

## CUMBRIA CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of the Cumbria Children's Trust Board held on 1 October 2009 at 2.00 pm at The Courts, Carlisle.

### PRESENT

Ms M Swann (Chair)

Professor J Ashton	-	NHS Cumbria
Mr M Bowman	-	Connexions Cumbria
Mrs A Burns	-	Cumbria County Council – Social Care Portfolio Holder
Mr D Collier	-	Strategic Manager, Children's Trust Board.
Ms Y Craig	-	Primary Heads Association
Mr K Douglas	-	Chief Executive, Eden District Council
Mr D Fairbairn	-	Cumbria County Council – Children's Services Portfolio Holder
Ms N Jackson	-	Cumbria Children's Trust Board Manager
Mr K Jones	-	Head of Service, Partnership and Prevention – Children's Services, CCC
Mr R Norman	-	Voluntary Sector Representative
Ms M Pickthall	-	Learning Skills Council, Cumbria
Ms D Royston	-	Interim Head of Service – Youth Offending Service,
ACCM Skeer	-	Cumbria Constabulary
Mrs H Smith	-	Head of Service – Child and Family Care-Child Services Directorate, CCC
Mr J Swainston	-	Head of Service – Schools and Learning – Children's Services Directorate, CCC
Mr M Watmough	-	Head of Service, Commissioning and Management Support – Children's Services Directorate, CCC
Mr V Watson	-	Associate Director - NHS Cumbria
Ms C Wynne	-	Associate Director – Public Health Partnerships – NHS Cumbria

### ACTION

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Dr M Bewick (NHS Cumbria), Ms E Clarke (Learning and Skills Council), Mr T Hopson (CASH), Mr S Taylor (Carlisle City Council) and Mr P Thornton (South Lakeland District Council).

## **2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of interest on this occasion.

## **3. MINUTES**

- (i) The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 3 September 2009 were agreed.
- (ii) **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising from the main section of the Minutes.

## **4. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN – 2010-13**

The Board considered a tabled report which summarised progress made re preparation of Cumbria's new three year Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) following the Board's endorsement of the Project Plan (for producing the new CYPP) on 3 September 2009. A project plan risk analysis was also tabled.

Details were provided on the current position re the consultation phase with stakeholders, partners, parents and carers. The original deadline for receipt of the consultation information proforma had now been extended to 16 October. Details were also provided in respect of an on-line questionnaire about key priorities for the new CYPP, action being taken by Connexions Cumbria to consult vulnerable children and young people via focus groups, consultation workshops being organised to consult CYPP workforce, partners and stakeholders and about the Children's Trust road shows. Written comments could also be submitted.

A consultation activity pack had been produced to enable various organisations and teams to facilitate their own consultations on key priorities for the CYPP. This would also be available electronically and via the school portals. The project risk analysis was also circulated which included risks associated with the possible consequences of the project team being affected by the flu pandemic ! Whilst it was felt that the project plan was very comprehensive and an improvement on previous attempts, the need to include locality profiles was stressed.

It was accepted that a huge amount of information had and was being been collected and collated but it was necessary to ensure that every significant group was able to express its views

**David Collier**

and have them taken into account. However the need to provide a focus on key priorities for the County during the consultation period was also recognised. This was being accounted for with priorities identified but the process would allow for new ones to be included as necessary. The need to ensure that steps were being taken to gain the views of all children including younger age groups and those who are disaffected was raised. It was reported that workshops would be included for 7-11 year olds and that, with the plan being refreshed each year, steps would be taken to ensure that disaffected youngsters were also included.

**RESOLVED,** that

- (1) all board members should champion the production of the new CYPP within their agencies, organisations and sectors and promote attendance at CYPP consultation workshops and make use of the consultation activity packs;
- (2) to endorse the updated risk analysis for the project to produce the 2010-13 CYPP;
- (3) that the Board continue to be provided with regular updates on progress.

**All Board members**

**David Collier**

## **5. COMMON ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK AND INTEGRATED WORKING**

The Board considered a report by the Head of Service – Prevention and Partnership (Children’s Service Directorate) which provided an update and evidence in relation to the current position on the common assessment framework and integrated working. It was reported that a considerable amount of work had and is being done at both County level and across locality partnerships to embed the integrated working processes around CAF and lead professionals and teams around the child/family. The west locality had led the way as a pilot area but there were signs that other localities were also beginning to engage partners and promote integrated working and delivering results.

Considerable challenges had been faced over the past couple of years but action taken to engage partners and families was now beginning to result in significant progress, especially in the first quarter of 2009/10. However progress continued to be variable e.g. amongst different agencies with a continuing need to support and encourage engagement and ensure a team approach to supporting children.

There was discussion about the types and levels of children's emotional problems, identifying the causes of them and the extent to which CAF and integrated working demonstratively addressed them effectively. Members were informed that the third stage of the process would address outcomes/effectiveness. The Board discussed the need for more data in relation to each area of the process and for examples of case studies to be provided. It was also felt that a cost benefit analysis should be undertaken to assess the extent to which the process assisted the preventative agenda.

**RESOLVED,**

- (1) to note progress made to date;
- (2) that the next progress report include more data on each area of the process and the extent to which it is effective in identifying and resulting in appropriate action being taken in a cost beneficial manner.

**Kevin Jones**

**6. RISK TAKING BEHAVIOUR BOARD – UPDATE ON PROGRESS**

The Board considered a report by the Risk Taking Behaviour Manager which provided an update on progress being made by the Risk Taking Behaviour Board in the period April to September 2009. The Head of Service – Prevention and Partnership (Children's Services Directorate) stated that in September the Board had received a report on teenage conception rates. The updated report indicated that there continued to be a slight increase in teenage conception rates but that figures were still below the north west average. The report also highlighted actions being taken, details of an upcoming visit from the teenage pregnancy national support team and about steps being taken e.g. in relation to the services provided by DASH and other agencies in respect of to drugs alcohol and sexual health.

Concern was expressed that despite there being a strong corporate strategy more work seemed to be necessary to achieve effective outcomes. It was noted that more work was required to ensure that more young people accessed sexual health, alcohol and other related services. There was also evidence which suggested that in certain areas some girls under sixteen consciously wanted to become pregnant. It was felt that more action needed to be taken at a very local level to make the

overall strategy more effective. It was agreed that local planning groups should be instructed to ensure that this was a key priority in their local plans and that engaging with the local community effectively should be part of this process.

The Board was informed of an event taking place in West Cumbria, the aim of which was to raise young people's aspirations and the that the outcomes of this could be reported back to the board. It was agreed that aspirational issues needed to be addressed. In relation to addressing issues at a very local level there was discussion about the need to ensure that staff had appropriate skills knowledge and capacity. Other matters which required attention in order to ensure that the overall strategy was effectively delivered were developing sexual health and life skills, co-ordinating advice and guidance and addressing embedded attitudes. Finally in relation to the visit of the national pregnancy support team, in addition to head of local services, Cathy Wynne and Vernon Watson indicated that they may be able to attend.

**Russell Norman**

#### **RESOLVED,**

- (1) to note progress made in relation to service improvements;
- (2) that each local planning group give priority within their local plan to examining issues relating to teenage conceptions in their respected areas and how they intend to address them within the context of the Corporate Strategic Plan and that a report be submitted to the Board in December;
- (3) further consideration be given to issues such as the types of interventions taking place/should be taking place within local communities and actions being taken to address and raise aspirations amongst some disadvantaged groups and how local communities can be engaged in that process.

**Local Planning Group – Chairs of Locality Planning Groups (via Kevin Jones & Barbara Fleary)**

#### **7. UPDATE ON IMPROVING INFORMATION SHARING AND MANAGEMENT (IISAM) – CONTACT POINT**

The Board considered a report by the IISaM programme manager (Children's Services Directorate) which provided an update on activities to progress the IISaM programme in Cumbria for the period July/October 2009 for the component work streams – ICS, information sharing and ContactPoint. The

report also proposed a governance structure to support the information sharing and management programme. It was reported that the current focus of the programme was to develop the infrastructure to support the sharing of information between agencies. As it progressed the views of children and young people, families and carers would be sought to ensure that their experiences and preferences enhanced and embedded the process. Further details were given in relation to integrated children's systems, information sharing and Contact Point. The proposed recommendations for the IISaM governance structure were based on the roles and remits contained within recommendations made in Lord Laming's 2009 report "The Protection of Children in England" and on statutory duties requiring local authorities to take a lead in making arrangements to promote cooperation between local agencies.

The Board welcomed the progress being made especially in relation to information sharing and on ContactPoint and supported the proposals for the governance structure.

**RESOLVED,**

- (i) to welcome the progress made;
- (ii) to approve the recommended governance structure (as outlined in the appendix to the report);
- (iii) to promote the interagency working groups and encourage attendance and engagement by representatives from all partner agencies, particularly at the Cumbria Information Sharing Group and the agreed IISaM governance boards.

**Karen Little**

**All Board members**

**8. TRANSPORT WORKSTEAM: BUSINESS PLAN**

The Board considered a report by the Chief Executive, Eden District Council and the Strategic Manager – Children's Trust Board which sought comments on and approval for a proposed business plan for the transport workstream 2009/10. The proposed business plan was based on the standard business plan template agreed by the board for use by all workstreams. It included details of the objectives for 2009/10, means by which the objectives could be judged as being successfully met and its terms of reference. In terms of future venues the project group was asked to consider alternative venues such as Kendal.

There was a need to ensure that the initial deliberations of the

group were carefully and thoroughly scoped. The Board was assured that evidence (and case studies) would be gathered in respect of rural transport issues affecting differing localities across the County. It was suggested that consideration be given to thinking about mobility in its wider sense, bearing mind how young people communicated with others and gained access to services rather than in terms of somewhat narrower concepts of transport.

Kevin Douglas  
Amy Holliman

In terms of the membership of the group it had been felt that including providers of transport services in the main project group could lead to potential conflicts of interest. However a consultative group could include such providers and it was suggested that group should not be restricted to “traditional” providers. It was also emphasised that obtaining the views of young people was vital and that as part of its deliberations the need for transport arrangements which took into account the safety of young people (e.g. late at night) should be borne in mind.

**RESOLVED,** that, bearing in mind the comments made, the transport workstream business plan be approved.

Kevin Douglas  
Amy Holliman  
to note

## **9. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT WORKSTREAM: DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN**

The Board considered a report by the Chair of the Workforce Development Workstream which sought the views on and approval for a draft business plan for the workforce development workstream in 2009/10. Again the business plan had been developed using the standard workstream template agreed by the Board.

References were made to the group’s terms of reference and links to IISaM and CAF. Specific mention was made about the section of the terms of reference relating to “influencing partners workforce strategies” and the need for a wider discussion about how this could be achieved through closer multi agency working (e.g. in relation to reducing health inequalities and empowering people through appropriate support mechanisms). It was suggested that a representative from Public Health be included in the project group.

Russell  
Norman/David  
Collier

**RESOLVED,** that, bearing in mind the comments made, the Workforce Development Workstream business plan be approved.

Russell  
Norman/David  
Collier to note

## 10. CHILD POVERTY BILL

The Board had before it a report by the Head of Service – Prevention and Partnership (Children’s Services Directorate) regarding a new bill which will require local authorities to produce a child poverty strategy to tackle economic poverty in their respective areas. Members were asked to support a relevant pilot event in the west of the County in November involving engagement by appropriate partners. It was agreed that details of this event be circulated.

Kevin Jones

**RESOLVED**, to defer consideration of the paper to the December meeting of the Board.

Kevin Jones

## 11. PREVENTATIVE FRAMEWORK – NARROWING THE GAP: PROJECT INITIATION DOCUMENT

The Board considered a paper seeking views on and endorsement for the Project Initiation Document for the Narrowing the Gap Project in Cumbria.

The overall prevention framework for Cumbria consisted of a number of related activity areas. A key component of this would be a project focusing on Narrowing the Gap in Cumbria. The project had already established a countywide steering group to oversee implementation across the County. The proposed model was to develop a consistent coherent intervention across a designated community of professionals. The Narrowing the Gap project would primarily focus on the under 11 age range and work with partners in order to raise the attainment of identified vulnerable children across Cumbria.

**RESOLVED**,

- (i) to endorse the Project Initiation Document for the Narrowing the Gap project;
- (ii) to support the proposal for external academic evaluation of the project and identify appropriate funds to commission an appropriate provider;
- (iii) to endorse the local governance arrangements through the local planning group and to ensure that representatives are involved in the local delivery of the Narrowing the Gap project.

Amy Holliman  
to note

## 12. 16-17 YEAR OLD HOMELESSNESS

Consideration was given to a report by the Social Care Commissioning Team (Children's Services Directorate) which provided the Board with an overview on the situation with regards to 16-17 year old homelessness. The report provided information on the implementation of the Young Persons Housing Protocol in light of the House of Lords ruling Accommodation for Lone 16-19 year old children. The report outlined recommendations for the Board's consideration as a result of the House of Lords ruling. Included in the report were details about the young person 16-19 homelessness protocol approved by the Board in 2008. This outlined the statutory responsibilities of both Children's Services and District housing authorities and develop partnership working in relation to young persons homelessness. The main part of the protocol recommends that in order to ensure partnership working multi agency housing panels meet on a regular basis in districts to jointly plan accommodation for homeless young people. It emphasises the need for agencies to work together to improve outcomes for children.

The House of Lords case related to responsibility for accommodating children thrown out of the family home and ruled that Children's Services should presume that any lone homeless child should be provided with accommodation under section 20 of the Children's Act 1989 as a child in need. Whilst this judgement emphasised the role of Children's Services it did not remove the need for significant input from housing authorities and effective joint working. It was likely that District housing officers would expect Children's Services to respond (in multi-agency housing panels) by requesting for assessments on such young people with resulting increases in numbers and cost.

Board members were reminded that effective joint working amongst appropriate agencies was vital. However there was a need for the existing housing protocols to be reviewed and agreed by partners and their roles and responsibilities clarified. The wider strategy on housing for young people also needed to be reviewed by a small group of officers and it was proposed that its outcomes be reported back to the Board in February. Children Services would now have a strategic lead function to perform as a result of the House of Lord decision. It was suggested that a representative from Public Health should also be involved in the review.

**RESOLVED,** that

- (i) the housing strategy for young people and

the existing housing protocol for 16-17 year olds be reviewed for resubmission to the board and agreement with all partner agencies;

- (ii) to recognise that in keeping with the House of Lords ruling Children's Services needs to take a lead role (alongside housing agencies) in co-ordinating and chairing multi-agency housing panels but that partners work need to work in close cooperation with each other;
- (iii) the review should look at and clarify the roles and responsibilities of the respective partners, and that Children's Services should have decision making representation at County and District housing planning meetings.

**Neil  
Spencer/Simon  
Taylor**

### **13. REVIEW OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

The Board considered a report by the Associate Director (Commissioning Partnerships), NHS Cumbria, which updated it on a review of health services for looked after children.

Members were informed that current services were diverse and in some cases unstructured and uncoordinated despite staff involved being committed to providing a good service. A more co-ordinated framework in which to operate and assess how services should be provided was required. A self assessment of current systems of meeting the needs of looked after children was currently underway which was part of a wider re-commissioning of health services for children and families. The outcomes of the self assessment of current systems together with a review and reshaping of current pathways and proposals for a single specification for the service would be submitted to the Board in December.

#### **RESOLVED,**

- (i) to note the expectations on health services in respect of looked after children;
- (ii) note the current self-assessment activities being carried out in the County;

- (iii) note the intention to take forward proposals for a realignment of services as part of the wider re-commissioning health services for children and families which would be reported back to the Board in December.

Vernon  
Watson  
Helen Smith

#### **14. CHILDREN'S SERVICES MAPPING EXERCISE UPDATE**

The Strategic Manager – Children's Trust reported that a small group had been established to look at the mapping of services provided for children. It was reported that in order to make the task manageable a limited number of services should initially be identified and information collected and that a further progress report be submitted to the Board in December/January.

**RESOLVED**, to note the current position and intentions and submit a further progress report to the Board in December/January.

Amy Holliman

#### **15. YOUTH OFFENDING THEMATIC INSPECTIONS**

It was agreed that this item be deferred until the January Board meeting.

Deborah  
Royston

#### **16. CUMBRIA SAFER SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIPS**

Representatives from the Cumbria Constabulary made a presentation about the Cumbria Safer Schools Partnership (SSP) programme in Cumbria. Background information about the programme, launched in 2002 and mainstreamed in 2006, was provided. The SSP was a formal agreement between schools and the police, the aim of which was improving behaviour, keeping young people safer and reducing crime and fear of crime in schools and communities. The presentation outlined the aims of the programme which included improvement in school attendance, improving victimisation outcomes, preventing and identifying risks of offending, supporting vulnerable young people etc. It also referred to the levels of officer deployment, where SSPs existed, and challenges faced. It covered issues relating to the improvement of information sharing, early intervention, developing community consultation, tackling anti-social behaviour, drugs and alcohol issues, reducing violence and increasing respect.

The programme tied into existing partnership working

arrangements in a planned way and supported the preventative agenda. Examples of good practice would be shared and communities involved in tackling anti-social behaviour, safety issues and addressing violence drug and alcohol problems. This helped to reduce pressure on the need to provide acute services and therefore provided value for money. The programme was generally welcomed by young people and local communities and it was felt that the skills used and gained from the partnerships could be more widely used to engage with the wider local community.

**RESOLVED,** to welcome the presentation and the positive benefits which can be gained from the Cumbria Safer Schools Partnership.

## **17. AGENDA PLANNER**

The Agenda Planner for the Children's Trust Board had been previously circulated. Bearing in mind the amendments made to the work programme as a result of the Board meeting it was recognised that the agenda for December was likely to be particularly heavy and therefore require some adjustment.

**Moira Swann**  
**Nicola Jackson**

## **18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted the next meeting of the Board would be an all day development day held on Thursday 5 November at Higham Hall. The next ordinary meeting of the Board would be held on Thursday 3 December 2009 at The Courts, Carlisle at 2.00 pm.

The meeting ended 5.00 pm.