

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
(1 April 2009 - 31 March 2010)



Preston Community Network
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The Preston Children's Trust VCS Forum is currently supported by a small grant from Lancashire County Council through Young Lancashire.

Introduction:

The **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 new 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 and interests are heard
- To provide a mechanism for accountability to VCFS groups providing services to children, young people and families

Achievements this year:

The Forum has developed further as a representative, cohesive and effective voice for voluntary, community and faith sector organisations working with children, young people and families and has contributed significantly to the overall aim of the Children's Trust of improving the lives of children in Preston.

Summary of outputs/outcomes 2009/10:

- The Forum has met 7 times
- Membership has increased to 21 organisations/groups
- Increased VCFS awareness of, understanding of and engagement in, the Every Child Matters (ECM) agenda and the work of the Children's Trust
- Increased awareness within the public sector of the services provided by the VCFS to children, young people and families which are contributing towards the targets in the Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement
- Information provided to the Children's Trust showing the economic value of the VCFS's services to children, young people and families
- 13 VCFS representatives appointed to the Children's Trust Executive Board and its sub-groups and regular report-backs received from these representatives
- The Forum became a formal sub-group of the Children's Trust and identified its four main priorities
- Participated in the Guild 2012 consultation process
- Secured funding to run a VCFS conference to further increase VCFS participation in the Every Child Matters agenda
- Started to monitor and report on discontinuation of VCFS services

May 2009

Preston Guild 2012

Philip Walsh, head of Leisure Sports and Arts at Preston City Council spoke to the Forum about its plans for the Guild celebrations. Ideas for ensuring that children and young people are fully involved and included and how their contribution to our local community can best be acknowledged and celebrated was discussed.

The economic value of the voluntary and community sector in Preston

Information on the economic value of Forum members' services (just under £3 million) was presented to the Children's Trust Board meeting by the then Forum Chair, Lois Wignall, in June.

July 2009

Targeted Youth Support and One Children's Workforce

An update on Targeted Youth Support was given by Graham Whalley of Young Lancashire. Gavin Turnbull ran a workshop on 'One Children's Workforce'.

The contribution of the voluntary and community sector to LAA health and wellbeing targets

Lucinda Cawley spoke on the LAA outcomes that have moved responsibility from the Health & Wellbeing TWG to the Children's Trust. The Forum then helped gather information for Central Lancashire NHS on VCFS services which contribute to these outcomes.

September 2009

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

November 2009

Review of the structure and representation of the Children's Trust

Cllr. Julie Buttle, Chair of the Children's Trust, spoke about the review of its structure.

Proposals included a reduction in representation on the Executive Board, and development of a greater role for the sub groups. VCFS representation on the Executive Board would be reduced to 2. The Forum agreed with the aims of the review and supported the changes. The Forum decided on a formal membership structure to ensure fair selection and accountability of its representatives.

January 2010

Supporting voluntary and community sector engagement in the Every Child Matters Agenda

Angela Barnes, from NAVCA's (National Association for Voluntary and Community Action) Every Child Matters project spoke at the Forum about improving engagement by the voluntary and community sector in the ECM agenda. She encouraged Forum members to respond to the consultation on new statutory guidance for Children's Trusts. An offer of £500 from NAVCA towards running a conference event to promote the ECM agenda throughout the VCFS was accepted and will take place in April 2010.

Representation on the Children's Trust:

The Forum appointed its new representatives to the Children's Trust Executive Board and its sub groups

1. Sian Davis (Barnardo's Moving on) (ex officio as Chair)
2. Kath Talboys (Drugline Lancashire Ltd)

And two 'mandated deputies'

1. Ali Barkley (Intact)
2. Tim Keightley (Foxton Centre)

Children's Trust Sub groups:

- **Funding sub group:**
Paul O'Hanlan (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 (Barnado's)
Ben Hunt (Prescap)
- **Integrated working panel**
Salma Ali (Preston Women's Refuge)
Kath Talboys (Drugline)

March 2010

Linking in with Neighbourhood Management (NM)

Louise Davies and Rosie Green from One Voice gave a presentation on their work with children and young people. All the NM partnerships have young peoples' action groups, regular activities for children, and inter-generational projects. Areas where the Forum and NM can work together were identified. Rosie Green, Community Involvement worker, agreed to be involved in helping to plan the NAVCA spring Conference event. The emphasis will be on encouraging smaller groups to attend and helping these groups to develop a bespoke safeguarding policy appropriate to their own services.

Preston Children's Trust Voluntary and Community Sector Forum members:

Name:		Organisation:
Barbara	Bidwell	Action for Children Lancashire Parenting Service
Sian	Davis	Barnardo's Moving On Project
Sandra	Abreu	Bluestreak Arts
Margaret	O'Donoghue	Cancer Help (Preston Ltd)
Kath	Talboys	Drugline Lancashire
Zul	Hussain	Fishwick Rangers Youth Development
Tim	Keightley	Foxton Centre
Paul	O'Hanlan	Groundwork Lancashire West & Wigan
Ann	Gill	Homestart Preston
Ali	Barkley	Ingol and Tanterton Community Trust (Intact)
Lisa Rimmer/	Claire Jackson	Children's Society Lancashire Children's Rights Service
Brian	Johnson	Lancashire Global Education Centre
Dan	McDermott	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
June	Barberel	P PAL Circus school
Ben	Hunt	Prescap
Salma	Ali	Preston Domestic Violence Services
Cecil	Jeffers	Preston Pathfinders
Stephen	Heath	Preston YMCA
Ruth	Patterson	Signposts MARC Ltd
Allison	Lyon	Urban Exchange
John	Shorter	Young Enterprise

If you would like to join the Children's Trust VCFS Forum please email julie@prestoncn.org