

Herefordshire  
**Children's  
Trust**

# LINKS

BRINGING PARTNERS TOGETHER  
ISSUE 4 APRIL 2011

## New beginnings Baby massage See page 1

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**Herefordshire Council; Herefordshire Primary Care Trust, including GPs; Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust; Schools; Colleges; Worcestershire and Herefordshire Youth Offending Service; Job Centre Plus; West Mercia Probation Service; West Mercia Police; The Alliance (third sector representatives); Other voluntary and community sector groups.**

# NEW SEASON

An amazingly busy first quarter of 2011 has flashed past and here we are welcoming Spring. At this time of 're-birth' this edition celebrates new things that are happening or about to happen.

## New partnership arrangements keep the focus on children, young people and families

Following changes nationally and our own local partnership arrangements, the Children's Trust will be undergoing major changes which are still being discussed. The Herefordshire Partnership is developing its approach to reflect the localities agenda. This means there will be locality based partnerships across the locality areas of Herefordshire. In addition, national policy changes will mean that there will be a Health and Wellbeing Board, and a Children's Safeguarding Board. There will be revised arrangements for working in partnership with business, and with colleges and schools regarding the 14-19 agenda. Whilst there is a significant amount of change, the commitment to focusing on the needs of children, young people and families in Herefordshire remains as strong as ever. Work is taking place to see how this commitment and advocacy can be best developed within the new partnership arrangements. The existing outcome groups will cease, as will the management group. The Children's Trust Board will continue to meet and will develop the way forward within the new partnership arrangements, including the move to a more commissioning approach across a range of services. The Board will also consider how best to use of the new Children and Young People's Plan – the 'Yes We Can' Plan...

## New plan, new title - 'Yes We Can' Plan - CYPP 2011-2014

The consultation on the draft CYPP is now closed and comments and concerns have been analysed prior to the publication of the final plan. The Trust intends to keep this document simple and straightforward, with partners pledging what they will do to achieve the priorities for 2011-2014, rather than long action plans.

There will also be a children's version of the plan produced in conjunction with the Shadow Board. The Shadow Board will also be involved in the production of materials to promote the new plan.

## New life - Off to a great start

The focus for the Children's Trust is children and young people from birth to 19 years of age and their parents/carers.

Parenting isn't always easy - learning an array of skills can help a great deal. Children's Centres are ideal places for those families with children under 5 years to learn some of these skills. South Meadow Children's Centre in South Wye recently undertook a particular initiative in parenting skills.

The Centre is showing parents and carers how to use multi-sensory techniques to help children aged five and under to develop expression, interaction, play and social skills. Baby massage sessions (as seen on the front cover) are taught in 5 week blocks and the techniques can help bonding, relieve infant pain and help calm restless babies.

South Meadow Centre was refurbished 12 months ago and to complement this work it has a sensory room that helps stimulate physical and mental development for the under fives and older children with special needs.



# TELLING TALES

## NEW WORDS, BUDDING READERS

Herefordshire Council's library service is trying to get every baby, toddler and young child to enjoy the benefits of free library membership this spring, as part of a nationwide campaign.

'Every Child a Talker' is a national strategy which highlights speech and language development in babies and children. It supports parents by encouraging them to talk to their children as much as possible as this helps to develop their speech and communication skills, as well as helping their imagination grow.

Sharing books can play a big part in this, so Herefordshire Council's library service is launching a series of events this spring which will support parents and be fun for children.

Events include:

### Story telling

Special storytelling sessions for invited groups from playgroups, childminders and other early years groups from across the county have been arranged and Sally Tonge- storyteller - has been leading the sessions round the county. Sally engages children, parents and staff with her chatterbox and guitar. Children are guided to create their own stories through interaction with props and music.

*"Our children had a fantastic time during the storytelling session with Sally, they were still talking about the different things they'd done on the journey home"*  
Trinity Tree tots

*"All Children benefited from this session"*  
Little Orchard Day Nursery

### Under 5's borrowing membership

A new Bookstart bear borrowing card has been launched promoting under 5's membership and access to FREE books.

### Celebrating world book day

A colouring competition with Gruffalo goodies as prizes ran through February until 11 March. Open to all ages, it offered a great opportunity to create a picture of something from a favourite children's book.



# WORKING TOGETHER

## New Hubs and Multi-Agency Groups

Work is in full swing on the 7 multi agency offices around the county. The south city at Greencroft children centre and the Ryefield centre at Ross-on-Wye have now taken delivery of the new office furniture and are now ready to be occupied.



The offices have been developed using a grant from the previous government and will enable services to work together in local areas to meet the needs of children, young people and families.

The other offices will be completed over the next few months and are at the primary school in Ledbury, adjacent to the Hope Family Centre in Bromyard, next to the Coningsby Children's Centre in Leominster, at Lady Hawkins High School in Kington and in Blackfriars Education Offices for the North city area.

Establishing the offices coincide with a reorganisation of some of the Herefordshire Council's frontline Children's Services, bringing together a range of practitioners into two integrated operational locality teams – one covering the North and one the South of the county.

The teams are headed up by Tina McGrath, head of locality of services - north ([tmcgrath@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:tmcgrath@herefordshire.gov.uk)), and Debbie McMillan, head of locality services - south ([dmcmillan@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:dmcmillan@herefordshire.gov.uk))

# FUTURE PROOFING

## New services for schools and academies

To celebrate the services that the council currently offers schools and academies a special event 'SLA Marketplace' was held on Thursday 10 February at the Freedom Centre, Hereford. The aim was to showcase the services available for schools to buy.

The event took place between 3.30 and 6.30pm with over 150 delegates attending the event, representing 91 schools and academies from across Herefordshire.

The event also saw the launch of the Traded Services booklet and support material that is available to all schools and academies.



Entertainment was provided by the Kingsland Primary Wider Opportunities music class who sang, performed to some of their songs, and played recorders and ukeleles. Delegates listening and watching thought their performance highly entertaining, and the players seemed to enjoy themselves immensely.

**Kingsland Primary Wider Opportunities Music Class**

# RESPECTING EACH OTHER

## New Equality Act

This came into force on 1 October 2010 and brings together over 116 separate pieces of legislation into one single Act, including the Disability Discrimination Act. Combined, they make up a new Act that provides a legal framework to protect the rights of individuals and advances equality of opportunity for all. Whilst the majority of the provisions of the Equality Act came into force in October 2010, not all sections came into law at the same time, and some of the Codes of Practice and guidance are still in preparation. The draft Code of Practice for Schools has now been published and consultation is currently taking place and can be found at the link below. The period of consultation closes on April 22nd.

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legal-and-policy/equality-act/equality-act-consultations/>

Areas covered by the Act include:

- Who has rights under the Act
- Who has duties
- Who is responsible
- What is unlawful (in relation to admissions; the provision of education; access to any benefit facility or service; exclusions)
- Liability
- Exceptions

## Renewed focus on beating the bullies

Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board with support from Action for Children held a hugely successful anti-bullying conference at the beginning of February. Over 140 delegates attended the event at the Courtyard, with keynote speakers in the morning and interactive workshops in the afternoon. E-safety featured highly as a topic of growing concern.

Charlotte Aynsley from the charity 'Beatbullying' presented some statistics on bullying and the effects and consequences bullying can have:

- 46% of 12-17 year olds have been bullied (DCSF 2009)
- 53% of parents of 5-11 year olds say that their child has experienced bullying (DCSF 2009)
- 1 in 3 young people who are bullied truant from school (BB 2006)
- Those who are bullied are twice as likely not to be in education, employment or training (NEET) at age 16 (DCSF 2008)
- 82% of learning disabled children are bullied (Mencap 2007)
- 1 in 3 young people aged 11-16 have experienced some form of cyber bullying (BB 2009)
- 44% of all child suicides in the UK may be related to bullying (BB 2010)

John Carr, an e-safety consultant explained how the internet changed everything, increasing the ways in which bullying can be carried out, and highlighted some of the consequences young people now have to live with:

- "The whole school knows...."
- Fake profiles
- Sexting
- Tagging
- Future employers and Universities using social media sites to discover applicants undisclosed behaviour

Graham Robb from the Youth Justice Board talked about the importance of restorative justice as opposed to taking punitive measures with young offenders. He explained how restorative justice changes behaviour and how it is proving to be very successful in improved behaviour and in reducing exclusions in schools.

There are several websites that can help parents and children and young people deal with e-bullying but a recently launched local site can be found at [www.wes.networcs.net](http://www.wes.networcs.net)

For more information contact Sharron Goode: 01432 261641

# STAYING SAFE

## New internet site launched for parents and children

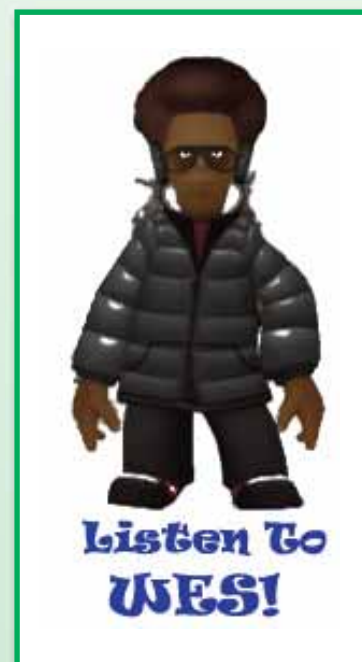
Would you expose your child to Violence, Bullying or Strangers? The fact is that many parents do without realising it.

Safer Internet day in February this year saw the launch of a new online character WES to help children stay safe.

This new innovative and creative website [www.wes.networks.net](http://www.wes.networks.net), designed for children, young people and parents, brought Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Safeguarding boards together at Worcester College of Technology where the site was officially launched by TV presenter Michael Collie. Michael was pleased to be involved with the event and said: "As a father of four children I was really pleased to be involved in this event. Getting to know more about your child's online world is really important. Every parent should know how to reduce the risks when online and by taking some simple steps, you can."

Many children spend hours chatting and gaming with others online but don't always know who they are really spending time with. The theme of this year's Internet Safety Awareness Week was: 'It's More Than A Game, It's Your Life', which was intended to highlight the seriousness of e safety.

Detective Superintendent Martin Lakeman, Head of Public Protection at West Mercia Police, said: "The internet is a fantastic place and is the primary means of communication for young people but, just like any place, it can have hidden dangers. Children may spend hours online blogging, gaming or visiting social networking sites. Parents should get to know more about their child's online world; it's a fantastic opportunity to become part of their world and to become 'cooler' as parents. We don't want to scare people but with a few simple pieces of knowledge parents can help to keep their children safe online. By visiting [www.wes.networks.net](http://www.wes.networks.net) you can get information and advice. WES caters for all ages and will tell you about issues such as cyber bullying, social networking, gaming and mobile phone technology. The site and key messages are underpinned by the SMART rules to keep web users safe."



# WES SAYS!

## The SMART rules are a simple guide to staying safe:

### **S is for SAFE**

- keep safe by not giving out personal information such as your email address, phone number, home address or school photos.

### **M is for MEETING**

- don't agree to meet up with someone you have only been chatting to online and don't know in the real world. Make sure you have a parent or carer's permission and they can come along to any meeting.

### **A is for ACCEPTING**

- don't accept emails, pictures, files or texts from people you don't know or trust. This could lead to problems as they may contain viruses or nasty messages.

### **R is for RELIABLE**

- information you find on the internet may not be true, people can lie about who they are.

### **T is for TELL**

- tell a parent, carer or trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried or if you know or someone you know is being bullied online.

Det Supt Lakeman added: "One tip for concerned parents and a good way of becoming involved is to ask your child if they can show you their buddy or friends list. Go through the list with them and ask how many people on the list they have actually met in real life. Delete those 'friends' your child cannot give you information about. In simple terms, it's an online ID parade. Remember that people do lie online and a 50 yr old man could be posing as a 12 yr old girl with the same interests as your child."

For the first time ever, WES offers a "one stop" shop for advice and guidance around the internet for children and young people and their parents.

Parents, carers and those working with children can download a safety leaflet at: [www.childnet-int.org/blogsafety](http://www.childnet-int.org/blogsafety)

Wes will be given a Herefordshire makeover but the messages will remain the same.  
For more information contact Sharron Goode: 01432 261641

# ROOM TO GROW

## New (outdoor) classroom

Whitbourne Primary School children will soon be rolling up their sleeves and getting dirty as they work to design and create an outdoor classroom.

The project, which began this term and aims to extend the school into the glorious Herefordshire countryside, will bring landscape designer and gardener Hannah Genders into the school on a regular basis.

Its initial phase, during which the classroom is designed and created, should be finished by the end of the school year and will then be used for years to come to extend the children's learning in maths, literacy, science, geography and many other subjects.



Hannah Genders ready to start planting with Whibourne pupils

Head teacher Mrs Julia Millwood said: "The creation of the outdoor classroom gives us a chance to involve the whole community because it is right at the heart of the village. It will bring subjects to life for many children in an entirely new way – we have more boys than girls at Whitbourne at the moment and we need to engage them in their own learning through the use of practical outdoor tasks."

The scheme, linked to the Bright Spaces Enquiry Programme, is being led and developed by the children and supported by staff. A six-strong pupil panel interviewed all the applicants for the post of creative partner, and classes are now working with Hannah and independently to develop ideas.

As part of the project Class 3 visited Ashperton Primary School, whose outdoor classroom is well-established, and examined the features in use there as well as interviewing the children who use it to discover what works best for them.

Hannah, whose interests in using natural landscapes, growing food and sustainable work with schools brought her into the project, has already worked on some planting with some Class 2 children meaning the project could also yield some very local vegetables for Whitbourne's village shop, only a few hundred metres away – the lowest carbon footprint carrots in the county, perhaps?

# BEING CREATIVE

## New ideas for the future – enterprise and initiative abound!

Longtown Primary School pupils have been busy learning new skills including pizza making and sheep rearing/textile making!

Children have been involved in a Breadmaking workshop using the newly built bread oven in their school garden. Years 5/6 made pizza which they enjoyed for their lunch.

The school also received funding from 'Bright Spaces' for an enquiry based learning Project, called in this instance, 'The Sheep Project'. This means the children will be buying sheep, then working with the fleeces to wash the wool with warm water and scented soap, dye it with natural dyes (grown in the school garden) and creating felt toys etc with beautifully coloured wool. The children will hopefully love this transformation and the intention is to create school made products to sell in the village. The children will work with two textile artists from Herefordshire, Caroline Everett and Skye Meredith.



## Shadow Board project 2010-2011



In 2010 the Shadow Board were challenged to undertake a project supported by the Children's Trust. The Board selects its own topic, approved by the Children's Trust, which reinforced the desired outcomes of the CYPP. The Shadow Board chose 'Alcohol Awareness' as their project as part of the 'Stay Safe at Christmas' campaign. Spokesperson Alexandra Lennon-Miles from the Shadow board explained that their project would not be about trying to stop young people from drinking, but more about giving them the facts and figures about what drinking can do to you, what the dangers are, and how the influence of drink can affect lives in many different ways. Just before Christmas was chosen as the best time to run this campaign although the planning and preparation had taken some months before.

Funding of £10,000 from the Children's Trust and £1000 from the Youth Offending Service enabled the Shadow Board to work with the Stay Safe at Christmas team and the Youth Service to stage roadshows across the county, some in the market towns and some at secondary school locations. Young people were able to talk to their peers, youth workers and health experts and pick up a bag of 'goodies' with freebies and lots of information. Approximately 4000 'goodie' bags were distributed and the Shadow Board felt the roadshows were more effective in school locations where there was a 'captive' audience. The Board has received some very positive and encouraging feedback and enquiries as to whether a similar approach could be taken on different issues. The Shadow Board members have also identified a need for the Alcohol Awareness campaign to be delivered to younger groups of children.

The Shadow Board has presented its findings to the Children's Trust Management Group who congratulated the Board on their achievement in planning and executing this ambitious project, and in offering advice and support to so many young Herefordians.

# FUN FROM FUNDING

## Youth opportunity fund showcase celebration

Young people and adults from across Herefordshire have been recognising the huge opportunities offered by the Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital fund.

On Wednesday the 23rd of February the Youth Funding Panel celebrated the successful youth-led projects by staging the YOF Showcase event at the Royal National College for the Blind.

There were performances and displays from a variety of projects such as:

- Magna Performing Arts- drama and dance, support for rehearsal, costume
- South Wye Youth Forum, team building days
- Herefordshire Expedition Group, trip to Borneo
- 2faced dance company, live performances and training schools
- dj Lofty and his young pioneers, one of which was the only female beatboxer in Herefordshire.
- Hereford Youth Theatre, performances and rehearsals
- Herefordshire Youth Council team building and IT equipment
- Tug of war provided by Young Famers
- Hereford Rowing Club who also did a sponsored marathon to raise money for St. Michael's Hospice on the night.
- The 15ft high gypsy caravan was there which was built by young people in six weeks at John Masefield High School.
- Burghill Youth Club, a project about their village
- Christian Life Centre, refurbishment to play area
- Close House / Herefordshire Community Youth Service Film Project
- Town Training, walking gear and support equipment

### Quotes from Young People:

*"It was an invaluable experience; I have learnt so much and had such a great time"*

*"The money made us feel professional; we are a serious drama group now with our own equipment"*

*"I was part of giving money straight to young people to let them do things that they actually wanted to do"*

*"I have learnt that it is difficult to tell anything about someone from their age or sex. I feel good that I have helped other young people".*



The Fund started in 2006 and since that date 532 applications have been received by the Youth Funding Panel (a body of young people supported by the Herefordshire Council Community Youth Service.)

Over three hundred grants have been approved totalling over £700,000 from which an astounding 22,923 young people have benefited. Notable recipients for example were young people at John Masefield High School who were struggling in a formal education setting and at risk of exclusion, who wanted to do something positive and practical that could go towards their qualifications. Some of the young people in the group were from a traveller background/culture and suggested building a replica gypsy caravan. They managed to design and construct a 15ft gypsy caravan in a mere six weeks and now it stands pride of place at the school.

# WORKING WELL

## Preparing for a new start in the big wide world

More and more schools and academies are preparing their students for life in the real world by engaging them in mock interview days.

In 2009-2010 ten schools took part, with over 900 students being interviewed and 36 employers attending to act as 'mock interviewers'. This academic year 56 employers have agreed to help. Participating schools and interviewing employers all agree such days are a huge success.



## New website launched

Herefordshire CPD Online is now live! The website that will allow every employee working within the Children's Trust to register online for continuous personal development training is up and running. Currently training sessions are available for schools and early years, but these will be followed very shortly by training in safeguarding, and specialist training for Governors and multi-agency workers. The site also allows employees to log their own personal cpd record.



Once registered, Partner employees will be able to manage their own continuous professional development and book onto training sessions that form part of the partnership's workforce development programme. [www.herefordshirecpd.co.uk](http://www.herefordshirecpd.co.uk)

[www.herefordshire.gov.uk/childrenstrust](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/childrenstrust)

**Helping families, parents and carers to help themselves.**

**Promoting health and well being.**

**Achieving success in learning and future employment.**

**Protecting children from harm.**

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