



What's the CVSF

The Children's Voluntary Sector Forum (CVSF) is a place where Voluntary & Community (Third Sector) organisations can meet, talk, share ideas, solve problems and hear about the latest developments in Children's services. It also provides a mechanism to influence decisions and policies that affect your organisation and the children you support. It's your forum and is chaired by Maggie Leaver from Solihull Carers. SUSTAIN provides support to this Forum.

This is the first issue of a periodic CVSF newsletter to highlight areas of specific interest.

In this issue, we cover **the pledge made to children & young people in Solihull and what it means to those who support them.**

The pledge is based on what Children & Young People said they wanted.

The Solihull Partnership – what right have they got?

The pledge was made by the Solihull Partnership. So, it might be useful to explain what the Solihull Partnership is and what right it's got to make pledges on your behalf.

The Solihull Partnership brings together the key organisations from different parts of the public, private, community and voluntary sectors, to work together and support one another in doing the things that will make Solihull a better place to live with an equal chance for all.

The Third Sector is very much a part of this partnership and is represented on the Governing Board and in the groups that carry out the work.

Governing Board

Dave Pinwell, SUSTAIN

David Mattocks, Third Sector Network

Children & Young Peoples Trust

Janet Down, Solihull Life Opportunities

Healthier Communities Group

Martin Wright, Enable - Solihull

Stronger Communities Group

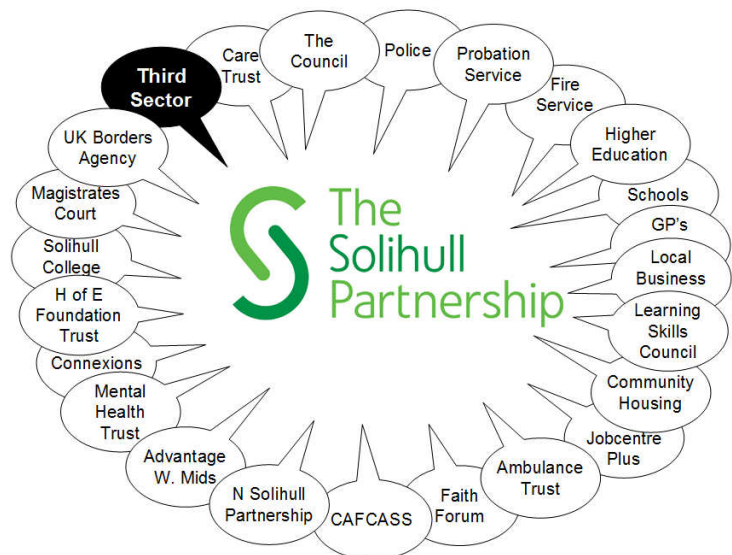
Dave Pinwell, SUSTAIN

Safer Communities Group

Joanne Mackinnon, Welcome

Prosperous Communities Group

Janet Johnson, SUSTAIN



There are also two 'Safeguarding' Boards looking at the protection of vulnerable **Adults**, represented by David Williams from Solihull Care and the protection of **Children** where there is a vacancy.

To find out more, go to www.solihull-sustain.org.uk/solihull-partnership

Keeping The Pledge

Solihull Children & Young People's Plan – “An Equal Chance”

The plan, “An Equal Chance” describes how the pledge can be kept. Here are the highlights.

Four principles that underpin the plan.

- Organisations must work more closely together
- Outcomes for children and young people are what matters.
- Children, young people and their families should be involved in making decisions.
- Everyone that works with children & young people should be skilled.

Six priority areas to be addressed.

- Healthy lifestyles
- Things to do and places to go
- Raising achievement for all
- Anti-bullying and personal safety
- An equal chance for children and young people who are carers, unaccompanied asylum seekers, disabled or Looked After
- Integrated services: the Change for Children Programme

Six projects that deliver the plan.

- **Governance** – How we manage things, make decisions and are sure we are doing things right
- **Delivery** – The range of services and who provides them.
- **Knowledge** – Knowing what works best locally and nationally
- **Systems** – The mechanisms for sharing information and working together
- **Workforce** – The skills, training, development and induction that anyone working with children and young people need.
- **Information** – What information is made available to children, young people and their families to help them know what services are available and where to find them.

If you want to know more about the Solihull Children & Young People's Plan, you can download it from www.solihull.gov.uk/Attachments/cyptChildrenYoungPeoplesPlanp.pdf

Workforce

What it means, what the CVSF is doing, with the help of SUSTAiN, and **what help we need from you.**

Two areas that are really important for everyone.

Common Core of Skills & Knowledge – the basic skills that everyone working with children & young people need

Common Induction Process – the way staff are briefed about their role.

You may well already have the skills needed and your induction process meets the standards expected. But to help you check and identify any gaps, we list the core skills and the components of the common induction process on the back page.

Do you have the ... **Common Core of Skills & Knowledge?**

Common Core	Skills	Knowledge
✓ Effective communication and engagement	Listening and building empathy; summarising and explaining; consultation and negotiation	How communication works; confidentiality and ethics; sources of support and the importance of respect
✓ Child and young person development	Observation and judgement; empathy and understanding	Understanding context; understanding how babies, children & young people develop; being clear about your own job role; reflection and improvement
✓ Safeguarding and promoting child welfare	Relating, recognising and taking considered action; communication; recording and reporting; personal skills	Legal and procedural frameworks; wider context of services; self knowledge
✓ Supporting transitions	Identifying transitions and providing support	How children & young people respond to change; when and how to intervene
✓ Multi agency working	Communication, teamwork, assertiveness	Your role and remit, how to make queries; procedures and working methods; the law, policies and procedures
✓ Sharing information	Information handling; clear communication and engagement	Importance of information sharing; roles and responsibilities; awareness of complexities; awareness of laws and legislation

Do you follow the ... **Common Induction Processes?**

- ✓ Working in a principled way
- ✓ Promoting equality and diversity
- ✓ Understanding Children & Young People's development
- ✓ Building relationships and communication with Children, Young People and their families
- ✓ Keeping Children & Young people safe from harm
- ✓ Health and safety
- ✓ The processes and tools for integrated working
- ✓ Working with others as part of an integrated team

What is the CVSF & SUSTAiN doing?

We are working with a multi agency team to explore practical ways and methods that the Workforce Plan can operate in Third Sector organisations. In particular Common Skills and Common Induction. We are also exploring how training can be made available where its needed.

But we need more information ... from you !

We need to know who does what, what skills exists, what training is needed and what methods of staff & volunteer induction you currently use. We therefore need you to complete the enclosed short questionnaire and return it by the end of June to:

CVSF Survey, SUSTAiN, 14 Arran Way, Smith's Wood, Solihull, B36 0QG
Or do it online - www.solihull-sustain.org.uk/childrens-voluntary-sector-forum

SUSTAiN and the CVSF is supported by the **Children's Workforce Development Council**



Third Sector (Voluntary & Community) Services Children & Young People

Your Organisation	
Your Name	
Your Position	
Email Address	
Tel. Number	
Briefly describe the service(s) you provide to children & young people	

If you cannot give exact numbers, please provide an approximate.

How many children and/or young people use your services (by age)	0 to 4 years old		12 to 14 years old	
	5 to 9 years old		15 to 18 years old	
	10 & 11 years old		19 to 25 years old	
What % age have a learning disability?				%
What % age have a physical disability?				%

How many people provide services directly to children and/or young people (exclude staff or volunteers working in Admin)	Full Time Paid	Part Time Paid	Full Time Voluntary	Part Time Voluntary

Common Core of Skills & Knowledge	How would you rate your organisations understanding?				
1. Effective communication and engagement	High	Good	Fair	Low	None
2. Child and Young Person development	High	Good	Fair	Low	None
3. Safeguarding and promoting child welfare	High	Good	Fair	Low	None
4. Supporting transitions	High	Good	Fair	Low	None
5. Multi agency working	High	Good	Fair	Low	None
6. Sharing information	High	Good	Fair	Low	None

Does your Induction you provide cover the following? – Tick (✓) for yes	Staff	Volunteers
Working in a principled way		
Promoting equality and diversity		
Understanding Children & Young People's development		
Building relationships and communication with Children, Young People and their families		
Keeping Children & Young people safe from harm		
Health and safety		
The processes and tools for integrated working		
Working with others as part of an integrated team		

Please give examples of any formal qualifications your staff or volunteers have

Is there any specific training you are interested in receiving?

Are you able to provide training to other organisations? If so, what?

Attach an additional sheet if you need to.