

Norfolk Children's Fund

- an executive summary of the 2005—2008 plan

Change for children through preventive service delivery



norfolk children's fund

The Norfolk Children's Fund (NCF) vision is:

To maximise life chances for 5 -13 year old children and young people at risk of social exclusion through a partnership of statutory, voluntary and community sectors working together with children and young people to deliver needs led preventive services evidencing improved outcomes for children.

Who are we?

Norfolk Children's Fund Programme is part of a national government initiative delivering and managing broad based pure preventive services.

The Programme is overseen by the Children, Young People and Families Directorate (CYPFD) under the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and sits between its sister funds Sure Start and Connexions.



Pictured above: conference delegates October 2004



Sure Start



Children's Fund



Connexions

The national framework for the 149 local Children's Fund Programmes sets out requirements for change under the key areas of Participation, Prevention, Partnership, the Role of the Voluntary and Community Sector, Governance and Structure, and Mainstreaming and Sustainability of Preventive Services.

Norfolk Children's Fund is in its fourth year of operation and is a countywide multi-agency partnership with Norfolk County Council as the accountable body and lead agency.

Nationally the Children's Fund has been piloting new methodologies for integrated service delivery focused on prevention and improved outcomes for children that are at the heart of the Children Act 2004.

The Strategic Plan for 2005—2008 reaffirms the Children's Fund priorities and underpinning principles of partnership, prevention and participation. Children's Fund undergoes joint inspections and government audits against these principles.

FACT FILE: "...the regional team have always considered Norfolk Children's Fund as a strong Programme and have often put forward areas of your work as exemplifications of good practice..." Government Office East of England

How do we work in partnership?

Norfolk Children's Fund is a countywide partnership. There are 5 Local Partnership Groups (North, South, East, West and Central). Over these there is a county Board with an Independent Chair.

Area boundaries have been determined by convenience of usage over time, which has worked very well.

Membership of the Partnership is open to funded and non-funded partners from all sectors and organisations. All partners are empowered to take an equal role in contributing to the development and delivery of preventive services for 5-13 year olds.

All services are delivered in partnership.

A single agency will not be supported to deliver service. Within each service 'mini-partnership' one partner will take on the role of lead agency.

FACT FILE: Norfolk Children's Fund has the highest percentage of voluntary sector involvement as lead service partner of any programme in the country. The figure has never been below 81% against a national average of 51%.

Norfolk Children's Fund is a true multi-agency partnership delivering integrated services to children and young people. Services are commissioned to evidence of local need. All partners contribute to the commissioning process at whatever level is most appropriate to the individual.

FACT FILE: All Children's Fund services have a statutory partner involved in supporting delivery.

How do we make sure services are working well and meeting local needs?

Prevention

We have developed a robust action research based performance management system for preventive service delivery which includes 'Nortrack' an ISA (Information Sharing and Assessment) system developed by the University of East Anglia (UEA).

The NCF system enables the Partnership to deliver sound evidence of service delivery to both hard and soft outcomes. In addition data is acquired from the national monitoring systems for operational and financial performance. This combined evidence of improved outcomes for children is independently validated by the UEA as local evaluators and contributes to the national evaluation of Children's Fund.

Part of the Partnership's long-term vision will be to evidence sustained impact of service delivery *over time* in retaining improved outcomes for children. NCF already has 3 years' worth of evidence to support its achievements.

This proof of added value should ensure the continuation (subject to satisfactory funding arrangements) of preventive services that are meeting locally defined needs and requirements.

FACT FILE: By 2008, when Norfolk plans to have a fully established Children's Trust approach, a number of our services will have a body of evidence spanning 7 years.

Participation

How do we work with children, young people and their families?

Involvement of children, young people and their families as full stakeholders in the planning, delivery and evaluation of services is central to the Children's Fund ethos of child centred service delivery.

The Partnership has a **User Participation Strategy** and work is in progress to implement phase 2 and 3 of the strategy. Underneath the strategy there are **Local Area Action Plans**. In addition there are separate

FACT FILE:

The External Evaluation July 2004 reports a high level of participation at project level and states that a culture of user participation...is becoming embedded across Norfolk Children's Fund.



Charters for adults and children. Children and young people have been fully involved in drawing up these documents, including drawing up their own charter.

The 3 phases of the User Participation Strategy relate to differing strategic levels of involvement.

Phase 1: aimed to involve children, young people and their families as stakeholders at project level. This phase has been implemented and embedded. A range of innovative and traditional methodologies are in use to facilitate participation. Participation methods are age, ability and culturally appropriate. For example 5 year olds use the NCF digital camera to photograph aspects of service that in their view are important.

Phase 2: aims to promote participation across a local area and is not exclusive to NCF services. Links and processes are in development to enable the strategic views of 5-13 year olds to be brought forward in a unified way by older peer advocates. The framework for this process was determined by children at Local Area activity events. Pilot work is in progress that will link with Local Children & Young People's Strategic Partnerships.

FACT FILE: Comments on the 2004 conference:

I enjoyed every last minute of the day...I learned about how it is OK to be different.

Louis, Class 4

Congratulations to NCF for organising another stimulating child centred conference... which reminded young and old alike of our common humanity. A spirit of unity and purpose was created which remained with us for the rest of our time together.

Councillor Harriet Panting, Children's Champion NCC



Phase 3: Involves taking participation to a county-wide strategic level. Part of this phase has been implemented through NCF conferences. In 2003 children were full delegates alongside adults. Children ran workshops for adults on issues of their own choosing such as anti-bullying. A child Chaired the Speakers Question Panel which included the Right Honourable Charles Clarke. In 2004 children aged 5-13 with mixed ability, and from a range of schools across the county, attended a children's conference and worked together to raise awareness of diversity.

How do we fit against the *Every Child Matters* agenda?

The **Every Child Matters five outcomes** that are central to the programme of change mesh closely with the 7 sub objectives of the Children's Fund. The sub objectives form the basis of all service delivery plans and targets.

The **National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services** has 11 standards, some of which also mesh well with Children's Fund sub objectives.

NCF works to 3 themes in particular within the 7 sub objectives:

- **Schools focussed**
- **Family support**
- **Rural access**

All of NCF's services align with one or more of the CF sub objectives and themes and one or more of the ECM outcomes. The preventive service delivery programme is broad based in terms of issue, and services can be ward, district or countywide in their coverage. Services must be targeted at children at risk of social exclusion and at wards on the deprivation index.

Service delivery covers issues such as: victims of domestic violence, children with special needs such as Dyspraxia, Aspergers and ADHD; parenting programmes (Webster Stratton) and support groups; diversionary and out of school activities (includes homework clubs); very young carers; school transition; anti-bullying; rural outreach; prisoner's children; school pastoral care; counselling; traveller, Portuguese, refugee and asylum seeker and other BME groups; and crime prevention.

Please see **appendix 1- Project Synopsis** for full details of the current service delivery plan. This document also details which ECM outcomes and NSF standards each project is linked to. The linkage detailed is in **draft** at present as are the correlation charts shown on this spread. Further discussion is needed both locally and nationally before a final linkage can be approved, however these charts and documents represent the partnership's early thoughts on where links can be made.

If you do not have a copy of the project synopsis and you would like one, please contact the central team on 01603 495121.

FACT FILE: Norfolk Children's Fund works with 155 schools across the county.

FACT FILE: During 2003 NCF provided service for between 7,000 and 10,000 children a quarter, of which 70% were self referrals and 30% referred by partner agencies.

FACT FILE:

76% of NCF services report representatives of **5 or more** related area-based initiatives, special grant regimes or services involved in management or development structures within their project.

**External Evaluation report
July 2004**

Be Healthy

Children & Young People

Physically healthy
Mentally & emotional-healthy
Sexually healthy
Healthy lifestyles
Choose not to take illegal drugs

Parents, carers & families
promote healthy lifestyles

SO3: Reducing

SO4: Reducing child

SO5

SO7: Involving

Above: Chart showing ECM & CF correlations

Right: Key ECM outcomes & NSF standards for CF

Every Child Matters 5 Outcomes

| Stay Safe | Enjoy & Achieve | Make a Positive Contribution | Achieve Economic Well-being |
|---|--|--|--|
| <p>Children & Young People Safe from accidental injury & death Safe from maltreatment, neglect & sexual exploitation Safe from bullying & discrimination Safe from crime & antisocial behaviour Safe from exposure to violence</p> <p>Parents, carers & families provide safe homes & stability</p> | <p>Children & Young People Ready for school Attend & enjoy school Achieve educational standards at primary school Achieve personal development & enjoy recreation Achieve educational standards at secondary school</p> <p>Parents, carers & families support learning</p> | <p>Children & Young People Engage in decision making Support the community & environment Choose not to offend & engage in anti-social behaviour Choose not to bully & discriminate Develop self-confidence & enterprising behaviour</p> <p>Parents, carers & families promote pro-social behaviour</p> | <p>Children & Young People Engage in further education, employment or training on leaving school Ready for employment Live in decent homes & communities Live in households free from low income</p> <p>Parents, carers & families are supported to be economically active</p> |

SO1: Promoting school attendance

SO2: Improved educational performance

child crime

SO3: Reducing child crime

health inequalities

SO5: Ensuring services feel accessible

SO6: Providing services to children at risk of exclusion

families in building community capacity

Children's Fund 7 sub objectives

The **key ECM outcomes** for the Programme will be:

- Enjoying and achieving
- Making a positive contribution
- Experiencing economic well-being

Plus:

- Staying Safe
As a key outcome for the Programme's crime prevention strand.

From the **National Service Framework** the following **standards** will be key for the focus of the Programme:

- **Standard 2:** Supporting Parenting
- **Standard 3:** Child, Young Person and Family-Centred Services

Plus:

- **Standard 5:** Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children and Young People.
As a key outcome for the Programme's crime prevention strand.

