

# Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Executive Minutes of a meeting held on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2009

## Present:

John Collings (Chair)	Director of Children's Services, Delivering Outcomes, NCC
Cllr Nick Cott	Lead Member, Children and Young People, NCC
Carol Hambling	C&YPSP Co-ordinator, NCC
Gerard Murphy	Head Teacher, St Cuthbert's RC High School
Neil Munslow	Housing Services Manager, NCC
Karen Simmons	Acting Head of Children's Social Care, NCC
Linda Moore	Vice Principal, Newcastle College
Aileen Fitzgerald	Head of C&F Commissioning, NHS North of Tyne
Frank Gallop	Superintendent, Northumbria Police
Ruth Rogan	Head of Children and Young People in the Community, NCC
Jan Brown	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Mental Health Trust
Jane McFadyen	Head Teacher, Newburn Manor Primary School
Ray Malecki	Partnership Manager – Newcastle, LSC
Pam Jobbins	NCVS/Voluntary Youth Sector Forum
Susan Nelson	Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals Foundation Trust
Aileen Gilbert	Acting Assistant Director, Action for Children
Barry Irving	Learning and Skills Council

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## In Attendance:

Tina Lisle	Director's Support Officer – Projects, NCC (minutes)
Andy Roberts	Children and Young People's Joint Health Commissioning Manager, NCC (for agenda item 4/minute no 30 only)
Richard Elliott	Head of Business Management, NCC (for agenda item 5/minute no 31 only)

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## Apologies:

Catherine Fitt	Executive Director of Children's Services, NCC
Martin Surtees	Director of Children's Services, Performance and Commissioning, NCC
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
Michael Johnston	Learning and Skills Council
Danny Ruta	Director of Public Health
Rod Stapley	YOT Manager, NCC

## Action

### 27. Welcome and Apologies

J. Collings welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the above apologies.

### 28. Co-ordinator's Report

C Hambling introduced the report and highlighted the following key points:

- **My Place** – Approval and capital grant has been given for the youth facility at Vine Street. Part of the development will be to refurbish the smaller of the swimming pools but it was acknowledged that it will be a few years before the facility will be completed. The business case will be developed over the next three months. Further information regarding this will be brought to the Executive when available.
- **Child Poverty Beacon** – It was noted that the Council have been awarded Beacon Status for 2009/10 under the theme of Preventing and Reducing Child Poverty. J Collings formally congratulated and thanked everyone who was involved in preparing for this and reported that a celebration event was to be held on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> March at 12.00 pm in the Pandon Room at the Civic Centre.
- **Targeted Youth Support: Pathfinder Evaluation** – Executive noted the three identified models of delivery: multi-agency practitioner panel; multi-agency practitioner hub; multi-agency manager hub. It had been noted in the evaluation report that all three models contributed to an improvement in the provision of support but suggested that models B and C provide more effective long term framework. R Rogan informed the Executive that GONE have signed off the self assessment and recognised that targeted youth support is fully embedded but that pathfinder findings and the Corporate Transformation Programme will need to be included in this self assessment.

RR

R Rogan also reported that the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit (PMDU) have visited to look at the Friday and Saturday night working. A report is being produced but it was a positive visit, the PMDU said some good work is going on in Newcastle and that they had been well looked after.

- **Safeguarding Unit for the Third Sector** – The establishment of a safeguarding unit for the voluntary and community sector and associated information provided in the report was noted. This needs to be put in place for the next stage of developing the Children's Trust.
- **Children Affected by Domestic Violence** – It was noted that there is a conference about this on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2009.
- **Prevalence of Breastfeeding at 6-8 Weeks** – C Hambling tabled a report on this subject from A Fitzgerald who confirmed that it had been received from colleagues in Public Health. She reported that the SHA have proposed further stretch targets which are being considered. All partners need to work towards achieving these targets. C Hambling asked if the targets were achievable and A Fitzgerald responded that additional funding and investment has been requested to help with this which is awaiting agreement. Cllr Cott asked what the SHA's impetus is with regard to this. It was confirmed that this issue is very high on the SHA agenda and the long term health gain is quite substantial.

ALL

The stretch targets were agreed in the proposal were unanimously agreed.

## 29. Forward Plan

It was noted that C Hambling may need to move some items scheduled for the April meeting. The My Place report to be scheduled for August and the Be Healthy Update report should be in October and not August as the Forward Plan currently states. Cllr Cott asked that representatives of the Youth Council attend a meeting in June or July. A report on Preventing Violent Extremism will be added to the Forward Plan for July and F Gallop will be the lead officer.

CH

## 30. Be Healthy Outcome: Progress Report

A Fitzgerald and A Roberts introduced the report and highlighted the following key points:

- This is the second Be Healthy progress report that the Executive have received. The assessment is a good 3. As requested by Executive the three areas for concern (obesity, breast feeding and teenage pregnancy) have been included in the report but overall performance of the Be Healthy outcome is positive.
- **Healthy Lives Better Futures** – The introduction of the Child Health Strategy “Healthy Lives Better Futures” pulls together everything from the Department of Health and Department for Children, Schools and Families. The report asked the Executive if it could be agreed that the Be Healthy Partnership identify actions required within the Strategy which will be brought back to the next meeting.
- **“Aiming High for Disabled Children”** – is progressing well ahead of other North East authorities. To give this agenda high profile John Collings and Lynn Dixon have agreed to become Disabled Children’s Champions with the goal of achieving the Aiming High agenda. P Jobbins asked what the voluntary sector involvement in this would be. A Roberts responded that services that could be expanded is being looked at but that the voluntary sector needs to be brought into this agenda.

AR/AF

It was noted that funding for Aiming High has only been allocated up until 2011 but that services would be expected to continue beyond this point. A risk assessment regarding this lack of funding beyond 2011 needs to be done.

AR

- **You’re Welcome** – This is a document for health services about how they meet the ECM agenda, however, it was agreed that this should be expanded to be used across Children’s Services and would look to develop this as a standards framework rather than a standards document. R Rogan asked that there was no duplication with this and “Investing in Children” and “Hear By Right”. A Roberts reported that he has had meetings with Janette Brown and Nick Brereton and agreed that You’re Welcome would join up with the current framework and not be an independent piece of work. C Hambling asked if something could be brought to a future meeting to explain how this will happen. A Roberts agreed to this and will discuss with C Hambling when this could happen.

AR  
AR/CH

- **Child Health Mapping** – The CAHMS mapping started in 2002 and was extended to Child Health and Maternity Services mapping in 2005. For the last year some good information has been derived from the mapping but it was noted that this is the first year that local authorities have put Children's Services as a whole into mapping and therefore expectations are not high as to the information that will be derived within the first year. C Hambling agreed to speak to D Tyler regarding a report to the Executive on this data and the possible timescale for this.
- **National Service Framework** – It was noted that the standards highlighted in the report as red or amber were culture change issues not just a case of providing a service. Executive were invited to contact A Roberts with any challenges or ideas on how to achieve the identified targets. Cllr Cott commented that, with regard to Lean East, he understands that there is some anecdotal evidence that the project is working but that there is not enough hard evidence to report this. He asked how information can be captured to move interventions forward. A Fitzgerald responded that Newcastle University is working on the evaluation but some information is anecdotal and may only work in certain communities. She continued however, that the information is strong and there is no reason why it should not be used. Cllr Cott asked what happens when the intervention stops. A Fitzgerald commented that there are plans to replicate some things to the rest of the City. A lot of resources have been invested in particular areas of the City and a decision needs to be made what are the most effective interventions that can be shared – resources need to be more targeted, for example in the West End of the City there are issues regarding underweight children. J Collings commented that all action and intervention needs to be underpinned by good monitoring and tracking arrangements so evaluation can take place.
- **Reduction in the Under 18 Conception Rate** – C Hambling commented that the graph showed that Gateshead's curve was flatter than Newcastle's and asked what has been happening in Gateshead that is different to Newcastle. R Rogan stated that it has been commented that the target for Newcastle is unrealistic – the national target is unrealistic and local targets are set from the national figure. It was acknowledged that there are some high risk groups of teenagers that are easy to identify but it is more difficult tracking other groups. R Rogan responded that the Teenage Pregnancy Board is carrying out targeted work and putting resources into hotspot areas and the National Support Team commented that they cannot add to anything that we are doing but the figures are still not coming down. It is a cultural issue.

J Collings commented that the data that has just been received was for 2007 and is therefore two years behind. All the targeted work that R Rogan discussed may be happening now but will not be reflected in the figures yet, however some shift in the figures would be expected. R Rogan also commented that we have continued to struggle to hit targets because of the baseline set in 1997 and the 1997 and 2007 figures show that almost everyone is on a downward curve. Cllr Cott asked if there was an indication of the figures for 2008 – Danny Ruta should be able to provide this.

A Roberts stated that one of the major parts of the strategy was to appoint someone to drive it forward. Because this has not happened the effect of this may be seen in two years time.

C Hambling asked if local figures were available that could indicate how effective the action plans put in place are. A Fitzgerald responded that Danny Ruta collects his own figures but data was not available at this meeting, however the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Board should have this information. A. Fitzgerald and A. Roberts will follow up with Child Health Commissioning Group and request information from TP board re how they are monitoring effectiveness and impact of current actions

AF/AR

### 31. **Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)**

Richard Elliott attended for this item only and J Collings introduced the item by stating that this is a national policy across the UK.

R Elliott introduced himself as Head of Business Management with responsibility for a range of core business relationships. He was the lead on the old CPA and is leading on CAA.

R Elliott began by explaining the differences between CAA and CPA, one of the differences being that the deliverables are not just delivered by the Local Authority but also with partners. David Jennings from the Audit Commission is the CAA lead and this should result in a balanced view of performance in Newcastle. The process should not take as long as other inspections have taken. A self assessment will be completed answering three key questions:

1. How well do local priorities express community needs and aspirations?
2. How well are outcomes and improvements needed being delivered?
3. What are the prospects for future improvement?

The intention is that the focus of the action plan will be based on point three. An example of the issues that will need to be taken into account is: what is the impact of the recession on child poverty; and it was acknowledged that our action plans need to be as recession proof as possible. As a process the CAA has the potential to result in something that is more useful and better balanced.

Another difference is how the CAA is scored and reported. The CAA will not be scored but a narrative report will be produced detailing strengths and weaknesses based on a system of red and green flags (green meaning areas of best practice and innovation, red being something that has not been understood properly and needs to be revised). The next four to five months will demonstrate how these will work in practice.

An advantage of CAA should have been the reduction in inspections as it was supposed to replace Area Performance Assessments (APAs) within Children's and Adult's Services, however, something similar to the APA process will be retained and there will also be unannounced Ofsted inspections. The theory is that there will only be an inspection if we are doing something wrong.

R Elliott informed the meeting that, in April, Ofsted will be announcing their intentions regarding inspections but it is likely to be that more inspections will be taking place and that Children's Services will still need to do an APA as well as unannounced and planned inspections for Looked After Children and Safeguarding. Specific self assessments will not need to be produced but shared management standards and information which will need to be complete and accurate and available to be passed to auditors. Annual reports will be published in November and will be working to the Newcastle Partnership. In April an indication of the first views of what the CAA thoughts are will be received. A discussion will then take place regarding the initial thoughts and any misconceptions dealt with and an agreed report should be signed off in October. It was agreed that everyone needs to engage properly with the inspectors to ensure that information provided is fully understood.

R Elliott informed the Executive that the CAA would look to adopt a principle that the Audit Commission attend meetings of the CYPSP and other similar meetings.

R Elliott concluded that the Audit Commission fully accept that the process will need to be perfected as it is a new way of working.

### 32. **Budget/Resources**

M Surtees had sent a report to be tabled for Executive which will also be electronically sent. Could all members look at the report and M Surtees will bring this to the next meeting.

MS  
ALL  
MS/CH

### 33. **Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan**

C Hambling introduced the report, gave some background detail and went through the aims of the Strategy. It was acknowledged that Newcastle is reducing the rate of child poverty more quickly than others in the UK. A number of LAA targets relate to child poverty and this may have helped Newcastle achieve Beacon status.

C Hambling highlighted the vision of the Strategy and pointed out that, as agreed at the last meeting, there will be a section entitled "What Children and Young People Tell Us" which will be incorporated into the next draft of the Strategy.

It was acknowledged that, in Newcastle, the level of inequality is high and therefore the Child Poverty Strategy needs to have a targeted approach.

The current activity section of the Strategy was noted and C Hambling stated that a case study for each part of the approach will be included.

With regard to the "regenerating our local communities and housing and tackling fuel poverty" section of the Strategy, it was noted that Newcastle's Warm Zone has been very positive.

Performance Management section of the Strategy – C Hambling informed the Executive that reports would be produced looking at the key difficulties

and progress achieved.

Action Plan:

- Improve knowledge and awareness of child poverty data in Newcastle – a sub group of Newcastle Futures will take forward action
- Increasing parental employment Gillian Hewitson/Newcastle Futures leads on this area
- Reducing Financial Exclusion – Louise Metcalfe is working with a group on this action
- Improving services to families – Need to identify lead
- Regenerating communities Requires lead form Regeneration but Janette Brown willing to lead on the family issues
- School attendance – need to identify who will lead on this JC
- Health inequalities – C Hambling will ask Public Health to identify lead CH

C Hambling asked Executive if they were happy with the overall approach to the Strategy and Action Plan. Members supported the approach and C Hambling agreed to bring this Strategy back to the Executive when it was finalised. Cllr Cott commented that he thought the draft Strategy had the right range of multi-agency intervention but asked that, in terms of Government approach to child poverty, are we compliant with proposed legislation. C Hambling responded that the Strategy was in line with Government thinking. A Gilbert asked for a separate discussion with C Hambling regarding the relevance of the part of the Strategy that mentions volunteers as there are a number of things in the voluntary sector that have already been tried and tested but there are some further options to be explored that may help with this. AG/CH

R Rogan volunteered to lead on the services to families. RR

F Gallop asked if there is any evidence to show that poverty affected different ethnic groups as one in four births in Newcastle are from people coming from outside the UK. C Hambling responded that this is an emerging theme in Newcastle but is also a national issue and will need to be reflected in the Strategy. CH

#### 34. **Young People and Homelessness/Homeless Families**

N Munslow went through the previously circulated action plan but it was noted that some of the issues are not statutory duty so this can cause a problem. Other issues and comments were:

- Teenage Pregnancy – there is a target area of 16-17s not living at home and Val Keenan is working on this and will be inputting information from this work into the action plan
- Dispersed Accommodation – It was acknowledged that it would not be acceptable to have a range of accommodation vacant just in case there is a crisis but that there needs to be a planned programme of intervention not moving families to another locality. This is about families with high levels of need. It was noted that the LA has not had to use Bed and Breakfast accommodation for the last two years and has currently got twenty vacancies for emergency accommodation. This is positive

and shows that a lot of community based services are working.

- Preventing Homelessness – N Munslow reported that over 350 staff have participated in refresher training to help those failing to meet their obligations as a tenant working in partnership with health to try to prevent homelessness which is responding to the serious case review from one year ago.
- 16-17 Year Olds Living Independently – Sharon Williams has developed the vulnerable young people response looking at those who are beyond social housing. Further preventative work needs to be done for those that fall between the £3,000 and £300 emerging response although it was acknowledged that only a small amount of people are beyond the supported housing provision (£300), about 15-20 per year (a higher proportion are those leaving care). It was agreed that there needs to be a mandate to come up with a different response to this. K Simmons commented that this was not just for 16-17 year olds but also for those under 21 as the LA has a responsibility for care leavers and young people. N Munslow agreed, following R Rogan's suggestion, to speak to R Stapley about the work the YOT is doing that may pick up on some of the above mentioned people. R Rogan reported that the Transitions Group has been looking at this particular age range and what targeted support can be offered. J Brown commented that some of these clients may have a lot of CAHMS issues and agreed to talk to N Munslow separately about this.

NM/RS

JB/NM

N Munslow also agreed to speak to George Kelly regarding a piece of work he has begun that has stalled that may be of assistance.

NM

R Rogan commented that the Invest to Save issue is about having a conversation with Adult Services. If Children's Services can prevent a deterioration when clients are of a younger age this will prevent issues when they are older.

- Participation Opportunities for Homeless Children and Families – A Gilbert commented that this is when mediation and arms length services would try to keep people with their families. N Munslow responded that this small number of cases are often already excluded from their families. R Rogan and K Simmons agreed to look at the 5 children that were raised as living away from their families but who have not had any contact with Social Care and look at why they were not known.
- Replacement of the Council's Temporary Accommodation at Hill Court and NBS – Plans for the new building will be going to Executive in April that will look to merge both sites. N Munslow reported that work is ongoing with Newcastle Futures and YHN on progression pathways. It was noted that Your Choice Homes now have less than 200 properties and are looking at the demand for these properties ensuring that the needs of children and families are properly represented.
- Housing and Employment – Work is being done on targeting services due to the economic downturn.

KS/RR

J Collings commented that there are issues regarding the wider information

sharing of vulnerable children or those that have the potential to be homeless. N Munslow responded that one of the difficulties is that there is not an infrastructure in place to deal with this because there is not a resource to do this but he agreed to look at what currently exists. It was suggested that Deb Tyler may be able to help with this exercise. C. Hambling suggested regular outcome/performance reports would be helpful for this group to monitor the effectiveness of the action plan.

NM/CH

**35. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed with one amendment:

Minute 21 paragraph 9 "M Johnston asked if work-based learners needed to be using CAF". B Dunn to action this.

CH/B  
Dunn

**36. Matters Arising**

Matters Arising were noted and T Lisle to update the action list to reflect the updates.

TL

**37. Any Other Business**

A Fitzgerald confirmed the appointment of Dr David Jones as GP Clinical Advisor and Chair of the North of the Tyne Maternity Partnership until March 2011.