

Summary of Key Issues 19th January 2009

Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Executive

The Children and Young People's Partnership Executive meets on the third Monday of every month. Minutes of the meeting are available at www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk.

Integrated Youth Strategy sara.morgan-evans@newcastle.gov.uk

The C&YPSP Executive received an update on the implementation of the Integrated Youth Strategy. The positive progress in bringing together Connexions and the Local Authority Youth Service into one service was noted. The revised structure will have four delivery teams based on secondary school clusters and their feeder primary schools. Each team will dedicate part of their resources to provide support to groups of vulnerable young people and to partners in the voluntary and community sector, work-based learning providers, Newcastle College and city centre provision such as the office on Percy Street. The self assessment for targeted youth support required by DCSF has been completed supported by the positive findings from the locality networks. A small project with a focus on young people who are "persistently" absent from school is working with a range of partners in the voluntary and community sector and the local authority to engage the young people and ensure their needs are addressed.

ContactPoint john.brown@newcastle.gov.uk

An update was received on the implementation of ContactPoint. Deployment in Newcastle will be from October 2009 but the process of "shielding" (concealing the location of a child who is at risk of significant harm such as a victim of domestic violence) by the ContactPoint team will start in February. Accreditation for organisations to be users of ContactPoint which includes enhanced CRB checks has also started.

Play Strategy una.macdonald@newcastle.gov.uk

The C&YPSP Executive welcomed the positive progress made in implementing the play strategy, including the delivery of the Big Lottery Play Portfolio and the Play Builder and Play Pathfinder Programme. The programme provides additional funding for the refurbishment of play areas and for the provision of adventure play in the city. The play audit has mapped all the existing play areas using the criteria of condition, play value and accessibility. The aim is to provide play areas within reach of all children and "potential parks" have been identified and scored in terms of playability, deprivation, current provision, strategic need in the area, funding opportunities such as Big Lottery and longer term regeneration plans. Children and young people and local communities have been involved in all the stages of the work. Exhibition Park is the proposed site for the Adventure Play Park. The C&YPSP Executive requested that the membership of the Play Partnership be extended to include the police and that links to the Children's Hospital be strengthened.

NHS North of Tyne Strategic Plan aileen.fitzgerald:northoftyne.nhs.uk

The C&YPSP Executive endorsed the draft strategic plan which covers the three PCT areas Newcastle, North of Tyne and Northumberland. The plan covers all age groups and builds on the national Darzi review. The issues for children identified by key indicators are the high rate of teenage pregnancy and low breast feeding initiation. The plan has a clear focus on reducing health inequalities across all the life stages.

Children's Trust Arrangements carol.hambling@newcastle.gov.uk

The C&YPSP Executive received a briefing on the revised Guidance on Interagency Cooperation. The C&YPSP Executive endorsed the proposed review of current Children's Trust arrangements to ensure compliance with the revised guidance.

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