

# Children and Young People's Partnership

A meeting of the Children and Young People's Partnership was held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015

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

Jane Harvey (SBC), Ian Coates (Cleveland Police), Chris Davis (TEWV), Maryssa O'Connor (Secondary School Rep), Steve Rose (Catalyst), Anita Johnson (4Children), Lindsey Robertson (North Tees and Hartlepool NHS), Sarah Bowman – Abouna (SBC), Emma Champley (SBC), Ann M<sup>c</sup>Coy (SBC), Paul Williams (Clinical Commissioning Group)

**Officers:** Daniel Childs (SBC)

**Also in attendance:** Nathan Duff (Catalyst)

**Apologies:** Janet Mackie (North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust), Julie Allan, Julie Nixon (SBC), Natasha Judge (Healthwatch), Peter Kelly (SBC), Phil Cook (Stockton Riverside College), Priti Butler (The Big Life)

## 1 Welcome and Introductions

## 2 Apologies for absence

Janet Mackie, Julie Allan, Julie Nixon, Natasha Judge, Peter Kelly, Phil Cook and Priti Butler sent their apologies.

AGREED that the apologies be noted.

## 3 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

## 4 Minutes of the meetings held on 15 April 2015 for approval

Minutes of the meetings held on 15 April 2015 were considered and agreed as a correct record.

Referring to Item 5 - Transfer of Commissioning responsibilities of children's 0-5 public health services - Members were informed that since the 15 April 2015 meetings there had the use of Corporate Caseloads had ceased.

AGREED:

- 1) that the minutes were a true record of the meeting held on 15 April 2015; AND
- 2) that the further information be noted.

## 5 SEN Reforms

Members considered a report on the Children and Families Act (Part 3) 2014 – Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. The report provided an overview of the requirements of the reform, work towards implementation and the next steps.

Members were informed that the Act introduced significant changes to the system for children and young people with special and educational needs and disabilities and the implementation of the legislation required both cultural and organisational change.

Following the report there was a discussion, the contents of which could be summarised as:

- A significant amount of work had already been undertaken to ensure a smooth transition from statements of special educational need and Learning Difficulty Assessments (LDAs) to Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans.
- Officers would be available to present the Report to staff of other organisations, if requested.
- Members queried which groups the regulations and the statutory Code of Practice applied to.
  - It was noted that adherence to the regulations and the Code of Practice would generally be good practice, but that adherence would be mandatory for maintained, private, voluntary and independent sectors that were funded by the Local Authority.
- Members queried whether there had been a coherent pattern regarding EHC Plans that were agreed.
  - Members noted that a pattern had been observed in the nature of EHC assessments requested, with social and emotional health difficulties featuring prominently. Officers stated that further information and analysis were needed to provide informed commentary. Data and findings would be brought before the Partnership at a later date.
- Members discussed budget implications of the Act. It was noted that the Children and Young People Commissioning Group would deal with budgetary effects arising from the Act.

AGREED that the following be noted:

1. The requirements and areas of responsibility for SEN reform.

2. The work being carried for the implementation of the reform.
3. The next steps for the work on the reform.

## **6 Fairer Start update**

Members considered an update report from Catalyst on A Fairer Start. The report described the progress and findings of the 'A Fairer Start' project as it moved through the transition between the planning and delivery stages.

The following information was highlighted for information:-

- The project was a 3 year pilot which was joint funded by Stockton Borough Council Public Health and NHS Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees CCG.
- Based on demographics and the volume of children in receipt of social care services, it was agreed that the Pilot was to be conducted in Stockton Town Centre Ward. The area had the following characteristics: a diverse population; less than 50% children received a good school readiness score; high levels of transient communities; high levels of Children in Need, Looked after and in Care; specific geographic communities within the Ward; high levels of Domestic Violence; and high levels of Deprivation and Child Poverty.
- 'A Fairer Start' was about engaging the community and creating community champions. It was important to gain the trust of the communities in the Pilot area. They were vital to making the project a success and it was crucial that they were involved throughout the project, from design to implementation.
- Synergy VCS Consortium was responsible for intelligence gathering and consultation work undertaken in late 2014. 10 Synergy member organisations were involved, each responsible for attracting respondents from their own client groups via a range of consultation methods, including vox pops and 'diary' room' style activity, structured interviews, structured discussion sessions and questionnaires. Nearly half of the 356 respondents expressed an interest in staying involved and working with project partners to raise awareness of A Fairer Start within the community, alongside contributing to the design and delivery of services as the project moved forward. The information gathered by the consultation process influenced the content of the Champion Programme and would assist with the development of further community consultation/awareness events.
- In March 2015, Catalyst announced a new tender opportunity for a 3 year Champion Programme to be delivered in Stockton

Town Centre. The Champion Programme looked to provide the opportunity for local charity, voluntary and community groups, The programme attracted bids from 6 providers who undertook the commissioning process – this resulted in the contract being awarded to Big Life Families, who currently manage a number of children’s centres in Stockton-on-Tees.

- Recruitment had begun for three posts, they were: Fairer Start Team Leader; Family Champions Team Coach; and Community Heroes Teams Coach. The closing date for applications was 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2015. No appointments had yet been made.
- The findings of a 2014/15 sector wide skills audit were presented. The audit aimed to determine the confidence, competence, supervision, qualifications and knowledge of Early Years staff operating in Stockton Town Centre Ward. Some skills were said to concern giving confidence to people who lacked trust in Early Years staff. The audit was also said to have facilitated greater cohesion.
- Following analysis of the skills audit, the Workforce Development Task/Finish Group had since produced a Fairer Start Competency Framework. The framework aimed to show that volunteers were valued, to offer a career pathway, and to give value to all involved.
- With A Fairer Start bringing radical change to early years services in Stockton, in-depth evaluation of the project was needed to effectively measure the impact of various components of the project. A proportion of the budget had been set aside each year to pay for the full time involvement of a Phd Research student, as recruited by FUSE/Teesside University.
- Members were informed of the next steps of the A Fairer Start project.

Following the report there was a discussion, the contents of which could be summarised as:

- Members discussed various events and opportunities for information sharing.
- Members asked whether Councillors had been involved in the engagement process. It was said that Councillors would be provided further opportunities to feed into the process.
- Members discussed funding arrangements for A Fairer Start and it was noted that the costs were to be split 50-50 between the CCG and the Council.

## **8 Action Tracker**

Members received supplementary information and agreed changes to the Action Tracker.

AGREED that:-

- 1) The supplementary information be noted.
- 2) Changes be made to the Action Tracker.

## **9 Forward Plan**

Members discussed the Forward Plan. Referring to Self Harm, scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015, Members asked for clarification as to what was defined as Self Harm.

Members asked that an item on Eating Disorders be added to the Forward Plan.

AGREED that the Forward Plan be noted and changes be made to the Forward Plan.