

## **CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE: 7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

### **Children's Services: Overview of Achievements / Challenges / Emerging issues, for the 2010~11 period.**

#### **Achievements**

1. Developed and maintained high quality provision as reflected in external inspection outcomes – high proportion of schools good / outstanding; Children's homes outstanding or good; Children Centres all good to date; Fostering services good; Adoption outstanding.
2. Good levels of improvement sustained in most areas of educational attainment – performing well compared to benchmark groups in the Early Years and Primary phases; closing the gap to the national average for Key Stage 4.
3. Ofsted inspections have endorsed the positive direction of travel in children's safeguarding, resulting from service improvements put in place over the past year, including improved recruitment and retention in the social care workforce and strengthened management arrangements.
  - Safeguarding and Looked After Children (LAC) Services Inspection, September 2010: overall judgements of 'adequate' for safeguarding and 'good' for LAC.
  - Unannounced Inspection of Contact, Referral and Assessment, May 2011 – no 'priority actions' identified.
4. Delivered positive outcomes for many of our more vulnerable young people:
  - significant reduction over the past two years in first time entrants to youth justice;
  - high proportions of young offenders being supported in to EET (Education, Employment, Training);
  - overall NEET (Not in Education, Employment, Training) rate improved significantly despite challenging economic climate;
  - sustained low levels of school absence for looked after children;
  - good recent progress in educational attainment for children and young people in care, supported by developments through the Virtual School;
  - positive outcomes identified for vulnerable families through evaluation of the Family Intervention Projects.
5. Very good improvement in provision for young people's substance misuse, as recognised in external assessment by the National Treatment Agency.
6. Reduction in the under-18 conception rate – significant downward trend sustained over the past year, with the rate well below the regional average.
7. Greater range of services developed for families of children with disability, through the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme.

8. Implementation of the Youth Homelessness Strategy, with improved provision and support helping a reduction in the number of young people accepted as unintentionally homeless and in priority need.
9. Progressed the strategy for engagement with young people, leading to establishment of a Youth Assembly, a Shadow Youth Children's Trust Board, and emergent Area Youth Boards.

## **Challenges**

1. Social care – high levels of need and demand on services, as reflected in numbers of children in care, and with child protection plans.
2. Maintaining a stable, experienced workforce.
3. Changing pattern of school provision – Academies; Free School bids.
4. School capital strategy and pupil places.
5. Narrowing the gap in outcomes for vulnerable groups.
6. NHS changes:–
  - PCT ceasing March 31<sup>st</sup> 2013.
  - Clinical Commissioning Groups.
  - Public Health - uncertainty over budgets to transfer and impact on public health programmes.
  - Momentum – hospital development.
7. EIT (Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation) – Year 3 Reviews of School Improvement; Children's Social Care Management.
8. Task & Finish Review of EIG (Early Intervention Grant) – future of Children Centre provision.
9. Healthy lifestyles – particularly obesity; and alcohol misuse.
10. Further improvement in quality of childminders.

## **Emerging issues**

1. Munro Review of child protection – future development of social work practice.
2. Allen Review - prevention and early intervention.
3. New inspection framework for Children's Services.
4. Education Bill - early years provision / childcare; discipline in schools; school workforce; qualifications and the curriculum; apprenticeships and training; institutions in FE sector and Academies; student finance.
5. SEN (Special Educational Needs) and Disability Green Paper.
6. Consultation on changes to the Admissions Framework.
7. Consultation on School Funding Reform.
8. Fostering and Adoption campaign - evaluating the impact.
9. New Children's homes to come on stream.

**Stockton Local Safeguarding Children Board: Overview of Achievements / Challenges / Emerging issues, for the 2010~11 period.**  
(Board membership details attached).

**Achievements**

- New ways of working at Board level
- Quality Assurance/Quality Review integrated
- Child Death Overview Arrangements
- Continued progress around Comprehensive Assessment Framework implementation
- Robust Multi-Agency training programme delivered
- Full Review of Board Constitution complete and signed off at Board Level
- Ofsted Report

**Emerging Issues**

- Relationship/boundaries/Terms of Reference between Childrens Trust and Local Safeguarding Children Board
- Munro and possible system changes
- Change of role/emphasis of Ofsted and other regulators
- NHS changes
- Funding pressures
- Maintaining safeguarding profile

**Challenges**

- Maintaining full connectivity/cohesion at Board
- Understanding and monitoring impact of health changes
- Forensic Medical Examinations
- Keeping non-statutory partners engaged
- Improving effectiveness of subgroups/working groups
- Local Safeguarding Children Board funding
- Munro
- Serious Case Reviews
- Tees Procedures