

# Children and Young People's Partnership

A meeting of the Children and Young People's Partnership was held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2015

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

Peter Kelly, Simon Willson, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Sarah Bowman- Abouna (SBC); Janet Mackie, Lindsey Robertson (NTHFT); Chris Davis (TEWV), Joanne Shaw –Dunn (Substitute for Natasha Judge) (Healthwatch), Priti Butler (Big Life), Anita Johnson (Substitute for Charles Ellis) (4children), Caroline Reed (Primary School Rep),

**Officers:** Michael Henderson, Jayne Parry, Mark McGivern, Zoe Greaves, Jane Smith, Margaret Waggott (SBC); Rob Donaghy (Cleveland Police)

**Apologies** Emma Champley, Julie Nixon (SBC), Julie Allan (Probation), Steve Rose (Catalyst), Maryssa O'Connor (Secondary School Rep) Paul Williams (CCG), Ian Coates (Cleveland Police), Phil Cook (SRC), Natasha Judge (Healthwatch), Karen Blackburn (Probation Trust)

## **1 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **2 Minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2015**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2014 were agreed as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

Linda Watson's name to be deleted from those in attendance and Lindsey Robertson's name included.

Some slight changes to minute '...Evaluation of activity performance'

## **3 Minutes of Adults Health and Wellbeing Partnership – 6 January 2015**

The minutes of meeting held on 6 January 2015 were noted.

## **4 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) /Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing, Trafficked (VEMT)**

The Partnership received a presentation relating to Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing and Trafficked children in the Borough.

The presentation provided details of the national context, the approach/structure in the Tees Valley and Stockton and what work was being undertaken.

Specific issues raised and areas of discussion could be summarised as follows:

- The Tees Strategic VEMT Group was multi-agency and worked towards achieving a consistent Tees wide approach. The Group reported to the four Local Safeguarding Children Boards.
- The Group focused on, and benchmarked against, Ofsted guidance.
- The Tees Strategic VEMT Group had developed a Safer referral tool,

which could be used by agencies that did not have a duty to undertake a CAF assessment. All partners were encouraged to be sighted on this and maintain constant awareness of it within their organisations.

- The Partnership noted the launch of the 'See something, say something' and 'in the wrong hands' publicity campaigns.
- Sitting underneath the Strategic VEMT Group, in each Borough, was a sub group. The sub group implemented the agreed strategy, at local level, and reported back to the Strategic Group on progress and any issues.
- The VEMT Sub Group was responsible for overseeing the work of the VEMT Practitioners' Group, which monitored any children who were considered to be at risk and ensured agencies were aware of issues. The Group monitored data around young people who went missing, for periods, as this could indicate problems ('Children often ran to something or ran from something')
- The importance of multi agency intelligence forms was reinforced, with partners, in terms of assisting in dealing with CSE. Again, organisations were asked to highlight this facility with staff to use in and out of work. No issue would be considered to be too small, as it was sometimes these that were instrumental in the police linking activities together and getting a clearer picture of problematic activity. There was a suggestion that sometimes people tried to deal with issues in isolation and this was dangerous practice. Agencies must ensure that referral and information sharing processes were given the highest profile.
- Members noted the current work programme of the Strategic Group and sub groups which included a review of the strategy, action plan and Tees-wide procedures, developing a Quality Assurance Framework to ensure consistency and return interviews for children who had been missing.
- During discussion it was clarified that if those making referrals to First Contact still had concerns, following advice, then they must escalate and ultimately, issues could be referred to Corporate Director level.
- It was suggested that some professionals were concerned about confidentiality issues and this may restrict referral and information sharing. Members agreed that the priority must be child protection and other issues were secondary.
- Members noted that awareness of safeguarding processes with commissioned service providers was regularly raised.
- It was important to speak with young people willing to reflect on their experiences.

Members agreed that CSE/VEMT was a very high priority but it was only one element of child abuse and partners and agencies could not afford to take their eyes off other areas.

RESOLVED that:

1. the information provided and discussion held by the Partnership be noted.
2. partners raise the profile of the Safer Referral tool and multi agency intelligence forms within their organisations and actively encourage their use.
3. links to the Child protection web site and Safer referral/CAF forms etc. be provided.

### **Sexual Health**

Members received a report that provided an overview of the stakeholder consultation process that would take place as part of the review and re-procurement of the Tees Integrated Sexual Health Service.

The consultation would be undertaken by an external research company.

Members noted the range of commissioned sexual health services and commissioners. Areas of discussion raised during consideration of the report included:-

- the service was across life.
- investment associated with the contract was noted and it was suggested that a breakdown of adult costs and children and young people costs would be circulated.
- it was agreed that safeguarding was crucial and must be reinforced within any future contract.
- young people had indicated a desire that services were taken to them, rather than a hub and spoke model.
- it was suggested that some schools and the Stockton Youth Assembly (SYA) be consulted. Members noted that the SYA had recently indicated that it felt that there should be a separation of sexual health education and relationship education at schools; currently both topics were wrapped up together.

RESOLVED that:

1. the consultation process described above be noted and the Partnership

and partner organisations work with the commissioned market research company where appropriate.

2. the discussion be noted and actioned where appropriate.

### **Quarter 3 Performance update**

Members considered a report that provided an update on activity and performance, based on information available at the Q3 period.

A commentary on the data contained in the report was provided to the Partnership.

It was noted that there had been an improvement in initiated CAFs during the Q3 period and it was felt that this was due to the expanded CAF Team, which had been in place since September. However the total for the year, of 561, was well below the 700 target for this point.

All referrals to social care were expected to have evidence of CAF involvement, other than in cases where there was an immediate safeguarding concern. It was explained that only 1 in 9 referrals for Children in Need (CIN) had been receiving help or support via a CAF. This was a significant concern and members agreed that a major shift in this situation was essential. Evidence indicated that higher rates of CAF reduced the numbers of CIN and CP plans. It was noted that the position had been escalated to the Council's Chief Executive and the Chairman would be pulling a group together to look at the matter. The situation continued to be closely monitored by the Safeguarding Board. Partners needed to look within their organisation and scrutinise how they were monitoring families. There had been significant decreases in activity by Health Visitors and Midwives. Also there was concern regarding low numbers of CAF completed by Children's Centres.

It was noted that the rate of conversion from children in need to child protection plan was higher in Stockton (12%) than the North East Region (11%) and England (8%).

Members noted that as part of the National CIN Census the annual statistical return now collected data on factors that were most relevant in an assessment. This was new data but it was hoped it would help with strategies and how we targeted early help.

The Partnership considered access to CAMHS data and noted that TEWV would be providing a quarterly report with data relating to referrals and other activity, from April 2015, for the Hartlepool and Stockton CCG area. It was explained that for data to be broken down to local Council level, further work would be required, to determine the feasibility of doing so. A request would need to be made to TEWV for this to be considered.

The Partnership agreed that this breakdown was important and asked that a

formal request be made to TEWV and that the Chairman raise the issue with Martin Barkley TEWV's Chief Executive.

Members discussed Hospital Admissions for self-harm and noted that Stockton's figures were significantly higher than the England Average. Numbers had increased each year since 2011/12. It was noted that a Tees Suicide Prevention Task Force and action plan was in place. There was ongoing work to coordinate support, reduce stigma and understand the increased admission rates for children and young people. The Director of Public Health indicated that he would look at this matter further, outside the meeting.

RESOLVED that the report and discussion be noted/actioned, as appropriate, and, particularly:

- all partners actively respond to the concerns raised with regard to CAF referrals.
- TEWV be contacted, as detailed above.
- the Director of Public Health gives further consideration to the self-harm issue outside the meeting.

### **Forward Plan**

Members were asked to provide the Chairman with any questions they wished to put to Young Carers who would be attending the 18 March meeting by 6 March 2015.

It was explained that an Action Tracker would be populated and would be presented to future meetings.

RESOLVED that the Plan be approved.