

# Dudley Children's Trust Representatives and the Children, Young People and Families Network

**Dudley Children's Trust** was set up to meet the requirements of the Every Child Matters agenda and the Children Act 2004. It was established in November 2004 (when it was called Dudley Children and Young People's Partnership) and marked the start of a new process to strengthen arrangements to improve outcomes for children and young people in Dudley.

The partnership includes representatives from all agencies and organisations in Dudley, including the voluntary and community sector, who are involved in providing services to children, young people and their families. The strategic board of the partnership meets four times a year and a number of sub-groups also meet regularly.

Dudley Children's Trust has a complicated structure, with a Strategic Board, Implementation Group, three theme groups by age bands (0-5 years, 5-13 years and 13-19 years) and six cross cutting/short life working groups.

## **Voluntary and community sector involvement**

Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) representation has been built into the structure of Dudley Children's Trust. Voluntary and community sector involvement in the Dudley Children's Trust is primarily accountable back to the sector through two networks; the **Children, Young People and Families Network** and **Dudley Voluntary Youth Organisations (DVYO)**.

Representatives have identified the strengths which they representatives bring to Dudley Children's Trust as including:

- Knowledge and direct experience of working with children, young people and families
- A holistic view of activities and delivery – we are less focused on specific service lines than colleagues in the public sector
- A diverse range of skills and experience, including experience and knowledge gained from working in a particular area of the Borough or with specific groups of children or young people.

Representatives also recognise the following barriers:

- It can be difficult to raise thorny or contentious issues on behalf of the sector when in meetings with people who make decisions about the funding of your own organisation.
- It can be difficult agreeing to deliver strategic outcomes for the partnership when relying on short term funding.
- The VCS isn't yet fully involved in delivery of the services discussed by Dudley Children's Trust, making it difficult for VCS representatives to contribute to existing agenda items, whilst also finding it difficult to bring new agenda items/areas of work of more relevance to the VCS to the partnership table.

## **Who are the representatives?**

Below is a list of people representing the interests of the voluntary and community sector within the Children's Trust.

**Strategic Board:** Children, Young People and Families Network: Andy Gray (Dudley CVS)

**Implementation Group:** Children, Young People and Families Network: Andy Gray (Dudley CVS)

### **Youth Partnership (13-19 years)**

DVYO:

- Julie Duffy (The What? Centre)
- Children, Young People and Families Network:
- John Cook (Amblecote Christian Centre)
  - Arnie Troxler (Dudley CVS)

### **Children's Partnership (5-13 years)**

Children, Young People and Families Network:

- Arnie Troxler (Dudley CVS)
- June Hill (Barnardo's)
- Graham Sutterby (Dudley Children's Fund)

### **Early Years Partnership (0-5 years)**

Children, Young People and Families Network:

- Carl Timmins (NCH)
- Arnie Troxler (Dudley CVS)
- There is one vacancy on this group.

### **Planning and Commissioning Group**

Children, Young People and Families Network:  
Arnie Troxler (Dudley CVS)

### **Participation Group**

Children, Young People and Families Network:

- Arnie Troxler (Dudley CVS)
- Graham Sutterby (Dudley Children's Fund)
- June Hill (Barnardo's)
- Keith Rogers (Me 2)
- Diane Mansell (Brierley Hill Community Forum)
- Jayne Sargeant (Phase Trust)

## **What is the role of the representatives?**

So far, the following have been identified as the role.

- To contribute to strategic decisions about services to children and young people, reflecting the interests of and drawing on the views of people from community and voluntary organisations in the Borough, fed through networks.

- To promote the work of the VCS, ensure relevant issues from the VCS are raised and that the voice of the VCS is heard
- To feedback to the VCS through networks

Suggestions or comments in relation to the role from network members are welcome.

### **How can I raise questions or issues to go to the Children's Trust?**

Representatives will be happy to raise any issues which are impacting on your organisation. If you have any suggestions, ideas or issues which you would like to be taken to the Children and Young People's Partnership, please direct them through these networks. You can also post topics on Dosti's discussion board if you wish to talk to others about issues around children, young people and families.

You can also come along to the quarterly meeting of the Children's Trust VCS representatives.

Dates for meetings in 2008 are as follows:

Wednesday 6 February	10am-12pm	Brierley Hill Methodist Church, Bank Street, Brierley Hill
Wednesday 21 May	2pm-4pm	Venue tba
Tuesday 9 September	12pm-2pm	Venue tba, lunch to be provided
Monday 8 December	2pm-4pm	Venue tba

To express an interest in attending, and find out venue details, contact Arnie Troxler at Dudley CVS (details below).

Dudley CVS host the **Children, Young People and Families Network** - the contact person is **Arnie Troxler**. You can contact Arnie on **01384 78166** or **childrens@dudleycvs.org.uk**

The contacts for **DVYO** are **Gail Mattocks** (Development Worker) or **Julie Duffy** (Chair). Their contact number is **01384 379992**.