

ECM Essentials

Children's Trusts

Helping facilitate success

After a year of development with local authorities, INTEC is pleased to introduce an important new solution for those managing children's trusts –
ECM Essentials: Children's Trusts.

Children's trusts bring together all services for children and young people in an area. This makes identifying and addressing both the anxieties of constituent managers, and the professional development needs of a wide range of practitioners, a complex process. In addition, the Children Act 2004 requires trusts to provide evidence of the extent to which they are facilitating a unified approach.

ECM Essentials: Children's Trusts helps trust managers to:

- » create a unified management perspective
- » identify potential barriers to progress
- » identify professional development needs at the point of delivery
- » deliver focused, needs-driven professional development.

This important resource provides key tools for strategic managers to help increase the capacity of those within the trust's region who manage and deliver. It enables all involved to cope with the challenge of providing more integrated, responsive and specialist support, all accessed through universal services.

ECM Essentials: Children's Trusts assumes that leaders and practitioners are increasingly:

- » working in multi-disciplinary teams
- » seeking collaborative training to tackle cultural and professional divides
- » learning to use a lead professional model where many disciplines are involved
- » dealing with colleagues who are probably co-located, perhaps in extended schools or children's centres.

ECM Essentials: Children's Trusts comprises two practical tools, **ECM Priority** and **ECM Profile**, and a supplementary CPD programme.

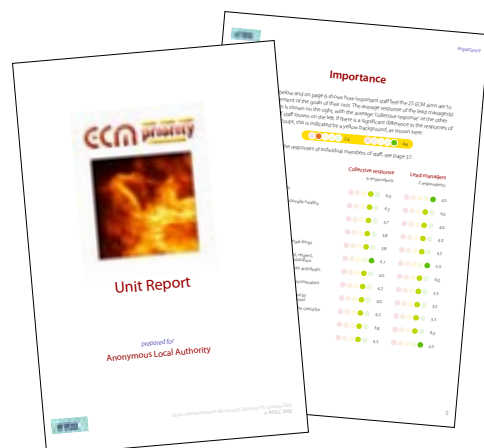


Outcome 1

Unified perspectives

A unified approach requires that all managers share the same vision and feel able to undertake day-to-day control of decisions and resources, while maintaining the necessary high-level accountability for meeting their statutory duties.

ECM Priority helps ensure that such features are in place and provides evidence to demonstrate that this is the case.



Outcome 2 Identifying development needs

ECM Profile is designed to help assess the core competences needed to cover Every Child Matters (ECM) and fill in any gaps. It is a simple but sophisticated self-evaluation tool which helps to catalyse improved practice. It provides analysis of each individual practitioner's activity and confidence with respect to the skills and knowledge contained in the *Common Core of Skills and Knowledge for the Children's Workforce* (Common Core prospectus).

ECM Profile offers a chance to celebrate good practice, and to find out where and how provision might be improved.

Case study

A flagship children's trust in East Anglia is using elements of **ECM Essentials** with its cross-service management team and professionals in widely different settings to help ensure a concerted, balanced approach. By mapping shared development needs, targeted training can be combined with essential team building.



Outcome 3 Addressing development needs

ECM Essentials: Children's Trusts also includes a set of simple and effective resources which will enable managers of services or activities to address any development needs identified. This may particularly be in areas required for effective multi-agency collaboration, such as sharing information and ensuring that children stay safe from harm.

The materials enable any organisation or individual to ensure that they have the skills, knowledge and understanding required to meet the Common Core prospectus, and to improve the support that they give to children and young people. By making these materials available, children's trusts can demonstrate the practical support that they are giving to raise standards.



a set of simple and effective resources