

Children Matter East
East of England Children and Young Peoples
VCS Forum



Lead Story

Extended Schools and the VCS :
Report from the Forum's October
launch

**Is 2009 going to be
frosty for the sector?
Sign up for Clear
Expectations and win a
laptop**

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Extended Schools and the VCS: Report from the Forum's launch

Supported by TDA (the Training and Development Agency) Children Matter East' first Forum meeting was a widely acclaimed success, the day focused on and explored key areas of activity and specific themes for the sector, these included; Extended Schools and Integrated Youth Services/ Targeted Youth Services

EXTENDED SCHOOLS

Mark Hodiernne from TDA provided the group with an oversight of developments within Extended Schools, including;

1. Progress to date, the number of schools providing the core offer and how many more need to by 2010.
2. The place in the overall policy context in which Extended schools sits and defining an extended schools role in a communities learning and activity.
3. Understanding the different facets of the Core Offer.
4. Exemplars of best practice and models of delivery.
5. Priorities and the contribution stakeholders can make to Extended Schools.
6. Conclusions on TDA research into the Third sector and Extended Schools.

INTEGRATED YOUTH SERVICES/ TARGETED YOUTH SERVICES

Mark Roberts from TDA provide the Forum with a policy perspective of both Integrated and Targeted Youth services including Youth Action Taskforce and Youth Crime Action Plan. The presentation included exploring;

- The overall policy context around Young People.
- Children Trusts in action for Young People.
- The link between universal provision and its continuum through to very targeted support.
- The Core offer for Targeted Youth support.

The presentations were followed by two breakout sessions covering the initiatives engagement with the Third sector and its response, the sessions sought to identify barriers and export good or developing practice. **The member's responses revealed significant issues which are important to record, that;**

1. Common induction should include an element on the VCS, to ensure that all those working with Children and Young People have awareness.
2. Locality (area, clusters or neighbourhood) working is potentially very problematic for the sector, with increasing numbers of contracts being held for a diminishing capacity.
3. Budgets being spent quickly without being properly planned or going through a transparent process
4. Third Sector PAYP projects are working well in several areas
5. Only some Trusts are just beginning to commission into 'gaps' often via the sector

6. Convincing middle managers of the sectors contribution and impact remains a barrier to increased delivery
7. Targeted Youth Support appears to be making progress across a range of indicators, including; NEET, CAF Lead professionals.
8. The sectors ability to provide positive activities is not always being recognised by Trusts.
9. Continuing concerns that Trusts are still 'ticking boxes' in relation to the sectors engagement at all levels

BUT SPECIFICALLY TO SCHOOLS AND EXTENDED SERVICES, THAT

- **Schools are the option of the last resort for some VCS service users.**
- **There is continuing uncertainty about the impact of PSA' roles on existing services the sector provides.**
- **Not all Heads seem able to grasp the government's vision of Extended Schools and the sector role in their delivery, this frequently leads to Schools self-commissioning.**
- **It is unlikely that the VCS in the region will continue supporting Extended Schools unless the ration of contracts to income improves dramatically**
- **Funding via Extended schools does not acknowledge organisational costs- only the service is being purchased. This is not healthy for the Third sector.**

What to look out for and what to expect from Children Matter East in 2009

Children Matter East's Annual conference will be on 16th June 2009 at The Imperial War Museum, Duxford in their brand new Air Side suite.

The day promises to be bigger and better than ever before, this year's additions include a Market Hall, better access with more than ample car parking right beside the venue and avoiding a trip into Cambridge, and for the aficionados entrance to the museum is free.

More importantly Liz Railton, Chief Executive of Together for Children (DCSF strategic children centres partner) has agreed to provide one of the keynotes and the Home Office VBS team will be there too! hopefully their will be further additions to the roster shortly.

To pre register early please e-mail: admin@cover-east.org

Before that however, February 9th will see the launch of the Children Matter East website www.childrenmattereast.org.uk, the website will initially be fairly embryonic and the data held will grow throughout the spring ... see below for a sneak preview of the design phase.




Welcome to Children Matter East AAA 22 October 2008


Children Matter East

An East of England Regional VCS Infrastructure Consortium

Search our website Go

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The website is actually a sub site of Children Matter East’s generic regional partner COVER so it will also be fully accessible via their site. The big idea is that the site acts as a knowledge hub containing relevant information in a stranded format and signposts to key partner’s information.

The early Spring will see the sub regional Vetting and Barring Scheme events (see page 5) and Clear Expectations will report in February, the Forum has also been able to commission two further pieces of work around Safeguarding.

With the advent of The National Third Sector Safeguarding Unit and its associated regional delivery this is an increasingly important part of Children Matter East’s activity. So in partnership with Go East and Norfolk Council for Voluntary Youth Services the forum is developing a toolkit which will draw together in one place a guide/ directory to the myriad of information and guidance available on Safeguarding.

In addition and as the piloting phase of a modular regional commissioning framework The Forum is developing guidance for the sector and commissioners on what standards and support for Safeguarding should be in place for the sector.

Children Matter East will continue to provide the very latest news and development for the sector throughout 2009 and into 2010

Vetting and Barring Scheme sub regional seminars

Does your organisation want to know more about the VBS; the role of the ISA, what the implications of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 will be on your workforce or volunteer staff?

Children Matter East and Go East have worked with local VCS support providers to deliver a series of free sub regional seminars on the new Vetting and Barring Scheme, which will mean that when it is introduced in October 2009:

- **No distinction is made between paid and unpaid work, and all rules will apply to both volunteers and employees.**
- **Trustees of children's charities must be part of the vetting and barring scheme,**
- **Application fees for individuals to be part of the scheme will be £64. It will only need to be paid once by the employee and individuals will not need to apply again if they change jobs. Fees will be waived for volunteers.**
- **It will be a criminal offence to not check the status of an applicant, employee or volunteer.**
- **Organisations will have different duties and responsibilities depending on whether its workers or volunteers are engaging in 'regulated activity' or 'controlled activity'.**

The programme for the half days are identical and designed to provide an accessible but detailed awareness of the schemes introduction in 2009 and will feature contributions from the Home Office, Go East and the National Third Sector Safeguarding Unit and VCS Engage.

Friday 30th January 2009

National Deafblind Centre, Cygnet Road, Hampton, Peterborough, PE7 8DE

Booking:

<http://www.covereast.org/Events.asp?selidx=0&viewmode=ViewRecord&month=0>

Tuesday 3rd February 2009

Pasque Conference Centre, Great Bramingham Lane, Luton LU3 3NT

Booking:

<http://www.covereast.org/Events.asp?selidx=1&viewmode=ViewRecord&month=1>

Tuesday 21st April 2009

Hylands House, Hylands Park, London Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 8WQ

Booking: To Be Announced and released

Demand is running high and places are limited so booking is essential and for further information on the scheme

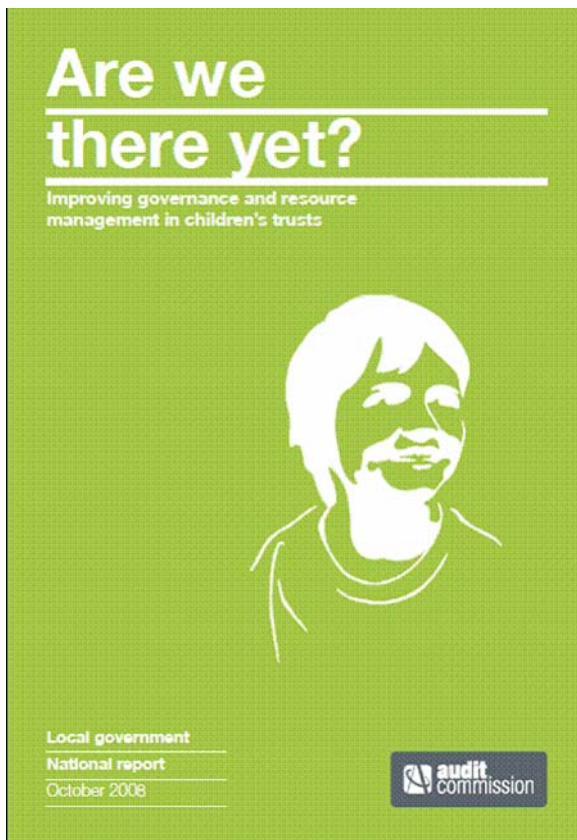
<http://www.isa.gov.org/pdf/VBSStakeholdernewsletter-Nov08.pdf>

Clear Expectations – Commissioning and its impact on the VCS

A small factoid, it was the coldest December since Labour came to power, will the New Year be equally bleak for the sector?

Will there be more wholesale office closures (NSPCC in Norfolk) in 2009?
Will there be a spring thaw, flood or drought, which one is your money on?

Can you help the longer term forecasting by contributing to Children Matter East's ability to help predict change and development for the sector? Clear Expectations is the Forum's study into the progress Trusts are making with developing commissioning on its impact on yourselves..... **and by filling it in you can win a Laptop**



'Most areas will have a joint commissioning strategy by 2008, but these lack impact because there is little experience or knowledge of joint commissioning'

'The private and the voluntary and community sectors are less engaged, despite their large contribution to children's services'

**CLEAR EXPECTATIONS,
SEEKS TO CONFIRM THE
POSITIVE PROGRESS THE
EAST HAS MADE SINCE
THIS REPORT WAS
COMPILED**

VERY FINAL EXTENSION TO THE DEADLINE

NOW FRIDAY 30th JAN,

WINNERS OF THE LAPTOP WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY 10th FEB

Please cut and paste the link to the new COVER website
<http://www.cover-east.org/> to download a Word version of survey

Voluntary Youth Services – Eastern Region News

A quick reminder ahead of the main news that NCVYS has launched is latest annual review for 2008, titled *Ready Steady Go! – Moving forward with youth services*. The document covers a year in the life of NCVYS as the representative body for the voluntary and community youth sector, focusing on common challenges particularly with loss of funds and the increased need for child safeguarding practices to be in place. The document lists future plans for NCVYS to take things forwards. To order your FREE copy please contact Mariam Sheikh on T: 020 7278 1041 or E: mariam@ncvys.org.uk

Events

National Children’s Bureau Conference: “Combining Strengths, Delivering Outcomes: Collaboration in Children, Young People and Family Services” Tuesday 17th February 2009 at Central Hall, Westminster, London This conference allows practitioners and strategists from the voluntary, community, public and private sector to explore definitions, barriers and innovation for effective partnership working. Is collaboration the best approach in every situation? How does collaboration translate into delivery on the ground and what are the key principles to consider when approaching or undertaking collaborative working? For information go to: <http://vcs.eventbrite.com/> or t: 020 7843 6441 or e: conferences@ncb.org.uk

Workforce Development

NCVYS provides a range of information and resources related to workforce development on its website. The Workforce Development *Snippets* for December 2008 is now available to download from the website, with past issues also available.

NCVYS Safeguarding scheme: Sound Systems – Free one day course

Sound Systems is a NCVYS accredited training scheme built on the idea of safeguarding. There are currently over 70 voluntary and community sector organisations engaged in the Sound Systems scheme. NCVYS is holding a free one day course for new Mentors and Assessors for the Sound Systems Accreditation scheme on Wednesday 28 January 2009 in London, covering mentoring, assessment and moderation through participative learning. Participants will be able to support their own organisations undertaking the Sound Systems scheme, Mentor other organisations and act as an Assessor. Contact chris@ncvys.org.uk

Flexible training support

Skills Minister Lord Young has announced that third sector organisations will be eligible for an extended leadership and management programme through Train to Gain. From January 2009, funding rules will be relaxed so that third sector employees will also be able to access more flexible training support, delivered when and where they need it.

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_stories/081209_skills.aspx

QTLS Reforms

If you deliver training you may well be interested in the QTLS reforms – go to http://www.lluk.org/documents/fewr_guidance_acl_providers_260908.pdf.

National Youth Agency Money Mastery

Money Mastery seminars will take place in 18 locations across the UK between January and July 2009. The free, high energy, money coaching seminars are designed for youth workers and other professionals who work with young people. For more details contact Stephanie Finlayson at: moneymastery@nya.org.uk.

Talking Diversity Taster Days reminder

NCVYS has developed a new course to look more closely at culture, faith and diversity, and how youth work can help. Free Taster Days are to be held on **4 and 17 February 2009** at the NCVYS office in London. These sessions will be aimed at those who: work with young people; run organisations that work with young people; or support organisations that work with young people and those who want to explore how diversity relates to their work. http://www.ncvys.org.uk/blogs.php?act=view_topic&id=88

Youth workforce common apprenticeships

The Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) and the Children's Workforce Network have commissioned a feasibility study into the development of a common apprenticeship for the youth workforce. It will test the demand and options for a common approach to apprenticeships across all sectors of the youth workforce engaged in the delivery of integrated youth support services. A web based survey is running until 20 February and a series of workshops, for practitioners as well as young people, is taking place around England to feed into the study. http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/whats-new/news/1505_youth-workforce-common-apprenticeship-survey-and-workshops

Resources

TREaD, Youth Action's online training programme for Youth Action workers is now available in a hard copy format. The ring binder contains all ten modules that accessible via the **TREaD** website including: Sustainability, Quality, Impact Measurement, Media and Marketing, The Volunteering Experience, Participation, Networking and Partnerships, Diversity. £37.95 for full members.

The VIP Kit is a Youth Action resource put together by young people for anyone working with young people. It contains icebreakers, teambuilding games and evaluation games. There is also information to help get projects off the ground such as getting started with youth-led projects, budgeting and marketing for your project, health and safety. Both resources available through: <http://www.youthactionnetwork.org.uk>

Free NCVYS Careers Guide aimed at 13-25 year olds. The guide highlights careers in the voluntary and community youth sector, particularly of the different jobs available working with young people. It can also be used to

provide an increased understanding of the sector to the rest of the children's workforce. Hard copy versions are available to order through: mariam@ncvys.org.uk

Children's rights

The Children's Rights Alliance for England has published two reports on children's human rights, following the UN's recent criticisms of the UK. *What do they know? Investigating the human rights concerns of children and young people in England* reports the views of over 1,700 children and young people about how their human rights are respected, following a year-long investigation into children's human rights led by children and young people from CRAE. CRAE has also published the *State of children's rights report*, highlighting violations of children's human rights in England, including children's right to life and protection from violence. Both reports can be obtained from CRAE – E: info@crae.org.uk or T: 020 7278 8222.

New online match-making service for the voluntary sector

The Small Charities Coalition has launched a new website that is best described as a match-making service for the voluntary sector, allowing small charities to meet and share resources. <http://www.smallcharities.org.uk>

CAMHS

Review

The final CAMHS Review report has now been published. It contains 20 recommendations for Government, including the establishment of a National Advisory Council to champion the importance of mental health and psychological well-being for children and young people; and a strengthened national support programme to include a multi-agency support team. The Government's initial response to the recommendations is also available. <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/CAMHSreview/>

January edition of the Source out now!

the Source is UK Youth's online resource packed with information, features, updates, for anyone working with young people <http://www.ukyouth.org/>

Funding

Young Social Entrepreneurs Scheme

The Young Social Entrepreneurs Scheme aim is to support young people to think of ideas for positive activities on Friday and Saturday nights. Third sector organisations are invited to bid to run the scheme. The closing date for proposals is 13 March 2009. The successful third sector organisation will be supported by the Youth Sector Development Fund Managing Body in delivering the Scheme. <http://ysdf.ecotec.com/default.asp>

Peer mentoring

DCSF has launched the National Peer Mentoring programme. With funding of £720,000 until March 2011, the programme will be delivered across England by the Mentoring and Befriending Foundation, in order to enable young people to provide support and advice to one another in schools and build friendships.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2008_0300

Participation Update

Youth Involvement and Participation Partnership East of England

This cross sector regional network is open to all who are interested in learning, developing and showcasing opportunities to do with CYP participation.

Dates of next meetings: Thursday 5th February Go East 10.30 am; Thursday 14th May, The Meadows Community Centre in Cambridge 10.30 am.

Two new How to Guides...

'How to involve children and young people in applying for funding' and 'How to involve young people in commissioning now available! To download a copy: <http://www.participationworks.org.uk/ResourcesHub/HowtoGuides/tabid/423/Default.aspx> For hard copies contact enquiries@participationworks.org.uk

Participation with a Purpose 24th March 2009 Peterborough

Free multi-agency event exploring participation in child and adolescent Mental Health Services. This will look at : policy, guidance and research findings; standards; training for young people and adults; a young people's workforce; young people in leadership roles; advocacy; e-Participation and reaching out to specific groups. Contact Louise Appleby at info@key-note.co.uk

National Deaf Children's Society: Me2 campaign

A consultation by the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) revealed that many deaf young people are routinely excluded from such groups, as they are not accessible to them. The NDCS launched the Me2 campaign in June last year to help mainstream youth organisations be more accessible to deaf children and young people. The NDCS want to hear about the experiences of deaf children and young people with youth organisations and activities, good or bad. This could be anything from a leisure centre to an activity club. For more information about the campaign visit http://www.ndcs.org.uk/family_support/information_for_young_deaf_people/me2/

The Respect? campaign It looks at the best ways to get young people involved through games and activities. is asking 1,000 young people to pledge to take action into their own hands, take ownership of the media, and make their opinions heard by using comment opportunities and new technology. Supported by online charity YouthNet and the British Youth Council, young people can sign up and support the campaign by visiting: <http://www.pledgebank.com/RespectSpeakUp>

And Finally: Strategic guidance for local engagement

NCVYS has also created a useful guide providing examples of practice from some of our members who are successfully engaging strategically with the local workforce development agenda at their Children's Trust. The guide provides background information, tips and signposts to further sources of information and is an essential resource for local infrastructure organisations.

<http://www.ncvys.org.uk/index.php?page=684>