

Stockton-on-Tees Children's Trust Board
Tuesday 9th November 2010
Stockton Central Library

1. Children's Trust Members Present

Cllr Ann McCoy (Chair)	AM	- Cabinet Member For Children and Young People Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Cllr Jim Beall	JB	- Cabinet Member for Adult Services & Health, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Geoff Fell	GF	- Board Member – Cleveland Police Authority
Cllr Robert Gibson	RG	- Councillor, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Ruth Hill	RH	- NHS Stockton-on-Tees
Geoff Harrison	GH	- Northern Area Partnership
Elizabeth Horne	EH	- Stockton Schools Representative
Jane Humphreys	JH	- Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Carole Langrick	CL	- North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust
Cllr Alan Lewis	AL	- Councillor, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Graham Prest	GP	- NHS Stockton-on-Tees
Lucia Saiger	LS	- Teesside Probation Service
Geoff Turner	GT	- Western Area Partnership

In Attendance

Mike Batty	MB	Development and Neighbourhood Services, SBC attending on behalf of Paul Dobson
Lynda Brown	LB	New Head of Children, Schools and Complex Needs, SBC
Susan Gower	SG	CE4O
Martin Graham	MG	Children, Education & Social Care (CESC), SBC
Shaun McLurg	SM	CESC, SBC
Peter Seller	PS	CESC, SBC / NHS Stockton
Kim Staff	KS	CESC, SBC
John Tierney	JT	Integrated Youth Support Services, SBC
Chief Inspector	MW	Cleveland Police, attending on behalf Darren Best
Mick Watson		
Andy Whinnerah	AW	Policy, Performance and Partnerships, SBC
Simon Willson	SW	CESC, SBC
Tracy Cooke	TC	Minuting, SBC

Apologies: Allison Aguis, Dr Agrawal, Darren Best, Paul Dobson, Sandra Egleton, Jackie Ennis, Joe Lee, Peter Lowe, Marilyn Surtees, Fran Toller, Chris Willis.

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

Agreed as a true record

3. Matters Arising

No matters arising.

4. Continuum of Need

Shaun McLurg (SM) provided the board with the revised Continuum of Need document after the initial draft of the document was presented to the board in July. The guidance replaces the Eligibility Criteria document developed in 2006. SM highlighted that the document now includes information relating to key services and the use of Common Assessment Framework (CAF). The guidance has been circulated for consultation purposes and comments have been received and the content adjusted accordingly.

AM provided the board with feedback from the Domestic Violence Forum relating to this document and discussed a template currently being developed by Barnardos which is being piloted in London around safeguarding issues.

PS provided feedback from the Hidden Harm partnership relating to the continuum and engaging “hard to reach” families.

Discussion took place around budgets and the ability to meet the priorities in the next financial year.

Action / Decision

The board accepted the recommendations and the revised Continuum of Need document.

5. CAF (Common Assessment Framework).

SM and Susan Gower from C4EO delivered a presentation to the board on the current use of the CAF and how to develop its use across partner agencies within the Stockton borough.

The presentation updated members on progress of the CAF since the last report was received by the board on 6th October 2009. A CAF Co-ordinator (Mandie Morris) has been appointed within the local authority to ensure the wide implementation of the CAF.

The CAF has been identified as a key priority for development following the recent Ofsted inspection.

SG provided the board with an assessment of the current position and explained to the board although the CAF was a national programme, there has not been a standard model set out by government and that each local authority has taken a different approach towards implementation.

Currently the national E-CAF system is being piloted, however a firm date for implementation has not yet been agreed. It is understood that the government remains committed to the CAF.

SG discussed areas of good practice where the CAF is currently used well by some agencies within the authority and which sectors would benefit from further training and support.

It was also put to the board that the CAF becomes mandatory, and that all agencies working with children within the borough should adopt the assessment and referral forms. SG gave the example of Southend and how this impacted on both decreasing the referrals and re-referrals rates into their social care department.

SG also suggested that the local Children’s Service Directory could benefit from a revision where the services are listed by area of “need” so that it is more practitioner friendly.

SM outlined the way forward for the further development of CAF and provided his recommendations to the board;

- CTB to restate commitment to CAF as the mandatory means of responding to children with additional needs.
- CTB members to act as ‘champions’ within their organisations/services to ensure that strategic agreement is translated into operational activity.
- All CTB member agencies identify at least two CAF leads to support the operational delivery of CAF within that setting.
- Amended CAF procedures and documentation, including the use of a standardised referral form are agreed and fully disseminated within CTB member agencies.
- Discussion takes place about whether to rename the CAF process/documentation to Stockton’s Easy Assessment for Services (SEAS).
- Existing CAF training is revised and targeted at CAF ‘champions’ and identified leads augmented by a programme of targeted single agency briefings.
- Work is undertaken to review and enhance the existing CAF database.
- Additional administrative resources are made available to support this work.

- Consideration is given to the development of an electronic service directory which is accessible to all practitioners and parents.
- This proposed way forward will be presented to SLSCB for approval on 18 November 2010.

JH highlighted the importance of the CAF following the recent Ofsted inspection. The board members agreed to their commitment to the CAF however some board members including LS (Probation) and MW (Police) could not agree to the mandatory aspect due to their organisations cross over to other local authority areas. The board discussed this issue and agreed to this recommendation with exception to those members / organisations which operate across county boundaries which would be subject to further discussion after the meeting.

KS (Operational Manager responsible for the CAF) highlighted some of the issues and barriers in implementing the system such as issues around consent from parents, a lack of understanding from some practitioners and a lack of knowledge of what support is available to families.

Several board members discussed CAF implementation in schools, AM suggested that CAF should be placed on the agendas of schools governing bodies meetings to raise awareness. JB relayed to the board some of his discussions with schools staff regarding the over-complication of documentation they had to complete.

Mike Batty queried how an employee with concerns for a child could contact the relevant agency? It was clarified that if the concern was in relation to child protection or as a child in need then First Contact should be contacted. For child where additional needs have been identified the CAF process should be followed.

The board discussed briefly the renaming of the CAF system, as it has been noted one of the barriers to full implementation had been due to a negative name association. The board agreed due to the level of promotion and information shared around CAF, the title at present should remain for the time being.

The board discussed and agreed to existing training being revised and targeted to CAF Champions being identified within partner organisations and to single agency training.

The board discussed the development of the CAF database along with the need for additional administrative resources to be made available to support this development. SG provided clarification on the CAF database. JH suggested a request should be made to partner organisations which may have additional capacity / resources to provide additional administrative support.

Action / Decision

Board accepted the reports recommendations but agreed to further discussion with some external partners the mandatory aspect to implement the CAF.

The board agreed to further explore the options regarding the electronic service directory and administrative support.

6. Issues from members and young people

John Tierney provide a brief update on the shadow youth board. He and some young people are developing a nomination pack for schools and community groups to the shadow youth board. The nomination packs will be issued in February 2011.

7. Community Cohesion Strategy

Andy Whinnerah provided a briefing to the board regarding the update of the Community Cohesion Strategy and action plan. He invited members review the plan and provide any suggested actions to be part of the revised document that will be published in 2012. The document is currently available on the: SBC website;

AW asked members interested in putting suggestions to the development of the new strategy to provide their contact information after the meeting.

Action / Decision

The board noted the report.

8. The Cabin / Stockton and District Advice and Information Service (SDAIS)

Danni Lorraine (Youth Participation Officer) and Jade Harcourt (Youth Advisor) from the Cabin provided a presentation to the board to raise awareness of the service. The Cabin is part of the SDAIS that provides a dedicated advice service to young people aged 25 and under. The project is currently funded by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, Lloyds TSB and the Big Lottery.

The service was set up due to numbers of young people likely to experience difficulties and require advice, but was less likely to seek support, it was also felt they were under represented within the SDAIS and after consultation the development of Cabin took place.

Danni outlined to the board the type of work and support which is provided to young people in need of advice. The service recruits young people to become advisers who are trained to provide information and advice and they receive qualifications to a national certificate level.

Jade described to the board her experiences since she starting working at the Cabin and the positive impact it has had on her life.

Questions from the board members were taken in which DL and AM hi-lighted plans for future funding for the project and the cross section of young people within the borough accessing the service. DL explained that The Cabin was the only Citizens Advice Bureau ran Youth Advice Centre in the country.

Action / Decision

The board noted the report.

9. Ofsted Inspection

JH provided the board with the results of the Ofsted inspection with Safeguarding aspect receiving an adequate rating and Looked after Children service receiving a good rating.

A small working party led by Simon Willson will look at the actions plan arising from the inspection and report back to the Children's Trust at a future meeting.

LS thanked JH for writing a letter to the Care Quality Commission on behalf of partner organisations which have cross county boundaries and the impact of preparing for multiple inspections for each different Local Authority.

Action / Decision

The board noted the report.

10. Children's Trust Board (CTB) Constitution and Terms of Reference / Future of Children's Trust Board

PS provided the board with the report and updated constitution for the Children Trust Board. Since the last report delivered to the Children's Trust on 1 July 2010 the statutory duty role of the board has been revoked as is requirement to produce a Children and Young People's Plan by April 2011.

The board agreed that it should continue as the multi-agency body responsible for services to children and young people under the proposed constitution.

PS commented that a further report on the function of the Children's Trust Management

Team would be provided to a future meeting.

The partnership groups under the CTB will also be reviewed to reflect the emerging priorities.

JB highlighted the list of membership of the board within the constitution and discussion took place around community representation. It was confirmed that community representation would be through the area partnership representatives and the additional community representative was administrative error and would be removed from the document.

Discussion took place around Chief Executive's and Director of Development and Neighbourhood Services representation. It was agreed in these instances, delegates could be appointed to attend meetings on their behalf.

Discussion took place around the changes to the health service particularly changes to GPs becoming responsible for the commissioning of services. The board agreed that an appointment of a GP representative to the board should be arranged.

Action / Decision

The board agreed the constitution, subject to the agreed minor alterations.

11. Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2011 – 2014 – Key Priorities

PS provided an update to the board on the key priorities identified within the development of the updated CYPP following the work done by project team.

PS highlighted that Substance Misuse and issues around Domestic Violence have been incorporated into the plan. PS requested the board to agree to the set of priorities identified – to allow time to set the budget for the next financial year with delivery of the new Children and Young People's Plan in June rather than April 2011.

The board discussed the document; it was suggested alcohol and drug taking to be identified as risk taking behaviour and the reduction of cases is seen as good practise rather than prioritise the reduction of risk taking behaviour as part of the plan.

The board requested that the shadow youth board to discuss the priorities listed

Action / Decision

The board agreed the report.

12. Emotional Health and Well-Being Partnership

PS provided details of the proposed terms of reference of the new Emotional Health and Well-Being Partnership that will replace the existing CAMHS (Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services) Partnership.

Action / Decision

The board agreed the Terms of Reference and the setting up of the new partnership.

13. Children Trust Management Team Decisions (CTMT)

JH briefly noted that board members had been provided with a copy of the report on the decisions taken by the CTMT

Action / Decision

The board accepted the report.

14. Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Information Exchange.

JH provided a verbal report on the developments within the LSCB over the last 3 months including the appointment of an independent chair Colin Morris to the board. In addition to this two lay members will be appointed to the board in January 2011. Colin will be invited to attend future Children's Trust meetings

Board members will be invited to an away day focusing on issues around Domestic Violence in January 2011.

The LSCB is currently undertaking a serious case review, is involved with one from another local authority.

LSCB minutes will now be circulated alongside the CTB minutes for information purposes.

Action / Decision

The board accepted the report

15. Exception Reporting from Partnership Groups

GH provided the board with update from the Northern Area Partnership, The Safer Billingham Partnership is working to establish Billingham as cycling town and is in the process of developing a young people's project to recycle and reuse unwanted and broken bikes.

RH provided members with a summary of the Joint Assessment Needs Assessment from the Health service, links to the full document is available on the NHS website - <http://www.teespublichealth.nhs.uk/>

Action / Decision

The board accepted updates

16. Any Other Business

None

17. Open to the Public

No questions given

18 Close

Chair thanked members and people present for their attendance and apologise for the over-running of the meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 9th December 4.30 – 6.30pm in Stockton Central Library Lecture Hall