

**Stockton-on-Tees Children's Trust Board**  
**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2011**  
**Stockton Central Library**

**1. Children's Trust Board 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
Tina Cascarino	TC	- Young People's Representative
Jackie Ennis	JE	- Tees, Esk & Wear Valley NHS Trust
Geoff Fell	GF	- Board Member – Cleveland Police Authority
Jane Humphreys	JH	- Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Carol Langrick	CL	- North Tees & Hartlepool Foundation Trust
Graham Prest	GP	- Chairman, NHS Stockton
Lucia Saiger	LS	- Teesside Probation Service
Geoff Turner	GT	- Western Area Partnership
Lucia Saiger	LS	- Teesside Probation Service

**In Attendance**

Alison Agius	AA	- Catalyst
Mike Batty	MB	- Development and Neighbourhood Services, SBC attending on behalf of Paul Dobson
Lynda Brown	LB	- Children, Education & Social Care, SBC
Martin Graham	MG	- Children, Education & Social Care, SBC
Shaun McLurg	SM	- Children, Education & Social Care, SBC
Peter Seller	PS	- Children, Education & Social Care, SBC / NHS Stockton
Kim Staff	KS	- Children, Education & Social Care, SBC
John Tierney	JT	- Children, Education & Social Care, SBC
Jackie Ward	JW	- Children, Education & Social Care, SBC
Simon Willson	SW	- Children, Education & Social Care, SBC
Tracy Cooke	TCO	- Minuting, SBC

**Apologies:** Sandra Egleton, Cllr Alan Lewis, Lesley Cannon, Colin Morris, Steven Childs, Peter Lowe, Fran Toller, Jackie Ennis, Khalid Azam, Ruth Hill, Paul Dobson.

**2. Minutes from Previous Meeting**

Agreed as a true record.

**3. Matters Arising**

GP representation on the Children's Trust Board – PS updated the board; the new GP consortia are now in place, members have been appointed and a request made for a representative for the Children's Trust Board. Due to the transfer of commissioning responsibilities, Khalid Azam will also be joining the board from NHS Stockton and will act as a link between the board and the GP consortia.

Anti-Bullying Charter – no update on progress at present, PS will discuss it further with representatives from the partnership.

Let's Take Action – The Let's Take Action Group will develop a proposal with JT for a possible visit to Romania.

Transitions Strategy – Following a discussion at the Children Trust Management Team it was agreed that the Transitions Strategy is wider than just children and young people with complex needs. A working group has been established to address this. The Transitions Strategy will be

item for information at the next board meeting in June 2011 with an update given on progress.

Targeted Mental Health in Schools – PS updated the board that the current contract will continue until September 2011. The intention is to commission a new borough wide service and a financial commitment is being sought from schools. One year non recurrent contribution from Public Health has been agreed. Further discussions are taking place with the PCT re joint funding between the local authority and the PCT.

AM commented on the positive feedback from Schools which have taken part in the successful pilot, and echoed the need for this to be an area of development.

PS updated the board that the INCH project has now ceased to provide a service, due to the financial uncertainties and to staff moving on to other areas of work. Alliance Psychological Services have been commissioned for 3 months to provide some additionalilty until a replacement service can be commissioned.

#### **Action / Decision**

The board accepted the updates.

#### **4. Issues from Members and Young People**

'Your Say' – Members who attended fed back to the board how positive they had found the consultation event with young people. TC provided feedback from young people on the event; the questions were well organised however some have additional questions they would like to put to the Local Authority and partner agencies.

The Board discussed the possibility of further events with questions from young people provided in advance of the session. This would give the panel the opportunity to provide a full response. TC stated that young people would like to have regular events and possibly twice each year.

Shadow Youth Board – JT provided the board an update on the development of the Shadow Youth Board. The Central Area Youth board is now in place with each of the other area partnerships developing their own youth board. Once the area youth boards are in place, each area board will be asked to make their nominations to represent their area on the Shadow Youth Board.

JT gave details on a residential planned for July for new Shadow Youth Board members.

#### **Action / Decision**

The board accepted the updates.

MG / JT to liaise regarding arrangements for a second Your Say event later in the year.

#### **5. Local Safeguarding Board Update**

Due to the apologies of the Chair of LSCB this item is deferred to the next meeting.

#### **6. Children & Young People's Plan 2011–13 priorities, budget setting and resource plan**

PS provided a brief report to the board regarding the Children & Young People's Plan and proposed draft of an interim plan. He explained that current plan is in place until 2012 and following the removal of the statute to produce a plan as discussed in December, he proposed delaying the production of a full plan until next year. Due to the reductions in grant funding, the introduction of the Early Intervention Grant and reduced budgets he suggest that an interim plan is adopted with a focus on developing a more detailed plan for 2012/2013.

The board discussed the proposal and asked for feedback on the structure of the document. A discussion took place regarding how the impact of targeted services could be measured. It was suggested that both educational attainment and health information could be used to track progress.

The Interim plan is to be shared with partnership groups, individual agencies and the Shadow

Youth Board for comments.

The proposals for the Partnerships Groups within the draft plan were discussed. The proposals included the development of the following:

- a revised CTMT to act as the executive group for the CTB;
- an Early Intervention Partnership (the existing CAF Project Board would report to this partnership);
- a Children with Complex Needs Partnership
- a Risk Taking Behaviour Partnership (which incorporates the work of the Teenage Pregnancy and Substance Misuse groups); and
- a Workforce Development Partnership.

Other existing Boards aligned to the Every Child matters outcomes will be asked to review their terms of reference and purpose.

PS reported that the board / partnership structure will be developed further to rationalise the terms used for the various levels, with a number of task and finish groups underneath. A more detailed report will be presented to the June meeting on the structure.

There will also be a review of all plans and strategies linking in with the CYPP including those that are statutory for discussion at the next meeting.

The board discussed the restructure of the partnership groups and how existing groups will link in. JB asked where within the proposed structure the Young Carers' Strategy would fit in terms of partnerships groups. The response was that it would most likely fit with the Early Intervention Partnership.

#### **Action / Decision**

The board agreed for the vision to be considered by each agency and for feedback to be provided to PS.

Members agreed to accept the priorities as per the current version of the document and that these should not be altered.

The board accepted the proposals and agreed that the interim plan is accepted over the next 6 to 9 months to allow better consultation and the development of a full plan in 2012.

## **7. Catalyst.**

### **Quality Assurance Consultation**

AA from Catalyst provided the back ground to the development of a Quality Assurance system which could be used by all third sector groups regardless of the size of their organisation. Currently there has been a myriad of different Quality Assurance systems used by the voluntary and community sector organisations. The perception is that ISO 9001 is the only quality system that is accepted by large organisations such as the Local Authority or Primary Care Trust, however, this isn't the case and other QA systems may be of equal value.

The QA system offers the opportunity to show how smaller organisations could develop their standards. AA requested that the document should be shared with commissioning / procurement departments of partner organisations and wider into the third sector.

The local authority, police, fire service and NHS Stockton are all invited to provide feedback on the content of the draft document.

AM queried whether the document has been shared with town / parish councils. AA will circulate the organisations mentioned.

#### **Action / Decision**

Responses to the consultation to Alison Agius by the end of May 2011.

### **Update on Consortium Developments**

The consortium currently has 16 members with a further 5 interested in joining.

Catalyst has recently secured support from Children England who will fund a Development Officer and admin support to develop the Consortium following a recent opportunity to bid for funding from the Big Lottery. Catalyst is currently facilitating the transition of the consortium to this resource but will continue to support strategically.

A subgroup is currently developing a proforma for the assessment of organisations to be either full or associate members of the consortium.

The consortium is to make a bid to the Big Lottery for targeted work with children under the Improving Futures project. This bid is led by the voluntary sector in partnership with the local authority, with one bid allowed from each local authority area.

The real test of the consortia arrangements will be whether bids are ultimately successful.

The board discussed the need to ensure that children and young people were safeguarded. It was clarified that safeguarding was a key issue for organisations and that all contracts had a safeguarding section that would have to be adhered to.

#### **Action / Decision**

The board accepted the report.

### **8. Succession Planning**

SW updated the board on the documents previously circulated on the North East Succession Planning Programme. This is an opportunity for LA and partner organisations through the CTB to identify possible future leaders of Children Services. The deadline for responses has been extended to 8<sup>th</sup> April 2011; a minimum of 2 places will be available but up to 5 nominations can be submitted.

#### **Action / Decision**

The board noted the report; expressions of interest should be made by 8<sup>th</sup> April to Martin Graham. AMcC to sign off on behalf of the CTB.

### **9. Efficiency Improvement & Transformation (EIT) Review - Early Intervention Grant (EIG)**

PS outlined the changes to funding following the development of the Early Intervention Grant (EIG). Previously the Local Authority received 23 grants in relation to the areas of work covered by the EIG; however the level of funding has been reduced annually by £3 million.

Two areas of the review have already taken place with Youth Service and Connexions already complete. Children Centres and Back Office Services are still to be reviewed and a report will go before the Children and Young People's Select Committee.

#### **Action / Decision**

The board accepted the report.

### **10. Common Assessment Framework**

Shaun McLurg and Kim Staff provided an update to board regarding amendments to the CAF Procedure Document. There have been no alterations to the actual procedure itself; the changes have been made to provide further clarity to the process.

SM proposed the development of a standardised referral form. This has arisen from discussion with GPs on how they are to be involved with the process when referring children who are not subject to the CAF process.

KS updated that discussions are taking place with both the Police and Probation Services as to how best engage with the CAF. This is complicated by the issue that neighbouring authorities have adopted different processes in relation to the CAF.

SM requested that the board consider and approve the following recommendations:

- to approve the amendments to the CAF Procedures Document ;
- to approve the revised CAF 1 form; and
- to approve the development of standardised referral form for accessing targeted services outside of the CAF process.

SM and board members discussed the documents provided; the revised information will be shared with Schools as partners in the process through head teachers prior to approval by the Local Safeguarding Children Board. KS will be attending a Local Medical Committee (LMC) / PCT meeting with GPs next week.

SM will provide a progress report on the CAF to the board meeting in June 2011.

JH attended a Chair of Governors meeting to highlight the importance of the CAF.

AA hi-lighted that the CAF Coordinator is working with some voluntary and community sector groups.

Members commended the team on the recent CAF Champions training.

#### **Action / Decision**

The board accepted the report and agreed to the 3 recommendations.

#### **11. Development of Adoption Support in Stockton-on-Tees**

Shaun McLurg introduced Jackie Ward to the board as the Manager of the Child Placement Service.

The board received a report prepared by Jackie Ward following a recent EIT review on the specific needs of children who have been adopted. The report contained a number of recommendations for the board to consider.

Board members discussed why some child placements broke down and whether this was due to issues such as attachment disorders and lack of specialist support provided.

It was queried how long the LA had a duty to offer support following a child being adopted. It was clarified that the local authority that placed the child had a duty for 3 years after the making of the adoption order to assess the support needs and decide what, if any services should be provided. There is also a legal requirement for all local authorities to provide adoption support services including ensuring that there were appropriate therapeutic services available.

The issues raised in the report will be an item for discussion at the next Tees Valley Directors of Children's Services.

JW suggested some placements may not break-down if a range of therapeutic interventions could be provided. The discussion then led into CAMHS and the issues in relation to the sharing of information with schools. JH and a representative from CAMHS will discuss this at meetings with both primary and secondary head teachers. It was also mentioned that the LAC – CAMHS service should be expanded to include adoptive placements.

#### **Action / Decision**

The board accepted the recommendations and a further report will follow at the next meeting.

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

JH updated members on the key decisions taken by CTMT since the last board meeting.

The Forced Marriage Worker post has now ceased. Stockton Borough Council had wished to continue to fund the post but other local authorities were unable to provide the additional funding needed to continue the post. Cleveland Police are still exploring the possibility of

securing some additional funding to support this role.

**Action / Decision**

The board accepted the report.

**13 Exception Reporting from Partnership Groups**

No update provided

**14 Any Other Business**

Lynda Brown, Head of Children, Schools & Complex Needs requested that she would like to provide a presentation at the next meeting in June regarding Education Policy updates.

JB –suggested a future agenda item on the public health changes for adult services that will also impact on children & young people.

Dr Agrawal will be stepping down as member of the Children’s Trust Board.

**Action / Decision**

The board accepted the updates.

**17. Open to the Public**

No questions were asked.

**18 Close**

Chair thanked members and people present for their attendance.

**Date of Next Meeting**

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011, 4.30 – 6.30pm in Stockton Central Library Lecture Hall**