

## Summary of Key Issues 20<sup>th</sup> July 2009

### Children's Trust Board

The Children and Young People's Partnership Executive meet on the third Monday of every month. Minutes of the meeting are available at [www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk](http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk).

#### **Participation and Partnerships** [carol.hambling@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:carol.hambling@newcastle.gov.uk)

The Children's Trust Board received the report of how the Commissioning Partnerships are engaging with children and parents and the impact on the work of each partnership. The range of activity described suggests a richness of participation within some partnerships which is assisting those partnerships to be child and family focused. The Board requested that the gaps identified in the report be addressed as part of the review of Governance Arrangements.

#### **Youth Council** [james.anderson@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:james.anderson@newcastle.gov.uk)

Two representatives from the Youth Council Advisory Group were welcomed to the meeting for a discussion about the proposed Youth Council. The Board endorsed the proposal for a steering group which will be a subgroup of the Participation and Change Steering Group.

#### **Stay Safe and Safeguarding** [sue.kirkley@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:sue.kirkley@newcastle.gov.uk)

The Children's Trust Board welcomed the progress report for the Stay Safe outcome and noted the positive progress against the key indicators. There is continued progress in completing social care assessments within timescales and performance in relation to looked after children and children subject to a Child Protection Plan remain in the "good" or "very good" categories. The rate of referrals to social care has reduced and is in line with statistical neighbours. The Board requested that further work is undertaken with all partners in the Children's Trust with regard to the relationship between the use of the Common Assessment Framework and the thresholds to specialist services.

#### **Partners in Creating Change** [nick.brereton@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:nick.brereton@newcastle.gov.uk)

The Board endorsed the draft participation strategy for children and young people 2009-12 which has an increased focus on the evidence of change in services. The Participation Unit will support services to develop the capacity to engage with young people and will continue to work with young people on the priorities they identify. The Board agreed the proposed reporting arrangements which will include 6 monthly updates on progress and 2 sessions each year for the Board and young people to work together on issues which are a priority for them. Services will be asked to appoint a Participation Champion with responsibility for completing the annual participation and change self assessment. The Board also agreed to adopt the CAF Quality Assurance process as an assessment of how practitioners engaged families.

#### **Participation** [nick.brereton@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:nick.brereton@newcastle.gov.uk)

An update on participation activities with parents and carers and children and young people over the last 6 months was provided to the Children's Trust Board. This included the work with Walbottle Student Voice and a local GP about access to primary health services and a Young Children's Voices network event. Training for parents about participation and the second Annual Conference for parents of children with a disability were successful. The Board agreed the priorities for the Participation Unit working with young people in 2009/10 were the issues raised by children, child poverty, Newcastle Plan for C&YP and targeted youth support. The Board requested that a similar list of priorities is identified for parent and carer participation.

#### **Newcastle Plan for C&YP 2010-13** [deborah.tyler@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.tyler@newcastle.gov.uk)

The Children's Trust Board agreed to establish a task group with representatives from all parts of the Children's Trust to develop the Plan. A priority for participation unit will be enabling children and young people and parents and carers to contribute fully to the new plan.