

Nottinghamshire Pathfinder Children's Trust

Making Life Better for Children and Young People with Additional Needs

Issue 1

June 2004

Welcome to our first Newsletter!

What is the Pathfinder Children's Trust?

Currently this is a Partnership between Education, Health, Social Services and the Voluntary Sector.

Why has the partnership been formed?

To make life better for service users and their families through partnership and integrated working.

What will the Pathfinder Children's Trust do?

- Ensure better access to information about services so that carers and service users will know about services.
- Use a single assessment process so that children and families only tell their story once.
- Provide a key worker to ensure the service is responsive to any changes and to ensure new needs are identified early.
- Co-ordinate service provision around the child or young person's and family's needs.

How will the Pathfinder Children's Trust do this?

The Trust will adopt the following key principles:

- Services will be child and family centred providing continuity across all stages in the child/ young person's life.
- Users of the service and carers will be involved in the planning, development, delivery and evaluation of services.
- The Trust will use a social model of disability i.e. the view that children are disabled by prejudice, discrimination and their environment, not solely by their impairments.
- The service will focus on actions that will improve the child or young person's life.
- Service development will be informed by research and evidence based good practice.
- To support children and young people to use universal and mainstream services. The Trust will also support service providers to make their services easier to use by children and young people with additional needs.

What is happening in my organisation to develop the Pathfinder Children's Trust?

Each Partner agency has made the following commitments:

- A higher priority will be given to Disabled Children's Services.
- Each PCT, local Voluntary Sector Organisations, Education and Social Services will identify a "Children's Champion" and Manager to lead the improvements of services in their area.
- Each partner agency is committed to using an "Integrated Pathway" or "Co-ordinated route" through services to improve service users' experiences of our services.
- To develop agreed standards of service that are needs led. Partners in each Primary Care Trust (PCT) area will be responsible for developing services to these standards.

What is happening now?

There are a number of task groups working on the Integrated Pathway (more of this in the next edition)

- Communication
- Participation
- Multi-agency Training
- Multi-agency Working
- Referral and Assessment
- Service Planning and Delivery



Susan Twemlow was appointed as the Development Manager in February 2004.

Susan has worked in Nottinghamshire for over 20 years, and has experience of working in health, social services and the voluntary sector.

How can I be involved?

There will be a series of multi-agency, locality based road shows being organised. Details will be available soon.

Future editions will have an Issues Column. This will be an opportunity for you to contribute to the work of the task groups and issues they are working on.

Want to know more – watch out for the monthly newsletter.

Any questions?

contact:

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