

Herefordshire
**Children's
Trust**



LINKS



BRINGING PARTNERS TOGETHER
ISSUE 3 DECEMBER 2010



Children's Trust Partners: Children, Young People and Families; Schools and Colleges; Herefordshire Council; NHS Herefordshire; West Mercia Police; Youth Offending Service; Probation Service; Job Centre Plus; Voluntary & Community Organisations; Private Sector

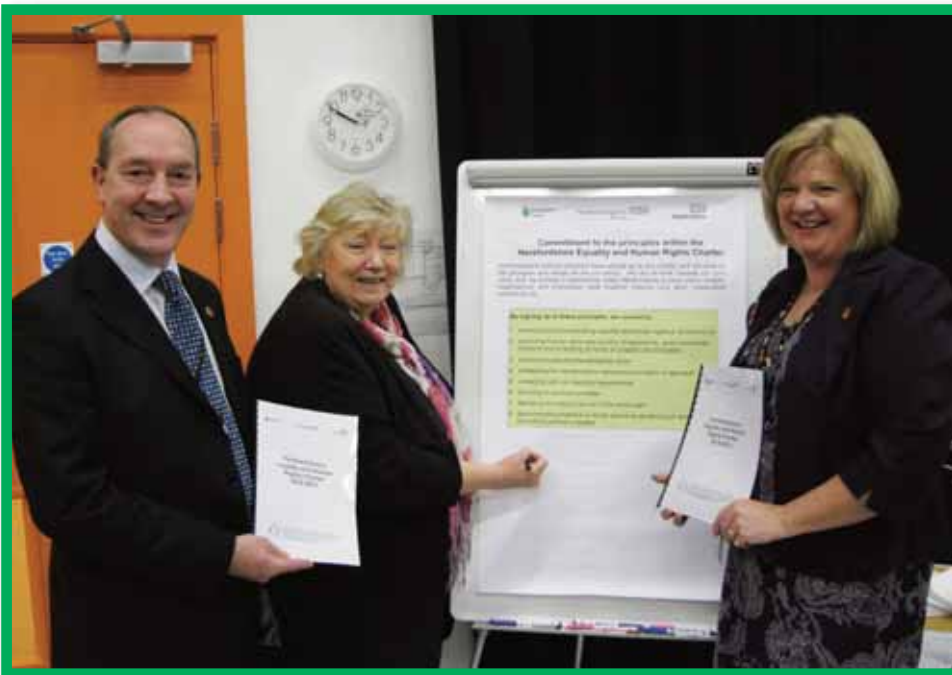
Contact us: email: childrenstrust@herefordshire.gov.uk
tel: 01432 260979 or write Herefordshire Children's Trust, Blackfriars Street, Hereford HR4 9ZR

www.herefordshire.gov.uk/childrenstrust

Welcome to the third edition of 'Links'

In this edition we are focusing on why we are all working so hard for and with children and young people and their families - to make growing up the best it can be and ensure that children and young people are given the same rights as adults.

BEING VALUED, having rights



Dean Taylor, Dept Chief Executive; Cllr Mrs June French, Cabinet Member (Corporate and Customer Services and Human Resources); Carol Trachonitis, Equality and Diversity Manager.

Recently the Herefordshire Council, NHS Herefordshire, and Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust, all partners in the Children's Trust, launched the **Herefordshire Equality & Human Rights Charter**, reminding us of the 'rules' that should govern our lives.

Fundamental to the Children's Trust and the Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) are the rights of children and young people as defined by **The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**.

Since ratification of the UNCRC in 1991, implementation of the Convention has been pursued through legislation and policy initiatives, including the Children Act 1989, Children Act 2004, Every Child Matters and policy for 0-19 year olds set out in the Government's 2007 Children's Plan. The General Principles of the UNCRC are set out in four Articles:

- the right to non-discrimination in the application and enjoyment of rights;
- for the best interests of the child to be a primary consideration when decisions are being made that affect children;
- the right to life and maximum development; and
- the right to express views and have those views taken seriously.

All articles can be seen by visiting:

<http://www.unicef.org/rightsite/files/uncrcchildfriendlylanguage.pdf>

The Children's Trust and HSCB work to ensure these principles are followed.

Article 31

'You have the right to play and rest'

Article 23

'You have the right to special education and care if you have a disability, as well as all the rights in the UN Convention, so that you can live a full life'

Moves to succeed 2



Moves to Succeed is a project to provide a sustainable model for reducing truancy and exclusion.

Moves to Succeed came about when Herefordshire Council's Cultural Services Learning Team successfully obtained a grant of £43,350 from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation to help children with behaviour issues develop coping strategies for the classroom. Year 1 was challenging but highly successful and an education toolkit with 'moves' wall chart and DVD was created to provide support for behaviour management.

Moves to Succeed 2 will be piloting two approaches of using moves generic to all dance styles to develop behaviour strategies with Trinity and St. Martin's Primary Schools. The short term goal is improving behaviour and

attendance throughout the school. The two schools will be innovators of this phase of the project from which it is hoped to create a programme of moves with children and teachers that can be adopted nationally for behaviour management throughout the school day.

The second year of this project has commenced and involves weekly workshops with KS1 and KS2 pupils with the practitioners 2FacedDance Co and Nicola's School of Dance. Family sessions and whole school continuous professional development (CPD) will be part of the programme. Moves to Succeed 2 is not a performance based activity, i.e. it is about developing a series of moves that can be used in any environment to enable the child to focus/cope. Demonstrations at both schools at the end of the spring term will celebrate the end of this phase of the programme.

For further information or to obtain a copy of the DVD please contact Annie Millen, Arts Learning Officer at AMillen@herefordshire.gov.uk.

Play park for all

After a period of discussion, research and consultation involving parents, Park Leisure has been chosen as the successful play company that will develop the Aiming High for Disabled Children play park at King George's playing fields. The design will include many different play experiences and the main climbing unit will be bespoke to Herefordshire, being the only one in the country.

Work will start in the development around mid January 2011 (weather permitting) and the park will be open by March 31st 2011.



**Learn more, do more • Eat well, be well
Join in, take part • Log on, look out
Stay firm, be brave • Get learning, start earning**

www.herefordshire.gov.uk/childrenstrust

Article 14

'You have the right to choose your own religion and beliefs. Your parents should help you decide what is right and wrong, and what is best for you.'

Article 30

'You have the right to practice your own culture, language and religion - or any you choose. Minority and indigenous groups need special protection of this right.'

Herefordshire Multifaith Development Group

The Herefordshire Multifaith Development Group operates for the benefit of all children in Herefordshire. For the past three years it has been hosting events for Year 6 children. These events are aimed at addressing community cohesion issues.

The events enable workshop leaders from different faiths to come to Herefordshire and to work with young children and to teach them about the different faiths, their rituals and their religious practices.

It is great for the children to have first hand contact with people from different faiths, and to understand something about Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism and Judaism. The children have the opportunity to talk and ask questions with real people rather than relying on books and videos. These events help the children to recognise that there are so many similarities between these different religions and Christianity, and many shared beliefs and values. Herefordshire has a very small population of people practicing religions other than Christianity and Judaism and it is unlikely that many of the children in school will meet them in the course of their every day lives.

A Multi Faith event for Whitecross pyramid primary schools and Key Stage 3 students from several county secondary schools took place in Whitecross High School and Specialist Sports College in October 2010.

In addition to the event being special in itself, it was run as a pilot for video conferencing. This enabled some pupils who were unable to attend the event to see and participate in what was happening.

Following this short pilot a month long pilot will now enable many schools to show just how useful video conferencing can be in educational settings. It will allow management meetings to take place remotely, and for teachers to teach children in more than one place at once. It also allows experts to communicate with classes of children without physically going to visit them.



Whitecross High School

Article 28

'You have the right to a good quality education. You should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level you can.'

Article 29

'Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.'

Article 3

'All adults should do what is best for you. When adults make decisions they should think about how their decisions will affect children.'

Woman to woman - South Wye girls hold careers evening

Women from a range of professions, including the police, fire brigade, ambulance service, health services, education, business and law attended an event at Hinton Community Centre in November.

Organised by the South Wye girls group the visiting career women talked with 13-19 year old young women about their dreams and aspirations in a speed-dating type event. This offered the young women the opportunity to meet all of the women from the different occupations and gain a real understanding of what their job involves.

Sarah Melia, youth worker, Herefordshire Council, said: "The aim is to build on existing areas of interest and develop new aspirations for the young women as well as giving the older women an opportunity to interact with the young women.

The young women are able to come face to face with women in career areas that they have no practical experience of and this may inspire them to consider a wider range of professions than they would normally."

For more information please contact Sarah Melia on 01432 383376.



Girls Group member Amelia Lewis (left) and Dawn Killen (right) sharing her experience of working in community development projects



Some examples of the success of the day

Budding politician **Jamie King** (aged 13) from the Academy, and a member of the South Wye Youth Forum, enjoyed his experience shadowing liberal democrat member for Belmont Cllr Heather Davies for a day. He inspected a green space that has been identified by residents as a potential play area, went to a local economic debate at a trading estate and finally went over to the party headquarters and engaged in some serious political discussions.

Herefordshire Youth Service got together with Close House Youth Projects and issued a challenge: young people from Close House were to raise £400 to cover the cost of printing the annual Close House newsletter. Their method for doing this would be to sell advertising space to local businesses, and in return, the young people received their own article space and experience of working in journalism, publishing, marketing and sales.

Haydn Walker (17) and **Jamie Higgins** (16) took up the challenge and started planning their approach to local businesses to sell advertising space. Armed with an old copy of the newsletter, a pricing structure and an order book they headed out under the watchful eyes of Youth Service and Close House staff. Despite being pretty nervous and 'in at the deep end', they managed to work through their inexperience as salesmen, smash their target for the day and raise £500.

This was an impressive achievement for the boys, who had never been involved in this sort of project before. They responded very well to the challenge, their confidence rose and they are excited for more challenges to push their own personal boundaries.



14 year old **Shannon James** from the Academy had a great time shadowing Nadine Marshman, a year one teacher at Marlbrook primary school. She helped with teaching English as well as drama. Shannon wants to enter the teaching profession – and really rose to the challenge. She said on her feedback form 'as a year one teacher you talk from the minute you start to the minute you go home'.



Politically minded **Zoe Pemberton** aged 13, another key member of the South Wye Youth Forum, shadowed Chris Bull during a full council meeting – where she learnt about how council meetings run, the types of issues debated, and found the inter-connections of the legal and political agenda 'awesome'. She asked some interesting questions and has been made to feel welcome to get involved again through the members support team.

Bethan Richards aged 15 and **Yasmin Suer** aged 14 from the Bishop of Hereford Bluecoat School had a busy day over at Greencroft Childrens centre alongside Greencroft centre worker Jane Crockett. They got stuck in with the demanding job of caring for and providing play and learning space for younger children.

Feedback will be collected from all the young people who took part in the day (and their placements) but as an example:

My Day With The Hereford Times Editor...

It is my dream to one day become a successful journalist, preferably in New York, therefore I was delighted when given the chance to shadow the Editor of the Hereford Times for the day last week. After drinking numerous cups of tea, we went straight out to do some work - handing over cheques and meeting people who live in Hereford - notably members of the Cathedral Trust. I found the day really interesting, and I learnt an awful lot about what the world of journalism expects. It has definitely encouraged me to pursue my dreams for the future, and I wish to thank the organisers for giving me the opportunity, and also the Editor, Fiona, for all her advice and tips - I had a really fabulous day, so thanks!

Beth Williams

To ensure that children and young people receive the best education they can you also need a well trained, well motivated workforce.

Workforce development

CPD online (Continuous professional development)

Next year workforce development will be introducing a new service called CPD Online. This will eventually contain all partners training course directory which people can view at any time.

The online system will allow people to:

- view an up to date directory of all training sessions
- book places online
- receive confirmations and course details by email
- track CPD they have attended and access related documents at any time
- receive email alerts for courses that match user profiles.



Once activated CPD online will allow the workforce to view all the professional development opportunities available, although the administration for training sessions and courses more specifically designed for Schools, Early Years and Safeguarding will be the first to go live.

For schools the system allows designated users in each school (CPD Online administrators) to make and authorise course bookings for colleagues and access reports such as all CPD attended across the school each term.

One hour training sessions for CPD administrators in schools have been arranged during December and January to allow administrators to familiarise themselves with the new system.

For more information contact workforce development: e mail sgoode@herefordshire.gov.uk

Information sharing



Appropriate and timely information sharing is vital to safeguarding children and young people. Information Sharing Champions are people from across the Children's Trust partners who are trained in the 'rules' that govern information sharing. 69 Information Sharing Champions have now been trained from all sectors of the partnership, and further training will be held in 2011. Anyone concerned about sharing information can ask a champion for guidance. Visit: www.herefordshire.gov.uk/hscb/8.htm

'Safe to Share' – the campaign that highlights the steps to take to ensure information is shared appropriately - began in December. Following the steps offers a pathway to decision making to ensure that information being shared is being done legally and professionally.

The advent of the Safe to Share campaign saw a week of 'e-windows' to open that illustrated each step to take to make information 'Safe to Share'. Posters were displayed and post-it pads issued far and wide to ensure people know the process to protect the vulnerable.

For more information contact Sharron Goode, Workforce Strategy Manager 01432 261641 sgoode@herefordshire.gov.uk

Software solution to community cohesion

Herefordshire Council and NHS Herefordshire has been successful in supporting communities, professionals and public bodies by using software from 'INOVEM'.

Mike Nelson from the workforce development team was invited to attend a training session and learnt how to start an 'online community'. Mike recognised that this would be ideal for sharing information between individuals who would otherwise work in isolation within schools such as the Higher Level Teaching Assistant community and also the Learning Mentor community. The on-line community could provide instant access to up to date information without having to arrange meetings or contacting individuals separately.

As an example of how the system works, the Learning Mentor community is a group of people (one per school in approx. 25 schools) who are often working with vulnerable children and families and who therefore benefit from on-going peer support. In addition the on-line community helps add more pace and reliability to keeping everyone informed, and has increased attendance at training and network meetings.

The success of this system has proved invaluable for supporting staff dispersed across the county.

Other on-line communities are being established including one for Deputy Head Teachers, one for school administrators and finance officers, and, hopefully in the near future, one for Information Sharing Champions.

For more information contact Mike Nelson, Development Officer: Teaching and Learning Support, CYPD, on 01432 383398 mnelson@herefordshire.gov.uk

Article 24

'You have the right to the best health care possible, safe water to drink, nutritious food, a clean and safe environment, and information to help you stay well.'

Safety out and about

Driving

In September Herefordshire road safety team bought in the experts from The Good Egg Campaign to offer child car seat check days at 3 Supermarkets in Herefordshire - one in Leominster and two in Hereford city.

As part of the campaign the road safety team also distributed a guide to in-car safety.

Walking

November saw a pilot Child Pedestrian Training at St Pauls Primary School. Training took place one afternoon a week over 3 weeks. The first session was theory only, the second session was a practical, walking an assessed route, and the third was an assessed practical. If successful once assessed the road safety team will be offering the training to other schools where it can be safely carried out.



Keeping baby safe

If you would like this magazine in a different language or format, please contact the Children's Trust on 01432 261743. 'Links' is also available online: www.herefordshire.gov.uk/childrenstrust