

Children & Young People

Our Vision: Every Child Matters

The National Service Framework for Children and Young People and Every Child Matters are the two key policies, which are driving service improvements.

Much of the inter-agency work on integrating children's services is being led through local authorities and this is so in Nottinghamshire. The Bassetlaw LSP Children and Young People's Group is contributing to these county-wide initiatives and also focussing on local work which can bring benefit to our population.

Issues ongoing at the moment are:-

- ▶ Safeguarding children.
- ▶ Development of Children's Centres.
- ▶ Development of extended service schools.
- ▶ Children's emotional health and well-being.
- ▶ Contributing to an overarching Children and Young People's plan for Nottinghamshire and developing a Bassetlaw specific action plan to support this.
- ▶ Contributing to the Children and Young People's 'block' of the Nottinghamshire Local Area Agreement.

Our Goals:

- ▶ Be Healthy
- ▶ Stay Safe
- ▶ Enjoy & Achieve
- ▶ Make a Positive Contribution
- ▶ Achieve Economic Well-being

Our Progress: Key Achievements 2005

Launch of Langold Sure Start Children's Centre

On 4th November 2005 the highly successful West Bassetlaw Sure Start Centre at Langold opened as the first Children's Centre in Bassetlaw. As a Sure Start Local Programme, the centre is used by pre-school children and their families in a range of ways.

New Children's' Centres will be springing up over the Bassetlaw area for the next few years, aiming to streamline effective services which support parents, carers and children. As always parents and carers are a vital part of this development. Two of our local parents made very emotive speeches at the opening of the Children's Centre, saying what a difference it had made to their family and how much they enjoyed being a part of it.

The whole day was fun packed and we enjoyed the singing of children from Langold Dyscarr School, a wonderful buffet and cake (made by Bev Moore), speeches from parents and visitors, a children's' art auction, and the whole of Langold Dyscarr School saw a very funny production from Bill Brookman.



County Councillor Sheila Place, Sally Penn, Programme Manager of Sure Start West Bassetlaw and David Cartwright, Headteacher of Langold Dyscarr Community School, opening the gate from the Children's Centre to the main school.



This success will continue to be built on as a Children's Centre take shape in Bassetlaw and the Centre's will also be a focus for learning, for the children, parents and families accessing the Centres

For more information contact Sue Gill on 01777 274400, or email sue.gill@bassetlaw-pct.nhs.uk

One of Sure Start's regulars enjoying the celebrations.

Development of the local Children & Young People's Group

Although less exciting than Children's Centres, we see as a success the fact that our group now brings together professionals from such a range of agencies to focus on the needs of children and young people in Bassetlaw.

Previously the group had been a task group of the Social & Community Development Sub-Group, providing regular updates on specific issues. However, as the Every Child Matters agenda developed further and the Children's Act 2004 received assent, it was agreed that the group needed to be more prominent.

At the BLSP Board meeting in April 2005, it was agreed that we should have a separate Children and Young People's Sub-Group. The group includes education, health and social services, Connexions, the Youth Service, the local and county councils, Women's Aid and the local hospital. Now that the group is formally linked to the BLSP, it will be easier to co-ordinate a range of issues to support children and young people.

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Key Targets

Based on the LAA Children and Young People block and the Countywide Children and Young People's Plan (once finalised), key local targets will be developed which contribute to the countywide position but with a clear focus on services in Bassetlaw. To support the development and agreement of these local targets, a half day focussed session will be arranged in February/March 2006.

The targets agreed will be used to measure outcomes of the projects supported by the group. They will indicate the added value achieved by the LSP, and the new partnership approach to delivering children's services. These will be monitored closely throughout the year and reported on as a minimum annually, or more frequently as required.

Our long-term goal... (to be determined)




As with the other Sub-Groups of the BLSP, the Children & Young People Group will have a number of Key targets and a long-term Goal to be determined as part of the session in February / March 2006.

Children & Young People Action Plan – Our Performance

The county level Strategy is still under development and is due for completion in early 2006. This strategy will form part of the delivery mechanism for the Children & Young People Block of Nottinghamshire LAA, as well as the county's agenda for meeting the objectives of the Children's Act 2004.

In order to clarify District level priorities and to complete the local level Action Plan, an event will be held in February 2006. This will provide an opportunity for local partners to have in-depth discussions comparing County level priorities against the desired District level outcomes.

Once implemented the performance against the Action Plan will be monitored using the key below:

-  Red (R) = Not progressing to timetable
-  Amber (A) = Some work underway but underlying issues e.g. slippage on timetable, or funding concerns
-  Green (G) = Work underway to timetable

This will be presented as pie charts, as with the other Sub-Groups, to indicate how the Children & Young People is performing against the 'Actions' within their Action Plan.

This 'traffic light' system was piloted by the Health Sub-Group in October 2003 and January 2004. This was then rolled out to all the Sub-Groups for April 2004, and included in the Interim Report May 2004.

In October 2005, a new reporting mechanism was introduced for reporting Sub-Group progress at Board meetings. One element included was the introduction of the table (example shown below) for October's performance, which provides additional information as to how the Action Plan has been progressed.

Total Number of Actions	Number of Actions completed and removed	Number of Actions amended	Number of new Actions added
-	-	-	-