

News

Thank you for telling us what you think about the key priorities for Children and Young People

We are preparing a new Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) for 2008-2011 and as part of this process we asked you to tell us your views about the key priorities in East Sussex.

The consultation closed on 2 April 2008 and we would like to extend a sincere thank you to all those people who completed a detailed staff questionnaire or a shorter postcard questionnaire for parents and carers. We would also like to thank all of the staff from a range of agencies who helped us to distribute and collect questionnaires – we could not have done this without you!

What happens next?

We have received more than 400 responses to the staff questionnaire and more than 1200 responses to the postcard questionnaire, with many more postcards expected to arrive from regional collection boxes this week. We will be working hard over the next few weeks to incorporate your views into the new Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011. The new plan and a summary of consultation responses will be published here at the end of June 2008.

And that is not all – we will be referring back to your comments over the life of the plan to inform how we develop and improve our services for children and young people across the county and in local areas.

For more information, please call Penny Beynon 01273 335342 or Diana Francombe 01273 481902, or email CSplanningandperformance@eastsussex.gov.uk.

Thank you – we value your views.

Is This Love? Sexual health campaign for young people - 9-16 February

A sexual health campaign targeting young people has been launched to coincide with National Contraceptive Week and Valentine's Day.

The aim of the "Is This Love" campaign, which runs from Feb 9–16, is to get young people to think more seriously about sexual health issues and also to make sure they know where to go for advice, information and support. It has been launched by County Council officers working in partnership with the Health

Promotion Team from the East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT and the Hastings and Rother NHS PCT.

Secondary schools and colleges across the county are receiving publicity material for display and distribution during the week including "Valentine card" information packs for students in years 10 and 11.

As part of the campaign, sexual health nurses staffed an information stand in Hastings town centre on Saturday, 9 Feb, at which young people were able to get the same information and advice.

Sixth form students from across the county are also targeted with a special event on Valentines Day at Sussex Downs College on Thursday, 14 February. Students will be able to get the same information and advice from nurses and sexual health staff.

One of the key messages being promoted is that young people should not feel pressurised into having sex. Also, that, despite the impression they may get from TV or magazines, not all under-16s are having sex.

To assist schools, the County Council is also organising some special training during February aimed at helping teachers deal with sexual health issues. To find out more about the campaign, email [Trudy Mills](mailto:Trudy.Mills@east-sussex.gov.uk), Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator.

Good response from largest ever Anti-bullying survey

More than 2,000 school pupils have so far taken part in the largest ever anti-bullying survey of children and young people in East Sussex. Pupils at 11 schools have completed the survey, which was launched by the County Council as part of Anti-Bullying Week in November 2007.

Over the next few weeks the survey will be extended to more schools. By the spring we hope that as many as 12,000 pupils at 40 schools, including all the county's maintained secondary schools, will have had the chance to take part.

The survey is part of on-going work to support schools and colleges in tackling bullying. It will also help the council and schools focus anti-bullying resources, as well as assess the effect and impact of anti-bullying initiatives across the county.

Schools taking part in the survey do it on-line through an internal intranet. Pupils are asked a wide variety of questions across different areas of bullying, such as how safe they feel at their school, their experience of bullying both inside and outside of school, and whether they have been bullied or been a bully. The

information gathered will help schools to focus on specific areas that might be identified.

Results of the survey are being fed back to schools and also collated and analysed by the council's Anti-bullying Team. You can find out more about anti-bullying initiatives across East Sussex at www.eastsussex.gov.uk or email the [Anti-bullying Team](#).

Sorrel Drive coffee morning held to say thank you

The Children's Disability Service at Sorrel Drive, Eastbourne held their annual coffee morning in December. The coffee morning is held as a personal thank you to those who have helped Children's Services in assisting disabled children and their families throughout the year. The help could have been as a result of working together, or co-ordination of services, or a through a charitable grant.

Among those invited were work colleagues from across Children's Services, and staff from related services or organisations, such as Health, and officers or trustees of charitable organisations who have assisted families through the year.



As well as staff from Sorrel Drive and related services, those attending included the Deputy Mayor of Eastbourne Borough Council (above left), officers from the Dr Merry Memorial Fund and specialist Children's Nurses from Eastbourne Downs Primary Care Trust.

2008 looks like it will be a positive year for Sorrel Drive. The Bungalow respite unit kitchen will be re-furbished and plans are being made to re-start the hydrotherapy pool – so watch this space! For more information about Sorrel Drive, email [Angela Lucas](#).