

# Children's Services Newsletter

for all those working with children

## Issue 10

Summer 2010

## Spring Term Success!

### Three Manchester Special Schools celebrate outstanding Ofsted Inspections

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Three of Manchester's special schools have been highly praised by Ofsted Inspectors. **Lancasterian School** in West Didsbury, Burnage's **Rodney House** and **Camberwell Park Specialist Support School** in Blackley were all declared to be 'outstanding' – the highest rating awarded by the Government's schools watchdog, following recent, rigorous inspections.

The schools were assessed on criteria that included leadership and management, curriculum planning, overall effectiveness and capacity for sustained improvement and the achievement and development of pupils – all came through with flying colours.

As well as observing each school and its teachers at work, inspectors took into account the findings of questionnaires sent out to pupils' parents and carers. Some 80% of the respondents reported that their children enjoyed attending school and over 70% said they were happy with their child's experience there. Levels of satisfaction with teaching standards and the way the schools are led and managed and meet children's individual needs were also notably high.

Inspectors said the Lancasterian School is 'excellent at supporting pupils' unique physical needs' and 'well deserves its excellent

reputation with parents and the community'. They praised the care, guidance and support that pupils receive and the fact that 'the head teacher and senior leaders have high expectations of what the children can achieve and deliver the quality of provision necessary for them to do so'.

Rodney House was described as 'a fabulous school', where pupils 'make outstanding progress in learning and personal development' and 'are happy because they are treasured and valued as individuals'. The assessment noted that 'pupils love the sparkling array of exciting learning opportunities on offer'.

At Camberwell Park, inspectors praised the 'very high commitment to inclusion showed by leaders and shared by all staff', the 'consistently good' quality of teaching and 'spiritual, moral, social and cultural development' and said that 'pupils attitudes to learning and their behaviour are exemplary', adding: 'the school's success is underpinned by particularly effective relationships with parents and the wider community'.

Well-deserved praise for some of our fine schools and a seal of approval for the hard work of everyone involved!

Read about more outstanding schools on page 2 and 3.



MANCHESTER  
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Primary Care Trust



# Well done to our 'outstanding' schools!

Ofsted has published its updated framework for school inspections, introduced nationwide from September 2009. Under the new framework, headteachers are given less notice and are asked to give more of their own input. The short-notice inspections now last two days.

## St Peter's RC High School

St Peter's RC High School was the first secondary school in Manchester and the first in the diocese to be designated as 'outstanding' under the new Ofsted framework.

Inspectors were impressed by the young people at the school and praised the 'impressive rise in GCSE results' in recent years, the good attendance and the good behaviour of students. In the letter to students the senior inspector thanked students for being 'polite and helpful' and commented on the 'good teaching' they received.

Parents also played their part in the inspection. Responses from the survey strongly supported the school, with 97 per cent saying 'Overall, I am happy with my child's experience at this school.'

Inspectors highlighted the following areas of good practice and achievement:

- St Peter's is an 'outstanding' school, where students from a wide range of backgrounds achieve well.
- Staff share a common sense of purpose and work very effectively together to overcome barriers to learning, and to effect and sustain improvements.
- Examination results in two of the lead subjects (business studies and information and communication technology (ICT)), are particularly good and are above national averages.
- Students enjoy positive working relations with teachers and those who support learning. Teachers' high expectations help students to respond positively to a range of well-planned tasks.
- Teaching is lively and support is timely, well placed and helpful in accelerating learning.



## Cheetham CofE Community School

Inspectors hailed Cheetham CofE Community School as an: "outstanding school, held in very high esteem by the local community, which it serves extremely well. Pupils enjoy their learning tremendously and are keen to share their enthusiasm for their school with visitors."

### The report also highlights:

- Pupils' behaviour is exemplary, both in the classroom and around the school, and they show much respect for adults and for each other.
- Pupils from all backgrounds get on extremely well and enjoy collaborating, both in work and play. These outstanding elements of their personal development are due in part to the school's extensive involvement in a range of international projects that broaden pupils' knowledge, experience and understanding.
- Good-quality teaching and an outstanding curriculum help to ensure that pupils are fully engaged in their learning and progress well during their time at school.
- The inspirational leadership of the headteacher is one of the main factors in the school's success. Together with other school leaders, he has worked with great success in communicating his vision of a remarkably cohesive school community to all staff.

The school was awarded 'outstanding' status in September 2009.

## Chorlton Park Primary School

Inspectors praised the school, describing it as an: "extremely happy, harmonious learning community successfully providing education and care of the highest quality for every pupil. It makes every effort to reach out to engage and support parents, several of whom commented on the 'family' ethos."

### The report also highlights:

- Achievement is outstanding. Pupils attain above average standards by the time they leave Year 6.
- Outstanding teaching that really captures pupils' interests and actively engages them in learning to ensure that they make excellent progress.
- Pupils' enjoyment of school is clear for all to see, and is a major factor in their outstanding achievement. Their behaviour is exemplary, they say they feel entirely safe in school, and they are very aware of personal safety.
- Pupils speak articulately of their contribution to the school and wider communities, are proud to act as peer mediators and councillors, and are willing to help in any way they can.
- Dedicated and inspirational leadership, not content to rest on previous success, constantly seeks to improve provision to benefit every pupil. This has successfully moved the school forward and deservedly gained local and national recognition.

The school was awarded 'outstanding' status in November 2009.

Congratulations and well done to our schools who were awarded 'outstanding' status



Cllr Newman and headteacher Ian Fenn take a look at one of the new classrooms together with students from Burnage Media Arts College.



Health Academy - Joshua Lee, aged 12 with Cllr Sheila Newman.

# BSF and Academies

**The BSF and Academies Programme continues to make significant strides in 2010 with even more schools benefiting from investment in both buildings, grounds and ICT.**

Earlier this year construction milestone events were held at Manchester Enterprise Academy, Burnage Media Arts College and the Manchester Health Academy where students, teachers and the local community joined in the celebrations at their respective sites.

Construction work across the programme is on budget and on target; so far eleven high schools have been completed and a further eight are under way. Significant progress is being made on the construction of five of the academies, which will all be completed and open in September of this year.

Manchester's Building Schools for the Future and Academies Programme has marked its £500m investment in secondary schools through the publication of a new School Report, which showcases its achievements to date.

The 40-page document sets out the investment in each of the 33 high schools across the city and uses striking images and artists' impressions to show completed schools, progress in existing schools as well as plans for future schools.

In addition work has started or is about to start on the remaining high schools in the city, namely, Whalley Range High School, Loreto High School, Barlow RC High School, St Peter's High School, and Abraham Moss High School.

Work is also under way to create the brand new Grange High School in Gorton which is a special school for children and young people on the autistic spectrum, including some residential accommodation. This work is part of a city wide strategy to improve SEN provision and includes extension and refurbishment work at Lancasterian School, Newall Green, St Peter's HS and Abraham Moss, as well as a number of primary schools.

Councillor Sheila Newman, Manchester City Council's Executive Member for Children's Services, says: "We are in the middle of a vast rebuilding and remodelling programme that will transform the way we educate young people across the city. Manchester's building programme is underpinned by a step change in thinking to ensure real transformational learning. We are ahead of schedule in our building programme, allowing us to bring the benefits of the improvements in education to both students and the city as a whole as soon as possible."

The purpose of the School Report is to chart the success of the investment and show how these brand new state-of-the-art new schools will provide inspirational and innovative learning spaces that will help inspire young people to learn and achieve.

You can view the School Report by visiting [www.manchester.gov.uk/bsf](http://www.manchester.gov.uk/bsf)

# Sign of the new times

**Construction of the new Manchester Enterprise Academy moved a step closer to completion as the signage bearing the Academy's name was unveiled at a special ceremony held in January.**

Staff, students and the local community gathered to watch the unveiling of the new sign for the £19million Academy, which is due to be completed in September.

Building work is now well underway and from 2010 the academy will provide 750 places for 11 to 16-year-olds together with post-16 provision for 120 students.

MEA opened last September in the former Parklands High School building and is one of seven new academies planned for the city. It is sponsored by Manchester Airport with co-sponsorship from Willow Park Housing Trust, Manchester City Council and The Manchester College. The Academy will differ from existing schools in that sponsors will work alongside teachers to design learning and assessment materials. All students will have personal learning mentors as well as round-the-clock access to materials and support to encourage 'anytime, anywhere learning'.

The Academy has already started to provide the local community and families with access to its facilities and is open at evenings and at weekends. The Academy approach will see sponsors closely engaged with the learning experience.

Councillor Sheila Newman, Manchester City Council's Executive Member for Children's Services, said: "MEA is a new and exciting place to learn and will help ensure that our children and young people gain the skills and qualifications demanded by employers."



Sign of the new times - Back: Cllr Sheila Newman and Marie Quayle, Principal of MEA. Front: Year 7 pupils from MEA (left to right) Chloe Agger, age 12, Kathleen Yates, age 12, Joseph Lowe, age 11, Benjamin Oliver, age 12



# Children's Services Mapping

**This year, Manchester Children's Services will be taking part in Durham University's Children's Services Mapping process. Children's Services Mapping is an online data collection and reporting system that aims to provide information about services for children and young people in England. Working alongside NHS Manchester, the mapping exercise will provide valuable information that will support commissioning activity within Children's Services and provide a picture of changing patterns of service provision across the city.**

## Purpose

The purpose of the mapping exercise is to:

- Contribute to the monitoring of progress in the implementation of Every Child Matters, the Children's Plan, the Children's National Service Framework and related agendas
- Support Children's Trusts in developing joint commissioning strategies
- Support the development of Comprehensive Area Assessments (CAA)
- Support joint service planning, development and provision
- Act as a source of data for national, regional and local performance monitoring
- Assist in the bid for resources
- Facilitate local benchmarking.

- Information on investment in Children's Services to support the development of joint commissioning
- Indicative trends in the proportion of investment spent on the delivery of services
- An overview of the total children's workforce
- A map of the contribution made by the third and private sectors, including the net inflow of resources to the local authority area.

## Take part

All types of Children's Services are mapped except schools, which are subject to a separate data collection exercise. The aim of the exercise is to create a description of all the services that fall under the responsibility of Children's Trusts, irrespective of which agency provides the services or how the services are commissioned/funded.

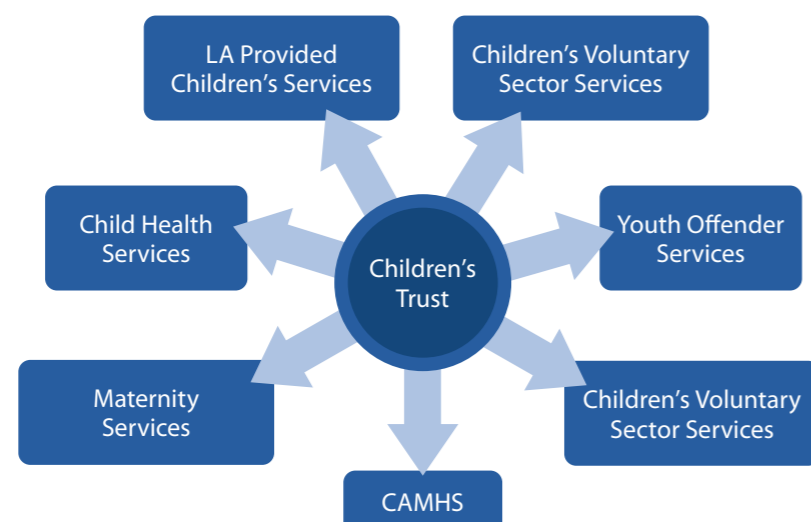
Those taking part in the mapping will receive a range of customised reports during the annual mapping cycle, including profiles of their organisation, and updates on findings.

Questionnaires have already been distributed via email to social work teams. If you have not received this email or feel that your team or service needs to be included in the mapping exercise, please contact the mapping team at [help@childrensmapping.org.uk](mailto:help@childrensmapping.org.uk) quoting Manchester LA.

## Mapping outputs

Some examples of mapping outputs are:

- A comprehensive view of services the Children's Trusts use as a basis for gap analysis and service development
- A national overview of Children's Trusts
- Information on the relationship between services and key policy goals



# ContactPoint in Manchester

**All children and young people should get the best possible start in life. ContactPoint is a new national system that aims to make services better for children and young people. It's like a computer-based phonebook for people who work with children and young people, and it will provide them with a quick way to find out who else is working with the same child, making it easier for them to work as a team and deliver more co-ordinated support.**

If people working with a child can find each other easily, they can:

- Make sure that every child is getting the support they need
- Find the right support early before problems get worse
- Work together, which means that a child (or family) doesn't have to explain the same things lots of times to different people.

ContactPoint will hold basic details for each child under the age of 18 in England, such as name, address, date of birth, name and address of parents/carers, and whether a CAF has been completed. By law ContactPoint does not hold any details such as doctors' notes or school records.

ContactPoint has to meet strict security standards, and checks are continually made to ensure it is used by the right people in the right way.

Manchester was one of 18 local authorities in the north west to be given access to ContactPoint before the rest of the country. In June 2009, we trained a number of practitioners (health visitors, school nurses and Connexions advisers) who tested and evaluated the system for us (this was known as our pilot phase).

The feedback received from the practitioners was very positive and they felt that ContactPoint was a valuable and useful tool.

In Manchester, ContactPoint training is being prepared for practitioners working in schools, Children's Centres, Integrated Admissions, Connexions and the Primary Care Trust. Over the next year training will be offered to all other relevant roles within the children's workforce.

If you would like to discuss ContactPoint, please get in touch with the ContactPoint Management Team on **0161 234 7214** or email us at [contactpoint@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:contactpoint@manchester.gov.uk)

Alternatively, you can write to us at The ContactPoint Team, Children's Services, PO Box 536, Manchester M60 5AF.



**ContactPoint has to meet strict security standards, and checks are continually made to ensure it is used by the right people in the right way.**

# CAF Project Closure

**Since the news that the CAF Project is coming to a close there have been questions about what is going to happen to CAF and what services needs to do.**

## Why is the CAF project ending?

CAF was implemented in Manchester in March 2008 in line with national guidance. Significant progress has been made with CAF implementation and foundations laid for effective integrated working. Although the CAF project is now closed, CAF is still continuing in Manchester. We need to build upon your good work to date to ensure that children, young people and their families continue to benefit from the CAF process and access the support they need.

## What happens next?

The Lead Professional project will continue until September 2010 and will progress the work required to ensure that the Lead Professional and Team Around the Child functions operate effectively for the benefit of children, young people and their families.

As part of project closure, proposals have been drawn up and approved by Children's Trust Leadership Team to ensure that the progress with CAF to date will be maintained in districts and across the city. These proposals form the basis of a detailed handover plan of the CAF project so that CAF is embedded in the districts and in agencies and becomes "business as usual".

Managers at all levels will continue to support CAF implementation and practitioners will continue to complete common assessments.

## How will I access advice and support on the CAF process?

Across the city a wealth of knowledge, experience and skills has been developed as CAF has been implemented. In order to build on and make the most of this knowledge and skill base, agencies will be required to make arrangements to ensure that you can get advice and support on the CAF process.

This can happen in a variety of ways:

- Agencies have been asked to identify CAF champions at strategic, operational and practitioner levels to give advice and support to staff
- Agencies have been asked to look at how they will use existing supervision arrangements to give advice and support to staff
- Agencies will ensure that staff are aware of and can access the CAF Supporting Tools which are available on the CTA and MSCB websites
- You can also access the latest guidance on the DCSF website

## What happens next?

You will find out from your agency the name of your CAF champions. We also encourage you to use the CAF supporting tools and any peer networks available to you.

A CAF handbook will be available to give you an overview of the CAF process. The District Wider Leadership Teams will be monitoring CAF progress and working collaboratively to resolve any barriers to progress.

## If you are going to **start a CAF:**

You will still need to check if a CAF has been completed. You can do this by contacting the ContactPoint Management Team (CPMT) by phone on **0161 234 7214** or by email to **CAFIT@manchester.gov.uk**

## If you **complete a CAF:**

Once you have completed a CAF, you will need to send a copy to the ContactPoint Management Team using the contact details below:

**EMAIL:** CAFIT@manchester.gov.uk – please do not include children's details in the email heading and mark as private and confidential.

**POST:** CAFIT, Children's Trust Arrangements, 2nd Floor Overseas House, Quay Street, Manchester, M3 3BB. Please ensure you double-envelope and mark the inner envelope ONLY as private and confidential.

**FAX:** 0161 274 7082 – please telephone CPMT on 0161 2347214 prior to sending the fax.

Please refer to the DCSF guidance on sharing confidential information found at:

**<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/resources-and-practice/IG00631/>**

## If you **close a CAF** or you **become the Lead Professional** or **stop being the Lead Professional:**

Please telephone the ContactPoint Management Team on **0161 234 7214** for details of how to do this.

If you have any questions about these processes then please contact the ContactPoint Management Team (CPMT), on **0161 234 7214** or via **CAFIT@manchester.gov.uk**

## ContactPoint:

ContactPoint is a national online directory available to authorised staff who need it to do their jobs. It will hold basic information on children and young people including whether or not a CAF exists. No case information will be recorded and ContactPoint will not generate statistical information for reports.

## What does this mean for you?

Agencies will be required to make arrangements to collect data on CAF activity for the purposes of reporting on CAF progress at district and city-wide levels (a template will be made available). Please ensure when developing any reporting arrangements that the national Information Sharing guidance is considered and data is anonymised wherever possible.

**<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/resources-and-practice/IG00340/>**

If you would like any further information on the above, please get in touch with:

Rosemary Braithwaite on **0161 234 7536** or **[rosemary.braithwaite@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:rosemary.braithwaite@manchester.gov.uk)**

## CAF training from April 2010 – March 2011.

Building on the success of the CAF training programme a new Integrated Working Programme has been commissioned by Workforce Planning and Development in collaboration with the CAF Project team.

The Training Shared Service Centre will administer the programme and deal with requests for nominations.

If you have questions regarding CAF training, or you would like any further support/guidance please email **[childrensservices@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:childrensservices@manchester.gov.uk)** writing 'CAF Training Query' in the subject field or telephone the CAF Administrator on **0161 203 3200**.

## Manchester celebrates Young Peoples Achievements

**Over the past four years Manchester has been allocated the Youth Opportunity Fund and the Youth Capital Fund; a unique set of funding from the Government that has to be spent and commissioned by young people placing real control and influence in their hands.**

The funding is annual and each year Manchester receives over £500,000. Young people are the decision makers, grant givers and project leaders, as well as benefiting from improved provision and activities.

The Lord Mayor of Manchester Councillor Alison Firth invited the Youth Opportunity Fund Panel to her private suite on

Monday 10 May to celebrate their achievements and to thank young people for volunteering their time and making a huge difference to the lives of young people in Manchester.

The event was attended by parents, adult steering group members, young people who had successfully applied to the fund, Young Identity (a group of young poets and performers), skate boarders from the Projekts Skate Park and the Blackley Scouts Human Powered Vehicle racing group.

There are eight Youth Opportunity Panel members, Renee Edem, Rhys Flowers, Nneka O'garro, Nicole May, Marcel Stevens, Chloe Bryan, Condia West and Denise Thomas. The panel members promote funds to young people, train new panel members, and once a month each individual panel-member can have up to 100 applications to assess!

Young people who have benefited include schools, colleges, youth centres and local community groups, residential care homes, disabled young people, specific BME groups, uniformed group bids, faith group bids, refugee and asylum seekers bids and young carer bids.

Projects have included international exchange work, a young person's carnival, a Duke of Edinburgh Expedition, cycling clubs, dance groups and summer activities.

**The Youth Opportunity Fund received thanks from many of the projects they have supported over the years;**

*'I would like to send a message of thanks to the young people's panel, on behalf of myself, and all the young people at Ardwick Youth Centre. Participation of members has increased significantly, not only in the youth centre but also the youth forums and voluntary work. The YOF funding has supported four young people to become volunteers at the centre and to take part in the young people's volunteers training. Once again, congratulations to the young people's panel and thank you for your commitment and continued support.'*

**Dee Murton and youth centre members.**

*'Could you please express on my behalf my sincere thanks to all the YOF panel members? Throughout the years they have been committed, hardworking and dedicated to the YOF panel and the YOF process. Young people have benefited from positive activities and employment training. Keep up the good work you are all a credit to young people in Manchester!'*

**Angela Taylor (Intensive Interventions Project Key worker)**

All the staff and young people at Ardwick Youth and Community Centre would like to take this opportunity to thank the Youth Opportunity Fund Panel for their continuing support and funding of trips, activities and residential visits.

The experiences for young people at the centre have been amazing and had a positive impact on all involved. Thank you for giving the staff team the opportunity to deliver quality work and the young people the chance to be involved in the decision-making process and influenced positive change in the community.



## Review of Child Health and Disability Service

Following agreement to review the Child Health and Disability service (CHAD) there has been a range of meetings and workshops with key stakeholders including staff, service users and partners.

The relationship between the CHAD review, Aiming High for Disabled Children Project and the review of Pre-School Special Needs has been recognised as crucial to the overall development of integrated services for disabled children and is now part of the Change Programme for Children's Services.

This has brought us to some key decisions and broad areas of agreement as follows:

1. The Family Placement Team will be integrated with the mainstream Family Placement Service. This will give them a strong infrastructure on which to develop services for disabled children and their families.
2. The Early Support Team (key workers) will be disestablished on 31st August when the funding finishes (as previously agreed). The principles underpinning the work of the team will be embedded in the new structure.
3. There is a broad principle that we need to strengthen early intervention and prevention services and that this is best achieved through locality working. Stronger level 2 services will enable a more focussed and targeted approach to work with families. The social work model will ensure better co-ordination of cases with district teams whilst maintaining the specialist input.
4. Work is now progressing on the social work model and the structure required for early intervention and prevention services. Of key importance is work related to commissioning and effective use of resources.
5. Commitment to continued development towards a single data base for SEN/LDD and an initial single point of contact for parents for information and advice through the Family Information Service

### The Next Step:

The social work model will be confirmed in line with overall social work redesign and consulted on by the end of July 2010.

## Wythenshawe students enter the "Dragons' Den"

**Students from Manchester Enterprise Academy beat stiff competition from three other High Schools in Wythenshawe when they scooped top prize in a 'Dragons' Den-style contest organised by Manchester Airport.**

St Paul's, Newall Green and Manchester Health Academy each selected a group of students to take part in the competition, which required them to come up with a money-making business venture and present their idea to four 'Dragons' in order to secure up to £100 investment for production or marketing. The teams were then given the chance to sell their products to passengers travelling through Manchester Airport.

All four schools were successful in securing investment from the Dragons, who were: Phil Shilson, from airport retailer WDF; Gary Palmer, from Enterprise Rent-a-Car; Christena Meynell from Singapore Airways; and Julia Rodgers, from Greater Manchester Police.

Manchester Health Academy secured £60 investment for their jewellery range, while Newall Green High School

secured £40 for their customized underwear. St Paul's LED Christmas flashing decoration and Manchester Enterprise Academy's Christmas CD for Children were both awarded £100.

The winner was the group that sold the most and all the money raised was donated to charity. The winning team, from Manchester Enterprise Academy, raised almost £400 for their venture. Their prize was a trip to the Hard Rock Café in Manchester in a chauffeur-driven limousine.

Following the success of the competition, Manchester Airport's Community Relations Team is aiming to expand it to other schools in the city.

For more information contact Wendy Sinfield, Community Relations Manager on **0161 489 2700**.



Dragons' Den – Emma Flynn, Talia Plant and Samantha Chappelle with Cliff Williams from the Academy

# Wythenshawe protects children from breathing tobacco smoke

**The Healthy Smokefree Families project got off to a flying start early last year with an art competition in Wythenshawe Children's Centres and school holiday projects. Entrants received a framed copy of their work and one picture was selected as the project logo; winners and runners-up in each age group received art-set prizes.**



With a 'Healthy, happy families' theme, all the artwork was displayed at a public launch event at Wythenshawe Forum on National No Smoking Day. More than 1,500 local people came to talk about protecting children from tobacco smoke and other health issues and to find out about local Sure Start Children's Centres.

A day of fun, with face-painting and stilt walkers, was supported by a TV soap star, who spoke in support of the project on local radio. Proud parents took photos of their children's artwork and one school brought along a whole class.

With some European Commission funding, our community project is part of a wider evaluated initiative with six pilots in five European countries, so we've been sharing ideas and progress with colleagues across Europe.

Rooted in Wythenshawe's children's centres - where the response of staff and volunteers has been phenomenal - the pilot has been led by Barnardo's and Manchester Stop Smoking Service working together.

April 2009 saw Chris Bell, our community participation worker take up her post. Losing no time at all, briefing sessions for local people, volunteers and staff were prepared and delivered at lunchtime events across the Wythenshawe area. Chris's background, working on healthy eating, led her to produce some truly inspirational training in the form of her 'chemical soup' demonstration, which we've been using both in briefings and at public events. Chris produces a large soup pan and ladle, don's protective goggles, mask and gloves, and proceeds to mix (imaginary) acetone, rat poison, ant poison, battery acid,

tar etc from real (but empty) containers. She then asks whether parents would consider leaving the 'soup' to bubble on the stove while children play in the house.

The feedback has been extraordinary, with health professionals, parents and children 'getting' the message in a new and powerful way. The visual display, combined with the key messages: 'Step outside to smoke, Protect children from smoke, Keep homes and vehicles completely smokefree' has been hugely successful, leading many people to decide to keep their home and car smokefree and others to quit smoking altogether.

Working in partnership with Manchester United Foundation, we held events for more than five hundred primary school children who took part in football activities and healthy eating sessions and had the benefits of a smokefree life explained to them by Manchester United coaches. We launched 'Give smoking the red card' and all the children took a red card and smoke-free goody bag away with them.

The local media have been increasingly interested in the project, with the Manchester Evening News running various articles including providing a makeover day for a local mum who had made her home smokefree. A day in a Manchester hotel being fitted with glamorous clothes was followed by a complimentary shopping spree. Local papers have run articles covering the benefits of protecting children from tobacco smoke.

The summer, autumn and winter saw a succession of community fun days and family events across the area. Chris, Wythenshawe staff, parents and volunteers showed people 'chemical soup' and encouraged local families to

protect their children from tobacco smoke and sign up to Smokefree Homes. Nowhere has been off limits - in children's centres, schools, parks, supermarkets, tea dances, pubs and a bingo hall.

Christmas festivities across Wythenshawe included two events at the Forum and beautiful purple and gold Smokefree Homes baubles, and there's a 2010 project calendar to take the images and messages through 2010. Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM) Outreach are now working with us to build a Wythenshawe Smokefree Community Choir, meeting at the Forum on Wednesdays. New members are welcome - there are no auditions.

To date we have talked to more than 3,000 families and over a thousand have signed up their homes and cars smokefree since the launch in March 2009. This is a fantastic result and the project's been so well received that Chris's post has been extended by 18 months.

The evaluated European pilot ran until February 2010, but the Smokefree Homes scheme and the protection of children's health goes on.

For more details call Ali Reid at Manchester Stop Smoking Service on 0161 205 5998 or email [alison.reid@manchester.nhs.uk](mailto:alison.reid@manchester.nhs.uk)

Manchester Stop Smoking Service is part of Manchester Public Health Development Service, NHS Manchester.

## Sure Start: Busy Bodies

**Busy Bodies is a lively, fun, active play session that was devised by Emma Walker, a Sure Start Community Nursery Nurse, for 'children on the go' and their parents or carers. The group is aimed at children under four who are mobile. Baby gyms are also provided for families that have a toddler and a baby.**

The session is based on the birth-to-three matters framework and provides opportunities for children to develop skills to learn, communicate, and increase their strength and health. Parents and carers join in the session with their child, which helps to increase the level of activity for both parties. Encouraging parents to sing the action songs and practise new skills with their child at home will help to prevent childhood obesity by making physical activity fun and part of a young child's everyday experience.

The session begins with free play, where the children and their parents choose various pieces of equipment to explore in the animal circuit. They can roll like a pig in the mud, crawl like a cat, or hop like a kangaroo! Week after week they build on their abilities and also develop new skills.

Next, the children and parents sit in a circle and are given the opportunity to introduce themselves and are welcomed by the rest of the group. This provides an excellent opportunity for children to build emotional and social skills.

The more structured elements of the session then begin. These include lots of action songs, a stop-and-go game with animal actions, parachute games, and a skill of the week for everyone to try out and practise (balancing, kicking a ball, throwing a beanbag etc). The session draws to a close with a stretch-out and cool-down to classical music. Finally, we sing our special Busy Bodies goodbye action song and wave goodbye until the next session!

Emma has given presentations about Busy Bodies at the healthy weight conference at the City of Manchester stadium. The evaluation of Busy Bodies at the event was

very positive and many of the Sure Start teams that attended are planning to introduce Busy Bodies sessions throughout the Manchester area. The Sure Start health team currently delivers four Busy Bodies sessions in south Manchester. For more information, please call **0161 945 9403** to find out where and when your nearest session is.

Emma Walker  
Sure Start Community  
Nursery Nurse



# Manchester's Healthy Weight Strategy: Tackling Overweight and Obesity (2010–2013)

**Manchester's Healthy Weight Strategy: Tackling Overweight and Obesity (2010–2013) was launched on Monday 1 February 2010 in the Banqueting Hall, Manchester Town Hall.**

Laura Roberts (Chief Executive – NHS Manchester), Evelyn Asante-Mensah, OBE (Chair – NHS Manchester), John Edwards (Deputy Director Children's Services), Councillor Glynn Evans (Executive member for Adult Services) and Councillor Sheila Newman (Executive member for Children's Services) launched the strategy for the city. The launch was attended by over eighty professionals from a number of organisations across Manchester.

At this event a number of local services also displayed the excellent work they are undertaking in order to tackle overweight and obesity in Manchester. Although we have many programmes that aim to support healthier lifestyles and the development of a positive health culture in the city, this strategy will help to consolidate this work and develop new initiatives and partnerships.

In Manchester in 2008/09 the percentage of obese children in the city was higher than the national average, with 12.4% of Reception children and 22.6% of Year 6 children classified as obese (The Information Centre: NCMP 2008/09). Reception and Year 6 children in Manchester have the highest level of obesity within the Greater Manchester region (The Information Centre: NCMP 2008/09).

In the future it is predicted that obesity rates among children in Manchester will increase further in prevalence. The increasing prevalence of obesity is of concern because evidence suggests that excess weight in childhood continues into adulthood (Whitaker, Wright, Pepe *et al*, 1997). These figures are worrying because obese adults

who were overweight as adolescents have greater levels of weight-related ill health and are at higher risk of early mortality than adults who became obese during adulthood (Whitaker, Wright, Pepe *et al*, 1997).

This strategy aims to halt the rising trend of obesity in Manchester through a multiagency approach to encourage and enable all those living and working in Manchester to live a healthy and active lifestyle within a healthy environment, supported by appropriate services where necessary.

The approach used in this strategy is based on tackling obesity using the life course, primarily using age groups within the population to identify what is required to address the key components of individuals' lives to structure a response to this problem. The six life-course age groups identified relate to critical periods of metabolic change, or are linked to spontaneous changes in behaviour, or periods of significant shifts in attitudes. The six age groups are:

- Pregnancy and first year of life
- Early years (1–4 years)
- Childhood (5–10 years)
- Childhood (11–16 years)
- Adulthood (17–59 years)
- Older people (60+ years)

This strategy also recognises there is a need to target services to population groups that are more at risk of developing obesity. In addition, the strategy has a number

of cross-cutting themes; these are: Weight management, Built environment, Training, Communication, and Data and Evaluation. These themes incorporate all the life-course and population groups at risk.

Manchester's Healthy Weight Resource Pack for front-line workers, which was also launched at this event, supports the Healthy Weight Strategy. It aims to highlight the different services currently available in Manchester to support people to maintain a healthy weight, including all healthy eating, physical activity and weight management services. The resource also contains information about services that contribute to a healthy weight, such as the stop smoking service and the community alcohol team. As well as outlining the services available, this resource aims to clarify how to refer to the services included.

The strategy (which includes the care pathways) and the Healthy Weight Resource pack for front-line workers can be downloaded from [www.manchester.nhs.uk](http://www.manchester.nhs.uk)

For more information please contact Amy Ashton, Public Health Manager – Healthy Weight on **0161 765 4468** or email [amy.ashton@manchester.nhs.uk](mailto:amy.ashton@manchester.nhs.uk)



**The Strategic Management Team (SMT) at Manchester City Council is keen to offer more opportunities and forums for staff to connect with each other. They want every member of staff to be involved in shaping and developing the services the Council offers residents and to make a real difference at a local level. The Connect events will provide a new opportunity for the SMT to hear from staff and teams.**

The Council believes that all members of staff have valuable thoughts and ideas on ways they can work together. Connect is a chance for everyone, regardless

of role, grade or directorate, to put their heads together and share best practice. This is a great opportunity for everyone's ideas to be listened to.

Since October 2009, Manchester City Council has held a series of half-day events for all staff. During the coming year, further events will take place in east, south and central parts of Manchester. The events will run for 12 months.

It is hoped that Connect will also inspire staff to continue with this positive thinking after the events have taken place. Everyone will be kept up to date with new initiatives and ideas through the Connect intranet site.

If you work for Manchester Children's Services and want to find out more about Connect, contact Janet Williamson on **0161 203 3200**.

17-year-old Ruby is a talented singer/songwriter who uses the Manchester Schools Music Service. After wowing bosses at an audition, Ruby was chosen to take part in a Channel 4 production called Harmony.



# Manchester Schools Music Service best in country

**Manchester Schools Music Service has proved that it hits all the right notes by scooping the top award in the prestigious National Music Council (NMC) awards. The annual awards are among the most highly regarded awards that local authorities can obtain for their music education provision, and it was the quality and diversity of provision on offer in the city that proved to be music to the judges' ears.**

The service provides a wide range of vocal and instrumental tuition in schools and music centres across the city, with opportunities for pupils between three and 19 years old to join a variety of choirs, orchestras, bands and ensembles.

Councillor Sheila Newman, Executive Member Children's Services, Manchester City Council, said: "Manchester is known throughout the world for its rich musical heritage and this award gives us yet another reason to sing from the rooftops about the fantastic creative opportunities that children and young people in our schools can take advantage of. The timing of the award is perfect. There couldn't have been a

better year to win it, coming as it does during Tune In – Year of Music."

Tune In – Year of Music is a new national project that has been launched to encourage children and young people across England to take part in more music-related activities. The aim of this year-long commitment is to show how positive the participation in music-related activities can be for young people as a fun pastime as well as a developmental channel.

For information about the service, visit [www.manchester.gov.uk/musicservice](http://www.manchester.gov.uk/musicservice) or phone **0161 226 4411**.

## Get in touch

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: [csmessage@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:csmessage@manchester.gov.uk)

This newsletter is also available in electronic format on Manchester City Council's website at [www.manchester.gov.uk](http://www.manchester.gov.uk)