

Stockton-on-Tees Children's Trust Board
Thursday 9th December 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
Darren Best	DB	- District Commander, Cleveland Police
Jackie Ennis	JE	- Tees, Esk & Wear Valley NHS Trust
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
Jane Humphreys	JH	- Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Carole Langrick	CL	- North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust
Chris Livingstone	CL	- Jobcentre Plus
Peter Lowe	PL	- The Children's Society
Colin Morris	CM	- Stockton Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) – Chair
Lucia Saiger	LS	- Teesside Probation Service

In Attendance

Ben Armitage	BA	Teesside Positive Action
Alison Aguis	AA	Catalyst
Mike Batty	MB	Development and Neighbourhood Services, SBC attending on behalf of Paul Dobson
Martin Graham	MG	Children, Education & Social Care (CESC), SBC
Martyn Green	MGr	Teesside Positive Action
Claire Joss	CJ	CESC, SBC
Rachel Robertson	RR	Stockton Alcohol Service
Peter Seller	PS	CESC, SBC / NHS Stockton
John Tierney	JT	Integrated Youth Support Services, SBC
Simon Willson	SW	CESC, SBC
Anthony Young	AY	CESC, SBC
Tracy Cooke	TC	Minuting, SBC

Apologies: Dr Agrawal, Paul Dobson, Sandra Egleton, Marilyn Surtees, Fran Toller, Chris Willis, Elizabeth Horne, Geoff Turner, Cllr Alan Lewis.

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

Agreed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

Common Assessment Framework (CAF) – JH updated the board that a CAF group was going to be set up to include representatives from the other Tees Unitary Authorities and other agencies to find an outcome to the issues raised at the previous meeting.

The Cabin Presentation – AM has passed on board's thanks and congratulated the Cabin's representatives on their presentation at the last Children's Trust Board meeting.

Children's Trust Board membership – PS is currently progressing the request to select a GP representative to the board.

Emotional Health and Mental Well-being Partnership has met and agreed their terms of reference.

4. Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Trans-sexual (LGBT) Group

Claire Joss introduced Anthony Young - LGBT Community Worker and two young people Martyn and Ben from Teesside Positive Action Group.

Following the issue that there was a lack of support in the area for LGBT young people being raised at a previous Children's Trust Board, the Teesside Positive Action Group was established in April 2009. The support worker for and activities for this group have been funded through the Teenage Pregnancy Service.

The support group initially had 5 members however this has increased to 33 members who meet together on regular basis. Group members take part in both local and regional events promoting the group and raising awareness of the issues that concern LGBT young people.

The community worker and representatives have been providing awareness sessions as part of healthy schools activities in secondary schools with Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils. They have also been involved in LGBT awareness training days.

The group outlined their activities over the last two years and their planned programme which includes workshops in schools to raise the issue of homophobia and further LGBT awareness training.

Questions from board members were taken; the group took part in the World Mental Health Day activities in Stockton and described it as very positive experience. The representatives were asked how many schools they have attended and they explained that they have been invited into 5 secondary schools alongside other services such as the healthy schools programme.

The representative discussed the group membership with the large majority of the members coming from Stockton Borough. A couple of attendees travel in from outside the borough as there is no similar group within their authority.

AM thanked the group for their presentation on behalf of the board.

Action / Decision

The board accepted the presentation.

5. Anti Bullying Charter

PL shared with the board the Anti Bullying Charter and Action Plan which has been developed by the Anti Bullying Steering group. The LSCB and council have endorsed the charter and action plan. PL asked for the paper to be endorsed by the CTB as well. PL hoped CTB members would actively promote and encourage agency sign up across Stockton.

JH highlighted that organisations such as the Local Authority do not condone bullying and already have anti bullying policies in place. PL along with several board members discussed how the document could be used to assist in the review of existing policies and adopted by smaller organisations. It was recommended that the document should be placed on schools governing body's agendas, the shadow youth board and circulated to partner organisations.

The board agreed to the document to be circulated to board members and their respective agencies and it's content to be agreed.

It was proposed that an event could be arranged to publicise the charter with press attendance where a formal signing of the charter by all partners.

Action / Decision

Board accepted the report, The Local Authority and partner organisations to circulate for their approval. Further consideration to be given to a possible press event where partners and LA representative sign up to the document.

6. Issues from members and young people

Representatives from the Let's Take Action Group raised the issue with the board about a possible trip to an orphanage in Romania. The board discussed the idea and suggested further investigation into the costs and structure of the visit with the suggestion of approaching local organisations that already visit Romania. Further discussion to take place on how to take proposal forward to the Corporate Director.

The Shout Out Aloud group with their chair, a Youth MP would like to meet with representatives from the council to express their views to the expected budget cuts. The board discussed suggestion and agreed to meeting with the young people representatives with a view of making it a multi-agency meeting along with other partners and their services.

Action / Decision

The Let's Take Action Group to prepare a more detailed outline for their proposal to visit Romania linking in with other organisations.

A small group of Children Trust members from the local authority and other agencies to meet with Shout Out Aloud group representatives to discuss the proposed budgets cuts.

7. Transitions Strategy

PS updated the board with details of the Transitions Strategy and provided copies of the terms of reference and Inter-Agency Protocol. He explained that the strategy was to ensure that young people are supported through transition and the document has been consulted on by partner organisations, parents, carers, and young people. A number of priorities have been highlighted with a focus on young people with additional and complex needs and those with wider mental health issues. The Board discussed the documents.

Action / Decision

The board accepted the report.

8. Budget Priorities

PS updated the board and indicated that due to waiting for the announcements on the budget settlement for the next financial year, he is unable to provide a report. However, he will be able to provide a clearer picture at the meeting in February 2011.

Board members discussed the lateness of funding announcements and expressed concerns that there may be a tight deadline to agree the priorities at the next meeting and have the budgets in place for April 2011. The board agreed that an earlier meeting should be considered to discuss budget priorities for the forthcoming financial year if needed.

Action / Decision

The board noted the report and agreed to consideration of an earlier meeting, if space could be found.

9. Corporate Parenting

SW provided the board with the draft updated Corporate Parent Strategy. The document also includes the "pledge" that has been developed with the assistance of the Children in Care Council (Let's take Action Group).

SW asked the Local Authority to sign up and commit to the pledge within the document and to send a request to partner organisations for them to also sign up to it.

SW provided an update from the Ofsted inspection which commented that the "voice" of younger children in care was not being heard adequately.

The document will be taken to Cabinet for final approval and councillors will be asked to sign the pledge.

Action / Decision

The board noted the report and agreed to consider in their organisations.

10. Performance Report / School Performance

School Performance

SW outlined details of the report to the board regarding school performance, including improvements in both Key Stage 3 and 4 including English and Maths which has closed the gap between local and national averages. There has been improvement in attendance levels in both primary and secondary schools.

SW discussed with the board the inspection outcomes and noted that performance has improved based on year on year results.

Members of the board commented on the hard work that both pupils and teachers have put in over the last year and congratulated their efforts.

Action / Decision

The board accepted the report.

Performance Report

SW gave an outline to the board how children services were performing in comparison to the Ofsted report and Children and Young People's Plan. From the Ofsted annual report the authority is performing well, with a significant improvement from the previous January in those areas which had been of concern.

Action / Decision

The board accepted the report.

11. Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Annual Report / LSCB Information Exchange.

Colin Morris introduced himself to the board as the new chair of the Stockton LSCB taking over the role from Jane Humphreys. He provided the board with the Annual Report and Progress Review of the 2008 – 2012 Action Plan.

CM updated the board on the developments which have taken place within the LSCB. There will be a comprehensive review of the board's membership following the change of chair. The LSCB has accepted the Continuum of Need documents which replaced the previous Eligibility Criteria document.

Note; the chair of LSCB will present a report on annual basis to the relevant select committee.

The Board has endorsed the Anti-Bullying charter; continues to review information relating to home education, the recent Ofsted inspection and how CAF can be adopted into the probation service.

Action / Decision

The board accepted the report.

12. Stockton Alcohol Service

Rachel Robertson from Stockton Alcohol Service (Lifeline) introduced herself to the board. She outlined what the service provides to its clientele, which is an open access service and provides counselling for those in need. The service provides group services and a hospital in-reach team. Lifeline is based in Skinner Street, Stockton and provides care pathways for individual groups under 16s, 16-18s and 18 years plus. The service has also been involved with the CAF process.

RR and board discussed what role Lifeline provides for children and young people. RR explained that when a referral has been made either a self referral or agency referral, the support worker will establish if there are children in the household. JB enquired whether there was a separate young person's service. RR confirmed there was. RR talked about the

service's partnerships links with other organisations in Stockton including Catalyst.

Action / Decision

The board accepted the report.

13 Children Trust Management Team Decisions (CTMT)

No update provided due to no decisions made since the last meeting.

14 Exception Reporting from Partnership Groups

MB updated the board indicating that the Domestic Violence away day is unable to take any more delegates due to being full to capacity.

Action / Decision

The board accepted update.

15. Targeted Mental Health in Schools (TaMHS)

MG introduced the board to the DVD produced by the TaMHS project. The contract through Alliance Psychological Services provides counselling and other therapeutic services to children and young people to support their emotional health needs. The project had 2 years funding by the DCSF / DfE to September 2011 and has been piloted in Billingham. The DVD provided the board with local case studies of children and young people who have benefited from the project and testimonials from staff from schools, the local authority and other agencies.

Board members discussed the positive impact the project has had on the children and young people involved. MG and PS explained that TaMHS provides a low level support to children and young people and due to the benefits suggested that the project could be rolled out across the wider authority. The board raised several questions on how the service could be reconfigured to allow it to expand across the authority and continue to provide support to children and young people. PS hi-lighted that the pilot had been a big success in terms of take up rate from schools.

The board discussed the financial pressure and whether the programme could be continued. It was suggested that contributions from other areas could be made e.g. individual school budgets to enable the project's expansion and continuation.

Action / Decision

The board accepted the presentation.

16. Any Other Business

None

17. Open to the Public

No questions were asked.

18 Close

Chair thanked members and other people present for their attendance.

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 16th February, 4.30 – 6.30pm in Stockton Central Library Lecture Hall