



**HIGHLAND  
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ALLIANCE**



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## ***For Highland's Children - Bulletin 6***

*Oct 2004*

### **This Bulletin 6 includes Highland-wide information about:**

- *For Highland's Children 2*
- Intensive Support Service
- Update: Liaison Groups
- MGF3 update - Information Sharing & Assessment
- Antisocial Behaviour Legislation
- Quality Assurance - child protection
- Children's Hearings Review

### **Local Area Childrens Services Forum News starts at page 4, and includes:**

- Integration Manager's Office - News
- Children's Services Workers - Training
- Sure Start - Interview with Kate Birch
- Children's Champion - News from Councillor Mrs Gillian McCreath
- School Counsellor introduction
- Easy Guide update
- Janny's Hoose

## ***For Highlands Children 2***

Many consultation events have now been held across the authority, to agree the new Children's Plan. These events have been linked to service planning processes in each of the lead agencies.

The first draft summary plan was published at a major seminar, held as part of the Joint Committee meeting on 1 October. Chief Officers presented the main themes in the plan, and workshops interrogated the detail. A revised draft summary is now available as 'Summary Draft FHC2: 25/10/04' on [http://www.highland.gov.uk/educ/new\\_community\\_schools/publications.htm](http://www.highland.gov.uk/educ/new_community_schools/publications.htm). This is at the final editing stages, and will be presented to the Joint Committee for endorsement on 26 November.

This summary plan is exactly that - as concise a read as is possible, to give an overview of planning for all children in Highland over the next 3 years. It is the result of considerable work by hundreds of people across Highland, who have endeavoured to make sure that every service development is included.

At the heart of the plan are a set of new key outcome targets. These have been identified as the key drivers for children's services in the immediate future. Do you agree the key outcome targets? Are the necessary service improvements in the plan? If you want something to happen, it needs to be included. The plan has been worked hard, but there is still time to fine-tune it: contact [colin.macaulay@highland.gov.uk](mailto:colin.macaulay@highland.gov.uk)

Of course, the major work only starts here. The summary must now be fleshed out, and work has already begun on filling in the detail, and bringing the various delivery strategies together.

## ***Antisocial behaviour legislation***

The Antisocial Behaviour Act (Scotland) 2004 is likely to have implications for many of us. As well as ASBOs and ISMS (see below) there are a range of new measures (and new jargon to learn!) including local authority accountability for supervision, and about education for excluded children.

Awareness raising sessions have been set up across the authority, as an introduction to the provisions of the Act. These are being held at the venues shown below. Contact your local Integration Manager.

EVENT	VENUE	DATE	TIME
<b>Inverness 1</b>	Chamber	1 November	9.30 - 12.30 (& lunch provided)
<b>Inverness 2</b>	Chamber	10 November	5.30 (buffet) for 6.00 - 8.30
<b>Lochaber</b>	Moorings Hotel, Fort William	11 November	9.30 - 12.30 (& lunch provided)
<b>Skye &amp; Lochalsh</b>	Cuillin Hills Hotel	25 November	5.30 (buffet) for 6.00 - 8.30
<b>Caithness</b>	North Highland College	29 November	5.30 (buffet) for 6.00 - 8.30
<b>Wester Ross</b>	Dundonnell Hotel	2 December	5.30 (buffet) for 6.00 - 8.30
<b>Nairn/B&amp;S</b>	Newton Hotel, Nairn	7 December	9.30 - 12.30 (& lunch provided)
<b>Easter Ross</b>	Ross County	9 December	5.30 (buffet) for 6.00 - 8.30
<b>Sutherland</b>	Marine Hotel, Brora	13 December	9.30 - 12.30 (& lunch provided)

## ***Intensive Support Service (ISS)***

Highland will establish an Intensive Support Service from December. The aims of ISS include to:

- ensure a quality, intensive service to young people who are placing themselves or others at risk;
- reduce youth crime and promote community safety;
- divert young people from out of authority placements including secure care;
- prevent family or placement breakdowns.

ISS will also provide the additional support to any young people who are subject to Intensive Support & Monitoring Arrangements (ISMS) - one of the new measures in the antisocial behaviour legislation.

ISS is intended for a small group of the most vulnerable young people across the authority, who are placing their own or other people's welfare at risk. It will also support young people who are returning to Highland from an out-of-authority placement.

The service will provide up to 30 hours/week additional provision, with an emphasis on support at critical times of the day and week, including evenings and weekends. It is built around six-week programmes, complementing the day-time services that are available to these young people. It will include the possibility of emergency time-out residential provision.

ISS will be managed by NCH Scotland, and will be available to young people within the Inner Moray Firth, greater Fort William and Caithness areas. Referral will be via the Residential Placement Group, and further details will be provided at the sessions shown above.

## ***Quality Assurance - child protection***

As mentioned in Bulletin No. 5, the Scottish Executive are developing joint Inspection & Quality Assurance processes for integrated children's services. Pilot inspections of child protection are now due to begin in January 2005, and Highland is being considered as one of the areas that will be involved. Further news will follow.

## ***Update: Liaison Groups***

Thanks to the 200 people who participated in 4 seminars over the summer regarding revised arrangements for Liaison Groups. This work is now being compiled, and will be issued for further consultation as part of more local ACSF events, to be incorporated into the full version of *For Highland's Children 2*.

## ***Children's Hearings Review***

The Executive have published a report of the findings Phase 1 of the consultation into the Children's Hearings system. This is available at: <http://www.childrens-hearings.co.uk/review.asp>

The report states that 'the vast majority of respondents agreed that the principles and objectives outlined in the consultation were right. There was particularly strong support for maintaining the principle of a child centred system and ensuring that meeting the needs of children is the system's main objective.

A significant number of respondents felt that the objectives outlined in the consultation needed to be more focused and explicitly linked to delivering effective outcomes for children. The vast majority felt strongly that the Children's Hearings system should remain focused on meeting the needs of individual children rather than balancing these with the needs of family members and the wider community. There was strong support for maintaining the current system where all children and young people, regardless of whether they have been referred on care and protection grounds or offending grounds, come before a Hearing made up of generalist Panel members.

The second phase of the review will consider any detailed changes that may be necessary in order to ensure that the system has the capacity, resources and procedures that will allow it to achieve its aims and objectives. The key issues include:

- The need for additional resources, both for the system itself and for those agencies that are expected to implement Hearings decisions.
- The need to remove some of the institutional, procedural and cultural barriers to joint working that sometimes prevent an integrated response to the needs of children.
- The need for more effective arrangements for the recruitment and retention of Panel members, including broadening the type of people recruited and recruiting more young people.
- Ensuring that adequate arrangements are in place with regards to the training, development and support for Panel members.
- The role Children's Hearings can play in providing support, influence and direction to parents and families without undermining the fundamental principle of focusing on the needs of children.

## ***Information Sharing & Assessment***

Just to remind you - Highland Council, NHS Highland and the Northern Constabulary have made a £1million bid to the Scottish Executive to implement an Information Sharing and Assessment System.

We had hoped to find out about this in June. But the Executive were inundated by bids from across Scotland, and it may now be December before an announcement is made. New arrangements are being made, to allow us to continue to keep taking this work forward.

More news will follow. If you want to be involved, contact: [bill.alexander@highland.gov.uk](mailto:bill.alexander@highland.gov.uk)

# For Inverness Area's Children

## Local Bulletin 6

November 2004

### *Integration Manager*

The good news is that Marianne Morritt is now in situ as Acting Senior Family Liaison Officer at Culloden and the forever vacant SFLO post in the Carsegate team is now only awaiting the lucky person's presence once the period of notice has been agreed for her present post. Congratulations to both!

Sue will find it very refreshing to have just one post to cover - the Integration Manager's - albeit for a matter of months until the end of her secondment!

### *Children's Services Workers*

Last month, Highland's CSWs completed another of their regular two-day training sessions. This time around it included:

- De-escalation
- Circle time
- Managing behaviour positively, and
- Resources (and some fun!)

The CSWs seem to have grown in confidence since their commencement in these posts 18 months ago, as there was a huge amount of sharing of information relating to practice going on between workshops, most noticeable due to the volume of noise!

Special thanks go to the Facilitators of this training:

- Jim Kane (brought back by popular demand!!)
- Linda Thom
- Ken Crossan
- Peta Barbour

- Angela Sutherland
- Anne Brownlee
- Sue Roddick

Provisional dates for the next pan-Highland training are 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2005.

### *School Counsellor Introduction*

"My name is Jan Thompson and I am the new School Counsellor for three schools in Inverness - Inverness High School, Inverness Royal Academy and Culloden Academy Pupils are identified via the Schools' Liaison Groups, and then referred to the service by the designated Depute Head in each school. The service is being well used by the said schools, and my settling period has been aided by the efficiency and helpfulness of all three schools and the management steering group.

The post is being piloted for a one year period although there are already discussions taking place in other secondary schools as to the benefits of this service."

*We will keep readers informed.*

### *Easy Guide*

Kay has been beaver away in the background updating the Easy Guide and dragging it into the electronic age. A revised edition is now on the Intranet/Internet -

[http://www.highland.gov.uk/educ/new\\_community\\_schools/inverness\\_ncsa.htm](http://www.highland.gov.uk/educ/new_community_schools/inverness_ncsa.htm) For those people who refer to it frequently, it's worth saving it to your desk top. The Index is now linked to the individual pages and you can navigate through the document that way, or by clicking on the bookmarks.

## ***SURE START***

Inverness Area has been given a huge boost to its available funds for vulnerable families with children 0-3 yrs.

The Family Support Working Group (a group of multi-agency managers and practitioners) - a sub group of the Inverness Area Children's Services Forum - has been working towards identification of appropriate resources for the area for the past 18 months.

### ***Interview with Kate Birch, Area Children's Services Manager (Inverness) on the new Sure Start plans***

#### ***What is Sure Start all about?***

"It is ensuring that all families have access to universal services, supporting more vulnerable families and Health Visitors, given that they are the main service provider to young families. Logically, problems develop if not given any support. With Sure Start we aim to provide targeted support which should ultimately divert potentially critical situations arising. The whole process is a very important platform for further integrated children's services in the Inverness area."

#### ***What will this mean to the services already being provided by Social Work Services?***

"We are going to be strengthening the services already in place, not replacing them. Also, in the long run this should result in fewer referrals reaching SWS which will enable them to concentrate on Child Protection and higher need children, young people and families."

#### ***How will the Sure Start services target the vulnerable families?***

"The new services that will be put in place will all support what we already have, no new service will replace services already being accessed. The process will be support through programmed approaches rather than interventions. Health Visitors will play a pivotal role in targeting the service as the provider of the main universal service to young families."

#### ***What happens now?***

"At the moment, we are awaiting a Feasibility study being undertaken by Donald Macleod. He is looking into the potential sites for a Family Centre for the Inverness area. This will be in the Merkinch area of the city - however the services will be available for 'virtual' family centres covering the whole city.

We have already identified new posts within the Sure Start service. New Community Early Years Workers (Sure Start) will support and expand the nursery provision in Inverness and Family Support Workers (Early Years) will be recruited specifically to work with families with 0-3 year olds."

*Sue Roddick*

**Gillian Gunn, Domestic Abuse Campaign Co-ordinator for the Highland Wellbeing Alliance,**

is conducting an awareness raising campaign until March 2006. One in five women will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime - this abuse can be emotional, physical, sexual, financial or a combination of these. The effect that domestic abuse has on people's lives can be devastating, ranging from mental health problems, to drug and alcohol misuse, to disability and many others.

100,000 children in Scotland are currently living with domestic abuse and this has a huge implication for Child Protection and our future society.

You can help the campaign by displaying posters or by having an awareness raising workshop on domestic abuse. For more information contact Gillian on 01463 704940 or at [gillian.gunn@hnb.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:gillian.gunn@hnb.scot.nhs.uk).

## ***Janny's Hoose News***

Jean Mackay, the Project Co-ordinator at the Janny's Hoose reports:

"We've lots new happening in the Janny's Hoose after the October break -

We have a therapist coming alternate Wednesday afternoons/Friday mornings to do aromatherapy. This will be on a referral basis only. If you have anyone you think would benefit from this and whom you would like to refer please let us know. Clients should be resident in Merkinch. Appointments will last one hour.

An art therapy group will start on 29<sup>th</sup> October from 1-3 pm - unfortunately we can't do childcare on the premises for this, but may be able to help with care costs.

There are also regular (drop in) Antenatal clinics, Mum and Baby Groups, Baby clinics, and Baby Massage.

Also, topics for health matters booked so far:

5<sup>th</sup> November - Women's problems - how aromatherapy and homeopathy can help.

Coming soon - energy efficiency (free light bulbs), eating disorders and other requests - let us know."

For full programme of events please contact:

e-mail: [jean.jannyschoose@scotnet.co.uk](mailto:jean.jannyschoose@scotnet.co.uk)

tel: 01463 226348

## ***News from Children's Champion, Councillor Mrs Gillian McCreath -***

"In addition to attending many meetings and trying to keep up with all local developments, I have written to all Community Councils in the Inverness area and suggested that they call on pupil councils to give an opinion on planning applications. The pupils can add a different perspective to the adults, and it will hopefully encourage participation. This was a suggestion made by Drew Millar at the Children's Champions' meeting, something he has tried in Skye.

I have also contacted all the secondary schools in the Inverness Area, with a view to holding meetings with representatives of the pupils councils. I did this last year and found it very enjoyable and helpful. All schools should have held their elections for pupil councils by now, so I hope to meet with them very soon.

More locally, in conjunction with Smithton & Culloden Community Council, there are plans to run free buses from Smithton & Culloden on bonfire night to the main display in Bught Park. In the past we have had problems with unauthorised/unsupervised bonfires, so this is seen as a Community Safety initiative. Pupils from Duncan Forbes and Smithton Primary will be able to attend. Sandra MacBean from Community Leisure & Learning has been very helpful with this."

***Sue says - "we are hoping that Gillian's input will be a regular slot in the bulletin."***