

# Place Based Productivity Programme Children's Services Workstream: Newsletter 1 November 2010

## Introducing our Workstream

The Place Based Productivity Programme was conceived in summer 2010 as part of the Local Government Group's response to budgetary challenges. It has 3 main aims:

- to identify existing good practice to help councils deliver short-term gains;
- to engage local government and partner organisations in a debate about longer-term service redesign; and
- to reassure Government that the sector can collectively lead its own efficiency drive rather than having measures imposed.

The Programme comprises 9 workstreams<sup>1</sup>, of which Children's Services is one. More information about the programme in general can be found by clicking [here](#) and you can join the Community of Practice [here](#).

## Mapping of tools, projects, programmes and resources

The first priority has been to establish what programmes and products are already available to support improvement in productivity. C4EO has led on this mapping activity with the aim of pulling all the information together into one place. We have nearly completed this piece of work, and we will be publishing and publicising it soon.

## Tried and Tested Opportunities

We have sought examples of good practice to aid Councils and partners in becoming more productive. We have been able to gather a number specific to Children's Services, which will be showcased on 3 December. This resource will be continuously updated, so please send in more good examples of things that you are doing that you can share.

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<sup>1</sup> Children's Services, Adults Social Care, Data and Transparency, Democratic Leadership, Workforce and Skills, Shaping Markets and New Models of Service Delivery, Shared Services, Procurement Capital and Shared Assets, Removing Burdens and Barriers.

## Children's Services Metrics Project

The Data & Transparency workstream is developing a series of new cost metrics for Children's services working in partnership with the Audit Commission and LB Hammersmith & Fulham. Aims of this project are to support management of costs in high spend areas, as well as comparing costs and productivity across different authorities, working towards a benchmarking apparatus. The project intends to trial the children's metrics with other willing authorities – please get in touch if you would like to take part.

## Next time:

- Phase 2 – what we intend to do next
- About our Partners
- How we are linking with the ADCS and DfE Cost Effectiveness Work

## Key Dates:

- 3 December – PBP Conference – [click here to book](#)
- 10 January – Workstream Meeting
- 21 January – Collaborative Commissioning Conference (more details soon)

## Key Names:

- **Councillor Bryony Rudkin**, Suffolk County and Ipswich Borough Councils and Workstream Member Champion
- **Mark Rogers**, Chief Executive, Solihull MBC and Workstream Co-Champion,
- **Christine Davies**, Chief Executive, C4EO and Workstream Co-Champion,
- **Polly Reed**, Children's Programme Manager, IEWM and Workstream Project Manager

## Enquiries, comments and contribution

If you are interested in anything you read here and want to find out more, or submit information, please contact Polly Reed [preed@westmidlandsiep.gov.uk](mailto:preed@westmidlandsiep.gov.uk) or 0121 245 0223.