

# Change Matters

## Children's Networks News

Change Matters - Children's Network News

May 2008

### Issue 1

## Welcome to the first edition of Change Matters: Children's Networks News.

**This newsletter will keep you up to date on progress in implementing the Children's Networks, and in particular on the development of the three Network-based multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs).**

The national Children's Plan from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) sets out high level expectations for how the services that support children and young people should work together to intervene early and deliver services to meet the needs of children, young people and their families. Similarly, Children's Trust arrangements are expected to bring services together to deliver better outcomes for children and young people.

#### **Co-location of services is key to this and the advantages are seen as:**

- Staff located together are more likely to talk to each other and provide joined-up support;
- Informal day to day contact can help staff communicate better, build trusting relationships and adopt more co-operative working practices;
- Co-location provides opportunities for joint planning and maximising existing resources;
- Co-location can assist with building strong links with local communities, helping services to be more responsive to local needs.

In Haringey, we established the three geographical Children's Networks so that we could take a high level, strategic approach to assessing, understanding and planning for the needs of the community in the different parts of the borough.

The next step that we are taking is to co-locate a number of the key services that support children and young people with additional needs. These services are many of the services that are allocated through the Children's Network Panel and that provide a 'team around the child' service to identified children and young people.

We are now planning the co-location of these services in three multi-disciplinary Children's Network bases at Haringey Professional Development Centre, with the MDTs fully operational for the start of the new school term in September 2008. This will mean that colleagues from across the different teams will be based together and can take a more focused approach to delivering a coordinated service.

#### **Initially, the core members of each multi-disciplinary team will be:**

- Education Psychologists
- Education Welfare Officers
- Behaviour Support Teams
- Speech and Language Teams
- Autism team
- Parent and Community involvement teams
- Supporting teenage parents team
- Pupil and Family mediation worker
- Drugs Education Vulnerable Children and Young People's worker
- Other staff currently based at the HPDC who deliver targeted support to children and young people.

Each Children's Network base will also include some space that will enable colleagues from other services such as social workers, TPCT, YOS, and Police etc to work with the multi-disciplinary team, in relation to planning both common processes and co-ordinated responses to individual casework.

Work is in progress to identify all of the implications of developing a multi-disciplinary approach to our work and to manage the change sensitively. A MDT steering group has been established, and six work strands established to address the key areas of activity, with members of the steering group leading on each strand.

The development of the MDTs will have implications not only for the staff who will directly be working in them, but also for all of the teams that may work with them in supporting children and young people, providing training and advice, and developing joint initiatives. This includes, for example, the Youth Offending Service, Safer Schools police officers, social workers, TPCT staff, and School Improvement staff.

To make this project a success, we will need to draw on the knowledge and expertise of all of these groups and more. Please see the other sections of this newsletter for details of how you can get involved. I look forward to hearing from you.

**Jan Doust**  
**Head of Children's Networks**



# Get Involved

**Each session will take as its theme one of the work strands that sit below the MDT steering group, and will be led by the steering group member(s) responsible for that area.**

The themes are set out in advance so that you can attend the sessions that are of particular

relevance to you. Of course, everyone is encouraged to attend as many of the sessions as they are able to – the success of this project will depend on getting as much input as we can from as broad a group of staff as possible!

There will be a further workshop for staff working directly in the MDTs on accommodation

requirements. These staff will be informed of the details for this meeting by email.

The meetings will take place on Wednesday afternoons, in the Upper Hall at the Professional Development Centre, from 3:30pm-5pm

## Have Your Say

**The implementation of integrated working and the three network-based multi-disciplinary teams is an exciting new development, and no doubt you will have many questions about how it will all work, issues that you think will need addressing, and suggestions on how to make it a success.**

We have set up an email inbox to which you can send any questions, suggestions, issues, topics you would like raised at the consultative sessions, and other ideas. All emails will be answered and we will feature some of the suggestions and questions (with the response) in future issues of Change Matters.

**The email address is [change.matters@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:change.matters@haringey.gov.uk)**

Date	Theme	Session Lead
Wednesday 4 June 3:30pm-5pm Upper Hall, PDC	Professional practice and workforce development – how can staff best work together in the new teams?	<b>Alison Botham</b> , Children's Networks Integrated Working and Workforce Development Manager <b>Christa Rippon</b> , Principal Educational Psychologist
Wednesday 18 June 3:30pm-5pm Upper Hall, PDC	Systems, processes and administration for the MDTs	<b>Norma Downer-Powell</b> , Head of Administration Terry O'Reirdan, Attendance and Welfare Manager
Wednesday 2 July 3:30pm-5pm Upper Hall, PDC	How will the MDTs link with specialist and other services?	<b>Phil Di Leo</b> , Head of Services to Children and Young People with Additional Needs <b>Clive Preece</b> , Head of Children in Need and Safeguarding Service
Wednesday 16 July 3:30pm-5pm Upper Hall, PDC	Where are we now? – general session for all staff involved	TBC

**The key points from each event will be featured in the following edition of Change Matters.**

