

Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership Executive

Minutes of a meeting held on 19th March 2007

PRESENT

Ruth Rogan	:	Social Services (Chair)
Tom Adams	:	Children North East
Alan Wallace	:	Learning & Skills Council
Don Irving	:	Play and Youth
Nick Cott	:	Councillor
Shirley Chambers	:	Children's Fund
Julia Bayes	:	Head Teacher St. John's Primary
Helen Cavanagh	:	Transformational Change Lead
Gerard Murphy	:	Head Teacher, St Cuthbert's High
Dave Clegg	:	Education

IN ATTENDANCE

Carol Hambling	:	C&YPSP Coordinator
Danielle Jeffries	:	Minute Taker
Di Robertson	:	D&A Commissioning Manager Item 7
Simon Eedle	:	Barnardos Item 7
Caroline Thomas	:	Performance Item 6
Helen Warriner	:	Education Finance Item 6
Deb Tyler	:	Education Item 5
Sarah Jackson	:	Children's Services Item 9

APOLOGIES

Bob Ryan	:	Northumbria Police
Catherine Fitt	:	Executive Director Children's Services (chair)
Heidi Douglas	:	Streetwise
Rod Stapley	:	Youth Offending Team
Sara Morgan-Evans	:	Connexions
Maurya Cushlow	:	Newcastle PCT
Nick Springham	:	Public Health
Aileen Fitzgerald	:	Newcastle PCT

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received as listed above.

2. COORDINATORS REPORT

CH gave a brief summary of the coordinators report to the Executive informing the group of the Development Day in May which suggested Friday 25th May. The

development Day will focus on the review of the C&YP plan. There was a brief discussion about fitting any feedback from the development day in with the political process as the review needs to be with Ofsted by 14th June.

ACTION: CH to try to reschedule development day for earlier in May.

From April 2008 the revised Local Authority Agreement Arrangements will come into effect which will establish more formal arrangements between LAs and named partners. There will be a reduction in the overall number of targets which will include the 18 existing statutory education and early years targets.

Deb Tyler is to attend a seminar with Mark Friedman on the implementation of Outcome Accountability on 17th April. There will be further 'Train the Trainers' events on 23rd and 24th April, Newcastle has 4 places on this course.

Confirmation has been received for the ContactPoint implementation grant for 2007/8, the funding will support preparation for Section 12 of the Children Act 2004.

There will be a Parenting Event on 18th June at St James' Park, invitations will be sent to all Executive members.

There will be a Voluntary Sector Reference Group event on 21st May, the morning is for the voluntary sector and the afternoon provides an opportunity for the voluntary sector to discuss issues with Catherine Fitt.

3. FORWARD PLAN

No issues were raised for the 2007 Forward Plan.

4. HOMELESS FAMILIES

There was a meeting held on 2nd March to discuss families in Temporary Accommodation Services. The meeting discussed how to take the strategy forward and raised several issues including;

- How to develop services specifications
- Allocation of funding
- Identifying separate leads for buildings and for services.
- difficulties getting all outcome leads to attend meeting

The executive were asked to make a decision regarding the Lead for services. Linda Mason had volunteered, the Executive approved this recommendation.

ACTION: TA will liaise with LM re lead on services,

ACTION: DT to make funding part of the reviewing process as a Children's Trust issue.

It was decided to review progress at C&YPSP Executive Board and the Housing Board quarterly.

ACTION: CH to add a progress report on implementation of the strategy to the Forward Plan.

There was a discussion about commissioning issues. There are many under resourced strategies at present. This can result in NCC & NPCT trying to fill gaps in funding for services. It was suggested that there needs to be clarity about how strategies will be funded in the review of the NC&YP Plan.

5. REVIEW OF NEWCASTLE CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE PLAN

The Local Authority has a statutory obligation to review the C&YPP each year that it does not publish a new plan. There is a new duty to bring schools under the plan and make links more coherent. Schools will be expected to promote community cohesion and the wellbeing of students. The review must be submitted by 14th June 2007.

Newcastle's review is currently underway with regard to the initial process and priorities. The review is informed by: progress against key indicators, the delivery of strategies and the results of internal and external inspection and assessments.

There have been several events which have already contributed to the review of the Plan including the C&YPSP Conference and development days and the Annual SCOPE conference. The review should establish the priorities for 2007-8, link resources explicitly with what is to be achieved. The board discussed issues with priorities as once a service is achieving and a target has 'turned the curve' it may no longer be an area of high need and there is a danger that it will no longer be seen as a priority and loose funding whereas the funding was needed to maintain the success. Suggestions to avoid this included:

- Identifying non-priorities, services which are not essential
- Identifying services which use resources but are not improving outcomes
- Establishing more strategic funding from all agencies.
- Identifying how services impact on priorities

HC informed the board that the JAR feedback said Newcastle delivered minimum requirements across the board' hence cutting services to achieve these gains may be incredibly difficult. Targets for other agencies may not match our own which may raise issues with multi-agency working and the allocation of resources.

Each strategy should have detailed information on how the strategy will impact on the priorities and outcomes of Every Child Matters.

ACTION: DT to include JAR action plan in published document of the C&YP Plan review

In the discussion about SCOPE there was concern expressed about the drop in attendance at SCOPE from schools, particularly Secondary schools

ACTION: JB and GM to ask schools why they didn't attend the SCOPE conference when the summary is circulated.

ACTION: DC to pick up the issue in Network Meetings with Schools

6. COMMISSIOING STRATEGY (PROGRESS REPORT)

CT took everyone through the progress report about the development of the Commissioning Strategy. Progress and the challenges were noted. The transformation is particularly challenging for many reasons including:

- Difficulties tracking resources particularly where they are not controlled by the City Council
- Establishing which funds are spent directly on children & young people (particularly where agencies serve the community as a whole)
- Identifying which agencies contribute to which outcomes and how money is being spent on each individual outcome.

Additional resources have been provided by DfES to develop and align models of commissioning and this work will be completed by March 31st 2007.

SC is the workstream lead for the interim funding overview, which includes current funding streams which are coming to an end and strategies which may not have been flagged where funding may not continue. . It was suggested that there be a timetable regarding what should be done when money 'drops out' or is withdrawn, and how to make short term interim decisions.

The next steps were identified as:

- Finalising work on Quality Assessments
- Contract compliance Aug 2007
- Review existing actions
- Improve communication
- Tackle capacity issues
- Tackle delays and establish links to other projects
- Establish timescales

There was a discussion about how to move the work forward, HW informed the group that outcome leads have a major role to play and that work was to go on

between CF and the Project Board. DC reminded the board that the commissioning strategy must not be divorced from the NC&YPP and that a commissioning process needs to focus on commissioning for outcomes and also be one that communicates effectively with service providers

ACTION: CF to attend the Commissioning Strategy Board

Commissioning in the Voluntary Sector

CH had distributed the paper from Heidi Douglas which gave the example of Streetwise as an agency which has been adversely affected by discontinuation of funds from different agencies. The paper had been briefly discussed at the Voluntary Sector Reference Group and it was felt to illustrate a common experience of the voluntary sector.

AF had asked CH to present her response to the paper in her absence:

- LA and PCT manage CAMHS funding as joint budget and decisions taken explicitly at the CAMHS partnership.
- Funding was clearly non-recurrent
- Contribution of the voluntary sector representative at the partnership is valued

TA suggested that the issues raised in the paper were not about one organisation or partnership but illustrated the issues about commissioning in general and the particular impact on the voluntary sector.

As part of the interim commissioning workstream SC will try to understand the process of making decisions and the impact on different services. SC will be highlighting the issues about funding from diverse sources.

ACTION: CH to circulate the paper from VSRG to HW.

ACTION: Circulate HW's report to Executive (as missed out in papers sent)

7. YOUNG CARERS STRATEGY

SE took people through the strategy and how it was developed. There is a small project funded by NRF and CAMHS which will support the strategy to the end of 2007. SE informed the group that the action plan was ambitious and that there was a need for a longer term costing plan with costings. There are issues putting together a realistic business plan as the number of young carers in Newcastle is still unknown.

Newcastle has had one full time young carers worker which was a signposting role but is now moving into a more direct role including awareness raising work. A new full time worker has just been recruited through NRF, The post will focus

on Hidden Harm issues and on prevention work through primary schools. From 1st April 2007 SE will be managing these roles part time.

CT asked if young carers could be identified on CareFirst to enable Children's and Adult's Services to support them more fully.

ACTION: DR/SE to feedback information on young carers to CT

SE discussed the barriers facing the services, many young carers are not identified by Social Services and may not even identify themselves as carers. The service has, increasingly, been advertising itself and is trying to establish links with primary schools, where links with families are usually closer, in a preventative capacity including raising staff and young people's awareness.

JB raised concerns that due to limited resources there may be an issue with raising expectations for young carers who cannot be assisted. SE explained that young people with caring responsibilities do not reach their potential and that the Young Carers Service plays a preventative role allowing young people to achieve their potential and 'level the playing field'.

SE suggested that increasing the capacity of universal services to identify and support young carers was critical e.g. schools will support young people they have identified as carers including a non-punitive response to young people who's caring roles have affected their attendance and punctuality as well as referring the young people to suitable services who may be able to assist them. GM identified need for Secondary schools to be given transitional information from Primary schools to enable them to continue supporting young people when they change schools. GM/JB explained that additional support is available to young people if their needs are identified but they are aware that many young carers are not identified.

TA discussed ongoing issues from providing support for young carers, including:

- Lack of strategic view of how to provide support
- Historically piecemeal funding leading to
 - Withdrawal of services
 - Raised expectations without support.

TA suggested that the services need to be defined and provided before accurate numbers of young carers will be established.

CT reminded the group that this issue is shared responsibility between Children's and Adults Social Services as many of the young carers will be caring for adult services service users. There may be young people who have taken on caring for siblings as the parent is not taking on that role, these young people may be harder to identify as their parent may not be a service user.

There are direct links between the Young Carers Service work and the work lead by Sue Miller there may be some scope for cutting across the family support theme.

ACTION: SE/DR to return to Executive in October for update on development of annual business plan

ACTION: CH to update forward plan

There was a brief discussion about where the work sits within universal or targeted services and the links to priorities. The JAR had suggested that the work sat with make a positive contribution but it was felt there may also be links to Early Intervention and Prevention, Parenting work and adult services.

ACTION: DR/SE to consider where the work sits and discuss with outcome leads.

8. **JOINT AREA REVIEW**

DC gave the board feedback on the JAR and suggested that the feedback be read in conjunction with CF's letter as it gives context to the assessment of the progress of the directorate. DC informed the group that all 5 outcomes were 'adequate' or 'fit for purpose' with no significant weakness in any of the outcomes and a 'good' capacity to improve. CF has given SJ a summary of the recommendations from the inspection which was circulated at the meeting

ACTION: CH to circulate CF's JAR summary.

9. **TRANSFORMING OUTCOME PROGRAMME (BENEFITS REVIEW)**

Since March 2006 the lead officers have identified pieces of work which are now being delivered which are linked with JAR and NC&YPP. Individual project managers gave feedback on progress, issues faced and forward plan for 2007-8. CF attended the Theme Board meeting to hear the feedback. SJ is compiling a summary of the structure and will build this into the final review.

ACTION: For copies of the theme plan members are asked to contact SJ.

Achievements included the development of a new governance structure is to be put in place across Children's Services. There has been a significant amount of preparation for ContactPoint and the feedback indicates that Newcastle is making good progress compared to other areas. The JAR feedback rated the planning for the inspection as 'exceptional'.

Following the programme review the communication theme will complete its current work and close. Delivering Outcomes is being reshaped to take account of locality working. The workforce strategy will become a theme in its own right to take account of the scale and complexity of the project.

The challenges the Transforming Outcome Programme faces include;

- Resource issues,
- The impact of the JAR
- How to develop working with partners in transformation.
- How the relationship between C&YPSP, Newcastle Partnership and LSCB works
- Decommissioning services which are not fit for purpose
- Working with other agencies to ensure training and ICT access is available across Children's Services
- Ensuring transformation is a priority to all partners and agencies
- Ensuring health as a sector achieves effective representation.

The early projects are now coming to completion and feedback from these projects will be built into the forward plan.

ACTION: Comments on the review to be sent to SJ/HC to include in review.

ACTION: Updated structure to be circulated to Executive once finalised.

AW suggested that limited engagement from some partners was appropriate as they did not deal with whole of children's agenda. Transformation programme could be more specific about the type of engagement required and where. AW also felt it would be beneficial to increase awareness in Information sharing theme of how other agencies function.

SC informed the group of capacity issues facing smaller voluntary sector organisations as there is not funding available to be engaged in workstreams.

TA also felt there was under-representation of the voluntary sector in the voluntary sector reference group and giving feedback on workstreams. TA felt it was important to have voluntary sector members of Theme Boards attend the voluntary sector reference group.

ACTION: TA to invite representatives from Theme Boards to Reference group.

10. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

The board went over the actions from the previous meeting. All items have been actioned and completed unless otherwise stated.

Action 4. The proposal will be brought to May's executive meeting as CH is on leave in April.

Action 6. CH has emailed Robyn Thomas and will forward the response to TA when it is received.

Action 8. CF NC and others held a meeting on Healthy Eating and are currently working to establish the internal issues. The work is still ongoing.

Action 9. CH has contacted NS who is now a member of the C&YPSP Executive Board and is holding a meeting with MC.

ACTION: CH to follow up.

Action 10. No feedback yet received.

ACTION: CH to check on progress of discussion re inviting foster carers to attend learning choice training events with Melanie Bear.

11. **MATTERS ARISING**

No issues were raised under this item

12. **CORRESPONDANCE**

No issues were raised under this item

13. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No issues were raised under this item

Item	Action	Lead	Due Date
1	Try to reschedule for earlier in May.	CH	30/03/07
2	Liaise with LM,	TA	
3	Ensure funding is part of review of C&YP Plan	DT	
4	Add Homeless Families updates to the Forward Plan	CH	16/04/07
5	Ask schools why they didn't attend the SCOPE conference when the summary is circulated.	JB & GM	

6	Raise attendance at SCOPE in school network meetings	DC	
7	Include JAR action plan in C&YP Plan review	DT	
8	Attend the Commissioning Strategy Board	CF	
9	Circulate paper from VSRG to Helen Warriner.	CH	
10	Circulate commissioning report to Executive	CH	
11	Feedback information on young carers to CT	DR & SE	
12	Business Plan for sustaining Young Carers strategy to be presented in October	SE & DR	
13	Add Young Carers Updates to forward plan	CH	
14	Consider where the work on the young carers strategy should be and discuss with outcome leads.	DR & SE	
15	Circulate CF's JAR summary	CH	
16	For copies of the theme plan members of the C&YPSP are asked to contact SJ	All members	
17	Comments on Transformation Programme to be sent to SJ/HC to include in the review	All members	
18	Updated structure of Transformation Programme to be circulated to Executive	SJ	
19	Invite representative from Theme Board to Voluntary Sector Reference group	TA	
20	Follow up contact with Nick Springham re attendance at the C&YPSP Executive	CH	
21	CH to check on progress of discussion re inviting foster carers to attend learning choice training events with Melanie Bear.	CH	