – it may change your life as well."

Laura Gisby and Sarwat Sughra



Young people in the Youth Service also have the opportunity to volunteer in an exciting international dimension.

Leading the Way

The 'Leading The Way' Conference took place at Wythenshawe Community Church in June. The event was arranged for leaders and managers who provide services for the children and young people of Manchester. It was a great success, and enjoyed by all. With such inspirational speakers as Camila Batmanghelidjh of Kids Company in London and Professor Beverly Alimo-Metcalfe of the Real World Group attending, there was much valuable information to be taken in by the pleased delegates. The guest speaker for the day was Claire Evans from '4CT', who presented on the topic of 'A Day in the Life of a Voluntary Sector Manager', and this was of clear interest to all the participants.

Thanks were given to Phil Moss, from Manchester City Council's Trading Services, for undertaking the afternoon's workshop on Leadership and Management, as well as to Hilary Baldwin and Janet Williamson for explaining 'The One Children's Workforce Tool'.

Feedback about the event included:

"The BEST I've been to in a local authority!"

"Listening to Beverly Alimo-Metcalfe was very inspiring, with an eye-opening speech from Camila Batmanghelidjh – great information about the brain and the importance of love and care."

The event was arranged in recognition of the unique role the leaders and managers undertake each day throughout Manchester. A great day was had by all, and we hope to be able to arrange other events like this in the future.

The Workforce Strategy and Partnership Programme (WSPP)

The event was arranged in recognition of the unique role the leaders and managers undertake each day throughout Manchester.



Did you know that...

...when women find out they are pregnant, they can choose to see their local midwife or their GP – the earlier the better. Contacting a midwife direct may speed up access to maternity care and is a great start for mum and baby.

All pregnant women need a midwife. A midwife is specially trained to provide care during pregnancy, at birth and after the baby is born.

The NHS in Greater Manchester wants all women to know

this and is launching a campaign to let them know.

So remember, if someone tells you they are pregnant, pass the message on: going direct to a midwife is a real choice.

A special phone line has been set up to direct women to their local midwifery service – so go **Direct to Midwife:** call **0800 121 4400**.



Children's Trust Arrangements

The key aim of the Children's Trust Arrangements (CTA) is to get different organisations to work more effectively together, share information and deliver better outcomes for children living in the city.

By working together in this way, a more cohesive service can be delivered and there can be a shift towards prevention and early intervention, enabling targeted support and help to families before major difficulties arise.

Everyone working with children in Manchester continues to look at ways of working more effectively with other agencies in order that services provided to children are more holistic.

There are **8 key projects** that contribute significantly to the establishment of the Children's Trust Arrangements. These are:

- **Information sharing**
- **ContactPoint**
- **Common Assessment Framework (CAF)**
- **Lead Professional (LP)**
- **Interagency Governance**
- **Commissioning**
- **Accommodation / Co-location**

All of these projects are now underway and the **e-CAF** Project is due to start January 2010.

We have now appointed 3 new Project Managers to work on the Interagency Governance, Commissioning and Accommodation /Co-location Projects who should all be in post by Mid Sept 09.

As part of the Children's Trust Arrangements work a Communications steering group has been established to align communication and engagement amongst our partner agencies.

Project Updates:

Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and Lead Professional (LP) implementation continue to progress across the city and is underpinned by district CAF and Lead Professional (LP) implementation plans drawn up by the CAF Steering Groups and Team Around the Professional (TAP) in the North East. Now that we have a number of assessments being

completed to a high quality, the focus this year is on supporting the Lead Professional through high quality Child and Family (CaF) plans, and Team Around the Child (TAC) activity.

The CAF Coordinators are busy revising Manchester's CAF and LP guidance and supporting tools to take account of practitioner feedback and the recently published revised national CAF and LP and TAC guidance. The revised Manchester guidance will be available shortly.

We are also currently conducting a CAF impact evaluation to gain information about the impact of CAF on children young people and their families and how it has helped practitioners in their work. We now have a number of examples where CAF has benefited children and young people, and are keen to hear their views.

For more information, please contact:

Rosemary Braithwaite
Common Assessment Framework Project Manager
By Phone: **0161 234 7549**
By Email: **Rosemary.Braithwaite@manchester.gov.uk**
Web: **www.manchester.gov.uk/children**

ContactPoint is a contacts list for professionals who work with children and young people. It will provide them with a quick way to find out who else is working with the same child or young person, making it easier for them to work as a team and deliver more co-ordinated support. This basic online tool will be available to authorised practitioners who need it to do their jobs. It is a key part of the Every Child Matters programme and the Children's Plan, to improve the health, well-being and safety of all children.

ContactPoint has been live in Manchester since February 2009. Since then we have:

- Set up our ContactPoint Management Team, within the Children's Trust Arrangements programme
- Received training from the DCSF on ContactPoint management processes (including tasks such as setting up users, delivering training, managing data etc)
- Completed our initial shielding exercise which ensures records of children or young people at increased risk of significant harm are appropriately handled

- Completed (and continuing to work on) data management activities such as the identification and merging of duplicate records
- Accredited our Connexions and Manchester Community Health partners and delivered training to the pilot groups

During early June, the pilot groups (called "managed users") were training in the use of ContactPoint. This included 38 staff from both Manchester Community Health (School Nurses, Health Visitors, Safeguarding team) and Connexions Personal Advisors. Those staff who are a part of the pilot are based across the city.

Now that the training has been completed, we are starting the evaluation of this phase so we can better prepare for full rollout of ContactPoint in early 2010 and improve processes and materials based on practitioner feedback.

Our next steps are to concentrate on improving data within ContactPoint. We are part of a working group with the DCSF to look at data issues within the system to make sure it works as effectively as possible. We continue to manage duplicates and erroneous records in ContactPoint so that day by day it becomes more accurate and useful.

In addition to the data work, we are also looking at partners and organisations who will need access to ContactPoint in the future, and preparing them for the "accreditation" process. Each organisation needs to be accredited to ensure they meet minimum standards with their governance, policies and processes including compliance with the ContactPoint security policies and practices. Partners have been identified and we will be contacting you and increasing our engagement in due course.

If you need more information in the meantime then please contact us:

By phone: **0161 2347214**
By email: **contactpoint@manchester.gov.uk**
Web: **www.manchester.gov.uk/cta** or
www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/strategy/delivering services1/contactpoint/

Equality and Diversity in Children's Services An Update

Children's Services has been operating under a new equality and diversity model for 3 months

Background

The merger of the three equality commissions into a single Equality and Human Rights Commission has led to a shift in the national context towards a single focus on all equalities themes. The new Children's Services model reflects this.

The six equality strands now covered under a single focus are: Disability, gender, race, sexual orientation, age, faith and religion. There is also additional work being carried out on socio-economic inequalities, a particular concern in Manchester.

The Children's Services model includes an over-arching Equality Group, which consists of an equality lead from each main business area within Children's Services.

Progress so far:

The group has been meeting monthly to establish itself and look at equality work across the Directorate. The group will be meeting quarterly in the future.

So far the group has:

- Conducted a pilot Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) with the Family Information Service with a view to extending this across the Directorate
- Begun the process of ensuring the directorate's Business Plans reflect the new Equality agenda
- Contributed to new Corporate schemes and groups
- Used the new Equality Framework for Local Government (EFLG) as a service analysis tool
- Contributed to the final year of Agenda 2010 (Race equality programme set up in 2000).

Additionally an action plan will soon be available with actions lifted from the three Business Plans.

We welcome any questions, comments or suggestions and particularly want to hear from anyone interested in participating in Children's Services staff groups. Contact **Ed Haygarth, Policy & Performance, 0161 234 7217.**

To keep yourself up to date with any current work visit:

www.mcc/children/about/services/policy_performance/equality.htm

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What do you want to hear about?

We hope you find this newsletter useful and would really value and welcome any comments and contributions you may have. Email: csmesssage@manchester.gov.uk

This newsletter is also available in electronic format on Manchester City Council's website at

www.manchester.gov.uk