

Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Executive Minutes of a meeting held on Monday, 16th February 2009

Present:

Catherine Fitt (Chair)	Executive Director of Children's Services, NCC
Martin Surtees	Director of Children's Services, Performance and Commissioning, NCC
John Collings	Director of Children's Services, Delivering Outcomes, 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
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 Gilbert	Acting Assistant Director, Action for Children
Martin Gollan	Policy Officer (Regeneration), NCVS
Michael Johnston	Learning and Skills Council
Keith Hall	Inspector, Northumbria Police

In Attendance:

Tina Lisle	Director's Support Officer – Projects, NCC (minutes)
Janette Brown	Area Locality Manager (item 5 only)
Nick Brereton	Investing in Children Co-ordinator (item 5 only)
Becky Dunn	Head of Workforce Development (item 7 only)
Grainne Fegan	CAF Co-ordinator (item 7 only)
Jacqui Sirs	Assistant Director Children's Services, Barnardos

Apologies:

Cllr Nick Cott	Lead Member, Children and Young People, NCC
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
Danny Ruta	Director of Public Health
Jane McFadyen	Head Teacher, Newburn Manor Primary School
Rod Stapley	YOT Manager, NCC

Action

15. Welcome and Apologies

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

16. Co-ordinator's Report

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

- **Newcastle Partnership Performance Report** – With regard to Obesity it was noted that the action plan is currently under review
- **Newcastle Partnership Performance Report** – Targets “requiring intervention” – means that close scrutiny will be applied and the target that this specifically relates to is Obesity
- It was noted that there was only one change to the targets for the objectives and that was the Proportion of Children in Poverty (NI116) which is being negotiated down due to the economic downturn
- Child Poverty – Members agreed that the Child Poverty Action Group would be best placed to consider a response to the consultation on legislative proposals for the introduction of a Child Poverty Bill in 2009. C Hambling and J Sirs had attended a regional consultation about this on the 12th February and a response will be sent on behalf of regional partners. No further comments were received from members on this CF/CH
- Outcome Based Accountability – C Hambling agreed to circulate to members the draft agenda for the North East Regional Improvement Partnership event being held on the 17th March 2009 and asked if members were to nominate someone to attend from their organisation it would be helpful for her to know CH
- Tell Us 4 – It was noted that the survey will take place in Autumn, a change to previous surveys which have previously taken place in Spring. A further change is the comparison with statistical neighbours. C Hambling informed members that, on this occasion, there was an opportunity for additional questions to be included. Deb Tyler is leading on this. J Collings welcomed the developments and added that schools will be getting information feedback from the survey. This was also welcomed, however, it was agreed that an issue is how feedback from the survey is given to young people. G Murphy suggested that this could be done through School Councils

17. Forward Plan

- K Hall requested that the Northumbria Police Youth Strategy be deferred to the April meeting CH
- C Hambling suggested that a short presentation on CAA and Ofsted guidance and how this fits in should be added to the Forward Plan. This was agreed CH

18. Risk Register

C Hambling tabled the Partnership Executive risk register and the following was noted:

- 4907 Transformation Programme – M Surtees reported that the Transformation Programme is being migrated into the Corporate Transformation Programme. M Surtees agreed to bring the revised register to the next meeting MS
CH

It was suggested that two new possible risks be added to the register:

- Changes in Partner Organisations – The transfer of the LSC to the local authority has been raised with Mark Hedley. M Surtees commented that this does need to be added to the risk register but work needs to be done to identify the exact risks. C Fitt stated that the risk was about how the 14-19 work was done and the group currently leading on this is Ray Steele, Melanie Bear and Deb Tyler. It was agreed that this group should be a project board with a risk register established. M Surtees added that a sub group should be developed to work through the 14-19 Partnership. The 14-19 Partnership would be the owning Partnership

MS
DT
R Steele/
M Bear

C Hambling asked how cross working on issues such as child poverty is achieved and thinking through how this Partnership feeds into the other partnerships that members may be part of.

N Munslow asked if thought had been given to the aspirations of cross partnership working. Should issues be drilled down to operational level? C Fitt suggested that it is on three levels – strategic, managerial and ground and perhaps a piece of work needs to be done to look at who is doing what and where and how this is fed back to operational staff as well as managers. C Hambling agreed to work with M Surtees and colleagues to formulate a proposal on how this can be unpicked. C Fitt added that a review of the Children's Trust arrangements is about to commence so this would be timely.

CH/MS

- Cross LSP Delivery Partnership Issues – Helen Wilding will be coming into post as the Health Partnership lead and will be working with C Hambling on the issues raised in the risk register. It was agreed that Newcastle Partnership should own this risk

CH

C Fitt asked if members thought any other risks should be added to the register. None were suggested but it was agreed that members would inform C Hambling if any other risks were identified. It was agreed that the risk register be reviewed on a quarterly basis.

ALL

CH

19. **Participation with Parents and Carers/Participation with Children and Young People Joint Report**

Nick Brereton and Janette Brown attended for this item. N Brereton and J Brown highlighted the key points of the report:

- Listening to Young Children – N Brereton informed the meeting that this training has taken place and will be rolled out to Children's Social Care within the next 6-8 weeks
- U Decide – this continues to attract national and international attention and N Brereton reported that he has been invited to speak at two national events
- Support with Consultation on the School Admission Process – The information on this issue in the report was noted and it was agreed that J Brown and M Surtees would meet to discuss this further

MS/
J Brown

J Brown reported that events had been held in December 2008 looking at what issues children were raising and reshaping services around the issues if small amounts of funding were available to enable this. J Collings suggested that, in the review of the NPCYP we say that this approach is something we will drive forward.

C Fitt asked about what is commissioned in the name of Participation and stated that questions need to be asked about how grants are being spent and is it being spent in line with the NPCYP. These questions need to be continuously asked.

N Munslow stated that he would like to see some outcomes of the participation and N Brereton agreed to provide this from the information gathered for the APA.

NB

N Brereton stated that it is important that accountability comes through the CYPSP and this can be fed into the review of the Children's Trust Arrangements.

C Shipley commented that the cross referencing was powerful and that children's services is on all agendas. C Hambling asked that, when the report comes back to the Executive it includes information about which services are doing this.

At the end of the report a number of questions for the Executive were posed. Comments were as follows:

- C Fitt thought it may be possible for someone representing young people to be part of the Executive membership
- J Collings stated that, at the residential at Hawkeshurst for all the Youth Council candidates, he would like to be able to report that a slot every few months at Executive meetings will be available for them to report to the Executive on issues children and young people feel are important
- C Fitt stated that she is meant to have contact with young people and would like to know how she can personally do business with them
- J Collings commented that it is important that in every strategy we develop there is a section entitled "Young People Tell Us"
- J Brown asked if the Partnership was happy for some further work to be carried out using the "Hear by Right" self assessment model. J Collings commented that it needs to be looked at how this links in with other work currently going on
- C Hambling reported that, at the NSCB and CYPSP Joint Annual Conference a slot has been allocated for young people to give a presentation on Participation

JC

20. **Enjoy and Achieve Progress Report**

J Collings introduced this report on behalf of the outcome lead, Karen Bower

and informed the meeting that work is still being done on the format of these progress reports and this will be informed by national discussions around report cards etc.

Enjoy and Achieve covers eight key judgements as outlined in the report and have current self assessment grades, which were completed around the time of the APA last year. The grades are as follows: 1 = inadequate, 2 = adequate, 3 = good, 4 = outstanding and the approach is that each key judgement is looked at individually and then as a whole set of judgements. The self assessment and self assessment priorities were accepted by Ofsted when the APA was carried out.

The key issues that need to be achieved are:

- To improve very quickly primary schools' performance to match the rate of secondary schools so they can be compared favourably
- Improve significantly attendance in both primary and secondary schools
- Fixed term exclusions performance has been improved but this needs to also be achieved for permanent exclusions

It was noted that there are also a range of issues for all agencies across the city and this Partnership will tackle some of these. It is being considered that Enjoy and Achieve is widened as it cannot be solved by schools alone eg attendance is a bigger issue than just what is happening in schools.

The recommendation was that the report was received and the widening of Enjoy and Achieve is agreed. G Murphy welcomed the widening of Enjoy and Achieve beyond schools.

L Moore asked why, in key judgement 3.3 where it states that good quality educational provision is stopped at 16 years old, this is not extended to 18 year olds. J Collings stated that educational provision for 16 years plus is picked up within Economic Wellbeing.

C Fitt stated that there are some significant issues in terms of attendance and she is willing to pick these up in other groups if requested but that some significant work needs to be done on this. C Fitt suggested that the Turning the Curve event did not turn the curve. This is the current goal and everyone needs to own this.

J Collings added that, in contrast, the permanent exclusion figure is currently not at the level it was this time last year but in order to be in line with statistical neighbours we should not be excluding more than 38 people and we have currently excluded 32 so overall this target will not be achieved. It was agreed that work needs to be done with children at risk of exclusion and that resources to do this need to be applied in a targeted way.

C Fitt asked how a management information system could be put in place to capture what is being done to improve outcomes across organisations and stated that a piece of work needs to be done to look at how resources are being used to tackle this. G Murphy commented that work is happening in schools to try to prevent exclusions happening. J Collings replied that the

work in schools to tackle this is not consistent across the city and that Children's Services is not informed of those children at risk of exclusion so that proactive work can be done to prevent this. Channels of communication must be kept open to ensure that this happens. C Shipley asked if NCC had a panel of officers looking at the reasons for exclusions and a route cause of analysis carried out and fed back to organisations. J Collings commented that this does not happen but suggested that the Behaviour Attendance Partnership should be looking to do this. N Munslow informed the group that cards had been given out to all those working at street level saying who should be contacted if and this could be learned from. M Johnston stated that North Tyneside Council have reported nil exclusions and perhaps NCC could look at their working model. G Murphy commented on the issue of attendance and acknowledged the difficulties that arise and asked if there is a body of evidence it must be taken on board and requested that the evidence be available to him to look at.

JC

21. Common Assessment Framework

Becky Dunn and Grainne Fegan attended for this item. B Dunn started by explaining the format of the report. The first section is a summary with overall comments on progress to date which includes information from the progress review workshop that took place in January. It is recognised that CAF is still complex and challenging but work with a lot of sectors has taken place. A performance management framework is the next step and a draft should be available by the 1st April 2009 for review in December 2009.

M Surtees informed the meeting that the Assess and Decide project within the Corporate Transformation Programme was looking at cases and contacts from children, families and parents and that the project was looking at three opportunities:

- More efficient ways of assessment for parents, carers and children
- Can some assessment processes be streamlined using CAF
- When the processes are mapped some may be defined with some elements being done through customer service contact

Some mapping work will be done looking at all assessment processes and the extent to which services are using CAF. C Fitt reiterated that a target had been set that, in Newcastle, all business is done through CAF from the 1st April 2009. C Shipley welcomed M Surtees' comments but was keen for it to be understood that CAF would not be the assessment tool used for all children in hospitals. B Dunn commented that she was aware that there will be some cases where CAF would not be appropriate but more understanding about these instances was needed. M Surtees, C Shipley, Susan Nelson and B Dunn to meet separately to discuss this further. C Shipley also commented that, from the community arm of Newcastle Hospitals, this is not an issue. G Fegan confirmed that she has met with Susan Nelson and agreed that managers of acute services have training around CAF. C Fitt asked for a list of services and a progress report. K Simmons commented that Social Care do not use CAF as it would be expected that this process would have been completed prior to Social Care's involvement. C Fitt asked for a comprehensive list of services where CAFs will and will not be completed.

MS/CS/
SN/BD

BD/GF

BD/GF

It was commented that voluntary services will receive the CAF and then complete their own assessment. C Fitt stated that if this was the case CAF was not doing its job. G Fegan suggested that people need the confidence to use CAF properly and some training will be done to enable this but stated that CAF is also about a culture change. C Shipley commented that she is impressed by the amount of training that has already been delivered.

C Hambling commented that, if you look at the number of CAFs that have been completed, there has been very little growth. G Fegan replied that some people are completing CAFs in very specific circumstances and others will be waiting until the 1st April when it becomes compulsory but it will be a long time before it becomes consistent. C Fitt stated that the lead person on CAF in each organisation needs to be identified and there is an issue about quality assurance.

ALL

G Murphy stated that schools have had CAF training but that there has been a clear message from Heads that current systems are still being used and consultation with other agencies is still going on when required. The contact in schools should be the designated person as well as the Headteacher. C Fitt requested that a clear set of expectations about when CAFs should be completed is needed. J Collings suggested that messages on CAF can be taken forward at the Headteacher meetings.

JC

C Piercy commented that, initially, feedback needs to be given in a supportive way but that there will be a point where questions need to be asked if CAFs are not being completed. C Piercy added that Jane Johnson is the nominated lead for NHS Newcastle and North Tyneside Community Health.

M Johnston asked if work-based learners needed to be using CAF. B Dunn answered that yes they need to be but there is a question to be answered about how this is done.

C Hambling stated that, at the meeting in December 2008, in the JAR report and during Baby P discussions, members agreed to revisit how often CAF's performance and implementation should be reviewed and C Fitt stated that, following implementation on the 1st April, this needs to be ongoing and not just once a year. M Surtees agreed to a May/June progress report. G Murphy asked if the raw data can be produced on a quarterly basis and this was agreed by B Dunn. C Fitt asked for this data to be done on an organisation by organisation basis but asked that this information be available for the next meeting.

MS/BD
MS/BD

C Fitt asked M Surtees to provide her with a list of services that may be struggling with the CAF implementation and agreed to go to talk to these services should it be needed.

MS

22. **Newcastle Plan for Children and Young People 2010-12**

M Surtees introduced the paper and drew attention to point 4.2 Priorities for 2009/10 and asked for comments which were noted as follows:

Be Healthy: No comments.

Stay Safe:

- J Sirs asked if something should be put in on domestic violence – agreed D Tyler
- N Munslow asked re: bullet 3 “supporting families” where is the priority for 16/17 year olds living independently? KS
- Bullet 3 K Simmons agreed to look at targeting all age groups and not just families

Enjoy and Achieve:

- Bullet point 3 – N Munslow asked if it can say that this is just about schools
- It was suggested that it would be good to have something that states it is not just about enjoying and achieving in schools
- Lifelong learning needs to be mentioned

Make A Positive Contribution:

- L Moore asked if there is anything in about how young people contribute to developing plans and strategies as a priority for the coming year D Tyler
- G Murphy stated that he was aware that a shadow council is being established with those that were not elected as part of the Youth Council
- C Fitt stated that the above was part of the Council’s Engagement Strategy and LAA

Achieve Economic Wellbeing: No comments.

Service Management and Transformation: No comments.

C Fitt stated that in the narrative there needs to be an explanation that this is just a refining piece of work and J Collings stated that just because something is not specifically mentioned it does not mean that it is not happening or is not important.

C Fitt asked members if they would all talk to their organisations about how they influence the 2010/2013 plan and welcomed feedback. J Collings confirmed that the statutory duty to collaborate is now defined and is a legal requirement and C Fitt suggested that members may want to nominate someone within their organisations that will lead on this. C Hambling agreed to write to each organisation formally requesting the nomination of representatives. This will go on the Forward Plan for May. ALL
ALL
CH
CH

23. Youth Crime Action Plan

C Hambling introduced the report in R Stapley’s absence. The seven key strands of work were noted as well as the names of the lead officers. It was also noted that the initial allocation figures are indicative as this has not yet been agreed. K Simmons reported that she has some concerns regarding one of the strands and agreed to meet with R Stapley to discuss further. KS/RS

24. Minutes of the Last Meeting

These were agreed as a correct record.

25. **Matters Arising**

Updates were given on the matters arising and the following was noted:

- 2. **ContactPoint** – John Brown and Pam Jobbins taking this forward.
- 4. **Play Strategy Progress** – F Gallop has taken this forward with Una MacDermott.
- 4. **Play Strategy Progress** – C Hambling to follow up with S Nelson if she has spoken to U MacDermott. CH
- 5.1 **Risk Register** – C Hambling confirmed that she has spoken to Mark Hedley.
- 5.6 **Annual Conference** – C Hambling to speak to F Gallop regarding his involvement in the annual conference as he has stated he will be on leave on the 1st June. CH

26. **Any Other Business**

C Hambling reported that Newcastle has exceeded the target for NEETs in 2008 – the actual figure was 8.5% and the target had been 9.2%.