

Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Executive Minutes of a meeting held on Monday, 19th January 2009

Present:

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

In Attendance:

John Brown	Information Sharing Co-ordinator, NCC (item 2 only)
Sara Morgan-Evans	Head of Integrated Youth Services, NCC (item 3 only)
Una MacDermott	Play Service Manager, NCC (item 4 only)
Deb Tyler	Head of Performance Management and Information, NCC (item 10 only)
Pat Thompson	Manager, Children with Disabilities, NCC (item 11 only)
Tina Lisle	Director's Support Officer – Projects, NCC (minutes)

Apologies:

Martin Surtees	Director of Children's Services, Performance and Commissioning, NCC
John Collings	Director of Children's Services, Delivering Outcomes
Carole Shipley	Directorate Manager, Children's Services, Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals Foundation Trust

Action

1. Welcome and Apologies

C Fitt welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the above apologies. C Hambling reported that Heidi Douglas is no longer able to attend these meetings and Pam Jobbins will be attending on her behalf until a permanent replacement can be identified.

2. ContactPoint

J Brown introduced the update report and gave a brief overview for the meeting and reported that the system will be available to the ContactPoint

team in two weeks time. Organisations will need to identify a senior manager to negotiate with the Newcastle ContactPoint Team to plan accreditation, manage the online accreditation process and prepare their organisation for ContactPoint processes. Newcastle City Council will be the first to undertake this process. Each independent school will need to be managed through this process as well as all other schools. Training will start in October and will be for 18 months. Each agency will be asked to identify the priority group who will be trained first. It was noted that Customer Service Centres will also use ContactPoint and J Brown reported that discussions have been planned with Customer Service Centre managers.

C Fitt asked if ContactPoint was progressing well across all agencies. J Brown reported that some organisations are being challenged with regard to the cost of this eg CRB checks. G Murphy asked if voluntary schools were being treated in the same way with regard to ContactPoint. J Brown advised that he was awaiting guidance on this. C Hambling asked when, as the report states that no local authorities can access the system until all shielding processes have been completed, will access be available. J Brown advised that the deadline for completing the shielding method is March 2009. ContactPoint will be launched in all local authorities in October 2009.

A Gilbert stated that, within some small voluntary sector groups, there is a lot of concern about shielding and how they assess this. Conflicting messages have been given about this and A Gilbert asked for a plan to be put in place for small voluntary sector groups to engage in this process.

John
Brown

J Brown explained that, at the minute, the challenge is accreditation and how this works for small organisations as each will need HR policies etc put in place. J Brown is working closely with P Jobbins and is hoping for some signs from the North West on how to handle this issue.

C Fitt stated that she is aware of the amount of work it has taken to get to this point in the project and thanked J Brown.

3. Integrated Youth Strategy Progress

- 3.1 Integrated Youth Service** – S Morgan-Evans informed the Executive that she took up post as the Head of Integrated Youth Services on the 1st January 2009 but prior to this a lot of work had been undertaken to start the informal consultation process with the Youth Service and Connexions staff on the proposed IYS structure. She has done a lot of work with both staff and the union and reported that Connexions staff seemed to be more relaxed about the process but that only positive responses had been received by all staff so far. Staff will be kept on current terms and job descriptions and will be slotted into the new posts. For the majority of staff jobs will not change. Most of the senior management team will be put into quality assurance and delivery team posts. There will be four delivery teams based around secondary school clusters and cross working with primary schools in the key transition point between primary and secondary school will take place. The traffic light report shows this as green in terms of moving forward.

Targeted Youth Support (TYS) – More outreach work is being done for young people not engaged with services. The local authority was required to complete a TYS self assessment by 15th December 2008 and a project action plan was shared across the region as an example of good practice. S Morgan-Evans informed the Executive that we are the only local authority identifying impact measures. Some locality network events have been held to brief all agencies on the role of TYS and an audit of work they do with young people. A good database with this information has now been established and agencies are working together.

Findings on CAF have been positive. There has been a national conference about CAF and we are the only authority that has set a deadline to implement it.

The TYS self assessment has been submitted with appendices giving supporting evidence. No feedback has been received to date.

A TYS Project Board has been held looking at absences in secondary schools. Project 47 has gone down to Project 29. Work has started with those young people and out of the 29 only 1 had a CAF completed by Scarpa. 4 people have declined a CAF. Details of the others were shared in the report. C Hambling asked about the updated position on CAFs completed for Project 29 but this had not changed significantly because of school holidays. S Morgan-Evans reported she has been doing a lot of work with Andy Gibson not just involving statutory services but looking at the whole of integrated youth services. The self assessment stated that the principle of working is across the City – Jamie Spence is leading on this. The TYS Steering Group is joining together to take this forward with CAHMS, teenage pregnancy etc where early intervention and prevention is needed. The TYS Steering Group will meet monthly revising the TYS action plan and driving issues forward. C Fitt commented that the small NGOs are very good at contacting young people and keeping in contact. C Fitt thanked S Morgan-Evans and said that this particular piece of work had been very helpful. S Morgan-Evans reported that the amount of co-working is good to help identify these young people.

4. **Play Strategy Progress**

Una MacDermott attended the meeting for this item only and gave a presentation on the Play Strategy progress. Following the presentation C Fitt asked that, compared to where we were four years ago on the basis that we were 2/10, where are we now? U MacDermott's assessment was that we are a 7 or 8/10. F Gallop raised some issues regarding police input with play and U MacDermott confirmed that it would be helpful if a police representative was on the Play Partnership.

FG

C Fitt commented that maintenance of the play sites is important and asked if there was sufficient resource to do this. U MacDermott responded that the maintenance team have been working with the Play Service but there is some more work to be done on this issue. There is not an improved maintenance budget to accommodate this but the budget needs to be used smarter.

Cllr Cott asked how the Council is managing in designing in risk in relation

to play sites. U MacDermott responded that this is an issue that is recognised nationally and the HSE have stated that this needs to be part of the play programme and the Council's legal team have been supportive in this. It was acknowledged that this will help with foundation stage play.

S Nelson commented that the Children's Hospital needed to be linked in as children in hospital use Exhibition Park. She stated that there is a Play Specialist on each children's ward. C Fitt asked if the play specialists linked with other teams across the city – S Nelson did not think this happened.

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UMac

C Fitt commented that a future piece of work for the Play Service may be looking at children's entitlement of foundation stage play and asked U MacDermott to thank all the team for their hard work.

5. Co-ordinator's Report

C Hambling gave an overview of her report and the following was noted:

- 5.1 **Risk Register** – Mark Hedley from Tyne and Wear Fire Rescue will lead this. C Hambling's report suggested that M Hedley attend the Executive in February to do a brief introduction to this work and then attend a meeting in March to facilitate a discussion. C Fitt stated that it would be more useful if, by the time M Hedley comes to an Executive meeting, he knows which are the main risks and that he has had discussions with the lead officers about these risks. This was agreed and C Hambling will feed this back to M Hedley. It was noted that Child Poverty needs to go to the Child Poverty Task Group.
- 5.2 **21st Century Schools: A World-Class Education for Every Child** – The Co-ordinator's Report gave a brief update from DCSF which gives a flavour of the real partnerships. C Hambling reported that governance arrangements will be looked at and schools will become central to this and key to Children's Trust.
- 5.3 **School Report Card** – The proposed report card for each school is a key element of the vision for 21st Century Schools. This would not replace Ofsted inspections but schools will be inspected less often.
- 5.4 **Area Based Grant** – The Co-ordinator's Report listed those NRF projects which are now being funded through area based grants. C Hambling explained the percentage of grant allocated to each project. Other projects are continuing to be funded through working neighbourhoods funds.
- 5.5 **2020 Children and Young People Workforce Strategy** – C Hambling gave a short update to inform the Executive of the new guidance. There will be a more comprehensive update by Becky Dunn at the April meeting.
- 5.6 **Annual Conference** – C Hambling confirmed that the annual conference has been rescheduled to the 1st June 2009 and the theme will be "The Children's Plan 2010-12". C Hambling asked the Executive what themes they would like to be considered. The following was noted and C Hambling will consider in planning:

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- R Rogan suggested that Child Poverty be considered unless this is being raised on a more regional stage

- L Moore suggested that CAF be considered, specifically regarding good practice and sharing
- R Rogan suggested that how we progress from where we are now to achieving excellence, focussing on what we really need to do, be put on the agenda
- N Munslow suggested a topic could be “Balancing Support and Challenge” looking at some of the cases that could have gone wrong
- F Gallop suggested “The wider community safety plan” and C Fitt suggested that harmful alcohol could be part of this. F Gallop agreed to play a key role in this
- Jan Brown suggested “Transitions”, ie services fit for young people, not just people with mental health
- C Fitt suggested “Children’s Trust arrangements”
- Cllr Cott suggested “Safeguarding and legislation” looking at legislation that may occur and learning how we can be excellent with regard to safeguarding children

FG

C Hambling shared with the Executive that other suggestions were:

- How hard is personalisation of services?
- Capturing the contribution from small voluntary organisations within outcomes

C Fitt suggested that feedback from the Laming Review may be available.

C Hambling asked Executive members that if anyone wanted to be part of the planning of the conference they could contact her directly but it was noted that she would be asking members for some help in specific areas and was looking forward to a positive response. C Hambling also asked for suggestions/preferences on the format for the day ie if it should be a full day, half day etc.

C Fitt reiterated that it was important that members of the Executive attend the conference wherever possible and also informed the members that she has asked the NCSB to review, following this year’s conference, if a joint conference is most appropriate.

5.7 **Common Assessment Framework** – This will be discussed further at the meeting in February.

5.8 **Child Poverty in the North East of England by Barry Knight** – C Fitt asked for comments on this paper. L Moore said it was very interesting but it said things that have been heard before and therefore it left her feeling “glum” as it read that nothing had been progressed. She stated the information was very interesting and powerful. C Fitt thought that this would be a very useful document for all to use in their organisations and asked the Board to share it. CF said that this report is an absolute must read and suggested that, in the future, the Executive may have a session looking at child poverty (although the Child Poverty Task Group may hold a conference). L Moore commented that the critical role of early intervention was a strong message.

ALL
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Cllr Cott stated that one of the key challenges is around the economic climate in the short term as well as the longer term problems and that the

North East decline has been much higher than other regions. L Moore said that the question was how young people develop under high levels of unemployment. We are doing the right thing in terms of education but then employment is letting young people down.

Cllr Cott informed the meeting that C Hambling had recently been to London to do a presentation on Child Poverty for the Beacon status. C Hambling reported that the presentation went well but will not hear the outcome until the 3rd March 2009. In terms of the other Beacon status pilots the announcements have been delayed. C Hambling informed the Executive that all of the Tyne and Wear authorities had been shortlisted for one of the pilots and suggested that it would be good if, rather than choosing one or two authorities, something may be done across the North East jointly with authorities working together.

6. **Forward Plan**

It was noted that the report on Youth Crime Action Plan scheduled for February will be an update.

RS

7. **NHS North of Tyne Strategic Plan**

A Fitzgerald introduced the Strategic Plan and confirmed that it covers the entire NHS system, not just children. This is a first draft of the plan and the second draft is going to the NHS North of Tyne Commissioning Board. This Plan is based on national policy and building on local plans and Lord Ara Darzi's Next Stage Review and includes priorities that have been identified through places of involvement with patient groups, partner groups etc.

The structure of the plan is that there are 12 programmes/objectives supported by 24 goals with initiatives. The priorities have been identified by the Financial Investment Plan, delivering Maternity Matters, supporting breast feeding, supporting Aiming High, access to therapy services, delivering comprehensive CAHMS linking in eating disorders which is not currently done, however, just because some things are not mentioned in terms of investment it does not mean that it is not a priority eg CAF. The next step is approval of the second draft.

A Fitzgerald asked the Executive if they felt that there were any gaps in the Plan. It was agreed that there were no gaps. C Fitt commented that the circulated diagram was very helpful and that the Council could learn from it when doing the Newcastle Plan for Children and Young People. It was agreed that the CYPSP Executive would endorse the Plan and A Fitzgerald confirmed that transition features very highly.

8. **City Council Transformation Programme**

C Fitt updated the Executive about the Council's Corporate Transformation programme working with KPMG. She reported that KPMG have developed a transformation programme for the next three years. This will deliver £20m savings. This is about preserving and freeing up front line services and making much better use of high quality customer contact facilities. C Fitt assured the Executive that any aspects of the Transformation Programme that will affect any partners will be discussed fully with them. If any of the

Executive has any questions regarding this C Fitt would be happy to address them.

9. **Children's Trust Arrangements**

C Hambling introduced the report. C Fitt stated that as this is a key responsibility of the local authority it has been agreed that this is an area of governance that should be led by the City Council with C Hambling and the support of the Partnership. This has been agreed by the Council's Acting Chief Executive. Phil Hunter and Andy Graham have already had talks with C Hambling on how this will be done. The Executive will be given a presentation of the timetable of this review.

A Fitzgerald informed the meeting that there have been a number of reviews proposed by the NHS North of the Tyne Board and one of these is Children's Trust Arrangements North of the Tyne. A Fitzgerald stated that she would much rather have a joined up approach and will alert the Executive team that this is happening.

AF

It was noted that the NSCB is also going through a review and there is also some elements of external review as part of this.

F Gallop commented that he had not seen anything from a police point of view regarding Children's Trust arrangements.

Cllr Cott commented that there are a number of issues where overlaps of Trusts occur and it is not always clear who has the overall responsibility. Cllr Cott reported that, should this happen in the future, he would make clear that responsibility lies with the Children's Trust. The review of locality working should also inform this. R Stapley commented that the cross partnership issue can be picked as part of the Safe Newcastle partnership review process so this is rather timely and working within the same timeframe.

10. **Annual Performance Assessment**

Deb Tyler attended the meeting on John Collings' behalf for this item and tabled an update report. She reported that some comparative work has been done since the APA and when you look at the core cities they are also struggling with some similar issues. Although the overall outcome was disappointing we are making improvement and are the fastest improving authorities out of the core cities and have moved from 5th to 3rd.

D Tyler reiterated the point that the key difference is around staying safe which we assessed as "good" and Ofsted rated as "satisfactory", however some of our data around this is very new and this was not taken on board. Whether we had fully integrated CAF was also questioned. CAF needs to be fully in place for the deadline of the 1st April 2009. Since the APA an annual priorities meeting has been held with GONE at which the priorities for 2009/10 were talked through identifying any areas that GONE might be able to support us in improving. This will be finalised and then will be shared with partners although D Tyler reinforced that there were no surprises on the list. It was noted that this is the last year of the APA and CPA, in future they will be replaced with the Comprehensive Area

Performance Assessment. This will include unannounced visits to safeguarding teams starting in September 2009.

D Tyler informed the meeting that the LAA has a number of shared targets and developments and we are trying to make sure this is part of our performance monitoring arrangements. C Fitt requested that Mark Hedley meet with D Tyler to make sure this happens.

D Tyler

D Tyler reported that the Partnership and the Council have looked at the work on outcome focussed planning. The Council is leading the way and pushing the way others are thinking on this. C Fitt stated that, as from now, the Children Services is only setting top quartile targets.

N Munslow enquired if there are defined population on the areas of contact eg teenage pregnancies, LAC, reoffending rates etc and do we know who these people are and what we are doing for them. C Fitt answered that this is targeted youth support but there is not always joined up services and so we required a list and are following up to make sure there is appropriate intervention. The Initial Response Team is feeding back anyone who is referred. D Tyler commented that this is a really useful point as it is about early intervention, partnership working, supporting families and young people.

G Murphy commented that, with regard to CAF, it is a slow process and he does not know how many CAFs have been completed within schools. Grainne Fagan would be able to provide this information and should be at the Heads meeting.

J MacFadyen stated that she thought the CAF training would need to be done again as it was some time ago when it was initially undertaken. D Tyler commented that how people access the support networks and, as managers, how they are freed up to do this is an important issue.

R Stapley informed the meeting that the helpful thing from the YOT is that the Youth Justice Plan and evaluation was judged as excellent although C Fitt commented that we still need to work on first time entrants. R Stapley stated that he is working with the police and first time entrants and have a 24% reduction but this needs maintaining.

11. **Aiming High for Disabled Children**

Pat Thompson attended for this item only which was originally for decision making purposes, however, P Thompson informed the meeting that this would be more of an outline of the Aiming High for Disabled Children agenda and action plan as it is not ready yet for decision.

P Thompson introduced this item and described the standards that the Council will be measured on. It was noted that we will be measured on how we deliver the step change. There are three specific areas getting educational funding, the main one being short breaks and how we deliver these. This will include leisure facilities and how disabled children can access leisure. The other two areas are transition and participation.

P Thompson reported that we are where we need to be in terms of self assessment and transition arrangements in Newcastle and are receiving

input from children and young people and parents and carers working closely to deliver participation. We will receive some significant funding over the next two years for short breaks. We are currently not a pathfinder and are taking the opportunity to learn from other authorities' mistakes. Lisa McWiggan has been appointed as the project manager to deliver on the needs assessment in relation to short breaks. She has undertaken the needs assessment and has spoken to all the different services asking what services they currently deliver. P Thompson reported that it has proved difficult to get this information, however systems will be put in place to help with this. P Thompson informed the Executive that there was an event last year with parents and carers to discuss what they want from short breaks.

There is £300k revenue and £150k capital for 2009/10 and in 2010/11 there will be £1m revenue and £351k capital which is ring fenced money coming into the local authority. P Thompson reported that she is hoping to get some funding from the health service and she is leading with A Fitzgerald on this. The circulated document is a first attempt at an action plan which has not yet been through the overseeing groups.

The needs assessment has not come up with any surprises but has highlighted two groups of children that need further development: children with complex health needs and children with challenging behaviour (particularly autism). Universal and targeted services need to be looked at as this is an area that parents and carers have highlighted. C Fitt asked if there was anything the Executive could do to help. P Thompson responded that there was nothing at present but may need some assistance in the future.

A Fitzgerald commented that the challenge is what happens when the funding comes to an end and that sustainable funding needs to be looked for – a strategy needs to be developed to deal with this.

L Moore asked what the definition of “transition” is in this context and if college representatives have been included in this project. P Thompson confirmed that college representatives have been invited to meetings but she was not sure if they have attended and said she would get back to L Moore on the definition of “transition”.

P Tho

C Fitt thanked P Thompson for this report.

12. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

These were agreed as a correct record.

13. **Matters Arising**

Updates were given on the matters arising.

14. **Any Other Business**

Attendance at Executive – L Moore asked that if members could not attend Executive did they have to have a named deputy. C Hambling confirmed that this is the case.

TL