

# Children and Young People's Partnership

A meeting of the Children and Young People's Partnership was held on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2014.

**Present:** Jane Humphreys (SBC – CESC) (Chairman),

Peter Kelly, Sarah Bowman- Abouna, Simon Willson, Julie Nixon (SBC), Priti Butler (Big Life), Ian Coates (Cleveland Police), Steve Rose (Catalyst), Janet Mackie, Linda Watson (NTHFT) Chris Davis (TEWV), Mick Hickey (sub for Phil Cook) (SRC), Natasha Judge (Healthwatch), Maryssa O'Connor (Secondary School Rep) Caroline Reed (Primary School Rep),

**Officers:** Margaret Waggott, Michael Henderson, Claire Spence, Dianne McConnell, Lynda Brown (SBC)

**Also in attendance:** Colin Morris (Independent Chairman of Stockton Local Safeguarding Children Board)

**Apologies Cllr** Ann McCoy, Emma Champley, **Julie** Nixon (SBC), Ian Coates (Cleveland Police), Julie Allan (Probation), Phil Cook (SRC)

## 1 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## 2 **Minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2014**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2014 were agreed as a correct record.

## 3 **Minutes of the Adults Partnership held on 2 October 2014**

The minutes of the Adults' Partnership meeting held on 2 October 2014 were noted.

Reference was made to Domestic Abuse and Alcohol Misuse, which had been discussed at the meeting, held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. It was explained that these two issues would be considered by this group, at future meeting, in terms of their effects on Children and Young People (CYP).

## 4 **Stockton's Local Safeguarding Children Board – Annual Report**

It was noted that Colin Morris (Independent Chair of Stockton's Local Safeguarding Children Board) was in attendance at the meeting to provide an overview of the Safeguarding Board's Annual Report 2013/14.

Before the presentation began the Chairman explained that the Partnership would be considering issues related to Child Sexual Exploitation and Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing and Trafficked CYP at future meetings. Members were informed that the Council's Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee would be undertaking a review of CSE/VEMT and the outcome of that review would be reported here.

It was also explained that responses to the recently published Ofsted report on Local Authorities response to Child Sexual Exploitation and the Jay report were being considered.

The Safeguarding Board Chairman highlighted that children's safeguarding was

very much in the national spotlight at the present time, given recent high profile events, such as Rotherham. The Board and its sub groups were operating in an extremely challenging environment.

The Safeguarding Chairman provided an overview of his Annual report relating to the effectiveness of safeguarding in Stockton, during 2013/14.

It was explained that the Annual Report was a statutorily required document that the Chairman had to present to the Safeguarding Board and the Council's Chief Executive Officer, though Stockton had widened this audience considerably.

The Partnership noted the strategic requirements of the Board, all of which were designed to assist in the achievement of the single goal that all children and young people were safe in Stockton on Tees.

Some of the key achievements of the Board, during 2013/14, were noted, including:

- Agreed to support SBC to increase capacity in the CAF team to aid early intervention and clear interpretation of the Continuum of Need and Services.
- Establishment of LIP (Learning and Improving Practice) Sub Group and supporting processes.
- Introduction of multi-agency case file audits
- Continued to evolve, developing positive and productive relationships with all partner agencies.
- Introduction of a Performance Data Set and a Learning and Improvement Framework

It was explained that the Board had operated with an Executive group during 2013/14 but a decision had been made to revert back to a whole Board structure and the Executive Group no longer operated.

Details of some of the key issues considered during 2013/14 were provided:

- Stockton on Tees model of VEMT used for Tees Strategic Group
- Inappropriate referrals and domestic abuse
- Agreement to move forward with signs of safety intervention tool
- A safer place for children
- Tees Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
- The Winterbourne Review
- Board Effectiveness

Members were provided with details of some specific reports that provided detailed information and data to demonstrate activity and effectiveness of the Board during 2013/14.

Members discussed the presentation and in particular:

- MASH - this was a Teeswide initiative and was being led by Hartlepool. The MASH was a front end service acting as a first point of contact and dealing with new safeguarding concerns and collating information from different agencies.
- Increased capacity of CAF Team. CAF was a coordinated approach to help children and stop situations escalating into formal social care procedures. The CAF Team would support services/agencies in the CAF process. The longer-term impact of the enhanced team should show a reduction in children coming into the social care system and a consequently better outcomes and lower costs. Some of the partners present referred very positively to their experience of the Team in assisting the CAF process.

RESOLVED that the presentation and discussion be noted.

## **5 Childhood Obesity**

Members received a presentation relating to Childhood Obesity in the Borough.

Details of some of the causes, consequences and prevalence of child obesity were provided. Members attention was particularly drawn to the increased prevalence of obesity in the poorest children in society.

The Partnership noted that the Council's Public Health Team had recently led on a review of Healthy Weight Services. The review had resulted in the Commissioning of a Family Weight Management service. This would provide a holistic approach for Children and Young People (0-17yrs) and their parents, who were overweight, or at risk of becoming so. The services would provide proactive and sensitive National Child Measurement Programme feedback to parents in conjunction with the School Nursing service. It was explained that specific focus would be placed on engaging with families that lived in deprived wards and there would be full engagement with CAF.

It was explained that an obesity action plan would be developed, as a priority, in the New Year.

Members raised issues associated with information sharing, with schools, in terms of their pupils, but also with other partners who may intend undertaking targeted work, but were unable to access information to plan this. It was agreed that this be looked at, and a process for information sharing be identified.

The Partnership noted that within North Tees Hospital Maternity unit 45% of women giving birth were obese; however, getting the mothers to recognise this was difficult as many considered their weight to be normal. Obesity at the time of delivery could cause problems for the mother and child.

Members agreed that discussion was needed outside the meeting on this. It was considered that there may be potential for dealing with this matter through

the CAF process, to support children and their families. This may also apply to unborn children, given the effects obesity during pregnancy could have on the child and mother.

Members raised matters relating to food poverty and the effects this had on people's choices. People on low incomes often choose high calorie, high fat inexpensive foods rather than, often more expensive, healthier options. Discussion also took place on educating people to make good food choices and equip them with the skills to understand and prepare inexpensive healthy food.

It was agreed that TEWV would try to identify the numbers of children, that were referred to its services, where weight was a factor. Once the Family Weight Management Service was up and running it would be useful to have a link person identified at TEWV.

RESOLVED that:

1. the presentation and discussion be noted.
2. Further discussion be undertaken outside the meeting relating to:
  - Identifying an information sharing process between partners
  - Use of CAF in terms of overweight/obese children
  - Maternal obesity
  - Identifying a link officer at TEWV

## **6 School Achievement**

Consideration was given to a report that presented a headline, summary analysis of school performance in the academic year 2013 - 2014.

The report provided performance information across the following areas, detailing how schools were performing against national measures:

- Primary Phase – Early Years and Foundation Stage
- Primary Phase – Key Stage 1
- Primary Phase – Key Stage 2
- Secondary Phase – Key Stage 4
- Post 16 Education
- Attendance and Exclusion
- Performance of Vulnerable Groups

The Borough's primary schools were performing at good or better however few of the Borough's secondary schools were performing at this level. It was noted that, in terms of post 16 education all providers had maintained their strong A\* - E percentage.

Members noted recent changes in examination processes that had presented significant challenges to secondary phase schools, these included:

- moving to linear assessment at the end of the whole course, rather than modular assessment throughout the course.
- reductions in the value of vocational qualifications in performance reporting terms.

It was explained that, from September 2014, a revised approach to the Local Authority school improvement offer would be in place. This was because:

- there needed to be a significant improvement in the percentage of secondary schools that were good or better;
- there were a small number of schools where the Council had concerns around performance and was working closely with those schools to secure improvement;
- There was a new framework for Schools Causing Concern, Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities, released in May 2014. This statutory guidance sets out the Council's role in relation to maintained schools that were causing concern. It sets out the importance of early intervention and of swift and robust action to tackle failure, including the use of Warning Notices and Interim Executive Boards (IEB) in maintained schools. The guidance was clear about the Government's expectation that academy status, with the support of a strong sponsor, was the best way of securing lasting improvement in these circumstances.

The following initiatives were in place for 2014:

- The School Improvement Assessment Framework ensured that there was a clear framework through which to hold schools to account and to articulate explicitly the standards required and the actions that would be taken if these standards were not met. This framework presents a series of challenge criteria and set out the processes that will be applied if any of these challenge criteria are triggered. This would be conducted by Local Authority officers in line with the Local Authority's statutory powers. The Stockton Challenge Framework was further strengthened with the Corporate Director appraising the Challenge Reports and meeting with the Chair of Governors and the Head teacher for any she believed may require the issuing of a Warning Notice.
- The School Improvement Adviser (SIA) programme will be retained and offered free to all secondary schools and academies.
- Each Stockton leader would also be allocated as 'Reflective Partners' to schools and academies. This would be a 'critical friend role' and would be an opportunity for peer to peer discussions to provide leadership coaching. These sessions would not be formally documented.
- The Secondary Heads and Principals' Group would move to accommodate a specific school improvement focus to its meetings. This would be an opportunity to share best practice and contribute to briefings

on current emerging issues. The content of these sessions would be derived from the outcomes of the reflective partner programme.

The Partnership considered the Performance information provided. During discussion in-year transfers were highlighted, as they were very high within the Borough. Such transfers could not be prevented but it was accepted that they could be an indication of issues, within the family, and transfers did impact on the child's performance. It was suggested that the use of CAF may be helpful in some circumstances.

In terms of school readiness it was explained that there was a great deal of work in early years support e.g. children's centres, targeted outreach, fairer start. It was not possible to make all families engage with services and some were slipping through the net. Some 3 year olds were attending schools, who were not toilet trained and had little or no speech. These characteristics were often associated with generations of the same families and work to break this cycle was important. It was explained that some of the performance indicators initially identified, for the Partnership, and due to be considered later in the meeting, would help track effectiveness of pre natal early years services.

It was pointed out that there were pressures on working families, with parents on low wages, holding down 2/3 jobs. There was a growing number of such families and they needed support.

The Partnership understood that there was a direct correlation between educational attainment and the health of a person throughout their life.

RESOLVED that the report and discussion be noted and consideration be given to issues highlighted.

### **Annual Performance – Children**

Members received a presentation that suggested some performance indicators, to evaluate whether agreed success measures were being achieved for each of the Partnerships key priorities.

Members were asked to consider whether the indicators were fit for purpose and whether anymore should be included. The agreed indicators would be made into a cohesive framework document. It was accepted that performance had to be viewed in the context of the deprivation profile of the Borough and some information relating to this was provided.

Members discussed the indicators across all the priorities, some of the data associated with the indicator and what the Partnership may be able to deduce from that data. There was support for the proposals but members were asked to give further consideration, outside the meeting, and provide details to Simon Willson of any other indicators that they considered should be included.

RESOLVED that the proposals be agreed but any suggestions relating to additional indicators be raised with Simon Willson.

## **Children and Young People Plan**

A draft Children and Young People's Plan 2014 -17 was presented to the Partnership.

It was noted that the plan was still very much a work in progress, with some gaps to fill.

It was agreed that a small group would meet to develop a final draft version of the Plan, for approval by the Partnership. Sarah Bowman-Abouna would serve on the group, led by Simon Willson, and Simon would contact others he considered could help with the project. Consideration would be given to Stockton Youth Assembly involvement/input to the Group in discussions with Margaret Waggott.

Linked to the previous item, on performance, there was a brief discussion on indicators and it was suggested that referrals to TEWV's Crisis Liaison Service should be included.

Further discussion raised the possibility of the Plan including reference to undertaking an Annual Youth Survey (owned by the Partnership) and a section on self harm.

It was explained that the Chair had attended a meeting of the Stockton Youth Assembly (SYA) on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2014 where the best way the Partnership could engage with children and young people was considered. SYA members discussed the use of social media, and, in particular, suggested holding timed debates on Twitter using a hashtag (#). It was also suggested that topics and issues could be discussed at youth clubs.

A Task and Finish Group of the SYA would discuss further ways in which the Partnership could engage with children and young people.

The Chair would provide further details of the conversation at the Partnership's December meeting.

RESOLVED that the outline Plan be agreed and a Group as described above be formed to develop the Plan further.

## **Forward Plan**

Members considered the Partnership's Forward Plan. It was noted that CSE/VEMT may be scheduled at the 23 February meeting depending on availability of key people

RESOLVED that the Plan be approved.