

Children's Wellbeing Network Events

Newsletter

May 2015 edition

Since November 2013 we have held five Network Events. Each event has provided us with the opportunity to look at issues and priorities, and consider how working together in partnership we can improve the way we commission and deliver services, and help make a real difference to the lives of children, young people and their families in Herefordshire.

At each event we have worked together in developing our approach to a range of core priorities such as Children with Disabilities, Integrated Needs Assessment, developing Hereford's Health and Well Being Strategy and our approach to Early Intervention.



Developing the network together

With your attendance, participation and communication each event has built on the last, with 50 people attending the January 2015 event. Your input has been really valuable in shaping the services we deliver. Examples of where this network has made a difference are...

- Providing new supported accommodation for young people
- Developing new capacity to provide short breaks for children with disabilities
- Delivering the Families First grant scheme
- Improving our Family Information Service and knowledge of service available to Children and Young People through mapping our services

Want to keep in touch? Our facebook page is always active and a great way of keeping in touch with the team and upcoming events. Please make sure you and your organisation sign up. Just search for "Herefordshire Children's Wellbeing Network" next time you log on.



Shaping the network event

When listening to your feedback we have been able to design a programme that works best for you. Key points you fed back to us on were, that you wanted to have more collaboration and discussion between groups and agencies and a shorter more focused agenda allowing more time for networking and workshops. So far we have...

- Incorporated more workshops and discussions into the events alongside increasing networking opportunities so that there are greater opportunities for agencies and services to collaborate and share views.
- Provided a brief introduction to each session to set the context and update partners on key developments.
- Concentrated the agenda so that presentations are sharply focused on addressing key issues and allowing more time for stakeholder engagement and smaller themed workshop discussions.
- Increased the market place – giving stakeholders more visibility and networking opportunities.
- Captured your feedback from the workshops and event into a matrix, so that staff can use your opinions to shape our work and future events.

'The Journey So Far'

Event 1 - November 2013

- 50 places booked (100% of venue capacity)
- 5 evaluation forms completed (10% of attendees completed form)

Themes

- Children's Wellbeing - Strategic Priorities and Principles
- Future options - Doing things differently
- Short Breaks and Respite Services - How we did the short breaks tender - Co-production and social value

Event 2 - January 2014

- 48 places booked (96% of venue capacity)
- 24 (63%) of evaluation forms completed. A 53% increase on previous event.

Themes

- Budget Consultation Responses and Outcomes
- Development of the Children's Integrated Needs Assessment
- Digital by Default
- SENDirect

Feedback - You Said, We Did

- *Enjoyed networking/meeting with other or new providers*
We have continued and extended the opportunity to network at each event
- *Enjoyed discussions/sharing views*
We have introduced workshops to allow discussion and the sharing of ideas
- *Good presentations/different speakers*
Different professionals continue to present on a wide range of topics
- *Liked being signposted to Facebook*
Our Facebook page is always active- please sign up!
- *Attendees list could be provided beforehand to aid constructive networking*
We have changed the Eventbrite settings to allow attendees to view other attendees
- *Longer time for discussions/small group topics*
We have focused the number of topics included in each session allowing more time for discussion
- *More time to talk to people from other backgrounds*
We have increased networking time
- *Please provide the agenda in advance*
We now add the sessions covered at each event to Eventbrite

Event 3 - April 2014

- 50 attendees (100% of venue capacity, 4% increase on previous event)
- 19 (68%) of evaluation forms completed. A 5% increase on previous event.

Themes

- Herefordshire's Children's Integrated Needs Assessment (CHiNA)
- Herefordshire's Approach to Early Intervention
- Working in Partnership: The Homestart Example

Feedback - You Said, We Did

- *There was a good balance of talks and workshops*
We continue to provide both talks and workshops
- *It would be good to be updated on developments*
We now include in each introductory session a little about what has been happening
- *Put agendas on tables*
We now include agendas on all tables

Event 4 - October 2014

- 47 places booked (94% of venue capacity, 6% decrease on previous event)
- 25 (81%) of evaluation forms completed. A 13% increase on previous event.

Themes

- "It's Our Turn" film produced by Herefordshire Looked After Children
- Children and Young People's Partnership Five priorities and Children & Young People Partnership Plan
- Children's Integrated Needs Assessment (CHINA)
- Children with Disabilities Strategy
- Mental Health Needs Assessment 2014

Feedback - You Said, We Did

- *A good range of workshops*
We change the workshop sessions at each event and we hope they're helpful
- *Good range of providers*
We invite all providers known to us
- *More interaction between groups/attendees is needed*
We continue to provide workshop sessions to increase collaboration
- *Presentations were too long*
We have further decreased the number of these and increased networking time

Event 5 - January 2015

- 50 places booked (100% of venue capacity, 6% increase on previous event)
- 20 (53%) of evaluation forms completed. A 28% decrease on previous event.

Themes

- Shaping Herefordshire's Health & Wellbeing Strategy
- Herefordshire's Integrated Early Years Offer

Feedback - You Said, We Did

- *More networking opportunities needed*
We have substantially increased networking time at May's event
- *It was good hearing future plans/ideas*
We include in each introductory session information about what our plans are
- *More market stalls needed*
We have increased the number of stalls at May's event
- *Focus on just two elements*
This is what we've done for May's event
- *Start at 9.30am*
This is what we've done for May's event
- *Provide information about funding opportunities*
There is a funding opportunities stand at May's event

Where next?

We want to continue to build on the success of the Network and help use them to achieve positive outcomes for Children, Young People and their Families so thank you for your input so far and please continue to feedback your comments and thoughts and together we can continue to build on our success.

Please feel free to get in touch with the team on childrenscommissioning@herefordshire.gov.uk

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards, Children's Wellbeing Commissioning Team