



## Children Matter East

East of England Regional Children and Young Peoples  
VCS Forum



## Lead Story

- Regional workforce messages

Autumn  
Newsletter  
October 2008

### PLUS

All change for  
Children's Trusts  
again

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## Regional Workforce Strategy and Action Plan: Key messages

The regional strategy and action plan explores workforce development for the Children and Young Peoples Voluntary and Community Sector (CYPVCS) from series of themes and perspectives, including; establishing the current position, exploring the sectors needs, examining how the need is likely to develop and looking at a range of regional solutions

### The Here and Now section suggests that:

The CYPVCS sector is large, diverse and proportionately of much greater significance than has been acknowledged, and that workforce development is persistently identified as important by the CYPVCS frontline organisations. These organisations are operating in an environment which continues to grow in complexity and distance from its adult counterpart. The section concluded there was need for:

- **Interim capacity to provide better coordinated support from Sector Skills Councils.**
- **Resources linked to the development of a Third Sector Skills Council hub in region being ring fenced proportionately for the CYPVCS.**
- **The Big Lottery and Capacitybuilders in the region and nationally to consider the CYPVCS evidence for dedicated specialist support, and**
- **Local and regional government to consider how they might support these 'calls for action'.**

### The Getting There section discovered that:

The sectors diversity is increasingly stretched, with a growing workforce gap between the funded and unfunded around integrated working. There is a strong feeling that the sector should be empowered to contribute its own sector led solutions to this problem. However, in order for this to happen the sector requires appreciative workforce support, which meets all of its requirements, not just those directly linked to ECM. The sector will continue to require some workforce support which is differentiated from that of its partners. The section called for:

- **Regional capacity to address workforce development support for the following in specific areas; Youth, Youth Justice, BME and Faiths.**
- **The expansion and marketing of existing CYPVCS based training, so it is increasingly available to a wider audience.**
- **The development/hosting of guidance resources for partners, including an adapted workforce development framework for the CYPVCS**

### The development section identified that:

The perception of the sector as being relatively unqualified persists, with a lack of evidence to suggest otherwise, and that some of this perception could be part of a real 'cycle of inequality'. It also discovered that there is a substantive contribution regional CYPVCS support could make however there is also the risk of this being negated by poor reach. The section recommended that there should be:

- **The development of a comprehensive web based knowledge centre.**
- **Further discretionary spending on workforce research linked to a holistic workforce approach to the sector.**
- **Further investment to support the regional platform to become an effective bridge between national resources and local action supporting better quality.**

### Solutions: Making it Happen highlighted:

The need to ensure the sector has access to high quality and appropriate leadership development and has highly specialised capacity to support the implementation of change for the sector. Alongside this it identified that the sector needed to expand its capacity to support itself and others with access to professional development. The section defined the possible solutions as, the development of:

- **A detailed brokerage plan to support access to CPD in the sector**
- **A framework for CYPVCS leadership support to be modelled and piloted.**
- **A Regional Integrated Working Development post is explored.**

## All change for Children's Trusts again?

Very shortly after the June Newsletter was published DCSF issued a further document, called simply 'legislative note' it supported the draft guidance on revision to Children Trusts arrangements. For the sector in the long term this is important stuff and *the note* specifically invited comment on the following options:

1. Extending the 'duty to cooperate' (in making arrangements to improve wellbeing) to schools, Schools Forums, Sixth Form and Further Education Colleges, with future Academies brought within scope through their funding agreements. This duty currently applies to local authorities, PCTs and other strategic partners. Extending the duty to front line providers of education would give them corresponding rights within Children's Trusts to a stronger voice, more influence over their strategic arrangements, and better support from other statutory partners. We can also see the value in closer engagement with other front line providers, primarily GP practices, and would welcome views on how this might best be achieved.
2. Requiring all areas to have Children and Young People's Plan, and extending ownership of the plan to all statutory partners. Children and Young People's Plans are currently local authority plans, although they must consult with other partners and the plans must cover the full range of outcomes for children. Extending responsibility for the Plan to all partners covered by the 'duty to cooperate', and requiring all partners to 'have regard' to them, would mean that the Plan becomes the shared responsibility of the Children's Trust.
3. Strengthening the statutory framework for Children and Young People's Plans through secondary legislation. This could include clarifying that Plans must be agreed by all partners, set out the arrangements for early intervention and joint commissioning, and specify the spend of each partner on areas such as child health and youth offending, in particular those covered by local joint commissioning arrangements. This would establish a higher baseline for the quality of plans in line with the best practice already established in many areas.
4. **Establishing a stronger statutory basis for Children's Trust Boards, on the model of existing good practice and with significant local flexibility.** Leading local areas have already put in place Children's Trust Boards which have the representation and functions that primary or secondary legislation could prescribe for all. **Setting out core membership and functions in legislation could help secure more consistent performance and more robust operation of the Children's Trust as a whole. Alternatively we could create reserve powers for Ministers to direct areas when local arrangements are not operating successfully.**
5. There are now many examples of effective Children's Trusts. The aim of strengthening the legislative framework is to empower and encourage local partners within a broadly permissive framework. We would therefore welcome advice on whether there are elements in the wider legislative framework which unhelpfully restrict partners' room for manoeuvre which should be removed. An example here might be the restriction on pooling budgets to 'relevant partners'. Are there other legislative barriers, for example in respect to the sharing or delegation of functions?

Also in a metaphorical 'recommended for anoraks' section is the related consultation on making Children's Centres a statutory requirement. A suggested 'must look at' for all organisations running Children's Centres - good or bad your views would be helpful.

## Voluntary Youth Matters

Welcome to the more youth focused section of this joint newsletter. VYSER members haven't had a news update since June, so hopefully the following will round up some of the multitude of events, reports, funding and resources, and apologies for any duplication. In future I would like to include a focus/case study or interview – comments/suggestions welcome!

### Round Up

#### ***What I'd like to know is: who doesn't matter?***

The children and young people's voluntary and community sector employs about 160,000 paid workers, generating income of at least £15 billion. *Every Organisation Matters* - research commissioned by NCVYS and NCVCCO - highlighted key issues including that small organisations, many of whom work with highly vulnerable children and young people, are under threat because of the government's shift towards commissioning services. (More in the CME section on page 8.)

Despite this threat, CYP VCOs have to steer their way through more information, consultation and change than ever before. The need for clarifying and improving youth sector support arrangements is identified in the Call for Evidence on Youth Sector Support Arrangements (DCSF Jan 2008 consultation) but this did not show a clear consensus for having a single-sector leading agency given the diversity of the sector. Current arrangements are confusing and overlapping on issues such as quality assurance and workforce development. However it is also clear that real value is placed on the support networks at both a regional and local level, and respondents did not want to see these disappear. Proposals are promised to be published in the Autumn.

In the spirit of working across the age ranges, this year's 11 Million Takeover Day is planned for the 7<sup>th</sup> November to coincide with Youth Work week (1-7<sup>th</sup> November). Youth Work week's theme is Promoting the Voice and Influence of Young People so this is an ideal opportunity to end the week with children and young people taking the lead in your organisation. For more information contact [www.nya.org.uk](http://www.nya.org.uk)

Green Means Go, NCVYS's annual conference and AGM, will take place during Youth Work week on 5 November 2008. The event aims to show how a healthy environment impacts on the health and wellbeing of young people, and how embedding the environment within youth work is an important step to ensuring sustainability on many levels. <http://www.ncvys.org.uk/index.php?page=591>

As part of the region's 0-19 CYP's VCS forum there was a workshop looking at VYSER's planning for the future. The plan proposes: networking and resourcing, sharing good practice around service provision and integrated working; supporting VCS CYP services strategic representatives, and developing levels of local and community participation for young people. Funded as a response to Aiming High and the Youth Taskforce Action plan, there is an opportunity to highlight and support the VCS's role in Neighbourhood Policy teams and local participatory budgeting. (See Participation section).

Another consultation being rolled out this month is the National Survey of Third Sector Organisations, which will go out to the leaders of 97,000 randomly chosen third sector organisations to measure local statutory bodies' progress against one of the targets in the new local government performance framework - NI7: An environment for a thriving Third Sector. The results of the survey will be anonymous and publicly available early next year.

Changes to training qualifications for VCS deliverers are confusing to some of us but according to the information sent via NYCVS, *a trainer and tutor who has been working in a training/teaching capacity within the third sector before 1<sup>st</sup> September 2007, does not have to undertake the new teaching qualifications* (the 2001 rules only apply to the FE sector). In addition this rule only applies if you obtain LSC funding (if you receive local authority funding, check what their requirements are). Further info: [www.ncvys.org.uk](http://www.ncvys.org.uk)

## COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

**Young carers** The government has launched the Carers Strategy – a ten year programme to give carers short breaks, more help with employment and support for them to stay healthy, supported by £255 million of new investment. This money is in addition to the £224 million per annum given to Local Authorities through the Carers Grant, the extra £340 million to be spent by the government supporting the families of disabled children over the next three years, and £2.7million a year to fund a new information helpline and website for carers.

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=370133&NewsAreaID=2>

**Disabled Children and Housing** The Every Disabled Child Matters' new campaign briefing *Disabled Children and Housing* has been published, supported by evidence from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. It highlights the variety and extent of problems that families with disabled children may face in terms of housing, showing that fewer than half of disabled children live in housing suitable to their needs - a lower proportion than for any other age group of disabled people.

[http://www.edcm.org.uk/Page.asp?originx\\_3591ob\\_46957167400915n77k\\_2008512914a](http://www.edcm.org.uk/Page.asp?originx_3591ob_46957167400915n77k_2008512914a)

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/housing/2208.asp>

**Teenage health** The Chief Medical Officer, Sir Liam Donaldson, has published his 2007 Annual Report, which reviews key health problems and developments over the last year, highlighting the unique health needs of teenagers. Although the majority of teenagers cope well, large numbers of teens take part in high risk behaviours such as binge drinking, drug taking and unsafe sex. A number of measures are recommended including more involvement of teenagers in the design of health services for them.

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=373706&NewsAreaID=2>

## LEARNING AND RESOURCES

**Youth clubs - more ASBOs issued in places where fewer youth clubs exist.** Clubs for Young People has commissioned research, conducted with Sheffield University's social and spatial inequalities research group, to analyse youth provision by collecting data from youth clubs across the UK. Findings indicate that there are more ASBOs issued in places where fewer youth clubs exist. CYP is launching a blueprint for a "modern and effective" youth work agenda across the UK. A panel of youth workers, architects, designers and funders are running sessions and talking to young people about future youth club provision. A series of recommendations and findings are expected in November. For more information on the sessions contact Head of Policy at CYP, Tracie Trimmer (E: [tracie.trimmer@clubsforyoungpeople.org.uk](mailto:tracie.trimmer@clubsforyoungpeople.org.uk))

**NOS - volunteer management** Revised National occupational standards (NOS) for the Management of Volunteers have been published by the UK Workforce Hub with funding by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills. Voluntary and community organisations across the UK will be able to make use of the new standards in their recruitment, selection, training and development procedures in order to improve the skills of volunteer managers.

<http://www.ukworkforcehub.org.uk/mvnos08>

**Local Action through local faith organisations and infrastructure partnerships** A new report *Believing in Local Action* shows that communities are best served by local faith organisations and local infrastructure organisations (LIOs) working together. The report was commissioned by Communities and Local Government

CLG) and carried out as a partnership between CLG, the Church Urban Fund and the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA).

<http://www.navca.org.uk/news/believing.htm>

**Equality Matters** The Big Lottery Fund has published a guide – Equality Matters - designed to help small to medium-sized voluntary and community organisations think about and describe their everyday practice on equality. It gives advice on how to incorporate equality into planning new projects and explains their equality principles and why they are important when applying for grants. There are

practical exercises and tips, as well common mistakes that grant applicants make, and examples of good practice from previous.

[http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/england/about-eng/equalities/equality\\_matters.htm](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/england/about-eng/equalities/equality_matters.htm)

**YSDF Managing Body** The government has announced that the Youth Sector Development Fund worth £100 million will be managed by a consortium led by ECOTEC with members Rainer Crime Concern, Business 2 Business and Prime Timers. The consortium will provide an integrated package of business support as well as administering grants to successful third sector organisations who work with some of our most vulnerable young people.

[http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn\\_id=2008\\_0168](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2008_0168)

## FUNDING

**Grassroots Grants** The Government's £130million Grassroots Grants scheme has been launched and is calling on small local voluntary and community groups to apply for funding. The programme, funded by the Office of The Third Sector and administered by the Community Development Foundation, offers grants of between £250 and £5,000 to support activities in local communities.

[http://www.cdf.org.uk/pooled/articles/BF\\_NEWSART/view.asp?Q=BF\\_NEWSART\\_305300](http://www.cdf.org.uk/pooled/articles/BF_NEWSART/view.asp?Q=BF_NEWSART_305300)

**Mars Refuel Fund** MARS Refuel is giving consumers the opportunity to give their sports club a 'leg up' with the help of the MARS Refuel Fund. If your footie team is desperate for new goal posts or strip, or your kayak club needs new oars, the Mars Refuel Fund could help. The fund open until 31 Dec 08, has up to £10,000 to donate each month with a maximum of £500 per applicant. You don't just have to be part of a team to benefit. The fund will also give support to individuals raising money for charity through sporting activities, such as bike rides, mountain climbing and parachute jumps.

[marsrefuefund@escapadepr.com](mailto:marsrefuefund@escapadepr.com)

**The DCSF Children, Young People and Families Grant** Applications are being invited for work by the third sector to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. Deadline for applications is 31 October 2008.

More info: [Every Child Matters website](#)

**Children in Need Gets More Hands-on Over Funding** BBC Children in Need is to overhaul its funding approach and start targeting areas of work that are currently neglected. The charity, which handed out £37m of grants this year, will also start offering non-financial support to the voluntary and community groups it funds.

## Innovation Fund: Third sector grants To Support Young People in Decision-making

Third sector organisations will be able to apply for funding to deliver projects to involve young people in decision-making that affects them through the Innovation Fund, launched by the Ministry of Justice. The £150,000 Government scheme is aimed at charities, community groups and non governmental organisations and awards grants of up to £15,000 to support projects that are developing new ways to help people to get involved in discussing public issues and influencing Government policymaking.

[www.justice.gov.uk](http://www.justice.gov.uk)

## PARTICIPATION

### Free training, networking and resources for those supporting YP in shaping their communities

The multi-agency network YIPPEE (Youth Involvement and Participation Partnership East of England) meets every second month for workers to share good practice and issues around CYP involvement in services and communities. This is an ideal forum to build understanding around the needs of CYP and the benefits of cross sector relations. As this is not confined by local authority area or specialism, members come with a rich variety of experience and skills. I am currently compiling a directory of members so that we can better plan learning sessions and skill share. We are offering free training on 6<sup>th</sup> November led by young people from Speaking Up in engaging YP with learning difficulties in participation and in January there will be a workshop on engaging young people as active (global) citizens through the arts. Participation works support this work with the VCS and there is free training

available through them also. On 23<sup>rd</sup> October in Newmarket there is Building a Culture of Participation – excellent for those who realise that participation has to be a whole team approach. For further information/resources contact [yannick@young-lives.org.uk](mailto:yannick@young-lives.org.uk) and join the database for free updates at [www.participationworks.org.uk](http://www.participationworks.org.uk)

### Participatory budgeting

The voluntary and community youth sector has an essential role in delivering participatory budgeting by supporting young people who are part of communities and should be able to engage with decision-making for generic services, such as health, not just youth services. More on this can be found in NCVYS's response to Communities and Local Government's *Participatory Budgeting: A draft national strategy giving more people a say in local spending*.

<http://www.ncvys.org.uk/index.php?page=273>

### Good Practice Guide

In addition, the DCSF has published guidance - *Youth Opportunity Fund and Capital Fund: Good Practice Guide* which offers a range of examples direct from local authorities and groups of young people and contains some key recommendations based on this evaluation.

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/youthmatters/youthfund/>

### Outcomes of the YOF/YCF

Young people taking part in Youth Opportunity/Capital Fund panels have seen their confidence and social skills soar, their behavior improves and their standing in the community increase, according to the second and

final phase report. Key findings show 100% of LA staff agreed that panel members had benefited socially; 99% agreed that panel members' team working and decision making skills had improved; and 98% said that the young people involved in the decision-making panel had done a good job. The Department for Children, Schools and Families has published the second phase evaluating the Youth Capital Fund (YCF) and Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF), to see whether giving young people control and decision making power over resources in their local area led to an increase in provision of quality positive activities and the levels of participation by young people in these.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=14900&type=5&resultspage=1>

## CHILDREN MATTER EAST ACTIVITIES

**A Date for your diaries : Children Matter East's annual conference will be on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2009, venue content and speakers to follow in the spring.**

**Clear Expectations** is the working title of Children Matter East's latest research project, the work will be led by Matt Buttery Chief Executive of Family Matters Institute who delivered last years nationally acclaimed Destinations Unknown report on the mainstreaming outlook for Children's Fund projects prognosis. Clear Expectations will focus solidly on Commissioning and will explore;

1. The progress local authorities are making in developing and implementing their commissioning approaches,
2. The impact this is having on the Children and Young Peoples VCS.

Using a mix of survey work and deep dives Children Matter East will try and establish the precise amount each LA is investing in frontline CYPVCS services, share some of the best practice that is emerging and provide evidence of innovative ways of working collaboratively. The early messages are expected to be available by the end of November and the report has an anticipated publishing date of early Jan 2009.

2008 Census, November will also see the return of CME's partnership census providing a snapshot of the breadth and depth of the sectors engagement across the region; this will help to share data and experience across authorities, and;

- Assess the CYPVCS success in contributing to partnerships that improve outcomes for Children and Young People
- Improve collaboration in the sector across authorities
- Assist in helping to provide increasingly tailored and targeted support to local authorities and the CYPVCS.

Sub regional work watch out for series of seminars workshop supporting the introduction of The Independent Safeguarding Authority new Vetting and Barring scheme – due to begin implementation in October 2009 sponsored by Go East the mini events will also provide delegates with the latest developments around safer recruitment and allegations

## AND FINALLY

Every Organisations Matters: Mapping the children and young people's voluntary and community sector The cabinet Office sponsored University of Hull' research into the sectors size and shape revealed the following:

- The CYPVCS employs as many as one in three of the total voluntary and community sector (VCS) workforce.
- There are up to four times as many CYPVCS organisations per 1,000 children and young people as there are VCS organisations per 1,000 of the adult population.
- The profile of the CYPVCS varies significantly across the country, reflecting local policy and demographic contexts.
- In common with the VCS as a whole, the CYPVCS is increasingly affected by growing levels of public service commissioning which favour larger organisations and enhance private sector involvement: this is not uniformly welcomed.
- The CYPVCS is being adversely affected by huge policy and structural change and consequent uncertainty about its sustainability.
- Few CYPVCS organisations have thought carefully enough about how to measure the long-term impact of their work.
- Effective national mapping of the CYPVCS is currently hindered by poor quality of data.
- Local mapping might be a more useful way of providing an accurate profile of the sector and for pointing to gaps in service and policy provision.

