

Preston Community Network

The voice of the voluntary and community sector in Preston

**Preston Children's Trust
Voluntary Community and Faith Sector
Forum**



ANNUAL REPORT

2010/11

www.prestoncn.org

Preston Community Network

The Community Network promotes, co-ordinates and supports voluntary and community sector representation and wider involvement at all levels of Preston Strategic Partnership (PSP) and aims to ensure that our sector is involved in a wide range of local initiatives. We run conferences, workshops and forums on important local issues such as health and well-being, community safety and support and services for children and young people. We are the lead organisation for the local Compact.

Children's Trusts

Children's Trusts are a partnership of public and VCFS organisations providing services for children, young people and families. They were established in response to Lord Laming's inquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié and then underpinned by the 2004 Children's Act and the duty to co-operate. The Coalition Government removed the statutory requirement on local authorities to have a children's trust and left it up to local areas to decide. Lancashire County Council believes that the Children's Trusts are an effective way of integrating services and has decided to keep them. As well as a Lancashire-wide children's trust, there are district-level trusts throughout the County.

Preston Children's Trust Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) Forum was established by Preston Community Network in May 2008 to encourage voluntary, community and faith sector engagement with the then new Preston Children's Trust. It was the first in Lancashire and, in 2009, it was recognised and promoted as a model of good practice by Young Lancashire and Lancashire County Council.

The aims of the Forum are:

- To provide diverse VCFS representation on the Preston Children's Trust to ensure the sector's views are heard
- To provide a mechanism for communication and accountability to VCFS groups providing services to children, young people and families

Four main priorities

As a formal sub group of the Children's Trust the Forum identified its four main priorities:

- To develop a bespoke network for all VCS groups
- To support mapping of VCFS organisations
- To develop a system that recognises loss of VCFS services
- To provide support to ensure the VCFS provides quality and safe services

EVERY CHILD MATTERS VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR CONFERENCE: 20 APRIL 2010



The voluntary, community and faith sector plays an important role in both advocacy and delivery of services for children and young people. Its involvement in mechanisms like the Children's Trust which develop and deliver services is crucial. This conference, attended by 44 people, was held raise to awareness of issues around the Every Child Matters agenda and to encourage VCFS groups to get involved with the Preston Children's Trust. It was funded by NAVCA and Lancashire

County Council. Topics included the Common Assessment Framework (CAF), safeguarding, developing an integrated family workforce and a workshop to help smaller groups write a safeguarding policy appropriate to their own organisation and services. (Full conference report is available from Preston Community Network)

WORLD CAFÉ CONSULTATION EVENT FOR SMALL GROUPS

With the support of UCLAN's International School for Community Rights and Inclusion, the Community Network held a *World Café* consultation event in August 2010. The world café format was developed by UCLAN as a model for meaningful consultation with smaller groups. The event identified barriers to engagement with the Children's Trust experienced by small community groups providing community-based activities. (Full report is available from Preston Community Network)

FAMILY WORKFORCE VCS CONFERENCE – 7th October 2010



Robert Beard, Policy Advisor at National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA) was the guest speaker at the Family Workforce VCFS Information Event. He talked about the impact of the cuts on voluntary and community sector organisations providing children's and young people's services. Other topics included the Total Family approach, Early Intervention and Young Lancashire's 'Step-it-up' programme. Over 50

people attended and groups had the opportunity to promote their work through a 'market-place' space provided as part of the Conference. This event was supported by Lancashire County Council. (Full report is available from Preston Community Network)

Summary of main outputs/outcomes in 2010/11

- The Forum met 6 times. Speakers included Lesley Tiffen who consulted Forum members on the LCC Commissioning Framework proposals, and Rod Norton, who explained the re-organisation of LCC's Young People's Services
- 17 organisations have attended and been actively involved in the activities of the Forum
- 7 VCFS representatives appointed to the Children's Trust Executive Board and its sub-groups and regular report-backs received from these representatives
- The Forum has been represented on the Lancashire Reference Group by its Chair, Sian Davis
- A number of Forum members and their services were featured on the Young Lancashire DVD **AND ACTION....!** A short film about how young people's lives in Lancashire are being transformed by VCFS services and demonstrating the value of VCFS involvement in Children's Trusts throughout the County
- 3 conferences were held for VCFS organisations around good practice and improving services for children, young people and families, attracting over 100 participants in total.

Our representatives 2010/11

Children's Trust Executive Board

1. Sian Davis (Barnardo's Moving on) (ex officio as Chair)
2. Kath Talboys (Drugline Lancashire Ltd) / Tim Keightley (Foxton Centre)
3. Ali Barkley (Intact) mandated deputy

Children's Trust Sub groups:

- **Funding sub group:**

Paul O'Hanlan/Jacqueline Mutch (Groundwork)
Barbara Bidwell (Action for Children Lancashire Parenting Service)

- **Positive Activities for All Children**

Zul Hussain (Fishwick Rangers Youth Development Project)
Ian Mackie (Intact)
June Barberel (P PAL Circus School)

- **Performance sub group:**

Sian Davis (Barnardo's)
Ben Hunt (Prescap)

- **Integrated working panel**

Salma Ali (Preston Women's Refuge)
Kath Talboys (Drugline) resigned
Anne Gill (Homestart Preston) appointed
Zafar Coupland (Sahara) appointed

Groups actively participating in the Children's Trust VCFS Forum this year:

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| ▪ Action for Children Lancashire Parenting Project | ▪ Urban Forum |
| ▪ Barnardo's | ▪ UCLAN's International School for Community Rights and Inclusion |
| ▪ Drugline | ▪ Vine House |
| ▪ Foxton Centre | ▪ Young Enterprise North West |
| ▪ Groundwork | |
| ▪ Homestart Preston | |
| ▪ Intact | |
| ▪ Lancashire Global Education Centre | |
| ▪ P PAL Circus Skills | |
| ▪ Preston Christian Action Network | |
| ▪ Preston Domestic Violence Services | |
| ▪ Signposts | |