

**Stockton-on-Tees Children's Trust Board**  
**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2010**  
**Stockton Central Library**

**1. Present**

Cllr Ann McCoy	AM	-	Cabinet Member For Children and Young People Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Cllr Jim Beall	JB	-	Councillor, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Darren Best	DB	-	Cleveland Police
Jackie Ennis	JE	-	Tees, Esk & Wear Valley NHS Trust
Geoff Fell	GF	-	Board Member – Cleveland Police Authority
Martin Graham	MG	-	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Ruth Hill	RH	-	NHS Stockton-on-Tees
Elizabeth Horne	EH	-	Stockton Schools Representative
Jane Humphreys	JH	-	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Peter Lowe	PL	-	Voluntary Sector Representative (The Children's Society)
Julia Morrison	JM	-	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council / NHS Stockton
Peter Seller	PS	-	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council / NHS Stockton
Geoff Turner	GT	-	Western Area Partnership
Simon Willson	SW	-	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Joe Lee	JL	-	Youth MP
Elizabeth Shearer	ES	-	Youth MP

**In Attendance:** Mike Batty (Development and Neighbourhood Services, SBC attending on behalf of Paul Dobson), Gill Durdan, Neil Goodall, Sam, John, Robert, Rachel and Danny (Representatives of the Support Plus Project) John Tierney (Integrated Youth Support Services, SBC), Tracy Cooke (Minuting, SBC).

**Apologies** Dr Agrawal, Cllr Lewis, Shaun McLurg, Paul Dobson, Tony Beckwith, Fran Toller, Graham Prest, Chris Willis, Marilyn Surtees, Sandra Egleton, Chris Livingston, Neil Schneider, Chris Willis, Cllr Gibson.

**2. Minutes from Previous Meeting**

Prior to the meeting PL had made a request for an amendment regarding a reference to PL commenting on Catalyst. This was inaccurate and the minutes were amended accordingly. Following this amendment the minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the last meeting.

**3. Matters Arising**

CAF – JH updated members that Mandie Morris has been appointed as the new CAF Co-ordinator, and she will be line managed by Kim Staff who is leading on the CAF. JH also commented that there has been contact with a national company C4EO who will assist in the development of a programme to roll out the CAF across Stockton-on-Tees. There will be a report on this at a future meeting.

Management of ISAs / Children Centres to be added as agenda item on staffing at a future board meeting.

Review of the Children and Young People's Plan – Children Trust's Grant – no update available at this time.

**5. Disability Steering Group**

Gill Durdan and representatives from the Disability Steering Group delivered a presentation on The Support Plus Project which supports young people with disabilities by matching them with a volunteer. Sam, John, Robert, Rachel and Danny described the volunteer scheme to

the board; the project encourages young people with disabilities with the support of volunteers to take part in external activities.

GD explained that the scheme, which has been running for 2 years, has matched 100 volunteers to young people. The scheme covers both Middlesbrough and Stockton-on-Tees. The volunteers also work with other groups providing volunteer training e.g. Daisy Chain.

The contract to supply this service was given in 2008 to provide support children and young people with disabilities who did not have experience of universal activities. The current project funding will end in 2011 and the group is continuing to look for funding to sustain the project through both local and national funding streams.

Within the presentation the group listed 5 simple things which would make their lives easier. AM queried how the board could support this. GD commented that the biggest issue is access to transport. The other is when organising events which includes disabled young people to consider the venue and whether it is user friendly for those young people. The board thanked GD, NG and the young people for their presentation and attendance.

#### **Action / Decision**

Board noted the presentation.

#### **4. Issues from Members and Young People Shadow Youth Board.**

Further to their attendance at a previous Children's Trust (CT) Board meeting, two representatives from the current Stockton Youth Assembly, Joe Lee and Elizabeth Shearer, provided the board with a verbal presentation on their recent visit to Tamworth to look at an example of a Shadow Youth Board. JL and ES suggested to the board that they would like to develop a Shadow Youth Board to feed into and link to the Children's Trust. This group could meet 4 times per year (2 large scale events and 2 smaller meeting). Members of the CT would be invited to attend the larger scale events. JM queried if the board agreed to the development of the Shadow Youth Board, what would happen to the current Youth Assembly. ES explained that the Shadow Youth Board would replace this group and it would be redeveloped with recruitment from school councils, and local youth and community groups to ensure a wide range of young people from different backgrounds.

JB commented that he was supportive of the proposal and the work being developed by the Central Area Partnership Board (CAPB) with developing a pilot scheme for a shadow CAPB representing young people. SL and ES dated the board on developments on the shadow CAPB which has met and decided on a name (Voicebox).

#### **Action / Decision**

The board agreed to the development of a new Shadow Youth Board and asked PS and MG to support John Tierney and the young people in developing the group. An update on progress to be provided at the next meeting.

#### **6. Children's Trust Board (CTB) Terms of Reference / Members**

MG provided an overview of the new draft CTB Constitution. Members agreed to a report in October 2010 to look the level of business support required for the board plus levels of proposed financial support from agencies.

PS reminded members that the board is now responsible for developing and publishing of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) which is required by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011.

The board discussed the proposal that that Children's Trust Management Team (CTMT) would not automatically be board members. The board agreed that CTMT members should only attend as and when they were required, either to present a report or take part in a discussion.

The board discussed the role of councillors on the board. It was suggested that as well as the lead member for Children and Young People, the lead member for Adults Services should attend with a 3<sup>rd</sup> representative. It was hi-lighted that council representative changes should go through approval through cabinet.

MG hi-lighted that although police was specified on the guidance it did not specify whether it would be either the police authority or serving officers. Discussions led into role and links between CTB and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) and the role of the police on each of the boards. Following this it was established that a representative from both the police authority and district commander should sit on the CTB.

Note; amendment to list of agency membership Tees and East Yorkshire NHS Trust should be Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust.

Members discussed the role of the community representative stated in the list, this was determined that community representatives came from the each of the Area Partnerships.

The membership also discussed the job specification for members and whether it should be revised to include the links to the CYPP and convey the message of members championing children and young people. This led in to the discussion for all organisations within the Children's Trust clarifying whether the right person was representing their organisation within the board.

#### **Action / Decision**

Carole Langrick to clarify the membership from North Tees and Hartlepool Trust on who should sit on the board.

Revised Constitution with amendments to be brought back to the board for discussion.

Minutes from the LSCB to be a pre-agenda item for discussion with chair.

Request to cabinet/ democratic services for 3 councillors to be appointed to the board - 2 named cabinet members (as previously mentioned), 1 non executive member.

The revised proposed membership list to go before CTMT prior to the November board meeting.

#### **7. Children and Young People Plan (CYPP) 2009 – 2010 Review**

PS provided the board with the statutory review of the plan; the self evaluation document outlined the key achievements and area for improvement for the following year.

The chairs of each of the 4 partnership groups provided performance data to the board members for each of the 5 Every Child Matters (ECM) work areas.

PS representing the Be Healthy Partnership outlined the key achievements including improvements to targeted mental health support to children in schools in the Billingham area. PS also highlighted current issues around teenage pregnancy and Chlamydia targets. PS informed the board that there has been poor attendance at Be Healthy Partnership meetings recently. Members discussed the issue, PS explained this was due to conflicting demands and suggested linking in with the Tees-wide group.

JH representing the Local Safeguarding Children Board hi-lighted the recent un-announced inspection of children's social care and that the overall authority is at risk of receiving a low rating due to this if a full inspection is not undertaken prior to November 2010. There are areas of positive practice; children's homes have received a good / outstanding rating and the rating for the overall service could be changed / increased depending on the outcome of a further inspection.

Current pressures include the increase in referrals and the difficulty in recruiting suitably qualified and experienced staff.

A kinship care policy is currently being developed.

AM commented on the rating of children's social care and the board discussed how to challenge the decision and bring forward the inspection to ensure the authority is re-evaluated. JH commented that the inspection process has been discussed at the Association of Directors of Children's Services.

JM representing the Enjoy and Achieve Partnership provided the key achievements from the past year including good progress in KS2 and KS4, and reduction in exclusions. The transfer of planning post 16 education has transferred from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to the local authority. The group continues to raise expectations and attainment for young people.

SW representing the Positive Contribution and Economic Wellbeing Partnership. The partnership is currently reviewing its membership and is continuing to look at the engagement and participation of young people. The recent YOS inspection indicated a number of positive areas, however there is a recent increase in re-offending behaviour. Work on youth homelessness reached Beacon status, and there are new supported lodgings available for young people in Parkfield.

Cross cutting priorities including looking a family well being, the development of children centres, and the review of the Parenting Strategy.

JM commented on Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and still waiting to hear on the future of the funding for the programme. There remains a strong commitment to Campus Stockton and the development of 2 Academies. Currently the Primary Capital Programme is still ongoing subject to funding being available.

#### **Action / Decision**

Board accepted reviews

#### **8. Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2011 - 2014**

SW provided the board with a Project Implementation Document (PID) which outlines the plan to develop the new CYPP next year. The PID includes the project team members who will lead and develop the plan and asked board members for their comments.

SW also provided a timeline with key dates to aim to complete the plan before 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011. SW requested a change of date for the next Children Trust meeting and that it is moved to the end of October or early November, so that the board can discuss the draft key priorities for the plan. He also requested an additional meeting in February 2011 to review the plan before going out for its final consultation.

PS commented that Alison Aguis has volunteered to join the project team to represent the voluntary / community sector.

#### **Action / Decision**

The board accepted the report and agreed the timeline and changes to the meeting schedule.

#### **9. CESC Social Care Update**

JH explained that all relevant issues were covered earlier under agenda item 6.

#### **10. Continuum of Need and Response**

JH explained due to a number of service providers being unsure when a Common Assessment should be completed prior to a referral being made to social care, a new continuum of need and response has been developed to identify the different levels of need in children and at what level when intervention should be placed.

The role of the duty team is still to be clarified within the document. Once this is complete the

document will be circulated for consultation to board members and practitioners for comments over the next two months. Shaun McLurg will be the main contact for comments. AM suggested the document should go to school governing bodies as an item on their agenda. Any feedback / comments on the document should be provided before the end of September 2010.

#### **Action / Decision**

The board noted the report.

#### **11. Cultural Partnership**

Item deferred

#### **12. Children Trust Management Team Decisions (CTMT)**

JH provided details of recent decisions taken by CTMT. These included the review of 1<sup>st</sup> Contact Team, and the process of the inspection of Children Services.

Interviews for the Head of School Effectiveness post are scheduled to take place on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2010 following JM's appointment as Director of Children Services in Cumbria. The Chair thanked JM on behalf of the board for her contribution to Stockton-on-Tees.

#### **Action / Decision**

The board accepted the report.

#### **13. Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Information Exchange.**

JH provided an update with regards to developments within the board including the board reviewing Lord Laming's recommendations. There is also an audit of ongoing of social care cases.

The Board will be interviewing for an independent chair alongside Darlington LSCB and there is a current advertisement for two lay members to join the board.

A development day for LSCB members is to take place on 12 July 2010.

#### **Action / Decision**

The board accepted the report.

#### **14. Any Other Business**

None

#### **15. Open to the Public**

No public questions/comments were made.

#### **16. Close**

AM thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

#### **17. Dates for future meetings:**

Note: The revised date for the next CTB meeting is now **Tuesday 9th November 2010**. The meeting on the **Thursday 9th December 2010** remains unaltered and a new additional date of **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2011** has been arranged.

All meetings will take place **4.30pm – 6.30pm** in **Stockton Central Library Lecture Hall**