

Health and Wellbeing Board Paper

1. Reference Information

Paper tracking information	
Title:	Time for Kids - a new approach for working with Kids in Surrey
Related Health and Wellbeing Priority:	Priority 3
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Sponsor:	Dave Hill
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Related papers	

2. Executive summary

For the Health and Wellbeing Board to note **Time for Kids**, a new perspective for all agencies working with children, young people and their families in Surrey. This paper sets out a new approach and perspective that will guide how all agencies work with kids in Surrey. The work was initiated by the voluntary sector in Surrey, via Surrey Youth Focus and has involved a 'think tank' approach that has included the police, NHS, SCC, Schools and children and young people. The Better Way Network, a national affiliation has brought an outside view to inform this Surrey based piece of work.

The purpose of this item is to begin a programme of socialisation with all agencies about this new perspective and approach.

3. Recommendations

The Surrey Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

1. Note this important piece of work.
2. To promote and socialise Time for Kids in the agencies and Networks.
3. Agree to receive an update from time to time on progress.

4. Detail

Surrey Health and Wellbeing priority(ies) supported by this item / paper	Time for Kids will support multi agency working across Surrey. In particular it will support the ambition that no one will be left behind. It will do this by promoting a common perspective and approach across agencies and by looking more innovatively at how preventative and early help services will be organised and arranged. Collaboration and community based working will be at
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	<p>the forefront of Time for Kids the approach has been enabled and supported by the Voluntary Sector in Surrey.</p> <p>Children's services in Surrey have faced enormous challenges over the past years. Things are getting better and this beginning to be recognised by regulators and government. Those areas in the Country that have outstanding children's services are likely to have a guiding set of principles that inform and underpin the work of all agencies concerned with children.</p> <p>The outstanding example has been in the City of Leeds where Child Friendly Leeds has underpinned a complete turnaround and transformation of services for children, young people and their families. Whilst transformation in Surrey is well underway, it is hoped that Time for Kids in Surrey will help to us to further improve and then sustain outcomes for our children.</p>
<p>How does the report contribute to the Health and Wellbeing Board's strategic priorities in the following areas?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Centred on the person, their families and carers 2. Early intervention 3. Opportunities for integration 4. Reducing health inequalities 5. Evidence based 6. Improved outcome <p>Time for Kids will support and promote all seven of the Health and Wellbeing Board's strategic priorities. The core statement and principles are set out below:</p> <p>The road from being a tiny, innocent baby to being an adult in jail, abusing substances, suffering abuse and/or being seriously mentally ill is paved with a million critical moments that can help or hinder taking an alternative road to a healthier more fulfilling life.</p> <p>Whilst the proliferation of choice for children and young people in today's society brings huge benefits, it can also leave children and young people feeling disorientated – lacking an anchor. As human beings, we are fundamentally all looking for similar things – happiness, safety, fulfilment, hope, purpose, connection, belonging, fun, etc.</p> <p>So, with the absence of strong healthy relationships, or with other major challenges in their life, some children and young people are floundering. When we see a child behaving in</p>

socially unacceptable ways, we need to look beyond the shouting, the violence, the aggression. We need to look beyond the defiance, the sullenness, the silence. We need to ask ourselves, what is really going on underneath? Are they feeling fearful, angry, lonely? Are they feeling hopeless, disconnected, worthless?

We believe that the Surrey system needs to change to provide a better launchpad for young people into successful and fulfilling young adulthood, promoting wellbeing and, ultimately, a sustainable society.

We have come up with the following principles that, if used by all agencies to drive cultural and service change, could make a significant difference to children and young people in Surrey.

Set out below are the five key principles that will make the difference to all children and young people and provide them the very best opportunity to succeed in life.

1.1 Being crazy about the kid

Every child needs at least one person who is ‘crazy’ about them, usually this will be a mum or dad, or other family member, but in some situations this is sadly not the case. Where agencies and professionals are involved they need to focus on the human connection and relationship with a child, regardless of their background or circumstances, with patience and passion to achieve the very best for the child or young person.

1.2 Every child/young person needs a consistent relationship with at least one adult they trust.

Many young people feel lost and without direction, they don’t believe that they have anyone to turn to. Building trust and confidence takes time and a persistent and consistent approach. Often we hear stories of ever changing so-called ‘trusted adults’ in a child/young person’s life. How can we expect any form of ‘trust’ to be built when that person changes frequently and relationships have to start all over again. We need to enable professionals and volunteers working with children and young people to have the time and resources to provide stability and earn and develop the child/young person’s trust.

1.3 Every child needs to be able to tell their story and learn to hope.

Many children experience trauma or loss. Others have a deeply unpleasant daily lived experience. Those children who have a clear story (their narrative) about what has happened to them are more likely to develop healthy relationships going forward and hence to flourish. Children and young people need to know

	<p>why they are where they are and to understand that they have choices and the potential to experience a happier life; connection with their peers can often help with this immeasurably. We all need to encourage young people to tell their story, to listen, believe and help the child or young person to make the changes that they need in order to develop a sense of hope about their future.</p> <p>1.4 Every child needs a sense of belonging and encouragement to shine.</p> <p>Children and young people need to have a group of friends, a club, association or school or social network which they look forward to being involved in. Where they can be themselves. Where they feel people have an interest in their welfare and they can 'shine'. We all need to find ways to build on the strengths of each child, not just those who fit into the traditional mainstream educational systems and exams that are prevalent in our society. In short we need to support and help them to shine.</p> <p>1.5 We all need to believe in the child or young person and what they can achieve.</p> <p>Believing in yourself because others have believed in you is the recipe for success. Professionals need to have faith in young people, to help them explore their individuality and learn the tools and belief that they can do what they set their minds to, with the power to change their world.</p>
Financial implications - confirmation that any financial implications have been included within the paper	There are no direct financial implication arising from this paper. However it might be expected Time for Kids will support collaboration in delivering preventative and early intervention services in Surrey and that this will lead to, over time, budgets and resources being used more efficiently.
Consultation / public involvement – activity taken or planned	The think tank that has led to the development of Time for Kids has at various points undertaken consultation with local organisations working with children, young people and their families and has also spent time talking to children themselves.
Equality and diversity - confirmation that any equality and diversity implications have been included within the paper	At the very heart of Time for Kids has been the principle that all children deserve the right to certain basic rights and services. We know that outcomes for children in Surrey are uneven and opportunities are not always available to every child. The core Health and Wellbeing Board principle that no one should be left behind is at the centre of this approach.