

Department for Children and Education Restructure News

April 2009

Message from Carolyn Godfrey, corporate director for children & education on behalf of the DCE restructure board



Welcome to the second edition of *Restructure News*, the online newsletter for members of staff from the department for children & education.

This newsletter is designed to help keep you all in the loop and involved in the restructuring process. If you have colleagues who don't have access to a PC, please print it out and pass it on to them.

As I mentioned in the first newsletter we would announce the outcome of the consultation to you this week, together with the final structure – and this announcement is detailed in this newsletter.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and involvement in the consultation process. The quality of the feedback received really was fantastic and has formed the basis of the discussion about the new organisational structure of our department and of course the resulting outcome.

I strongly believe that the new organisational structure presents us with a great opportunity to continue to make a positive difference for the children and young people of Wiltshire, but as I said in the last newsletter, I am equally aware of the unsettling nature of this scale of change. We still want to hear your views and any concerns you may have. You can email them to Glenda Brewer at Glenda.Brewer@wiltshire.gov.uk or post them to Glenda at Bythesea Road (County Hall).

News & Views will be replaced in May by Team Wire, a similar system to News & Views, where you can submit your questions and feedback. In addition, this month we will be establishing a discussion forum on the council's new intranet site, The Wire.

Throughout April, May & June we will be carrying out reviews and running workshops to consider proposals and to develop plans for both transition and implementation of the new structure. We will involve as many of you as we can in these and will ensure the new intranet site has full details of this work.

We also plan to carry on meeting with you face to face during the transition period. The next round of face to face meetings are being planned at present, and we will inform you of these in due course. Our aim remains to be an outstanding children's services authority and the restructure is a key part of our drive to secure this.

Finally, it is likely that we will rename the department "*the department of children and young people's services*". If you have any comments on this, please let us know.

Regards,

Carolyn.

The information gathered during the consultation period and its impacts are summarised below:

SCHOOLS AND LEARNING

Various views were received regarding the location of **SEN (special educational needs)**. Taking all factors into consideration, the restructure board believes that statutory SEN processes and functions align well with schools and therefore will move to schools and learning. This will be to focus specifically on improving achievement and closing the attainment gaps, although staff beyond schools and learning also have a key role to play here. The horizontal links with targeted services and children's and families social care are crucial and will form part of the vital discussion on how the new SEN structure will work. A new head of SEN/LDD, Trevor Daniels has been appointed and is likely to join us towards the end of June 09 when he will take over the lead on the SEN review.

EMAS (Ethnic Minority Achievement Services) and Extended Schools / LCPs (Local Collaborative Partnerships) were agreed to be integral to advising, challenging and supporting schools and will therefore remain in schools and learning. It is acknowledged that the links with CAF and targeted work are essential and this will be taken account of as the structures within and across the new services areas are developed.

TARGETED SERVICES

A variety of options were presented for **advocacy services / children's rights** and therefore this service will remain in the targeted service area until the completion of a review to explore these options further. More details of who will lead this review and what it will involve will be published shortly. Additionally, different views were expressed on where **Primary Mental Health (Pathways)** should be placed. After lengthy debate, the department leadership team has decided that this should be in targeted services. The key reason for this is to provide support for schools and colleagues working in targeted services. The **ISACs (information sharing and assessment co-ordinators)** have a key role in the development of the CAF and therefore will form part of the targeted service area. The **intensive PA service** has also been identified for inclusion in targeted services, although there may still be some individual posts within children's and families social care teams, subject to review (i.e. within LAC teams).

CHILDRENS AND FAMILIES SOCIAL CARE

Strong support was received in the consultation feedback for **LACES (looked after children education support)** and the **head teacher of the virtual school** to remain in children's and families social care.

COMMISSIONING AND PERFORMANCE

The proposal for creating a fourth service area called **commissioning and performance** received a high degree of support from both the Department and Wiltshire NHS (PCT).

The proposals for **business support, performance & data management** and **workforce development** are carried forward as described in the first edition of *Restructure News* which can be viewed at:

<http://www.wiltshirepathways.org/ShowNews.asp?NewsID=279>

Safeguarding

There was very strong representation in the consultation feedback for the reporting line for **safeguarding** to go directly to the corporate director to re-enforce the independence from service delivery. This has been accepted by the department leadership team.

NEXT STEPS

As the restructure proposals involve a degree of integration with Wiltshire NHS (PCT) this requires Member approval. Therefore the proposals will be on the agendas of the implementation executive on 22 April and the Wiltshire NHS Board on 23 April 2009.

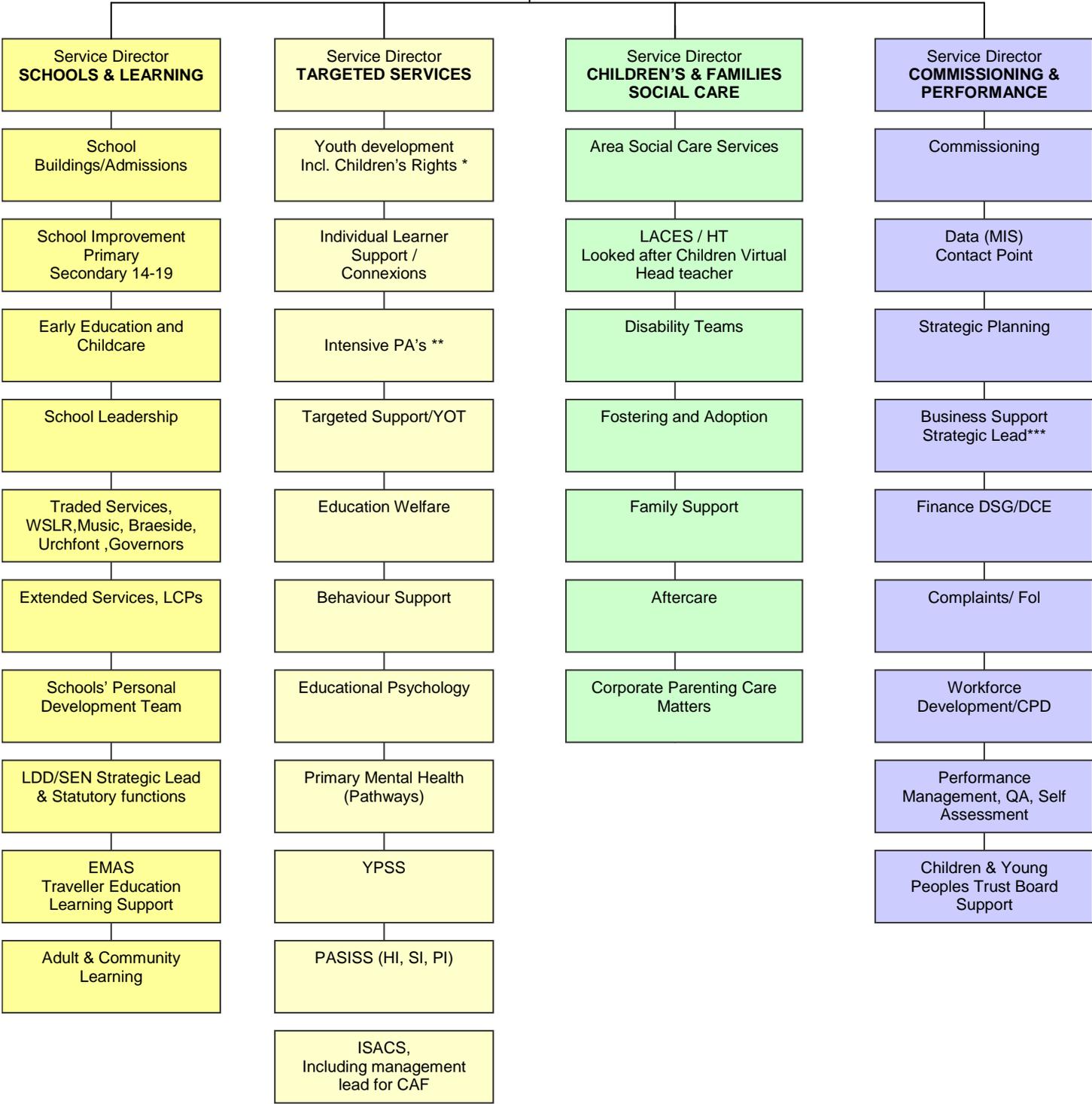
Subsequent to acceptance at the above meetings, the process of appointing the service directors will commence. This supports our plan to commence the first phase of implementation in September 09. However, it may be possible to make some changes even earlier than September.

The next edition of *Restructure News* will contain more detail on each of the reviews that will be conducted, who the leads for each of these are and a highlight of which pieces of work will be tackled when.

For interim updates, please see the new intranet, *The Wire*

Corporate Director
**CHILDREN'S & YOUNG
PEOPLE'S SERVICES**

Safeguarding / CP Co-ordinators / IRO's / SG'g Schools Advisor



*Subject to review
** Subject to outcome of review in relation to LAC Teams

*** Subject to review