

Summary of Key Issues 20th April 2009

Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Executive

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.

Budget and Resources martin.surtees@newcastle.gov.uk

The C&YPSP Executive received an update on the budget position for the City Council Children's Service. Further information about the allocation of resources by the Local Authority and partner budgets will be reported to the C&YPSP Executive in July. There are significant challenges in the City Council budget such as increased costs and demand for social care services, single status pay requirements, rising energy and fuel costs etc. The Council Transformation Programme aims to achieve the savings required through efficiency measures whilst protecting the delivery of services. The Assess and Decide project within Children's Directorate of the council will review all assessment processes to identify areas which could be streamlined and enable services to embed the Common Assessment Framework more quickly.

Make a Positive Contribution ruth.rogan@necastle.gov.uk linda.mason@newcastle.gov.uk

The C&YPSP Executive welcomed the good progress in this outcome which improved from an "adequate" judgement to "good" in the Annual Performance Assessment 2008. Of note is the positive impact of participation with looked after children on the delivery of services, the progress in delivering Targeted Youth Support and the reduction in number of young people entering the youth justice system. The challenges for this outcome are ensuring all partners are able to demonstrate the contribution of parents and carers and children and young people to decisions about service design and delivery and maintaining the reduction in the number of offenders who are not in employment education or training. The C&YPSP Executive requested that data on progress by similar local authorities is included for comparison in future reports.

Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) sue.kirkley@newcastle.gov.uk

The C&YPSP Executive received a draft of the NSCB Business Plan for comment. The priorities for this year include responding to the Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report (2009) by Lord Laming and embedding the lessons in local procedure. Work will continue on local priorities such as improving the timeliness of social care assessments, provision of support to families to prevent the need for children to be looked after or become subject to a Child Protection Plan. An area of development for 2009 will be the safeguarding of children where parents have mental health difficulties that impact on their capacity to parent.

Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) john.collings@newcastle.gov.uk

The C&YPSP Executive received an update on the specific impact of the new inspection arrangements on children's services which will include annual unannounced inspection of referral and assessment arrangements in social care and inspection of safeguarding and LAC services at least every three years. The overall effectiveness of children's services is unlikely to be judged as "good" if either the Stay Safe or the Enjoy and Achieve outcomes are judged to be less than "good". The C&YPSP Executive requested a report at a later meeting on work currently underway to improve the quality of referrals to social care from all partners.

Child Poverty Pilot

The C&YPSP Executive endorsed the Expression of Interest by a number of partners led by Action for Children to be part of the pilot to improve support to separating parents.

Inspiring Communities ray.steele@newcastle.gov.uk carol.hambling@newcastle.gov.uk

The C&YPSP Executive supported the work of the Local Authority to identify a single neighbourhood to apply for the Inspiring Communities Grant which is focused on raising attainment and aspiration of young people aged 11 to 14 years.

Annual Conference of the NSCB and CYPSP is 1st June 2009 tina.lisle@newcastle.gov.uk