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Children & Young People's Service (Rachel Henderson) Activity Plan 2009- 2010 (Participation)

Reference Groups: Children's Trust Hear by Right Champions Group
A range of children and young peoples groups

Why is this important? *It is the right of children and young people to be involved with any decisions that are made about them. They should have the opportunity to influence all our services in a variety of ways. Through their involvement we will change and improve the ways we do things leading to better services and outcomes for children and young people.*

Through the work that Devon has developed over the past decade we have some well established groups of young people including active and well supported Members of the UK Youth Parliament, Children in Care Council, District Council and Town Youth Councils, Youth Banks, School Councils and other more ad hoc groups. We also have developed some innovative approaches including the use of Facebook and other Social Networking Sites.

We have a good training programme in place and a model of participation and a shared understanding of language and acceptable standards and practices have been established.

External review tells us that there are many things we are doing well with regards to children and young people's voice, influence and participation. Examples of these include; the majority of partners are working towards Hear by Right, the majority of partners have identified Champions for the Voice and Influence of Young people/Children we have annual events at which young people and adults can come together and discuss work, developments and needs. We have an established Participation and democracy Development role that consists of workers funded by a number of partners. The team has the responsibility to develop practice in this area, not always to lead on it. It supports work across a large spectrum of our young people including those who are children in care, those we find harder to involve, young people and children with learning difficulties and young people who face issues concerning their emotional health and well being.

However there remain some development opportunities for us which include ensuring that children and young people can influence decisions locally, we need to develop work with younger children and ensure it is not just young people who have a voice, we currently do not make strong enough links between our conversations and research with children and young people and how that influences our decision making and we need to engage a more diverse group of children and young people, especially locally.

Objectives:

- 1. By March 2010 there will be greater number of methods and mechanisms for Local Children's Trusts to consult with and engage children and young people in decision making embedded in the user engagement strategy.*
- 2. By March 2010 Making a Difference training for workers will have been further developed to include one to one work, children and young people with particular needs and younger children*
- 3. By December 2010 there will be clear methods and opportunities established for encouraging and hearing the most vulnerable of our children and young people, especially those with child protection plans*
- 4. During 2010 there will be an external review to measure our continued achievements and challenges still to meet*

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5. *By March 2010 we will have developed methods for ensuring there are specific outcomes and impacts as a result of children and young peoples involvement with the Trust*
6. *By March 2010 we will further have developed our mechanisms to collate evidence in order to inform planning*

Area of Activity (1) *Methods and mechanisms for Local Children's Trusts to consult with and engage children and young people in decision making*

Specific Tasks	Resource	Lead Officer	Milestones
<i>Develop a positive working relationship with the Local Children's Trusts</i>		<i>Rachel Henderson/Liza Jarvis</i>	<i>Meetings with each of the local CT's takes place – by Dec 2009</i>
<i>Develop and establish Get UR Voice Heard Local (These groups which have been identified as necessary by the Members of the UKYP will consist of young people from local areas. They will be a group of young people with which the Local Children's Trusts will be able to establish a positive working relationship)</i>		<i>Rachel Henderson/ Rachel Mac Dermot. Katie Bacon</i>	<i>Pilot and preparation work was completed April 2009. The implementation of these groups will start in September 2009 (this has been delayed due to maternity leave). The groups will be fit for purpose by January 2010</i>
<i>Offer the opportunity and encourage participation of the Local Children's Trusts with an annual young peoples event, e.g. Kongomana</i>		<i>Rachel Henderson/Devon Youth Service Team Leaders/ Principal Youth Officer</i>	<i>Feb 2010 confirmation of Kongomana/other event March 2010 invites made Summer 2010 event takes place Autumn 2010 all information collated and available for all to assist with planning for 2011</i>
<i>Develop stronger links between school councils and other young –peoples forums already in existence, with the Local Children's Trusts</i>		<i>Members of the UKYP/ Participation Worker (Democracy)/ Sue Clarke/ School Councils/ DAPH/DASH/Rachel Henderson</i>	<i>Autumn 2009 map all school councils and current activity Late Autumn develop training if required Winter 2009/2010 implement training Jan 2010 – June 2010 develop links in local areas with schools/forums and local Children's Trusts</i>
<i>Develop and offer tools and mechanisms to ensure that issues raised by young people influence planning and funding of opportunities at a local level.</i>	<i>Funding from CWDC has been approved</i>	<i>Rachel Henderson, colleagues from the College of St Mark and St John and Gloucestershire</i>	<i>By Feb. 2010 a publishable method and training has to be completed to satisfy funders which is aligned to our engagement strategy</i>

Area of Activity 2: *Making a Difference training for workers will have been further developed to include one to one work, children and young people with particular needs and younger children*

Specific Tasks	Resource	Lead Officer	Milestones
<i>Develop training that will address how participative activity that includes consultation can be delivered with Under 5's</i>	<i>£2250 from CWDC</i>	<i>Helen Miller/ partners from across the SW/ Rachel Henderson/ Early Years</i>	<i>By Dec 2009 2 of 3 training courses will have been run and information will be available for colleagues to download</i>

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<i>Develop training that will address how participative activity that includes consultation can be delivered with children and young people with learning disability</i>		<i>Helen Miller/Kathryn Bird</i>	<i>By March 2010 a course will have been developed. April 2010 first course to run</i>
<i>Develop training that will address how participative activity that includes consultation can be delivered with either very small groups or on a one to one</i>		<i>Helen Miller/Lizz Prangle</i>	<i>By March 2010 a course will have been developed. April 2010 first course to run</i>

Area of Activity 3: *There will be clear methods and opportunities established for encouraging and hearing the most vulnerable of our children and young people, especially those with child protection plans*

Specific Tasks	Resource	Lead Officer	Milestones
<i>Map what already exists; groups to include: Children in care, LGBT, LDD, hearing impairment, visual impairment, BME, faith, homeless, CAMHS etc Additionally to look at age, location etc</i>		<i>Rachel Henderson/ Children's Trust Partners/Richard Belcher</i>	<i>Summer 2009 tool for mapping developed Autumn 2009 services start to input into mapping tool what they are doing, groups they are reaching, information being gathered etc</i>
<i>Analyse what gaps exist</i>		<i>Richard Belcher/ Rachel Henderson/ Julie Mitchell</i>	<i>Winter 2009</i>
<i>Where there are gaps more activity to be established</i>		<i>Children's Trust Partners</i>	<i>Develop Winter 2009 Deliver Spring 2010</i>
<i>Where there are opportunities offered for partners to engage with children and young people take up to be mapped and outcomes identified</i>		<i>Rachel Henderson/ IYSDS/Mark Goodman</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>

Area of Activity 4: *External review to measure our continued achievements and challenges still to meet*

Specific Tasks	Resource	Lead Officer	Milestones
<i>External independent review to take place which will build on our last 2 years of reports as part of a National Youth Agency Review looking at the work of two Children's Trusts in participation</i>	<i>Cost approx £3000</i>	<i>Rachel Henderson</i>	<i>Report completed 2010</i>

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Area of Activity 5: *Develop methods for ensuring there are specific outcomes and impacts as a result of children and young people's involvement with the Trust*

Specific Tasks	Resource	Lead Officer	Milestones
<i>Research was currently exist across the country for tracking and identifying change in organisations as a result of young peoples involvement</i>		<i>Rachel Henderson</i>	<i>April 2009</i>
<i>Review tools and test to see if any are fit for purpose. If they are implement</i>		<i>Rachel Henderson</i>	<i>Not possible</i>
<i>If there are none that are in existence/fir for purpose (this is suspected) develop a new tool</i>	<i>Funding from CWDC has been allocated</i>	<i>Rachel Henderson, colleagues from the College of St Mark and St John and Gloucestershire</i>	<i>June 2009 – Feb 2010</i>
<i>Implement across the Children's Trust in the SW</i>	<i>Funding from CWDC has been allocated</i>	<i>Rachel Henderson, colleagues from the College of St Mark and St John and Gloucestershire</i>	<i>Feb 2010</i>

Area of Activity 6: *Further develop our mechanisms to collate evidence in order to inform planning*

Specific Tasks	Resource	Lead Officer	Milestones
<i>Review what methods are already utilised and where the gaps are from data collection and planning</i>		<i>Rachel Henderson/Richard Belcher</i>	<i>Summer 2009</i>
<i>Either develop methods in order to ensure fit for purpose or develop a new model that is simple, effective, east to use and will be useful</i>		<i>Rachel Henderson/Richard Belcher</i>	<i>December 2009</i>

Risk Management

Identified Risk	Business Continuity Intentions or measures to address risk identified	Risk score
<i>Helen Miller being made redundant</i>	<i>Negotiation with commissioning team/personnel</i>	<i>15</i>

Performance Management

National/ Local	Performance Measures/ indicators	Target 2009/10 (if appropriate)	Responsible Officer
<i>Local</i>	<i>Number of young people taking part in UKYP elections</i>	<i>15,000 plus</i>	<i>Lizz Prangle</i>
<i>Local</i>	<i>Map and bench mark groups and ages of young people currently involved</i>	<i>All partners to map, this can then form a benchmark for future targets</i>	<i>Rachel Henderson/Richard Belcher</i>

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<i>Local</i>	<i>Number of schools councils and other forums in existence</i>		<i>Rachel Henderson</i>
<i>Local</i>	<i>External Review takes place</i>	<i>Completed by Summer 2010</i>	<i>Rachel Henderson</i>
<i>Local</i>	<i>Training developed</i>	<i>Completed by Christmas 2009</i>	<i>Helen Miller/Lizz Prangle/Kathryn Bird</i>
<i>Local</i>	<i>Take up of training</i>	<i>15 - 20 trainees on each course 3x under 5's 1x LDD 1x 1:1</i>	<i>Helen Miller/Lizz Prangle/Kathryn Bird</i>
<i>Local</i>	<i>Number of Get UR Voice Heard Local groups set up</i>	<i>3 by Christmas 2009 6 by April 2010</i>	<i>Katie Bacon</i>