

## Table of Contents

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
Glossary of Terms in Report	2
One Year on: The Children and Young People's Trust in 2007	3
Introduction	5
Background	5
Aims of the Conference	6
Programme	6
Introductory Address	6
Workshop 1 – National Information Sharing Index	9
Workshop 2 – Prevention/Early Intervention	10
Workshop 3 – Workforce Development	11
Workshop 4 – Commissioning	12
Plenary – Next Steps	13
The Six Priority Recommendations Made in the 2006 Conference Report	14
The Six Priority Recommendations for 2007/2008	15
Conclusion	16
Attendance	16
Venue	17
Administration	17
Appendices - Index	18

## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS IN REPORT**

BCC	Buckinghamshire County Council
BCFP	Buckinghamshire Children's Fund Programme
BSCB	Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board
Connexions MKOB	Connexions Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire
CAF	Common Assessment Framework
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CP	Child Protection
CRB	Criminal Records Bureau
CWDC	Children's Workforce Development Council
CYPP	Children and Young People's Plan
CYPSP	Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership
CYPT	Children and Young People's Trust
C4C	Change for Children
DCS	Director of Children's Services
*DfES	Department for Education and Skills
ECM	Every Child Matters
ISA	Information Sharing and Assessment
LAA	Local Area Agreement
LP	Lead Professional
NCVYS	National Council for Voluntary Youth Services
OPM	Office for Public Management
PCT	Primary Care Trust
PVI	Private, Voluntary and Independent organisations
VCS	Voluntary and Community Sector

\*since June 2007, the DfES has been restructured and the Department for Children, Schools and Families is now the relevant department.

## **BUILDING THE TRUST CONFERENCE 2007**

### **ONE YEAR ON: THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRUST IN 2007**

**The conference was organised in partnership with the following organisations/services and funded by Connexions MKOB and the Children's Workforce Development Council**

#### **Youth Focus (Buckinghamshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services)**

Youth Focus (Buckinghamshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services) is the infrastructure body for voluntary and community youth organisations in the County. The current membership works with children and young people within the 5 – 25 year age range.  
[www.youthfocus.org.uk](http://www.youthfocus.org.uk)

#### **Connexions Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire (MKOB)**

Connexions provides information, confidential advice and guidance to all young people aged 13 – 19 years in England – up to 25 years for those with learning difficulties and disabilities. Connexions provides support to young people on a wide range of issues including careers, learning and training, relationships, health, lifestyles, housing, money and substance misuse. Connexion's partnership with the voluntary sector enables the commissioning of highly specialised services for young people requiring specialist or intensive support, helping them make a smooth transition to adulthood and working life. The Connexions MKOB partnership ceased operation in April 2007 and from this date the management of Connexions was transferred to Buckinghamshire County Council.  
[www.connexionsbucks.org.uk](http://www.connexionsbucks.org.uk)

#### **Children's Services, Buckinghamshire County Council**

In order to be able to deliver the requirements set out in the Children Act 2004 and Every Child Matters national programme, Buckinghamshire County Council has integrated its services for children and young people under the Strategic Director for Children and Young People's Services.

The portfolio is sub-divided into three Divisions. The **Achievement and Learning** Division monitors, challenges and supports the ongoing improvement of schools in Buckinghamshire, manages schools admissions and delivers services to support children and young people with special educational needs or identified vulnerable pupils. The **Safeguarding** Division assesses children in need and their families and provides support to help families and agencies to cope with their responsibilities. The **Commissioning and Business Improvement** Division supports strategic planning, ensures effective outcomes from all providers and the improvement of internal processes, delivers the Children's Centres and Extended Services programmes and ensures early years and childcare provision is sufficient and of high quality.

Flowchart in Appendix i

[www.buckscc.gov.uk](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk)

### **National Council for Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS)**

NCVYS is the umbrella body for the voluntary and community youth sector in England. It is the only national independent body that represents voluntary and community organisations working with young people and builds their capacity to deliver work. Established in 1936, NCVYS is a diverse and growing network of over 160 national organisations and regional and local networks. NCVYS aims to ensure the development and recognition of a vibrant, sound and diverse voluntary and community sector which involves, empowers and meets the needs of all young people.

**[www.ncvys.org.uk](http://www.ncvys.org.uk)**

### **Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC)**

CWDC is part of the Sector Skills Council, Skills for Care and Development. In the financial year 2006/07 it set aside £3.3m to support the involvement of private, voluntary and independent (PVI) employers in local workforce activity. Consultancy support was provided to assist with the development of integrated children's workforce strategies and it was indicated that additional funding would be helpful in involving the PVI sector in the full range of planning and improving services for children and young people and mapping the skills the workforce requires to achieve this. Up to £30,000 was therefore made available to each Children's Trust area to support PVI employers. In Buckinghamshire this funding has gone towards mapping of PVI providers and engaging leaders in the voluntary sector, including this one-day conference

**[www.cwdcouncil.org.uk](http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk)**

### **Office for Public Management (OPM)**

OPM is an independent, not-for-profit public interest company, working with people to develop high quality management, professional practice and public engagement in organisations that aim to improve social results.

OPM has been working with the DfES, government offices for the regions, local children's services partnerships and local authorities on all aspects of the children's services agenda. Support has been provided through strategic consultancy, research leading to the development of integrated front line services and involving children and young people as stakeholders.

**[www.opm.co.uk](http://www.opm.co.uk)**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The first “Building the Trust” conference was held in May 2006. This brought together the voluntary and statutory sectors that deliver services for children and young people to explore the issues arising from the establishment of the Children and Young People’s Trust in Buckinghamshire and to provide a basis of understanding for the Every Child Matters agenda.

The 2007 Conference built upon this foundation, updating voluntary sector colleagues on the development of the Trust.

## **BACKGROUND**

The vision adopted by the Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) states:

“In Buckinghamshire we want all our children and young people to have the best start in life and to be able to lead safe, healthy and fulfilling lives, and to be able to make a positive contribution to their communities and to society. Our aim is to ensure access to a range of universal services as well as developing more targeted services to meet their specialist needs.”

Every Child Matters (ECM): Change for Children launched by the Government in 2004 requires significant changes in the way services for children, young people and their families are designed, planned and delivered. In Buckinghamshire, the Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP) is an important element of these reforms underpinned by the Children Act 2004.

The requirements of the overarching plan for the County mean that the partnership working between the statutory authorities and the voluntary sector is of paramount importance. Both sectors need to be able to communicate and work together effectively.

Information on Every Child Matters is available on [www.dfes.gov.uk](http://www.dfes.gov.uk)

### **Youth Focus/Connexions MKOB Capacity Building Project 2006/07**

The Capacity Building Project started in 2005/06 and the second phase of the project enabled the development worker to carry out face-to-face interviews with 62 voluntary organisations identified from the original database of 138 organisations. Organisations also completed a detailed questionnaire on how they assessed their organisation to be meeting the Five Every Child Matters outcomes. This conference was the culmination of this work, providing an opportunity to bring voluntary organisations together.

### **Children’s Workforce Development Council (CWDC)**

This provided additional funding for the project and enabled the Focus Group work on the Workforce Development Strategy to take place.

## **AIMS OF THE CONFERENCE**

- To update on the establishment of the Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Trust since May 2006
- To explore the cross cutting themes of Commissioning, Prevention, Participation, Workforce Development and Information Sharing and how these relate to voluntary organisations
- To promote and share existing good practice in the Voluntary Youth Sector

## **PROGRAMME** (Appendix ii)

The Conference was chaired by Carol Mason, Chair of Youth Focus. Carol is also the Voluntary Sector Representative on the Children and Young People's Trust Board.

## **INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS**

### **1. Carol Mason, Chair of Youth Focus**

Carol gave an overview of the role of the voluntary sector in the Children and Young People's Trust, her role on the Board and the progress that had been made following on from the previous years conference. The establishment of a strong and vibrant Working Group to provide a representational voice to which she could report developments within the Trust and reflect views back to the Trust had been a significant step forward. In the coming year much work will be needed to build up this group and to establish better communications between the Trust and the voluntary sector.

(Presentation in Appendix iii)

## **KEYNOTE SPEECHES**

### **2. Peter Rice, Youth Focus Development Worker, Voluntary Sector Capacity Building Project**

Peter outlined the work that he has carried out over the past year to fully map the activities of the voluntary sector organisations that provide services for children and young people in Buckinghamshire. Sixty two organisations were interviewed, followed by a written Every Child Matters questionnaire. His work was supported by researcher Jayne Motlagh. The main outputs were the:

- Creation of a Database
- Collation of information about each organisation
- Grouping organisations into 'Out of County' and District Council areas
- 37 page report on the Information Questionnaire returns
- 47 page report on the ECM Questionnaire returns

(Presentation in Appendix iv)

### **3. Sue Imbriano, Director of Children's Services**

Sue provided an extensive overview of the CYP Trust, setting the context, its purpose, its present position and the main thrust for future development. She talked first about achieving better outcomes for children and young people through the transformation of services. This links to the requirement for structural reform that is needed to bring about increased collaboration and partnership and the integration of services through commissioning and developing the workforce. Constraints include professional anxieties, financial considerations and the fact that this is a long term programme.

Sue also highlighted the national context and the setting up of the Office of the Third Sector by the Cabinet Office in May 2006. The government defines the Third Sector as "non-governmental organisations which are value-driven and which principally reinvest their surpluses to further social, environmental and cultural objectives. It includes voluntary and community organisations, charities, social enterprises, cooperatives and mutuals."

She emphasised the huge amount of work that is still to be done, in particular the work on Prevention, the Workforce Development Strategy, the Trust development programme and Communications. A website is planned that will be accessible to all partners.

At the end of the presentation, a question was asked about Prevention and how voluntary organisations can positively engage as there was a concern that others may think they have the answers for us. Sue responded that all universal services have to include a significant level of Prevention, but there will always be young people who need specialist/targeted services at different times in their lives. We need to be clear about the early indications and which organisations would then have something appropriate to offer. She was aware that schools do not always know what is out there in their communities. Every Child Matters is about changing cultures, breaking down the barriers and exposing each other to what is available.

(Presentation in Appendix v)

The refreshed Children and Young People's Plan 2007 can be found on [www.buckscc.gov.uk/childrenstrust](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/childrenstrust)

### **4. Judith Smyth, Principal, Office for Public Management (OPM)**

Judith presented a national perspective on the commissioning process. This involves a complex cultural change and is a key challenge for the leadership of the Trust.

At its centre is the requirement to improve outcomes for children and young people, driving each stage of the commissioning cycle. Voluntary organisations need to make sure that the people who use their services are championing the organisation and are well engaged in its governance. Parents and carers are key players in this as they are the significant adults. This is a 'bottom up' process, based on listening and negotiating and driven by the needs of the child or young person.

Judith also emphasised the role of the 'Lead Professional' in forcing change. There is no reason why the lead professional role cannot be taken by someone from a

voluntary organisation. Often voluntary organisations are better placed to understand the fuller picture of the influences in a child's life and are already skilled at multi-agency working. In order for this to happen there needs to be a culture of both acceptance and appropriate training.

(Presentation in Appendix vi)

## **5. Stephen Bagnall, Divisional Manager (Joint Commissioning)**

Stephen introduced the work on developing commissioning in Buckinghamshire. So far locally a Joint Commissioning Framework has been agreed and a new team structure has been put in place.

The Joint Commissioning Priorities have been agreed. These were summarised in his presentation in a slide showing 10 headings. However it was subsequently clarified that these headings were a presentational tool to simplify the priorities as they had previously been expressed and no changes had been made. (Appendix vii – Joint Commissioning Priorities taken from the refreshed Children and Young People's Plan)

Following a Voluntary Sector workshop held in December 2006, a report on "Children's Commissioning and the Third Sector" had been prepared and presented to the CYP Trust. It was available to delegates for comment, as a draft discussion paper.

Copies of 'Children's Commissioning and the Third Sector' are available from the Youth Focus office.

(Presentation in Appendix viii)

(Contact details Appendix xiii)

## **6. Coral McGookin, Business Manager, Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB)**

Coral explained the role of the BSCB, set up under the Children Act 2004. It is part of the wider context of the Children's Trust arrangements and works in consultation with the public and all organisations concerned with children both directly and indirectly. It has a much wider remit than the previous Area Child Protection Committees and covers serious case reviews, policy and procedures, monitoring and evaluation, training, safe employment, prevention and child death reviews.

The Working Together document makes clear that arrangements for the voluntary sector must be the same as those for the public sector, in order to fulfil their commitment to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. At present there is no voluntary sector representation on the BSCB.

A recommendation arising from the 'Building the Trust' Conference held last year was to ask the County to consider introducing some kind of advice and guidance provision for voluntary organisations if they needed to talk through an issue of concern relating to Child Protection.

Coral described how a 'designated post' could be set up in the voluntary sector. This person would provide an advisory role for staff and volunteers who have general safeguarding concerns. There would also be guidance on procedures. Specific training for the role of 'designated person' would be given and accountability would be clearly defined.

(Presentation in Appendix ix)

(Contact details Appendix xiii)

## **WORKSHOPS**

These were run twice, giving delegates the opportunity to attend two of the following four workshops. Information was gathered from each of the workshops and is summarised below:

### **WORKSHOP 1 – National Information Sharing Index; ContactPoint – Attendance: 33**

Pam Curtis

#### *Local Implementation Team Manager Contact Point*

The workshop gave a brief introduction to the national project ContactPoint (previously known as Information Sharing Index).

Buckinghamshire County Council will be working with other statutory, voluntary and independent organisations over the next year or so to introduce an online directory (ContactPoint) containing basic information about all children aged 0 – 17 in Buckinghamshire. The directory will be available to authorised staff to find out who else is working with the same child or young person.

It is a key part of the Every Child Matters programme. It will enable people from statutory and other organisations to liaise with each other early in their work with children and thereby focus on early intervention and prevention.

The workshops explored the basic concepts of the project and raised many questions about, for example, security of data and access to it from voluntary organisations. As we are just at the start of the project implementation there were inevitably more questions than answers but the workshop provided a useful forum to begin examining the issues.

(Contact information in Appendix xiii)

## **WORKSHOP 2 – Prevention/Early Intervention – Attendance: 43**

Julie Montigue

### *Development Manager Prevention and Children's Fund Services*

Prevention/Early Intervention is a key value in Children and Young People's Plan. A multi-agency group, involving senior representatives from key agencies within Buckinghamshire, has been involved in the development of the Prevention Strategy. The importance of ensuring preventative support is available at an early stage to help maximise outcomes for children and young people was highlighted. It was also acknowledged that prevention is part of a continuum of support from early intervention to addressing child protection concerns. The attached framework emphasises the relationship between universal, targeted and specialist services (Appendix x – Prevention Framework)

### **Key Issues Raised**

- **Ensuring universal support is available to all**  
In the universal layer of the framework, all children and young people are receiving some level of support. However children who may not be accessing services directly e.g. those with a visual impairment who may be educated at home need to be able to access additional support.
- **Ensuring Children and Young People's voices are heard particularly when they are at risk**  
Children should be safe from harm, for instance, physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and bullying. However, children who aren't safe are the ones least likely to be able to tell. Their voices are not heard and what they need can be distorted. We need to listen to those children who can't say what they mean when they are not safe.
- **Listening to the issues raised by children and young people**  
Participation work with children has identified issues like lack of street lighting and being bullied as significant issues and relate to their concerns about 'being safe'.
- **Clarifying Responsibilities**  
Not being safe in school was also perceived by children as a concern. It was not clear if this is the responsibility of the BSCB or the School Partnership Board.
- **Use of Data**  
What is known as the ACORN data is being used to provide information to inform the strategy development. It uses a range of data including place, finance, demographics and socio-economic groups to understand the make up of an area. This is the same system as used by the District Councils.
- **Voluntary Sector Voice**  
Some voluntary organisations that work with early year's services and families were concerned about how they link into the CYP Trust particularly with regard to prevention issues. They were aware that Youth Focus is taking the lead for the voluntary sector but such providers are not members of Youth Focus because of the age range.

- **Measuring Preventative work**  
The complexity of measuring prevention work when hard data is not available was a concern. It was felt that more use should be made of case studies to evaluate the softer outcomes. It was agreed more development work is required to measure the effectiveness of prevention within each organisation. Rigid targets prevent organisations from being fluid and will change the way voluntary organisations work, meaning they can be less responsive to changing needs.

(Contact details Appendix xiii)

### **WORKSHOP 3 – Workforce Development – Attendance - 27**

Nichola Brown

*Workforce Development Officer, National Council for Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS)*

The Workshop was aimed primarily at those who work with young people over the age of 13. It introduced the work of NCVYS and defined workforce development as; "Staff (including volunteers and trustees) realising their potential in order to help their organisation reach its goals and deliver effective services to young people".

The workshop looked at the implications of the plan for youth work to become a graduate profession in 2010. It also highlighted the licence to practise. The DfES has not established a clear position on the need to licence or register the youth work profession, however Lifelong Learning UK is being consulted informally about the need.

A licence to practise is a voluntary process to show that not only has a youth worker been through the CRB process but that they are professionally qualified and have membership of a professional body. It is that professional body which confirms that they have a licence to practise and an individual will have to meet certain criteria such as evidence of higher level qualifications and 30 hours of annual continuous professional development.

Whilst acknowledging the importance of recognising the professionalism of youth work, a large majority of youth work is delivered by volunteers. There is danger of creating a two tier youth sector instead of concentrating on developing the professionalism of all workers in the youth work sector. Additionally, regulation and licensing may have the effect of counteracting the Governments efforts to increase the level of volunteering and this would adversely affect the young people who are presently reached by the voluntary sector.

Nichola also spoke about the National Occupational Standards and drew attention to the public consultation on the 'Children's Workforce Refresh'. Responses can be made at [www.dfes.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultation)

Participants provided feedback on what has worked well in their organisation in terms of workforce development and what were the issues and areas for improvement.

(Presentation Appendix xi)

(Contact details Appendix xiii)

## **WORKSHOP 4 – Commissioning – Attendance – 57**

Judith Smyth

*Principal, Public Governance at the Office for Public Management (OPM)*

The morning session was run as a Q&A session. The main focus of questions was what 'marketing' VCS agencies would need to do. The following list was developed to inform corporate marketing communications for VCS agencies.

- Communication with parents and young people by having early accessible information on the children's directory/information services.
- Communication with parents and young people to encourage them to use the services on offer
- Communication with practitioners as lead professionals and brokers
- Publication of evidence that the service offered works
- Getting involved with the Trust and other partnerships. Getting your work known
- Participating as lead professionals when chosen by a family or young person

Information needed to carry out this marketing effectively should not really be more than any management committee would ask for as part of good governance. There was a discussion about governance and the need for high standards of accountability in governance, which is just as important for small organisations as it is for large ones.

It was noted that Buckinghamshire seemed to be well ahead on strategic commissioning. District commissioning structures are also being developed. However, development of the Lead Professional role, the Common Assessment Framework and Information Sharing Assessment, all as integrated processes, had some way to go.

In the afternoon, three groups worked together to list things that VCS organisations need to do in the new commissioning environment.

There were questions which clarified the new environment including an explanation of multi-level commissioning, describing the different levels it works on: strategic level, operational/district level and individual level through the lead professional as broker to co-ordinate and bring together services around children and young people with additional needs.

Participants listed the things that need to be done as follows:

- evidence of meeting outcomes
- evidence of need
- performance measurement
- good governance
- evidence of involving children and young people in decision making
- children and young people speaking up for the service
- advocacy – to continue and input to overarching strategy

There was also a discussion about collaboration between VCS agencies when tendering was underway so that consortia could win contracts for specific work.

If a small voluntary organisation is offering a specialist service, there may be no need to have competitive tendering.

## **PLENARY – NEXT STEPS**

Following the afternoon workshop session delegates were brought together to hear the main concerns and recommendations raised in both the morning and afternoon workshops. These were the main points raised:

### **Workforce Development Workshop**

1. Volunteers need access to training, for example, “Interagency, Working Together, two day Child Protection”.
2. Do not put in place disincentives to deter possible people from entering the voluntary and community youth sector (VCYS), for example the licence to practice. We do need professionally qualified staff but it is important to recognise that all workers and volunteers in the VCYS need developing too.
3. Whilst voluntary organisations appreciate the value of development of staff & volunteers very often they do not have the funding to do this. Instead of “mapping” the sector, inject funding into delivery organisations to train staff to deliver effective services to young people.
4. Voluntary organisations need access to Human Resources advice and guidance on employment law to take the burden off workers, so they can continue doing their job.
5. Individually tailored training courses for organisations work best as staff can learn together and socialise. This is better than running central training courses and expecting representatives to attend.

### **Prevention/Early Intervention Workshop**

1. The importance of ensuring children and young people are safe in order to allow them to access support to maximise their potential.
2. The importance of finding ways to hear children and young people who are at risk.
3. The importance of ensuring that Youth Focus reviews its constitution to ensure that all members and groups are affiliated.
4. The need for an effective way to measure diversionary activities was raised. It is very difficult to show that an activity has prevented a young person from being harmed.
5. Applying strict outcomes means that organisations have less flexibility to be responsive.

### **Commissioning Workshop**

1. The importance of communication with children and families to understand their needs and to put them at the centre of the process.
2. Good management and practice is required in all voluntary organisations, both large and small.
3. Understanding multi-level commissioning i.e. individual commissioning, district level commissioning, strategic level commissioning
4. Collaboration between organisations, creating partnerships
5. Developing the lead professional role in the voluntary sector

### **National Information Sharing Index: ContactPoint Workshop**

1. As a very new project, there is still a great deal of work to be done before questions can be satisfactorily answered
2. The workshop served to raise awareness of the basic concepts of ContactPoint

3. The following issues were questioned:
  - i. Security of data and confidentiality of the information held
  - ii. Who would have access to the database
  - iii. How would voluntary organisations access the database

## **THE SIX PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN THE 2006 CONFERENCE REPORT**

This years' conference provided an opportunity to assess the progress made on the Priority Recommendations from the conference held in the previous year. It was noted last year that not all these recommendations would be achievable within a year, so the progress made in the past year indicates a substantial move in the right direction. These are summarised as follows:

1. To explore with the Safeguarding Directorate the possibility of setting up a clearly identified first point of referral where support can be given to volunteers and those working for voluntary organisations to take forward concerns and issues about individual children and young people. The resourcing issue also needs to be addressed.

Progress has been made on creating a 'Designated Person' within the voluntary sector to provide support on safeguarding issues. This work will be continued in the coming year.

2. To be involved in developing and delivering training, including multi-agency training, to cover emerging issues such as information sharing, business planning and the commissioning/tendering process

Some voluntary organisations have accessed multi-agency training in information sharing. The development of training has not taken place, but the CWDC funding now available has created the resource to develop access to training and appropriate training courses. This will be undertaken in 2007/08.

3. To ensure that voluntary organisations are involved in appropriate consultation exercises relating to the development of the information technology based database being designed by Buckinghamshire County Council to meet national reporting targets.

An electronic reporting mechanism for the CYP Plan targets and the LAA targets has been developed by Buckinghamshire County Council. It will be accessible to partners who are target owners via a website. Reports on the progress of targets will be accessible on a separate website. This process will be developed further over time.

4. To set up a steering group to take forward the development of a representational body and look at other models that are in use elsewhere. This should strengthen the representational role of Youth Focus on the CYP Trust and CYP Trust Partnership

The Working Group has been set up and meets regularly, providing a representational and reflective voice for the sector and supporting the work of the Chair of Youth Focus on the CYP Trust Board. This group will be developed in the coming year.

5. To ensure that the voluntary sector is linked into the Communication Strategy being developed by the ECM team and ensure that the mechanisms already in place within voluntary sector organisations are used effectively. A multi agency group will be set up to drive this.

In her key note address, Sue Imbriano highlighted communications as an important issue for development in the coming year. A CYP Trust website is under construction and is due to be launched shortly.

6. To hold another event in a year's time to review the progress that has been made

This was accomplished for 2007 and a third conference will be held in 2008.

## **THE SIX PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2007/2008**

The following will form the basis for the Action Plan to take the outcomes from the Conference forward:

1. To follow up on the concerns of delegates relating to the commissioning strategy, emphasising the following points:
  - Clarification of the commissioning priorities (Appendix vii)
  - How to access the commissioning process
  - The timescale for the commissioning process
  - The processes for tendering/commissioning
  - More information on where Bucks is headed come October
  - How much does the Trust have to expend on commissioning
2. To continue the work to widen the representation of the voluntary sector on the CYP Trust Board and the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.
3. To explore how to develop the role of the Lead Professional within the voluntary sector and to provide the training relevant to this development.
4. To be mindful of any Communication Strategy that is developed and to continue to work towards improving communications between the CYP Trust and the voluntary sector. To ensure that the voluntary sector is consulted in this process.
5. To put in place access to relevant training, linking to the development of the Buckinghamshire Workforce Development Strategy.
6. To further develop partnership models and networking, including a review and revision of the Youth Focus constitution to take account of the changing needs of the voluntary organisations that deliver services for children and young people.

## **Topics to be covered in Future Conferences**

A third 'Building the Trust' conference will be held on 15th May 2008. Delegates were asked to comment on what they would like to see covered in future conferences. The following points were raised:

- The lead professional role and how this has been developed in Buckinghamshire
- Practical session on how to measure outcomes
- Practical examples from the ground – what has been the impact of ECM and the workforce strategy on the voluntary sector
- Commissioning
- Training and development
- A summary of the Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Plan
- A follow up to enable VCS organisations to come together once the Commissioning Strategy had been announced
- The recognition by statutory services, especially schools, of the importance of the participation of local community groups in the delivery of services.

## **CONCLUSION**

The conference aimed to explore the cross cutting themes of Commissioning, Prevention, Participation, Workforce Development and Information Sharing. It also included an update from the previous year's agenda on safeguarding. With such a full programme of speakers and workshops the feedback on the evaluation forms indicated that although it had been a useful day there had been too much content and delegates would have appreciated more time for questions and group discussions. The workshop sessions were rushed because of the number of key note speakers and could have been longer. It was not possible to include a workshop on Participation and this important topic should be covered at a later date. A third of the comments on the evaluation forms related to concerns regarding commissioning and the opportunity for the voluntary sector to participate. The forms indicated that the majority of delegates found the conference very relevant to their organisations and that it had increased their awareness of the issues, helping their understanding of the legislation and how it affects voluntary organisations. The opportunity to network and meet with others from the voluntary sector was also valued.

(Appendix xii – evaluation questionnaire analysis)

## **ATTENDANCE**

Thirty-six voluntary organisations attended the Conference represented by 63 individuals including managers, Trustees and volunteers. There were 20 representatives of statutory bodies including Buckinghamshire County Council, Connexions, and Bucks PCT Children and Families Services. The speakers were from Youth Focus, Buckinghamshire County Council, the Office of Public Management and Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board. Workshops were presented by the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services, the Office for Public Management and Buckinghamshire County Council

## **VENUE**

The Conference was held at Green Park Conference Centre, Aston Clinton, Aylesbury. The facilities provided were of a high standard and included a buffet lunch, all catered for in the Coach House.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

The conference was administered by Youth Focus. 200 promotional brochures were sent out to individuals and organisations including Youth Focus membership and voluntary organisations that work with children and young people that had been identified through the Capacity Building Project. The majority of these organisations had been interviewed individually in the course of the past year. The event was also publicised in the Youth Focus newsletter and in Big Times, the newsletter for the whole of the voluntary sector in Buckinghamshire with a circulation figure of 2,300.

The conference pack contained a programme, workshop choices, delegate list, an evaluation form and 6 presentation handouts. There was also information from Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board on "The Safer Recruitment and Selection of Adults who work with Children" and a handout entitled, "Working Together and Voluntary Sectors".

## Appendices - Index

<b>Appendix</b>	<b>Description</b>
Appendix i	Basic Flowchart of the Strategic Offices and Officers in the Children's Services Buckinghamshire County Council
Appendix ii	Programme
Appendix iii	Presentation – Carol Mason
Appendix iv	Presentation – Peter Rice
Appendix v	Presentation – Sue Imbriano
Appendix vi	Presentation – Judith Smyth
Appendix vii	Joint Commissioning Prioritises
Appendix viii	Presentation – Stephen Bagnall
Appendix ix	Presentation – Coral McGookin
Appendix x	Prevention Framework
Appendix xi	Presentation – Nichola Brown
Appendix xii	Evaluation Questionnaire Analysis
Appendix xiii	Contact List
Appendix xiv	List of Attendees