

# DERBYSHIRE'S CHILDREN'S TRUST

## **Why does Derbyshire have a Children's Trust?**

The government requires all local authorities to have in place arrangements, by April 2008, that produce coordinated and integrated working at all levels from planning through to delivery, with a focus on improving outcomes for children, young people and their families. In order to achieve this Derbyshire has set up a Children's Trust.

## **What is the Children's Trust?**

Derbyshire's Children's Trust is a new structure for the delivery of services to children and young people. It includes all providers working with children and young people in the public, voluntary, community and independent sector.

## **What are the priorities of the Children's Trust?**

All services working within the Children's Trust aim to ensure that every child and young person, whatever their background or their circumstances, have the support that they need to meet the '5 outcomes' Every Child Matters priorities outlined in the Children Act 2004:

- Be healthy; enjoying good physical and mental health and living a healthy lifestyle.
- Staying safe; being protected from harm and neglect.
- Enjoying and achieving; access to high quality learning, doing well at school, making the most out of life and developing skills for adulthood.
- Making a positive achievement; being involved with the community and society and not engaging in anti-social or offending behaviour.
- Economic wellbeing; not being prevented by economic disadvantage from achieving their full potential in life.

In addition Derbyshire's Children's Trust is committed to ensuring that services are as accessible as possible and wherever practicable delivered in the local community.

## **Why involve the VCI sector in Derbyshire Children's Trust?**

- The VCI sector is vital in representing the views of service users and carers. This may be through advocacy, or the direct involvement of children, young people and families in the Children's Trust Board.
- The VCI sector can also promote community involvement in services such as extended schools and Children's Centres.
- The VCI sector are crucial to a Children's Trust commissioning process by contributing to an analysis of local need. The information held by

voluntary, community and independent organisations can identify gaps where services need to be developed and where services could be integrated to better address the system of needs of the child.

- The VCI sector will bring the expertise of the provider to the table and help to develop innovative approaches to service delivery.
- The wide involvement of community, voluntary and independent services as providers for Children's Trusts will increase the choice and accessibility of services for children, young people and families. This is particularly important in rural areas and for making services more approachable for young people. The voluntary, community and independent sectors are also well placed to respond to local need.

### **What is the Children's Trust Board?**

The Children's Trust Board is made up of representatives from all sectors of services working with children and young people in Derbyshire. The Children's Trust Board has the responsibility for providing strategic direction and for identifying priorities for service development. The Board also has the duty to produce a Children and Young People's plan based on agreed priorities. To see the plan go to [www.derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk)

### **Who is on the Board?**

To find out who is on the Board go to [www.derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk).

### **How do I communicate with the Board and how does the Board communicate with me?**

A representative from the VCI sector GRID (Reference Group) is a member of the Children's Trust Board. This person will seek the views of providers in the sector to influence discussion on the Board and will disseminate information from the Board to providers. This will happen through the VCI website, through the GRID meetings and through the district forum events. To find out who the VCI representative on the Board is go to [www.derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk).

### **How do I get my views across?**

There are two representatives on the GRID for each district, to find out who they are please go to [www.derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk). You may contact them to discuss any issue and they will make sure that anything that needs to go to the Board is then passed on to the VCI representative on the Board for further discussion. They will also make sure that you get feedback from your initial enquiry.

### **How do I get information about decisions that are made by the Board?**

Decisions that have implications for the VCI sector will be posted on the VCI website [www.derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk).

## **Will my involvement make a difference?**

In order to be successful the Children's Trust Board wants to engage as many providers as possible in shaping developments within Derbyshire. In order to do this the VCI GRID (Reference Group) has been set up which has a key responsibility for influencing developments. Your involvement is vital to the future developments of services for children and young people in Derbyshire.

## **How can I contribute to developments and find out more?**

There are a number of opportunities for the voluntary, community and independent sector to contribute to the development of Derbyshire's Children's Trust:

- There are district road show events for all groups working with children and young people across district areas of the county.
- There is a webpage on the county council website specifically for all children and young people organisations within the VCI sector.
- There is a countywide VCI reference group (GRID) to ensure the sector influences the Trust work with VCI groups in Derbyshire.
- Full time VCI Coordinator in post to ensure full engagement of VCI sector across the county.
- There is a VCI reference group member representing the sector on the Children's Trust Board.

For more information see the VCI web page at [www.derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk) contact the VCI Coordinator Matt Ford [matt.ford@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:matt.ford@derbyshire.gov.uk) or tel: 01629 580000 ext 2149.

## **Has the Children's Trust got extra money for services?**

Many people think of Trusts as being pots of money that can be distributed. The Children's Trust in Derbyshire does not have additional funding for distributing, however it has got the responsibility for ensuring that the money that is already available is spent on children's services is used to meet the 5 outcomes outlined above. It will do this by implementing a Commissioning Strategy which will seek to ensure that the limited funding that is available is distributed to services that are high quality, meet need and can demonstrate value for money. This will apply across all sectors of services for children and young people.