

# Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership Executive

## Minutes of a meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2007

### PRESENT

Catherine Fitt	Executive Director Children's Services (Chair)
Alan Wallace	Partnership Manager, Learning & Skills Council
Helen Cavanagh	Transformational Change Lead, Children Services
Shirley Chambers	Children's Fund Manager
Tom Adams	Chief Executive, Children North East
Don Irving	Head of Play and Youth, Children's Services
Karen Simmons	Acting Head of Children's Social Care
Maurya Cushlow	Executive Director of Community Services, PCT
Rod Stapley	Youth Offending Team manager
Nick Cott	Lead Member Children's Services
Carole Shipley	Directorate Manager, Children's Services, NUTH
Carol Hambling	C&YPSP Coordinator

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### IN ATTENDANCE

Danielle Jeffries	Minute Taker
Nick Brereton	Attended for Item 4
Barbara Gates	Attended for Item 11

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### APOLOGIES

Ruth Rogan	Head of Children's Social Care
Heidi Douglas	Streetwise Manager
Julia Bayes	Head Teacher St. John's Primary School
Gerard Murphy	Head Teacher, St Cuthbert's High School
Bob Ryan	Northumbria Police
Aileen Fitzgerald	Head of C & F Commissioning, Newcastle PCT
Sara Morgan-Evans	Local Connexions Manager, Newcastle
Dave Clegg	Head of Education, Children's Services
Nick Springham	Public Health
Jan Cole	Service Manager, NTW NHS Trust

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#### 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

1.1 Apologies were received as listed above.

#### 2. COORDINATORS REPORT

2.1 CH informed the Executive of the Government consultation document on Staying Safe. The document discusses government response to concerns around child safety while allowing children the freedom to play and develop.

**ACTION: Comments to CH or Sue Kirkley sue.kirkley@newcastle.gov.uk**

2.2 CH has amended the Thresholds document for Social Care. The document is to be considered by the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). The document was approved by the Executive. Practice regarding seeking advice from Social Care without making a referral will be clarified.

2.3 The Aiming High for Young People Strategy has been published with key themes of; Empowerment, Equality of Access and Quality of Services. The government will be funding £185 Million across the UK over the next 3 years and have made a commitment to Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds. The money is expected to allow every “constituency” to have ‘places to go’ for young people by 2018. Newcastle is looking to establish a city centre hub for young people with, if possible, satellites in localities.

2.4 CH gave a brief summary of progress on the Governance Agreement and invited members to contact her with feedback. The Governance Agreement is out for consultation until 20<sup>th</sup> September.

**ACTION: All members to contact CH to discuss Governance Arrangements**

2.5 Lifting the Burdens is a task force established to tackle the bureaucratic burdens on Local Government. Deb Tyler is collating Newcastle’s response.

**ACTION: Please contact CH or Deb Tyler with feedback.**

2.6 Dcs&f have announced the continuation of the Children’s Fund at current levels of funding for the next 3 years.

2.7 When young people under 16 years are admitted to adult mental health wards the incident must now be logged as ‘A Serious Untoward Incident’ and reviewed immediately. Where the young person is aged 16 or 17 the incident must be logged through the incident reporting systems. The Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Trust had 14 occasions where young people were admitted to adult wards last year.

2.8 A research report has been published exploring the contribution of Sure Start programmes to Safeguarding work and the Stay Safe objectives.

**ACTION: All members to contact CH for a copy of the report.**

### **3. FORWARD PLAN AND EVENTS CALENDAR**

3.1 AW suggested 14-19 Commissioning for September.

**ACTION: Any suggestions or amendments to the forward plan to CH.**

3.2. The date of the APA inspection and the dates of the Teenage Pregnancy work are to be noted on the events calendar.

**ACTION: Any changes/ updates to CH.**

#### 4. PARTICIPATION WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

4.1 NB provided an update on progress in the implementation of the Participation Strategy. Investing in Children have now appointed a new casual team to support individual pieces of work. The Voices Project is based with Investing in Children and Youth and Youth Engagement at Archbold House to create a 'Participation Unit'. The teams will be changing venue in the next few months. 46 projects now have Investing in Children membership. A Participation Steering Group has been established to bring together people who can influence change. An early priority was access to leisure for Children and Young People with disabilities.

An example of the work is;

- A pilot of 30 leisure places for young people with disabilities where a specific member of staff was identified to welcome them to integrated leisure provision and resolve practical issues that might be a barrier to inclusion and provide reassurance to families etc.
- Integration and easier access for children and young people who can take part in leisure activities with their peers.
- The provision and promotion of specialist leisure activities.

4.2 The Executive requested an evaluation of this work and feedback to the C&YPSP Executive later in the year.

**ACTION: NB to take establish monitoring arrangements**

The next issue the steering group will be focussing on is Road Safety

4.3 The 'Listening to Young People' Strategy has been drafted and is currently being revised, to be presented to C&YPSP Executive in November. The work will need support from Early Years. CF and MC suggested using Children's Centres to assist taking this work forward and approaching Helen Woods-Waters when she commences post or Janette Brown/Jayne Moules in the interim to identify a lead for the work. The Executive agreed the work would sit with Children's Centres.

4.4 NB cited the Big Lottery work around play and U Decides as excellent evidence of decisions influenced by young people. CF asked if there would be feedback on impact on outcomes as part of the overarching review of Play Strategy. NB informed the board that Big Lottery will request monitoring and feedback but that criteria have not yet been released.

**ACTION: SC to monitor impact on outcomes of Big Lottery projects**

4.5. U Decide is a very positive project which has been referenced in government documents as an example of good practice. The government recommends that

25% of commissioning is influenced by young people by 2018. TA suggested the use of technology to increase the number of young people who can participate in decision making. NB informed the Executive that the team have been involving schools and hope to have information on Alreet.com to engage more young people in participatory budgeting. SC suggested links with the library service for free access to IT outside of school. DI informed the Executive of a pilot last year which accessed 13 schools for information and received 700 responses from young people. HC suggested involving Graham Welch, ICT Business Consultant. NB explained that the 3 locality areas will pilot 3 different methods of participatory budgeting in year 2. NC suggested extending participation with young people to decide how money is spent at ward level.

4.6 NB informed the Executive of significant developments made by Investing in Children including access to free sports activities for all young people. The Executive felt it was important that when Leisure Services report back to the public that young people are aware the provision was made based on their own priorities and recommendations.

**ACTION: NB to contact Tony McKenna to ensure focus on C&YP priorities in feedback.**

4.7 CF reminded the Executive that people need to be aware of new processes of commissioning and that it is a very positive process. HC asked NB to ensure Helen Warriner is aware of the U Decide pilot of the participatory budgeting system.

**ACTION: HC to facilitate NB to meet commissioning group to ensure they are fully aware of U Decide pilot.**

DI reminded NB to ensure that the work joins up with Youth Opportunities fund and work with UK Youth Parliament.

**ACTION: NB to reference Youth Opportunity Fund progress in documents.**

**ACTION: DI to give NB summary on other updates e.g. Youth Parliament.**

4.8 NB informed the Executive that the team are looking into ways to alleviate budget pressures as costs increase year on year. SC informed the group that the Children's Society may have funding for participation. CF suggested that as new monies become available there would be a commissioning process which would be open to voluntary and statutory sector.

4.9 TA asked if there was an ongoing city council press campaign around positive and involving work such as this. NB said Investing in Children have links with Newcastle Partnership's press office and Jayne Byrne of City Council. CF informed the Executive of Children's Services agreement with City Life for a number of pages to be filled by Children's Services in each edition so there should be capacity to promote any events or progress citywide.

**ACTION: Any information for next edition of Participation Matters to NB.**

4.10 CF informed the Executive of the assurance by Children's Services that all commissioning will include a commitment to participation of children, young

people, parents and carers that can be evidenced. TA suggested requiring all providers to have a participation strategy

4.11 There was discussion of the commissioning process. From April 2008 the aim is to offer 3 year Service Level Agreements (SLAs). TA said there was a perceived split in the voluntary sector with some small organisations struggling to cope with changes to commissioning procedures and contractual changes, while larger ones have more capacity to comply with the new obligations and felt positive about the security of 3 year SLAs. NC suggested looking into ways to satisfy both needs including the possibility of a smaller pot of money to assist core funding of smaller organisations. The Executive felt there would not be an issue assisting smaller organisations with core funding as long as their work impacts on objectives.

4.12 The differences in the grant aid process between organisation and within the City Council were discussed and NC said he would like children's services to more closely aligned with the City Council process.

**ACTION: DJ to arrange meeting with Barry Rowlands, CH, NC, CF, KS, DI, SM-E**

4.12 NB encouraged the Executive to read circulations from Investing in Children  
**ACTION: All members to contact DJ for a copy of the U Decide DVD.**

## **5. PARTICIPATION WITH PARENTS AND CARERS**

Item deferred as Jacqui Adams is on sick leave and Janette Brown is on annual leave.

## **6. YOUTH STRATEGY UPDATE**

6.1 The Integrated Youth Strategy conference held on 11<sup>th</sup> May was a success with more than 80 participants and more than 35 organisations from the statutory and voluntary sector. The notes from the conference have now been circulated. The conference workshops were based on 4 key themes;

- Resources- reviewing and reallocating current funds
- Commissioning- What does it mean? What will the future hold?
- Leadership- how do we take work forward?
- Effective communication- keeping everyone on board.

6.2 The Working Group are meeting monthly and are building links with Connexions LMC and the Steering Group. SM-E is taking the lead on targeted support. A 10 year strategy 'Aiming High for Young People' has been produced by the government, which included promotion of a 'youth hub' in each constituency (not clear if constituency refers to parliamentary constituency or local authorities). DI was positive about the strategy as there are many similarities between the Aiming High and Newcastle's own strategy. CF informed the Executive that Newcastle will be actively looking at other Local Authorities

commissioning models and strategies to ensure Newcastle's progress remains in line with or ahead of other Local Authorities.

**ACTION: DI to send summary of Aiming High to DJ. DJ to circulate.**

## **7. LEITCH AND REVIEW OF SKILLS**

7.1 The Leitch Report was commissioned by the government to establish what the UK needs to do to continue to build the economy and suggested a system driven by the needs of people and employers. The report aims for; high quality, ambitious targets and simplified systems to underpin the delivery of skills. The research underpinning the findings suggests;

- Prosperity in the UK is driven mainly by employment not productivity
- The UK has high rates of employment but relatively low rates of productivity
- The level of skills in the UK is at best 'Average'
- UK is 17<sup>th</sup> out of 30 countries for people with low/ no qualifications
- The UK is 17<sup>th</sup> out of 23 for rate of young people staying in non-compulsory education.

However the UK is 11<sup>th</sup> out of 30 for high qualifications which indicates that when UK residents stay in learning they go on to achieve higher level skills.

7.2 There has been a significant change in recent years with a reduction in the UK's percentage of the global economy, with predictions for 2015 indicating the continuation of this trend. In real terms the population of the UK is getting older and the birth rate is reducing. It is predicted that 75% of the 2020 workforce are all ready in the workforce, but the UK invests little in increasing the productivity of people once in the workforce.

7.3 The Leitch report suggests the following key aspirations; elimination of the productivity gap would add £80billion to UK GDP. Elimination of the productivity gap with Ireland would be equivalent to being able to work 4 days instead to 5. UK skills are weak in comparison to international standards and require a commitment from the government in order to become a world leader in skills.

7.4 The Demand Led system ensures young people have a choice of and entitlement to learning and encourages young people to take vocational options including the new diplomas available from 2008. In Newcastle the 14-19 partnership is developing the diplomas for delivery from September 2008. National Learning Accounts are being developed for adult learners as well as a new careers service. Employers are to be encouraged to raise employee skills levels to at least Level 2. NCC and LSC have signed up to the 'Skills Pledge' to raise all employees' skills levels to Level 2. The work will be quality monitored to manage and identify levels of performance. A 'Framework for Excellence' has been developed to be graded by self assessment and reviewed by inspecting bodies.

7.5 The government have been considering how to deliver the vital recommendations from Leitch including;

- 'Centres for Skills', possibly to include one in each region.
- Strengthen the development of Skills Councils
- Meeting employer needs
- Development of 'Skills for Jobs' re-engaging people back into workforce

7.6 TA informed the Executive of the difficulties faced by small organisations to fund training, particularly in the voluntary sector. AW informed the Executive of the support available via the LSC for staff without a Level 2 qualification and that the option of piloting Level 3 training assistance is being reviewed. An issue was raised in the Transforming Outcomes board about specifying the Level of skill and individual needs to deliver. RS informed the Executive that there are issues for the YOT as many of the young people they work with are socially excluded and will be subject to a relatively long timescale to reach desired levels. RS feels many educational establishments view accepting young people with complex issues as a risk.

7.7 AW was asked whether LSC specifically caters for parents and carers as a client group with a look to improving aspirations of children and young people. However the LSC groups parents and carers as; people who hope to be supported back into the workforce or those wishing to improve their skills in the workforce rather than as a separate group.

## **8. BIG LOTTERY PLAY UPDATE**

No issues were raised under this item.

## **9. CHILDREN'S FUND: NEXT STEPS**

9.1 The report on the future of the Children's Fund has now been released. Funding is to stay at the current level for the next 3 years. SC has met with two locality managers and proposed the establishment of a small working group to discuss how to distribute funding and will use the first year as a transition year and allocate for one year only. CF updated SC and the C&YPSP Executive by saying she has requested decisions for 3 years of funding be operational by April 2008.

9.2 From April 2008 CF wants to commission services for early intervention for ages 5-13 for up to 3 years. The changes have been discussed by CF, HC and Jamie Spence and the Transforming Outcomes Board. CF informed the Executive that the locality managers will lead the commissioning process. The commissioning of services for 3 years against the Early Intervention strategy should evidence what has been put in to projects and their eventual outcomes. This will require capacity to undertake actual commissioning. SC informed the Executive that there will be funding through the Area Based Grant but the extent

and detail of the funding are not yet known, it may include provision for administration.

9.4 The commissioning group have been informed that Newcastle's commissioning strategy must be ready to roll out before the end of 2007 in order for its use by April 2008. CF thanked everyone who had responded positively to the working group meeting.

## **10. INTERIM FUNDING REPORT**

10.1 SC informed the Executive that the Interim Funding report was produced after discussions around the Commissioning Strategy Outcomes Workstream. The report has established what funding will be ending in March 2008 and identifies; each funding stream, what is funded, how much money is involved and whether there are other funding streams available to continue funding the projects.

10.2 SC asked the Executive how the information should be shared with commissioning managers. SC felt the work had been moving forward well but had concerns that information must be shared to ensure awareness of projects and services which will be decommissioned. SC explained the impact the loss of one funding stream can have and asked that by January when the budgets have been set that all services are aware of the impacts of the ending of funding streams.

**ACTION: CH to send Dave Baharie a copy of Interim Funding Report.**

10.3 The Executive discussed the future of the Children's Fund as the fund provides much of the early intervention funding for 5-13 year olds and sits alongside Lottery Play money. The Lottery funding is citywide and will attempt to address play deficits across the localities.

10.4 The Executive discussed the progress with New Deal for Communities. Janette Brown met with workers from the Benwell Youth Intervention Project (YIP) which works to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour and is also funded by Newcastle Children's Fund. The work done by the project has been praised but the funding from NDC will not continue and the service is at risk. This situation may be replicated across a number of services. Janette Brown will be looking into how the money is distributed and look for solutions with New Deal. CF felt the decisions made by the New Deal which impact on children and young people should be informed by Children's Services. CF felt involvement in decision making for New Deal should be reviewed and that the Executive should recommend an appropriate representative from Children's Services.

**Action: CH to check representation on NDC Board**

10.5 RS informed the Executive that up to 30% of the YOTs budget may be ending in March 2008. The funding streams are currently subject to a complex spending review and a ministerial shake-up.

10.6 The proposals for commissioning include;

- Locality managers to commission services on a locality basis
- Locality managers to decide if specific services are to be commissioned citywide in line with locality and strategic plan
- Champions for different strands are to ensure what is proposed is sensible.

CF has requested diagrams to show how the commissioning process should work in order to assist discussion.

## 11. NRF 2008/9

11.1 The NRF report sets out what is currently known about NRF Round 4. In NRF Round 3 there was not a specific children and young people's theme, however, a large number of projects were supported by NRF which impact on children and young people. Round 4 of NRF will focus on fewer geographical areas and the main themes will be; Economy and Education. The announcement of funding and criteria is yet to be made.

11.2 BG drew the Executive's attention to the report which identified all the projects from Round 3 which have impacted on young people. The team have divided the projects into four categories;

- Complete- no further resource required
- Require full NRF support to continue
- Partial NRF (tapering) support required
- Project to be mainstreamed – no further resources required

It is expected that priorities for Round 4 of NRF will aligning clearly to the priorities of the Local Area Agreement.

11.3 CF raised issues with the NRF funding procedures including; inequality of access as funding is not available citywide, the difficulty of the application process, and the issues arising from commissioning outside of C&YPSP Executive priorities. CF felt that all commissioning for children and young people should come through C&YPSP Executive.

11.4 BG welcomed closer partnership working and informed the Executive that the NRF team would like to have a representative from C&YPSP Executive to assist with budgetary decisions. It was agreed that CH should be representative; to focus on priorities of C&YPSP Executive and to assist in making processes more user-friendly. CF asked CH to set out basic rules to access funding and clear criteria to ensure impact on outcomes.

**ACTION: CH to send NRF report to Dave Baharie.**

11.5 NC asked if NRF criteria are aligned to Every Child Matters (ECM) priorities. BG informed the Executive ECM is embedded in the work of NRF and that the appraisal process links projects to Every Child Matters in order to receive funding.

## 12. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

12.1 As the Executive was no longer quorate the minutes of the previous meeting will be approved at the C&YPSP Executive meeting in September.

## 13. MATTERS ARISING

13.1 No issues were raised under this item.

## 14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 The 10 year Crime Strategy document was discussed. RS informed the Executive he felt the document was particularly useful. The strategy discusses themes around prevention which are important to the C&YPSP Executive.

14.2 The Respect agenda has been moved to sit with Department for Children Schools and Families from Youth Justice and these changes may affect the work of the YOT.

**ACTION: Please contact CH for a copy of 10 Year Crime Strategy.**

Item	Action	Lead	Due Date
1	Any comments/ feedback on Staying Safe to CH or Sue Kirkley	All Members	Oct 2007
2	Contact CH to discuss Governance Arrangements	All Members	20.9.07
3	Contact CH or Deb Tyler with feedback on Lifting the Burdens	All members	10.9.07
4	Contact CH for copy of Sure Start research report	All members	18.9.07
5	Contact CH re suggestions/ amendments to Forward Plan	All members	18.9.07
6	Contact CH for amendment/ additions to Events Calendar	All members	18.9.07
7	Establish monitoring arrangements for access to leisure by children with disabilities	Nick Brereton	Oct. 2007
8	Monitor impact on outcomes of Big Lottery projects	Shirley Chambers	ongoing
9	Contact Tony McKenna to ensure focus on C&YP priorities in feedback re free access to leisure	Nick Brereton	asap
10	Facilitate NB to meet commissioning group to ensure they are fully aware of new system	Helen Cavanagh	asap

<b>11</b>	Reference Youth Opportunity Fund in documents	Nick Brereton	asap
<b>12</b>	Give NB a summary re Youth Parliament	Don Irving	18.9.07
<b>13</b>	Send information for next edition of Participation Matters to NB	All members	ongoing
<b>14</b>	Arrange meeting with Barry Rowlands, NC, CF, CH, KS, DI, SM-E	Danielle Jeffries	asap
<b>15</b>	Contact DJ for a copy of U Decide DVD	All Members	ongoing
<b>16</b>	Send DJ copy of Aiming High summary. DJ to circulate.	Don Irving/ Danielle Jeffries	asap
<b>17</b>	Send Dave Baharie a copy of Interim Funding Report	Carol Hambling	asap
<b>18</b>	Send copy of NRF report to Dave Baharie	Carol Hambling	asap
<b>19</b>	Contact CH for a copy of 10 Year Crime Strategy	All Members	ongoing
Date of the next meeting: Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> September 2007. Meeting to be held Room 5, Springfield Centre 09:15-12:00			