

Regional Improvement Plan for Children and Young People

Bringing focus to improvement and creating efficiencies

Safeguarding

Joint commissioning

Workforce development

Health Inequalities



Be Healthy

Stay Safe

Enjoy Economic Wellbeing

Enjoy and Achieve

Make a Positive Contribution

A plan created by the Directors of Children's Services to tackle common issues in the East Midlands

Newsletter 5 – November 2010



JRIEP website is now live

Information about this joint regional improvement and efficiency plan for children and young people (JRIEP) can now be accessed online at www.jriep.com. The different themes and networks are explained on the site, as are most of the news items included within this newsletter.

First £1m saving achieved

One of the early impacts of the Shaping the Market strand of the commissioning theme is being achieved through a protocol to share purchase prices around external provision in social care. Through efforts to eliminate unreasonable price variation and increase price restraint, well over £900,000 is being saved this year by local authorities across the region.

ALICSE delivering the goods

The first cohort of 33 participants is now well into the new JRIEP programme, Advanced Leadership in an Integrated Children's Service Environment. The programme includes a blend of activities and events to help colleagues from a range of backgrounds develop leadership that can take forward the region's children's trust partnerships. Five local universities are supporting ALICSE so that Masters-level credit can be obtained

Support for new regional CAF standards

The CAF/Integrated Working Practices Regional Group is currently compiling a set of resources to help organisations achieve and implement the **new regional minimum CAF/IW standards**. These resources will become freely available through the JRIEP site during November and contribute to greater consistency across the region as integrated working supports effective early intervention.

Regional Framework on-track to save £10m

Recruitment is currently well underway for the new framework of independent providers of foster and residential care that is being implemented by eight of the region's local authorities. Starting in April 2011, the framework will secure purchasing transparency, fixed prices until 2015 and cost reductions being conservatively estimated at over £10m.

Child Poverty strategy support

A JRIEP seminar in October provided significant data support to help local areas develop high quality child poverty Needs Assessments. The lead officers in each LA have now formed a support group to strengthen their work through needs assessment and towards the development of effective strategies.

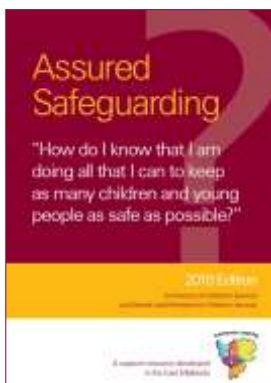
Family Approach to Safeguarding

Activity has just begun to research emerging, interesting and innovative examples of practice in family approaches to safeguarding. It is anticipated that the outcomes will be organised under the following headings:

- Efficiency of Service Delivery
- Issues of Transition
- Development of Safeguarding Boards
- Learning from Reviews
- Changing the culture from managing thresholds to managing risk

Assured Safeguarding now available

The first edition of guidance materials is now available to support DCS and Lead Members as they ask themselves whether the work of their organisations keeps as many children and young people as safe as possible. The materials illustrate some ways in which leaders around the East Midlands answer the questions for themselves.



During 2011 similar new editions will be published for:

- Headteachers, Heads of Settings and their Governing Bodies and
- GPs and leaders of health providers and commissioning organisations.

Tackling high cost residential placements

Hot on the heels of the Regional Framework (see over), a new work programme is now being started to use the combined purchasing power of the nine local authorities to secure major savings with other placements. Often costing as much per week as a child in a universal setting does in a year these residential placements are identified as a key area for efficiency improvement.

Childhood obesity – strategies that work

The JRIEP is commissioning a rapid piece of research from C4EO and Nfer to produce an anthology of effective whole system approaches to combating childhood obesity. This will become available in early 2011. C4EO/Nfer are also interested to hear (through peter.chilvers@sdsa.net) of any partnership obesity projects in the East Midlands that they can feed (!) through their 'value for money - cost effectiveness' tool to identify and calculate financial and social returns on investment to demonstrate the efficacy of interventions.

Children's Workforce Data Hub

The need to base workforce strategies on the analysis of accurate, recent data for the entire children's workforce is a challenge for Children's Trust partnerships. Through the JRIEP, tried and tested software (developed by Leicester and Leicestershire) and protocols for all partner organisations including health and police, are being made available to others. Just imagine knowing every quarter exactly what the latest trends are in employment, recruitment, development and the profile of your wider children's workforce. This is already working well in some parts of the region ... just ask!

Reflective practice within social care casework

The Safeguarding theme group has identified a general need to promote reflective practice within social care

teams to contribute towards the quality improvement of ongoing casework and a reduction in the incidence of serious case reviews. 'Model' guidelines are being developed through a Lincolnshire-led project that can be used by social work teams around the East Midlands region to embed reflective practice within casework. These guidelines will be made available during 2011.

Leadership roles for tackling childhood obesity

Rather like with Child Poverty, well co-ordinated strategies to tackle childhood obesity will always be more effective when multi-agency partners have a clear understanding of their leadership and partnership roles. Working with the East Midlands Platform on food, physical activity and health and LGID (Local Government Improvement and Development) a pilot project is being developed with two local children's trust partnerships to to identify and develop leadership role descriptors for the range of Children's Trust partners that can underpin a more effective multi-agency approach to tackling obesity in a co-ordinated manner.

ALICSE – a ton of learning

A second group of participants has now been selected through the nine children's trust partnerships for the ALICSE cohort that begins early in 2011. The third and final cohort for this academic year will be finalised after Christmas. This means that by summer 2011 almost 100 leaders will have been through the ALICSE programme – a core part of which is a locality-based project that is directly contributing to innovative service improvement in local areas. The JRIEP workforce steering group is already planning how to share the dividend of this ALICSE investment in both leadership and knowledge development for the wider benefit of the region.

Securing further efficiencies in children's services

Since the Comprehensive Spending Review and in anticipation of the White Paper, the Directors of Children's Services continue to look at securing further efficiencies through a (sub) regional partnership approach. Further information will be shared in future editions of JRIEP Newsletters.

Further information about the JRIEP

Further information about this plan and the actions that are being developed will be distributed on a regular basis in future newsletters. To add your details to the circulation list for newsletters, or to make any further



enquiries about the JRIEP, please email peter.chilvers@sdsa.net who is co-ordinating this plan on behalf of the region.

Supported by 
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