



Charlotte Drury

Partnership Support Unit



Today

- Update on
 - PSU
 - Welsh Assembly Government National Priorities
 - Children & Young People's Planning Guidance
 - CYP Partnership Self Assessment Improvement Tool
 - Some other bits and pieces



The Partnership Support Unit

What is the PSU?

- A central resource to help improve outcomes for children and young people by supporting partnership working and strategic planning.
- The PSU supports Children and Young People's Partnerships and all their Partners to:
 - Exercise duty to cooperate in the planning and delivery of services as per Children Act (2004)
 - Produce effective Children and Young People's Plans



The Partnership Support Unit

How is the PSU organised?

- Hosted by the Welsh Local Government Association.
- PSU Manager, Charlotte Drury, Nathan Gardner Knowledge, Liaison & NSF Officer and Admin Support (Sue Whitford & Sally Jones) based at Local Government House, Cardiff.
- Four Regional Officers based across Wales
- The PSU also works as a team across Wales according to need and expertise.



The Partnership Support Unit

- **Central South Wales, Andy Senior** (Bridgend, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Vale of Glamorgan)
- **South East Wales, Richard Morton** (Blaenau Gwent, Cardiff, Monmouthshire, Newport, Torfaen)
- **South West and Mid Wales, Geraldine Murphy** (Carmarthen, Ceredigion, Neath Port Talbot, Swansea, Pembrokeshire, Powys)
- **North Wales, Hawis Jones** (Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd, Wrexham, Ynys Mon)



The Partnership Support Unit

Who does the PSU work with?

Any stakeholders of the CYP Partnerships:

- Individual CYPs and their partner agencies
- Regional/national Partnership networks
- Other support teams (e.g. SSIA, Children's NSF Implementation Manager)
- DCELLS and other WAG Departments
- National groups such as ADEW / ADSS



The Partnership Support Unit

What does the PSU do?

Four main areas of work :

- Supports, advises and facilitates Partnerships to meet challenges
- Gathers and shares information and notable practice
- Organises learning events
- Specific projects



The Partnership Support Unit

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The Partnership Support Unit

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PSU Forward Work Programme

- **WAG Ministerial National Priorities**
 - Child Poverty
 - Mental health
 - Family Support
 - NEETs
 - ALN/disability
 - Child protection
- **UNCRC**
 - Advocacy
 - Participation
 - Children's Rights
- **Improved Planning**
 - Inter/cross partnership working
 - Strategic commissioning
 - Results Based Accountability
 - Workforce Development



Welsh Assembly Government Ministerial Priorities

- Reduction of child poverty as the single overriding priority;
- Support for families, including parenting, childcare, financial and material wellbeing, and intervention when needed;
- Support for children with additional learning needs and /or disabilities;
- Support for the social, emotional and psychological needs of children and young people;
- Action to reduce the numbers of young people not in employment education or training, (NEET) and youth unemployment;
- Action to tackle educational underachievement;
- Support for interagency work on child protection



The Children & Young People's Plan

- The Children & Young People's Partnership is a statutory partnership & is responsible for producing a plan for children & young people. (CA 04 s.26)
- It is the key strategic statement setting out how the well-being of all children & young people in the area will be improved
- The CYP Plan covers:
 - Services for children and young people from ante-natal stage to 18
 - Youth support services to 25
 - Care leavers up to 21, or 24 or if in full-time education



The Children & Young People's Plan

Developed & owned by the CYP Partnership:

- Provide strategic vision & agreed priorities to direct work of partners
- Explain what is being done about national & local strategies, policies & priorities
- Set out agreed joint targets to enable progress in improving outcomes to be measured
- Set out what each partner is contributing to meeting the joint objectives
- Provide the basis for sharing funding & joint commissioning



The PSU review of CYP Plans

- **Outcome Measures Framework**
 - Most used the Outcome Measures Framework (OMF) templates
 - The OMF seems a constructive step towards moving from a service-based focus to a more needs-based focus
 - Lack of consistency of data and definitions makes comparison across partnerships problematic
 - Performance Management - Adopting a common system such as Ffynnon to manage the information gathering and exchange might be helpful



The PSU review of CYP Plans

Commissioning

- Almost all CYP Plans made reference to commissioning
- A small number had commissioning strategies in place
- Most included statements of intent
- Some referred to the CYP Plan as a 'basis for joint commissioning' and pooling budgets
- Joint commissioning not generally aligned within a commissioning process
- Those involved in Social Services Improvement Agency (SSIA) Better Outcomes for Children in Need (BOCIN) work referred to commissioning strategies for children in need



The PSU review of CYP Plans

Workforce Development

- Significant and complex
- The workforce elements of most CYP Plans were at a formative stage of development
- CYP Partnerships are developing a process for creating local / regional workforce planning
- Regional meetings have discussed how partnerships will develop regional working processes to address 'shared' priorities and outcomes
- Some CYP Partnerships are linking with Social Care Partnerships and Economic Partnerships to ensure training and economic needs of the area are met



The PSU review of CYP Plans

Participation

- All CYP Plans made reference to the importance of engaging children, young people and families
- Many CYP Partnerships utilised consultation data gathered for other purposes in their plans
- Most made reference to the views of target groups as well as schools councils/youth fora
- Some detailed specific activities others referred to a more general use of structures
- Level of detail varied
- Not always clear at what stage, and to what extent, children, young people and their families were involved



The PSU review of CYP Plans

Priorities

- PSU attempted to map Priorities within CYP Plans
- Wide variation as to what constituted a priority
- Many priority headings encompassed a number of individual sub-priorities
- Priorities varied from general to specific and similar priorities were listed under different Core Aims in different plans
- Not possible to identify common themes due to lack of consistency



The PSU review of CYP Plans

Conclusions

- Development of CYP Plans involved significant time and effort from many partners but anecdotal evidence suggests the process aided partnership development
- Some distance to go before the CYP Plans become the defining statement of strategic planning but significant progress made
- England encountered similar issues re engaging schools and health. An Audit Commission review of English found significant variation
- Wales is doing well re involving third sector, children and young people and genuine partnership



The CYP Planning Guidance 2011-14

- Not yet issued
- Focus on outcomes (RBA?)
- 7 national priorities
- Likely to lead partnerships towards reporting progress rather than a lengthy detailed plan
- Likely to require partnerships to set out their planning architecture
- Will issue planning guidance update shortly (possibly for consultation) and 'consolidated' guidance in December 2010



The Self Assessment Improvement Tool

- Commissioned by Partnership Working Branch based on LSCB tool
- Currently on hold
- All information is draft
- Organised around 4 dimensions
 - Establishing the board's strategic direction
 - Establishing effective governance
 - Building capacity
 - Improving outcomes for children



The Self Assessment Improvement Tool

- Each of the four dimensions is divided into standards (19 in total)
- Each standard is graded against four 'bands'
 - 0 = Not begun to consider this particular standard;
 - 1 = Standard recognised by members, may be in a governance document, plan or exist as a system 'we have a sub-group' but no active work is taking place towards achieving it;
 - 2 = *Actively working together* towards achieving this;
 - 3 = Has been achieved, is being maintained/developed and is contributing to improved *cooperation and effectiveness* in relation to the CYP Partnerships strategic aims and the seven core aims



The Self Assessment Improvement Tool

ESTABLISHING STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Standard 1 The CYPPB members have a clear and shared understanding about the Partnership roles and responsibilities

Standard 2 The CYPP has a clearly articulated shared vision for children in the area based on the UN Charter's Convention on the Rights of the Child and reflects the principles underlying co-operation in SPBO and the Seven Core Aims

Standard 3 The CYPPB has identified priority outcomes for the improvement of children's well being that will underpin its work



The Self Assessment Improvement Tool

ESTABLISHING EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

Standard 4 members have negotiated terms of reference for CYPPB which results in shared understanding of roles / responsibilities of the partnership and a common language for working together

Standard 5 CYPPB meets the membership requirements of SPBO

Standard 6 The CYPPPB identifies the leadership responsibilities knowledge requirements and accountabilities of individual members.



The Self Assessment Improvement Tool

Standard 7 CYPPB holds member agencies of the Board to account

Standard 8 the CYPPB has a framework for the process of needs assessment, service mapping and reviewing

Standard 9 CYPPB makes arrangements for effective participation of Children, YP and Families in the work of the partnership

Standard 10 CYPPB ensures frontline staff are effectively engaged in the work of the partnership v

Standard 11The CYPP works together to produce a Plan for Children and Young People



The Self Assessment Improvement Tool

BUILDING CAPACITY

Standard 12 The CYPP maximises its joint capacity to deliver the priority outcomes

Standard 13 CYPPB co-ordinates the work of the sub-groups to ensure the delivery of its Plan

Standard 14 CYPPB has an effective joint commissioning strategy

Standard 15 There is a clear workforce development strategy

Standard 16 CYPPB has a robust process for reviewing, learning from and improving its performance



The Self Assessment Improvement Tool

IMPROVING CONDITIONS OF WELL-BEING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Standard 17 The CYPPB can demonstrate improvements to the quality and responsiveness of services funded by, or significantly directed by CYPP

Standard 18 The CYPPB can demonstrate how its work has improved the conditions of well-being for all children and Young People receiving services funded by, or significantly directed by CYPP

Standard 19 There is evidence that The CYPPB has improved the conditions of overall well-being for all children and young people living in the area



Children's NSF

- The Partnership Support Unit is now providing NSF support
- PSU support to the NSF is managed by Richard Morton
- NSF support will be provided by Nathan Gardner, Knowledge and Liaison Officer
- PSU is
 - Providing a first point of contact for NSF queries
 - Issuing passwords
 - Providing training and other support
 - Facilitating the existing NSF regional support networks

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Children & Families (Wales) Measure

- 10 November 2009 the National Assembly for Wales passed the proposed Children and Families (Wales) Measure.
- The Measure makes statutory provision to take forward the Welsh Assembly Government's commitment in terms of child poverty, and to take forward its strategy for vulnerable children
- Brings forward legislation to provide greater support to families where children may be at risk, and strengthened regulatory enforcement in child care settings.



Children & Families (Wales) Measure

- Proposes to make statutory provision, through a legislative framework, to take forward the Welsh Assembly Government's commitment in terms of child poverty, and to take forward its strategy for vulnerable children by creating legislation to provide greater support to families where children may be at risk, and strengthened regulatory enforcement in children settings.
- The 'Measure' comprises four parts covering:
 - Part 1- Eradicating Child Poverty
 - Part 2- Child Minding and Day Care for Children
 - Part 3- Integrated Family Support Teams
 - Part 4- Miscellaneous (Play & Participation)

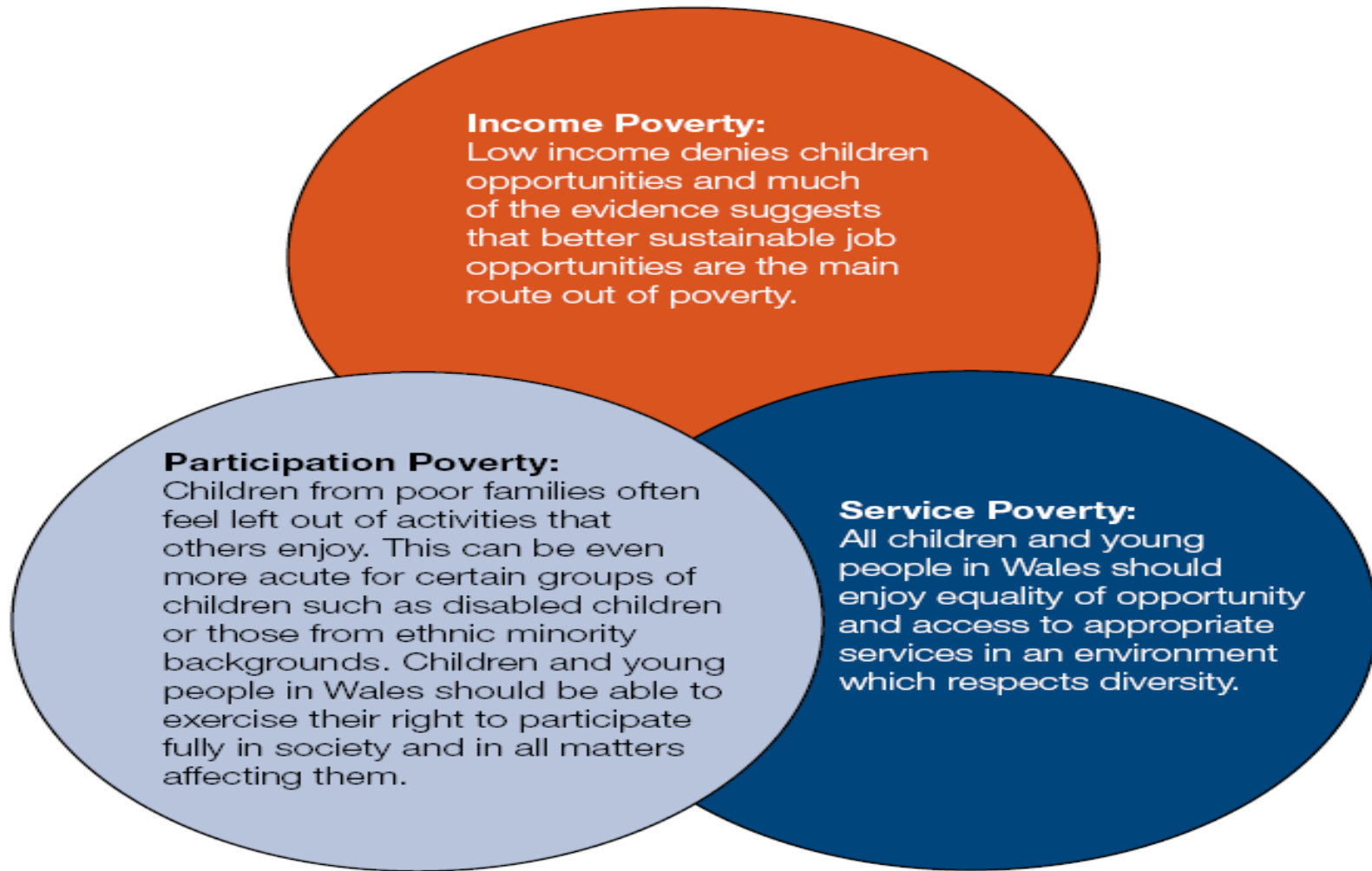


Children & Families (Wales) Measure

Part 1 -Eradicating Child Poverty

- Based on provisions in Sections 25 and sections 26 of the Children Act 2004
- Places duties on all public agencies to prioritise child poverty and set out clear objectives through CYP Plan
- A duty placed on WAG to develop a Child Poverty Strategy for Wales, to be reviewed 3 yearly
- All Council's required to develop and publish a strategy (through CYP Plan)
- Local authorities to provide free childcare for children aged between two and three years in specified areas (Flying Start)

WAG Definition of Poverty





Children & Families (Wales) Measure

Part 2 -Child Minding and Day Care

- Repeals Part 10A of the Children Act 1989 just restates existing law in a more coherent way

Part 3- Integrated Family Support Team (IFST)

- Reforms the way support is provided to vulnerable children and families
- Integrated Family Support Teams piloted (2010-2013)
- Focus on complex needs (substance misuse and domestic violence)
- Requirement to establish IFSTs subject to sufficient funding and successful pilot
- Duty placed on health to assist the local authority in establishing and resourcing IFST



Children & Families (Wales) Measure

Part 4: General and Miscellaneous

- Focusing on play and participation
- Local authorities required to undertake a 'play sufficiency assessment' & secure 'sufficient' play opportunities for children
- Authorities required to ensure participation of children in decisions of the authority which affect them



DCELLS

David Hawker - Director General Directorate of Children, Education & Lifelong Learning

Chris Tweedale – Director of Children, Young People & School Effectiveness

Sylvia Lyndoe – Head of Children
& Young People’s Strategy Division

Gwen Parry – 14 – 19
(and other things!)

Martin Swain – Head of Children
& Families Programmes
Now including PWB

Suzanne Chisholm – Head of Rights
& Entitlements
Now including Advocacy & Youth
Work Strategy



Children's Budgeting

The Children & Young People Committee carried out a review of children's budgeting & how resources are allocated at a national & local level to policies & services that affect children & young people.

The terms of reference for the inquiry were:

- To examine current arrangements for allocating & monitoring public expenditure on children & young people in Wales at national & local level.
- To identify overall Welsh Government spending on children & young people.



Children's Budgeting

- The benefits of children's budgeting
 - improve financial transparency and accountability at a national and local level
 - improve forward planning and inter-governmental communication
 - comparison with other nations



Children's Budgeting

Challenges:

- Analysing 'direct' expenditure on children & young people is comparatively straight forward. Identifying 'indirect' expenditure, such as expenditure on transport, housing or economic development, is much harder
- May lead to an overly simplistic cost/benefit analysis of inputs & outputs
- Difficult to assess the outcomes of budgetary expenditure



Children's Budgeting

Practical steps for effective children's budgeting

- Identification of a problem
- Identification of desired outcome
- Identification of how much money was allocated by government towards achieving that outcome
- Identification of whether the money was actually allocated
- Assessment of impacts of such expenditure on the desired outcome of the expenditure.



Participatory budgeting

- The Children Act 2004 - voices of children & young people must inform provision of services through the CYP Plan
- The production of Children & Young People Budget Statements could assist children & young people to become more involved in budgetary decision making
- Children & Families Measure places a general duty on local authorities to make arrangements to promote & facilitate participation by children & young people in decisions of the local authority which affect them