

Core Aim Group Summary – April 2010

This is the summary for the 1st tranche of Core Aim meetings of the 10/11 financial year. As always, this summary is simply a write up of my notes. Should you require clarification on any point including current work for each Core Aim group, please contact me by email. (lee.hind@pavs.org.uk)

Core Aim 1

Updates on current work were as follows: Helping Hands has been realigned with Wales PPA and there will be a focus on children with complex needs within a playgroup setting. Additional support will be available through training for day nursery staff/childminders etc. The new scheme will run from September 2010. There will be an increase in generic training for early year's staff. All year 2 staff have now been trained with new staff being trained on a rolling basis. There will be new LSA's in post soon to meet the new 1:15 ratio. A Reception audit is underway alongside a self assessment of the Early Years Service. Non-maintained groups are going well although there is a consistent gap in planning and future training for this sector will be changed to accommodate this.

The results of the survey in schools on teen pregnancy indicate a "shift change in approach is needed". The ramifications of this are currently being explored. The Level 2 training in nutrition is going well as is the Smoke-free Homes pilot.

Flying Start continues to work well although lately some parents have begun to question the childcare placements they are offered. A 'Parent's Panel' that consists of professionals and parent's representatives has been facilitated by the Family Information Service (FIS). In addition, it should be noted that as of 30/4/10, FIS will be located in Albion Square, Pembroke Dock. This is due to a fall in the numbers of drop in clients at the town centre base and an increase in email/phone enquiries.

The Nursery nurse attached to Flying Start is now supporting families in 2 homeless hostels within the County as well as the Women's Refuge.

There has been some difficulty recruiting staff to deliver parenting courses. Alongside this, the long awaited revision to the parenting strategy promised by WAG will now not be forthcoming.

The childcare audit is now live. There is some clash between after school clubs and schools themselves – this tension centres around the differing rents that after school clubs are charged. A research project is underway to establish a true picture with the hope of finding some equality in rents at the end of that.

The new priorities for the 11-13 plan were mainly reflective of the old ones as there is much work still to do. Work would now begin on putting some of the actions together before the July meeting.

Core Aim 2

All updaters report satisfactory progress on current objectives from 08-11 plan. Chair requests case studies for the next meeting to personalise some of the work undertaken by Core Aim 2.

Priority areas for the 2011-2014 plan are proposed as:

- 1) Ensure that there is co-ordinated support and broad entitlement of provision for young people throughout their learning from 8-25 years with specific concentration on experiences at the key transition points
- 2) Ensure additional co-ordinated support is available to specific vulnerable groups who are at risk of disengagement from learning throughout the 8-25 year range
- 3) Consolidate and develop services for children with additional needs

(It should be noted that these are broad priority areas and specific objectives and actions have yet to be worked through.)

In addition to the vulnerable groups listed in the accompanying paper (YOT, LAC, Behaviour Support, SEN, Young Carers, Gypsy Travellers) the following vulnerable groups were suggested: Teenage Parents, those with English as an additional language, Children in poverty, non school attenders.

A paper on the Children and Families Measure was presented. In short, the measure requires Local Authorities to utilise their 2011-2014 plans to include specific measures to tackle child poverty and to incorporate the 13 broad aims outlined by WAG. Locally this work will progress through the work of Core Aim 7 and it is hoped further clarity will be available after this group has met.

Gareth Mills presented an update on Workforce Development – the current focus will be on induction with the ultimate aim of producing a CYPP Induction drawn from the experiences and processes of member organisations. To this end, Core Aim group members will be asked to complete a SWOT/PEST analysis in the next few months.

NSF – the group has met twice this year and is currently mapping standards to core aim groups so that priority setting for the 2011-2014 plan is influenced by the NSF standards that we will have to meet by 2014.

Children Missing Education – we await the report from WAG before being able to determine local activity.

The CYPP response to the Cymru Ifanc/Young Wales document has been prepared and will be posted on the PCC website in the next few days.

Core Aim 3

Matters arising included news that the new HSCWB plan would draw its 0-25 steer from the Core Aim action plans.

The Emotional Health subgroup is progressing well with good reports from both the School Counselling Service and the Suicide Prevention aspect of the work.

The question was asked if resources would be put into place on the ground to meet the strategic priorities that were being drawn up in Core Aim groups. We may find ourselves in a position where we cannot deliver our outcomes and what use will our CYPP Plan be then?

There was a discussion about what the best approach would be in terms of meeting broad WAG priorities or targeting specific local needs. It may be beneficial to narrow our focus in some areas to get the best deal for Pembrokeshire.

Majority of emotional health work will take place as part of an objective under the priority "Children and Young People are physically and emotionally healthy". Group agreed that it remained a crucial area of work with new cases identified on a daily basis across the County.

CAMHS report that the Primary Mental Health Workers role is developed but there remains a shortfall in capacity due to lack of sufficient grant from WAG. There are up to 30 referrals per week into specialist CAMHS. Some behaviour related referrals are signposted to other services and their referral reconsidered if that intervention fails.

It was pointed out that only those with professional health qualifications (school nurses, health visitors etc) can refer to CAMHS. Counsellors, PSO's etc are not deemed to be qualified to make such a referral.

The Primary School Counselling Service is operating well below capacity which is not reflective of the secondary school service. It maybe that a new way of working is considered here.

It was reported that the National Healthy Schools Quality Award (if achieved by schools) would negate the need for Estyn to inspect against well-being in that particular school.

There followed a discussion around what assessment tools might be used to measure emotional health of young people. The group recognised that any tool would need to be able to measure 10's of 000's of young people quickly and easily. In addition, interventions would need to be in place in terms of a 'positive hit' coming from the assessment otherwise what would be the point of assessing?

Meetings were arranged to discuss the actions under the objectives for the new plan.

Core Aim 4

Progress updates included news that the Easter play programme had delivered 16 sessions with 600 young people attending. Of 20 places on the Go Play! Programme, 11 had been filled and discussions are ongoing on how best to fill the remainder.

Leisure were pursuing a plan to open up free swimming sessions every weekend across the County. There would be one hour of free time swimming and one hour of structured activity.

Sport have undertaken a huge training programme, with 1000 coaches/volunteers received elements of training. Through this programme the options for P.E. in primary school are increasing. The number of school based sports clubs are increasing and we are hoping to maintain the best participation rates in Wales at primary level. In addition, 50% of all 9-16 year olds are engaged in some sporting activity.

Maintaining voluntary sector capacity (who are by far the biggest providers of sport in Pembs) remains a key challenge for the future, specifically maintaining the volunteer base. In a reflection of other areas of volunteering, current levels of bureaucracy (primarily with CRB checks and ISA registration) are putting volunteers off from starting or, more worryingly, causing current volunteers to leave.

In addition to this challenge, there is a zero level of capital investment in sport at present as all funds are directed at the Olympics.

8 disability sports clubs linked to Families of Schools are operating and 100 sports coaches have received disability awareness training.

Within Arts and Culture, a providers meeting has been held which proved very useful in eradicating duplication and highlighting potential progression routes from one Convergence project to another. There will be a meeting convened by Pembrokeshire SET to try and widen the membership of this group. In addition the membership of the Cultural Forum needs to be increased to include 3rd Sector groups.

In terms of the current priorities, it was suggested that Environment be made a cross cutting theme to include activity from the National Parks and others. This was followed by a suggestion that actions for the crosscutting themes should be woven into the action plans for the named priorities rather than be separated.

The challenge of maintaining the voluntary sectors input into this Core Aim will either need to be carefully planned into Core Aim 4's action plans or placed in Core Aim 5 (with the other volunteering actions). Should the latter be decided on, good channels of communication will need to be adopted between the Core Aims.

Core Aim 5

All updaters report satisfactory progress. Concerning the Information priority, the local authority have purchased the Tribal system following an excellent presentation of the same. Briefly the system is an integrated database that is fully searchable and not only this but it can also be the driver behind a user friendly web interface allowing all partners to potentially access the aggregated data it holds. An Information subgroup will consider the way forward for Tribal when it meets in early June.

Priorities for the new plan were agreed as:

- Information provision for children and young people through a range of media
- Implement the Participation Strategy so that all children and young people can take part in decisions that affect their lives
- Provision of advocacy services
- Provide a comprehensive volunteer information service for young people

A task and finish group has been set to look at objectives under these priorities.

The Youth Assembly reported that they have identified their informal research panel.

The launch of the National Kitemark at an event on the 13th May was highlighted.

A research project is being applied for exploring participation by young people.

Meetings have been held to discuss the supply of advocacy to those whom the local authority have a statutory duty to provide it. There is a possible collaboration with neighbouring counties to bring in non-statutory group.

Core Aim 6

All updaters reported that work was progressing well and that Fynnon had been updated. Highlights were that Neighbourhood Police Teams now had specifically trained officers to deal with hate crime and child on child crime. In addition, a new approach would be taken with licensed premises to ensure they were actually doing all they could to protect children.

Stats showed that substance misuse amongst young people remained an issue but that there was good work being done through SUDD's and YOT to combat this. Within the new plan a focus would be put on the legal substance issue.

Housing reported that a new pilot, initially operating only in the Milford Haven area was offering young people intensive housing support to prevent them becoming homeless or losing a tenancy.

No update from Road Safety.

It was agreed that priorities and objectives would be worded in such a way as to make them SMART within the next plan.

Core Aim 7

It was agreed that the objectives in their current format were not appropriate as they fall outside the remit of the group.

Should these (WAG) targets have to be included, it would be useful to ensure that they are labelled as WAG targets.

The national strategy looking at child poverty will be launched on May 12 2010, it would be key to draw Core Aim 7's work from this document if appropriate.

There may be a need to map into the new plan, current agencies core business in addition to anything else. This maybe especially important for Social Care.

A Task and Finish group will be convened to rework the priorities to ensure a good fit for Pembrokeshire.