

# Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Executive Minutes of a meeting held on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> June 2009

## Present:

Catherine Fitt (Chair)	Executive Director of Children's Services, NCC
John Collings	Director of Children's Services, Delivering Outcomes, NCC
Martin Surtees	Director of Children's Services, Performance and Commissioning, NCC
Cllr Nick Cott	Lead Member, Children and Young People, NCC
Carol Hambling	C&YPSP Co-ordinator, NCC
Neil Munslow	Housing Services Manager, NCC
Linda Moore	Vice Principal, Newcastle College
Aileen Fitzgerald	Head of C&F Commissioning, NHS North of Tyne
Ruth Rogan	Head of Children and Young People in the Community, NCC
Jane McFadyen	Head Teacher, Newburn Manor Primary School
Aileen Gilbert	Acting Assistant Director, Action for Children
Rod Stapley	YOT Manager, NCC
Keith Hall	Inspector, Northumbria Police
Danny Ruta	Director of Public Health
Gerard Murphy	Head Teacher, St Cuthbert's RC High School
Dave Smith	Children's Services Advisor, GONE
Jill Robson	Local Partnership Consultant, Job Centre Plus

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## In Attendance:

Tina Lisle	Director's Support Officer – Projects, NCC (minutes)
Melanie Bear	Senior Adviser Student Opportunities & Partnership Manager 14-19, NCC (agenda item 5/minute number 52 only)
Janette Brown	Area Locality Manager, NCC (agenda item 6/minute number 53 only)
Paul Whiston	Regeneration Manager, NCC (agenda item 6/minute number 53 only)

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## Apologies:

Carole Shipley	Directorate Manager, Children's Services, Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals Foundation Trust
Chris Piercy	Associate Director Patient Safety, Quality and Nursing, NHS Newcastle and North Tyneside Community Health
Susan Nelson	Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals Foundation Trust
Jan Brown	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Mental Health Trust
Karen Simmons	Acting Head of Children's Social Care, NCC
Frank Gallop	Superintendent, Northumbria Police
Jeff Hurst	Chief Executive YMCA

## Action

### 48. Welcome and Apologies

C Fitt welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies as listed above.

### 49. Co-ordinator's Report

C Hambling presented her report and the following was noted:

- Ofsted Surveys – for information only
- Voluntary and Community Sector Business Fund – for information only
- Sustainable Communities Project Fund – for information only
- Children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs – As recommended in the Bercow Report it was suggested that a member of the Executive lead on this overseeing a drive to improve outcomes. A Fitzgerald commented that this would usually be done at the Be Healthy Partnership and not at CYPSP Executive level. A Fitzgerald confirmed that she is happy to be the champion for this but will speak to Chris Piercy and Carol Shipley also to see who would be most appropriate to be the designated champion AF
- Supporting Young Peoples Choices and Aspirations: A Strategy for Information, Advice and Guidance for Young People – G Murphy agreed to share this with secondary schools and colleges as well as primary schools via teacher groups. C Hambling agreed to send the full draft guidance to G Murphy and L Moore as requested. It was agreed that the 14-19 Partnership would lead on this and make sure all of the stakeholders are informed and any follow up actions are taken forward. R Stapley clarified that, with regard to young offenders, the Youth Justice Board will be doing the commissioning but was unsure what future arrangements would be. R Stapley to clarify at the next meeting future commissioning and guidance arrangements as well as informing the 14-19 Partnership and the Regional group. L Moore commented that the IAG for offenders are moving forward and will be split between adults and young people but an assumption had been made that the young people part would be picked up by the Local Authority. L Moore and R Stapley to meet further to discuss GM  
CH  
RS  
LM/RS

#### 50. **Forward Plan**

C Hambling tabled an updated plan and requested that items for July be revised as the agenda would be too full. The following was agreed: TL

- Northumbria Police Youth Strategy would be moved to September – K Hall to confirm with Frank Gallop if information can be verbally shared with the Executive at the next meeting KH
- C Hambling reported that she has agreed with Sue Kirkley that there should be more formal reporting of the NSCB at this Executive and therefore the month following each NSCB meeting there will be an item on this agenda. C Fitt added that this would be about the NSCB challenging and informing the Executive. It was suggested that there be two shared development sessions with the NCSB per annum and C Hambling agreed to add this to the Forward Plan when the next Laming guidance is released CH
- Extended Services Through Schools to be moved to August (which will include a RAG report) TL

#### 51. **Children's Trust Governance Review**

C Hambling presented the progress report on the Review of Children's Trust arrangements and it was noted that further guidance about this and children and young people's plans is expected. The following was noted and discussed:

- There has always been a strong participation with children and young people and the participation of parents and carers is improving
- Reps from the Youth Forum will be attending the next meeting to talk about how the Trust will work with them in the future
- There was a conference held week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> June with parents and carers with children with learning difficulties and disabilities
- Risks were discussed and it was noted that children and young people and parents and carers are often put off by the formal arrangements
- The division of responsibility between Strategic, Executive and Operational functions was described and the current gap in how Executive function is realised

The following was agreed:

- The CYPSP Executive would be renamed the "Children's Trust Board"
- An invitation will be extended to Dr David Jones to specific meetings where reports from the Be Healthy Partnership would be discussed
- Representatives from NCVS act as deputies and would attend the meetings if A Gilbert or J Hurst are unable to attend
- A third representative from voluntary sector would be sought with an early years focus
- Cllr Cott suggested that his colleague PJ Murray should also attend the Children's Trust Board meetings – this was agreed
- The YOT Manager would be the representative from this group to the Safe Newcastle Partnership
- C Hambling, J Collings and M Surtees to agree at a separate meeting representation from Newcastle City Council

CH

NC

RS  
CH/JC/  
MS

C Hambling confirmed that any changes raised as part of Laming would be included in the governance arrangements and confirmed that she and Sue Kirkley felt that review arrangements were appropriate.

JC

It was noted that a White Paper on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools is expected and a task group may need to be developed and schools representation throughout the Children's Trust could be reviewed as part of this.

MS

M Surtees will bring proposals in August regarding commissioning and this would include how the Executive function envisaged in Are we there yet could be met.

It was noted that the second stage of the review of governance arrangements will include 360<sup>0</sup> feedback re the impact of Children's Trust.

DT

Governance review proposals should be included in the Newcastle Plan for Children and Young People.

D Smith commented that he currently sits on three other Children's Trust boards in the area and in terms of maturity this is a strength of this Executive as well as how this group monitors the NPCYP and C Fitt added that, in future, all partners would have to provide information regarding what is spent contributing to children and young people and families including external resources.

52. **14-19 Progress Report**

Melanie Bear attended for this item only and presented her report outlining the six strategic aims of the 14-19 Partnership. It was noted that the not known figures are being picked up by the 14-19 Partnership and NEET Board. M Bear confirmed that the Partnership has a break down of information regarding vulnerable groups.

C Fitt thanked M Bear for her report.

53. **Cowgate Strategy**

P Whiston and J Brown attended for this item only. C Fitt gave some background to the Cowgate Strategy explaining how the strategy has been developed linking to locality working. It was acknowledged that any proposed changes to the Cowgate Estate need to be done in partnership. The work to date showed that this will be a gradual process which will include successes and failures. P Whiston reported that:

- A full time Community Development Worker is contacting families to get them involved in the strategy
- A full time Environment Officer has been employed and will be working jointly with fire officers and the police regarding private rented properties
- The local church is on board backing an outreach centre
- A summer play scheme is in place
- Northumbria Police have made available a researcher to map the work being done so it can be used as an example for future use
- A number of enforcement issues were shared on a confidential basis
- A referral system is being developed for all services
- A virtual team is being looked into as well as a dedicated team
- A key person from each agency be identified as the lead so everyone can be kept up to date with progress
- Work has been done on budget holding lead professionals to engage families that are often very difficult to engage with
- Work regarding training and development of Signs of Safety approach has been done looking at what makes a difference when working with difficult families supporting the role of CAF
- Work has been undertaken looking at social research and talking to Adult Services about how risk factors with children and young people and resilience are reduced
- The ECM Matters survey will help to look at the issues on the estate
- Discussion has taken place about the possibility of a "community peer" focussing on prevention and intervention
- The possibility of a parent peer mentorship is being discussed – parents have said that they want to have a change and make a

difference. The parent peer mentor would support parents who would then become volunteers and moving towards employment

- The Play Strategy is looking at putting a Play Animator to introduce structured play onto the estate
- Positive Futures has been operating on the estate but is moving to a different area in the city. It would be possible to buy additional services from Positive Futures to do some diversionary work
- Universal provision will need to be provided for the estate but there needs to be questions about the demand and take up

P Whiston informed the Executive that the draft strategy has been approved by the City Council and suggested that he or J Brown would be happy to discuss the strategy further with any individuals should they wish.

A Fitzgerald commented that there will be families networks on the estate and some funding would be available for networked families and P Whiston confirmed that he has been working with health in relation to the health centre.

N Munslow commented that there needs to be a plan in place for displaced families.

N Cott added that this strategy demonstrates the need for flexibility within areas regarding work being undertaken in terms of ward governance and neighbourhood charters. One concern has been that work between the two has not been aligned and this piece of work may help to do this. It was agreed that Elected Members need to be involved as well as Ward Co-ordinators.

R Rogan stated that, at the stakeholders workshops, a common theme emerged which was that there needs to be some activities for young people.

Everyone to inform Janette Brown of priorities amongst ideas put forward All

Martin and Janette to discuss funding for Cowgate further. Aileen Gilbert may be able to access funding for work on Cowgate MS/Janette Brown

C Fitt commented very positively on the direction of travel of this work and thanked P Whiston and J Brown for their report. AG/Janette Brown

#### 54. **Review of Localities**

J Collings gave a presentation outlining the key findings and recommendations of the review carried out by OPM and agreed to forward the presentation electronically to members. J Collings reported that the key issue is about building locality work around existing cluster and partnership arrangements. It is about looking at what is being done at the frontline linking up with the Council's Corporate Transformation Programme specifically with regard to the proposed Integrated Targeted Services. Some services will continue to run as citywide services but many other services that currently operate as citywide services could be put into multi agency teams co-located in particular areas. It was noted that Option 3 of the report was the recommended way to move forward. JC

## 55. Homeless Families Action Plan Quarterly Review

N Munslow went through the action plan and the following was noted:

- **An agreed target of days (5) for all homeless children to be in school or at an alternative education provision** - 94% met but it is taking 4-6 weeks to get children into school. C Fitt stated that the reasonable delay is 24 hours only and ask N Munslow to look at what needs to be done to improve this. J Collings asked what service is being put into place during the interim period NM
- **All children to have a CAF to be developed by universal services including health/education and supporting people providers** – N Munslow reported the majority of children do not have a CAF when they come to Hill Court
- **All residents to be registered with a GP; Health/HSRG to develop joint protocol with PCT recognising safeguarding issues** – This is working well and is being led by Val Keenan (dedicated health visitor). N Munslow to work with Val Keenan to develop the HSRG group work NM
- **Mainstream funding for children centred work at Hill Court** – This has been secured to the end of this financial year but meetings have been planned to look at the possibility of getting funding in place on a permanent basis
- **Targeted work for all homeless young people to reduce teenage pregnancies and address sexual health issues** – This work has only just begun but it was acknowledged that this work needs to be wider than just Hill Court
- **Access to dispersed accommodation across the city for challenging/complex families working to address issues like anti social behaviour (FIP) – recognised ongoing work re: development of FIT Business Plan** – N Munslow reported that there is differences about how quickly this is happening and suggested that there may be a lack of understanding from community based services about what accommodation is available ie there is no 3 or 4 bedroomed houses waiting to be filled
- **Named liaison and senior support from Children’s Social Care, Education Welfare Service, Health** – This is working well
- **Respond to SCR and develop improved responses to 16-17 year olds living independently** – N Munslow referred the Executive to the letter from Alan Edwards that had been circulated prior to the meeting. C Fitt asked if this group of people is dealt with as children or adults. N Munslow responded that they are mainly dealt with as adults but we need to respond to this group as children. J Collings agreed to make a decision about who would be the senior lead on this. R Stapley commented that the guidance is very helpful in stating how the gap is pieced together and reported that a group ran by Sharon Williams is taking this forward JC

- **Replacement of the Council’s temporary accommodation at Hill Court and NBS** – This was agreed by Executive on the 10<sup>th</sup> June
- **Housing and employment** – This is an ongoing piece of work about pathways towards employment and opportunity
- **Review of housing allocations scheme** – This is ongoing
- **Participation opportunities for homeless children and families** – This is a really positive piece of work undertaken by Janette Brown, Area Locality Manager, NCC. N Munslow agreed to report back to Executive at a future meeting on this piece of work NM

J Collings thanked N Munslow for this work and asked that as the reporting methods develop could they next report include quantitative targets. N Munslow agreed to bring this to the September meeting. NM

Following a question from L Moore, N Munslow confirmed that any queries regarding homelessness should be directed to the Housing Advice Centre and it was agreed that he would prepare a paragraph to be included in J Collings’ newsletter to this effect. NM

**56. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

C Hambling shared with the Executive some changes to the previous minutes as suggested by Becky Dunn. C Fitt commented and the Executive agreed that what was agreed at the previous meeting was that every agency induction would take into account the combined Children’s Services integrated induction which would be included in their own in-house induction. Action for Becky Dunn – to send a copy of the integrated induction programme to C&YPSP Executive. Workforce Reform Board to establish with partners what could be incorporated from integrated induction into agency in-house induction programmes. L Moore commented that it would be helpful to have an electronic recording system of all those who had been through the training. BD  
Workforce  
Reform  
Board

**57. Matters Arising**

Noted.

**58. Any Other Business**

None.