

Summary of Key Issues 17th August 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.

My Place sara.morgan-evans@newcastle.gov.uk

The Children's Trust Board endorsed the Business Plan for My Place which has been developed following the successful application for funding to build a world class youth facility in Newcastle. The city was awarded a capital grant of £4.9 million. The Business Plan represents a partnership between the City Council and the voluntary sector which will include the relocation of all the services provided by Streetwise, a My Place café run by YMCA and the Teenage Pregnancy Support Services provided by Barnardos. Young people are having a significant input into every stage of the plan for My Place.

NSCB Annual Report susan.kirkley@newcastle.gov.uk

The Children's Trust Board received the Annual Report from the Safeguarding Children Board 2009 for comment. The report summarized the work of the NSCB and progress in meeting the Stay Safe priorities. Plans for the year include the review of "thresholds" for services which will include re-issuing of guidance on thresholds and briefings for all staff. There will also be a programme of audit and monitoring of social care cases to improve quality.

Performance deborah.tyler@newcastle.gov.uk

The Children's Trust Board noted the progress made against national performance measures for 2008/9. Of particular note was the positive progress in increasing rates of breast feeding, a small decline in childhood obesity, the improved attainment of looked after children and the increase in the proportion of referrals to social care which go on to an Initial Assessment. Performance was below the target set in the Local Area Agreement for a number of indicators including the rate of teenage conceptions, the attainment of 5 A* - C at GCSE including English and Maths, rates of re-offending and the proportion of children living in households on workless benefits. The Board requested that areas of underperformance in the LAA should be identified in the Risk Register for the Children's Trust.

Child Poverty Strategy robert.hamilton@newcastle.gov.uk

The Board approved the Child Poverty Strategy and recommended that it should be adopted by all the Newcastle Delivery Partnerships as well as individual agencies. As well as providing an analysis of local and national data about child poverty the strategy highlights the range of actions being undertaken locally and the strong partnership that has been developed to tackle this key issue. The Board welcomed the development of a basket of indicators to measure performance. The Action Plan will be monitored by the Child Poverty Group.

Newcastle Plan for Children 2009 - 10 deborah.tyler@newcastle.gov.uk

The Board endorsed the C&YP Plan for 2009-10 but noted the delay in publication of a final version. The first draft of the C&YP Plan for 2010-13 will be considered in December 009 and a final plan ready for publication in March 2010.

Risk Register martin.surtees@newcastle.gov.uk

The Children's Trust Board requested that any area of underperformance against LAA targets and the expected national decline in public sector finances should be raised as risks and discussion at the Board.