

Summary of Key Issues 19th March 2007
Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Executive

The Children and Young People's Partnership Executive meets on the third Monday of every month. Minutes of the meeting are available from the Partnership Co-ordinator Carol Hambling (tel: 0191 2777481 or email carol.hambling@newcastle.gov.uk).

Families in Temporary Accommodation tom.adams@children-ne.org

Following approval of the strategy to support families in homeless accommodation in January 2007 a revised action plan was endorsed by the C&YPSP Executive. The Action Plan will be led by Linda Mason on behalf of Children's Services (linda.mason@newcastle.gov.uk) and Neil Munslow on behalf of the Regeneration Directorate of the City Council. Identifying resources for services to support vulnerable families such as those in temporary accommodation will be part of the review of the Children and Young Peoples Plan

Review of Newcastle Children and Young People's Plan deb.tyler@newcastle.gov.uk

The C&YPSP Executive considered the proposals for reviewing the Newcastle Plan for Children and Young People. A range of events to discuss progress in improving outcomes and implementation of the Plan has included a C&YPSP development session, the Headteachers Conference and outcome workshops at the C&YPSP Annual Conference. The Executive decided that the published review of the priorities in the Plan should include the recommendations from the JAR Inspection. An improvement plan will be prepared for each outcome that is highlighted as a priority in the review.

Young Carers Strategy di.robertson@newcastle.gov.uk simon.eedle@barnardos.org.uk

The C&YPSP Executive approved the Young Carers Strategy and Action Plan. Barnardos will manage the young carers service in Newcastle, which will provide support to young carers in greatest needs as well as advice, training and consultancy for staff in universal and targeted services to enable them to provide appropriate support to young carers. The provision of services is likely to lead to more young carers being identified and a key aspect of the Action Plan is to develop a long term funding strategy.

Joint Area Review dave.clegg@newcastle.gov.uk

The C&YPSP Executive received the reports of Joint Area Review and the Enhanced Youth Inspection. The judgement against all the outcomes and service management in the Joint Area Review was that services were adequate (grade 2) and fit for purpose. The capacity to improve of children's services is good (grade 3). City Council Youth Services were judged to be adequate (grade 2). The Inspectors recognised the challenge to services presented by historically low outcomes linked to levels of deprivation. The ambition of children's services was judged to be good and evident in the Newcastle Plan for Children and Young People.

Transforming Outcomes Programme sarah.jackson@newcastle.gov.uk

The C&YPSP Executive approved the review process for the Transformation Programme after its first year. Key achievements and challenges were noted. The programme report had identified a lack of engagement from some partners but the C&YPSP Executive suggested that partners with a narrower remit than the whole of children's services would have less involvement. The programme is currently being reshaped to reflect emerging priorities and recommendations from the JAR Inspection. This will include the workforce strategy becoming a theme in its own right and reshaping the delivering outcomes theme to reflect working in the localities and the delivery of early intervention and prevention. The communication theme will be disbanded and themes use existing communication mechanisms.

Commissioning Strategy helen.warriner@newcastle.gov.uk

The C&YPSP Executive considered an update of progress in developing the Commissioning Strategy. The contract compliance process and quality assurance framework will be completed for August 2007. Capacity issues have hindered progress and Catherine Fitt will meet with the Theme Board in April to discuss the way forward. The DfES is currently offering consultancy to the project and will complete a report by March 31st 2007.

C&YPSP Development Day carol.hambling@newcastle.gov.uk

The next day for the wider partnership to meet will be May 18th 2007