

Children and Young People's Partnership

A meeting of Children and Young People's Partnership was held on Tuesday, 21st July, 2015.

Present: Jane Humphreys (Chairman), Peter Kelly (SBC), Mark McGivern (SBC), Emma Champley (SBC), Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy (SBC), Anita Johnson (4 Children), Janet Mackie (North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust), Gemma Clifford (Catalyst), Lindsey Robertson (North Tees and Hartlepool NHS), Simon Willson (SBC)

Officers: Michael Henderson, Lynn Sparey (SBC)

Also in attendance: Tracey Hamilton, six young carers

Apologies: Kate Birkenhead (NHS England), Priti Butler (The Big Life Group), Ian Coates (Cleveland Police), Phil Cook (Stockton Riverside College), Chris Davis (TEWV), Natasha Judge (Healthwatch), Julie Nixon, Maryssa O' Connor (Secondary School Rep), Claire Naylor (Job Centre Plus), Paul Williams (CCG)

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Young Carers' Services

Members received a report that provided information relating to the development of the Stockton on Tees Borough Council and NHS Hartlepool and Stockton on Tees CCG Joint Strategy for Carer Support Services for Adults and Children and Young People 2013 - 2017.

The report also provided details of the arrangements that were in place in the Borough to support young carers.

A group of six young carers were present at the meeting to speak with the Partnership. The Partnership had previously asked the group to respond to 3 questions:

1. What are the challenges to you as a young carer and how can we, as a Partnership/single agencies, help to address some of these challenges?

Homework was identified as a problem, in that teachers, sometimes, didn't appreciate the caring responsibilities that young carers had. Tight deadlines, with no flexibility, was a source of stress for children and young people and could affect grades.

The Chair indicated that she regularly met with primary and secondary Head Teachers and she would raise the homework issue with them again.

Members noted that the young carers card had been agreed and would be available from September. It was hoped that the support that could be accessed via the card would help alleviate some of the challenges faced by young carers.

Young Carers referred to problems with providers not turning up and care packages not being adequate. This had an impact on young carers and providers needed to be sensitive to this. The Group felt that young carers were not listened to when they complained about providers.

The Chair explained that she would raise issue, of providers not turning up, with commissioners and she indicated that, if packages were not sufficient, individuals could be reassessed. Additionally, there was a complaints procedure and parents, receiving care, could get their child to act on their behalf. The Chair asked that the details of the specific problems, the young carers had encountered be forwarded to her and she would investigate.

A question was asked about support in schools and it was noted that each school had a young carers' champion, though it was suggested that many young carers had not been made aware of this. The Chair indicated that she would attempt to find out the names of the champions and provide them to young carers.

There was an update on the National Young Carers in Schools. Eastern Ravens were looking to drive this forward in the new term and engage with schools. Schools could work to achieve a quality standard for working with young carers. This was being piloted with Frederick Natrass Primary and Northshore Academy. The Chair asked if she could receive further information on this to help roll out to schools.

2. If we could improve 3 things for you as a young carer, what would they be?

- There should be better awareness of the role of Young Carer and how they should be engaged with, in terms of the care that was being provided. This was linked with dealing with care providers and their interaction with the young carers. The young carers could effectively scrutinise the work of the providers and feedback on whether they were attending as required and providing the care agreed. The Chair explained this would be looked at and fed back to the commissioners.

- Opportunities for respite for the whole family. It was noted that respite for the individuals was contained in care packages. The chair indicated that she would be happy to look at the specific issues that were being raised with regard to the care packages of the family members of the young people present.

3. Do you think there are gaps in service for young carers, and what do you think they are?

Staff providing services/support didn't always know how to speak to Young Carers and, either spoke to them like they were young children ,or, sometimes, like they were the responsible adults. There seemed to be difficulty in finding the most appropriate level. This may be an issue that could be helped via training, but a willingness by staff to review and adapt their communication with young carers, depending on the individual they were dealing with, would help. Also, one young carer explained that when attending appointments/assessments, she was often ignored, or not recognised as a key person involved in the care. On occasion when she was involved in discussions, explanations of issues were too technical. It was accepted that, sometimes, parents did not want their children to be involved in assessments but if they did the young person must be fully included. The Chair indicated that she would raise these issues, from an Adult social care perspective.

In contrast to the issue raised above, one young carer explained that she had attended appointments where staff had only spoken to her and had completely ignored her mother.

It was explained that the School Nursing Service had two Champions for Young Carers and the Trust would welcome working with the group to look at how the Adults' Nursing Service engaged with young carers and how they could ensure they fully recognised their role.

The Partnership noted that under the Care Act any assessment of an adult had to be undertaken without reference to any care a young person was providing.

The Group asked about transition and what the situation was in terms of attending Eastern Ravens Trust, once someone turned 18, but was in full time Education. It was explained that once 18 you were regarded as an adult but you could have an assessment under adult legislation and could potentially get some support.

The Chair referred to a Memorandum between Young Carers and Adult Carers and it was noted that an implementation group was meeting.

RESOLVED that the report and discussion be noted and actioned, where appropriate.

3 Minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2015 were agreed.

With regard to the Dental Health Programme, the Chair explained that she had written to the schools not involved in the tooth brushing programme encouraging them to participate. Most had responded and there'd generally been a positive response but one school had indicated it would not be engaging. The Chair and Vice Chairman would pick this up during the autumn term but it was accepted that, ultimately, it was up to the school.

In terms of secondary schools, this would be an on- going discussion.

4 Annual Conversation arrangements

Members considered a report that provided an update on arrangements for the Annual Conversation.

It was noted that currently attempts were being made to identify a suitable date, at Stockton Riverside College, during November, between 5pm and 7.30pm.

The Partnership was asked to consider who should be invited to attend the Conversation and what topics might be considered. Details of topics identified by the Stockton Youth Assembly were provided. It was agreed that it would be important for appropriate officers to be at the conversation to deal with potential questions

Members heard that, at a recent SYA event, its members had indicated that they didn't fully understand the issues relating to Child Sexual Exploitation. It

was agreed that this was not, perhaps, a topic for the Annual Conversation but given the concerns, the way that message was being put forward could be picked up.

A group of young carers was at the meeting and the Chair took the opportunity to ask for their views on the structure of the conversation and potential topics. The group felt the event should include a structured session, where pre agreed topics were discussed but this should be followed by a unstructured session, where other issues could be raised, on the day. In terms of the structured session the young carers group indicated that the issues raised by the SYA reflected areas of interest/concern it often discussed. It was also suggested that the event should include something that will attract young people, some who may not be part of groups, such as a climbing wall.

RESOLVED that:

1. the date for the event be identified and diarised as quickly as possible.
2. identify and write to appropriate groups regarding attendance.
3. identify topics for a structured session, noting that those identified by SYA were likely to resonate with the majority of young people.
3. the event include an un structured element.
4. some fringe events/activities be considered in discussion with the College.
5. a means of including social media (facebook/twitter) be considered to allow young people not attending the event to be involved.

5 Tees Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategy - Stockton's Implementation Plan

Members received a report that provided an update on the recent publication of 'Future in Mind' which sets out an approach for the NHS both locally and nationally to address mental health of children and young people. The report discussed the implications for local implementation and how this would align with the Joint Tees local children and young people's emotional wellbeing plan.

It was explained that the Future in Mind report followed the announcement of an additional £1.25bn, though it was unclear how this would be allocated locally.

The Partnership was provided with the Stockton Locality action plan associated with the CYPEMH (each other Tees Valley authority had its own locality action plan) and discussed who should lead on the coordination of its implementation. It was suggested that the lead should come from the CCG as it would be providing the bulk of the resources. This would need further discussion with the CCG outside of the meeting.

The Partnership felt that the action plan needed to go to the Commissioning Group and for it to advise this Partnership on how it wanted it to proceed.

There were concerns about the action plan having a number of deadlines

missing. If teams were being asked to now go away and work up the detail then this needed to be made clear in the plan.

RESOLVED that:

1. the lead person to coordinate the implementation of the action plan should be from the CCG.
2. the plan be considered by Children and Young People's Joint Commissioning Group.

6 Performance Outturn, including Q4, 2014/15

Consideration was given to an update report on activity and performance, based on information available for Q4 2014/15.

The Partnership was reminded that it had agreed a performance framework, which included a number of performance indicators linked to its six priorities. Members were provided with details of performance for each indicator, together with a commentary on the key areas of data to support the partnership's understanding and analysis of performance and activity.

- Ensure Children and Young People are Safe

Data suggested that there were still challenges, in relation to Early Help, which, when overcome, would prevent children requiring social care interventions.

It was explained that CAF had, again, recently been discussed at the Local Safeguarding Children Board and the Council's Cabinet. The limited use of CAF was being raised with commissioned services and other local providers again. It was clear that there were too many referrals coming into the system that should have received intervention at an earlier stage. This had been an issue for a number of years and continued to be a challenge. Child Protection numbers remained high.

It was agreed that indicators relating to VEMT and CSE needed to be aligned to data provided to the LSCB and VEMT strategic group.

- Ensure effective pre natal and early years support for children and families

Data was not suggesting a significant improvement in outcomes but there were lots of persistent challenges in this area, for example, breastfeeding. Progress was being made in some areas such as uptake of places available for all two year olds.

With regard to breastfeeding it was explained that the UNICEF approach was more about atonement and this fitted with the Health Visitor approach and helping women to be more aware of their bodies, the foetus and the baby. This may provide some improvement.

- Improve Educational Performance of all children and young people across the borough.

There was an improving picture in Early Years, a continuing strong performance in primary education but some significant challenges in secondary education

- Support young people to make a successful transition into adulthood.

Data was focused around NEET. Young people were targeted well at the point of leaving school but there were some challenges around more vulnerable young people.

- Improve outcomes for Children and Young People in care and care leavers.

Performance remained positive in relation to placement stability. There were some issues over the timeliness of adoptions but outcomes for children adopted remained positive. Performance in terms of care leavers moving into adulthood and suitable accommodation was good.

- Enabling Children and Young People to lead healthier lives

Members noted the difficulty with some data and how changes in cohorts from year to year could put a totally different complexion on an issue, such as obesity. This made it difficult getting consistency in data.

It was explained that Public Health would, at some point, be undertaking some work to try and understand the reasons for hospital admissions. Results would be reported back to this Partnership. It was noted that recent CDOP figures indicated a larger than expected number of child deaths in Stockton and it was important to understand what was behind this.

RESOLVED that:

1. the report be received.
2. any data provided to the Partnership, relating to VEMT and CSE needed to be aligned to data provided to LSCB and the VEMT group.
3. a report on issues surrounding hospital admissions be brought to a future meeting by the Director of Public Health.

7 Children and Young People's Plan

The Partnership received a report that provided an updated draft of the Children and Young People Plan for approval subject to any final amendments to be agreed at the meeting or subsequently

Comments by the Partnership included:

- perhaps the priorities could be referred to in the annual conversation as potential areas of discussion.
- priority 2 should include the words 'and they feel safe'.
- ask young people to provide, in their own words, text, describing what they consider each priority meant to them.

- include some work by young people in the plan e.g poems, quotes etc
- the plan was a little weak in terms of evidence around the post 16 area. It was noted that there wasn't currently a 14 - 19 plan though the 14 - 19 group was looking at identifying some key priorities.
- reference to other agency inspections, for example, CQC review of Health Services for LAC and Safeguarding, to be included where appropriate.

In terms of the delivery plan, the following was raised:

- Members were asked to look at the Lead Groups detailed in the delivery plan and make sure they were current and correct.
- Troubled families to be in Early Help area.
- employment opportunities should be included in transitions into adulthood.
- reduce incidence of childhood injuries - Lead Group was Public Health with plan/strategy being developed.
- children with long term health conditions - Lead Group would be CCG , plan/strategy to be identified.
- agencies names to be included in the plan.

Partners were asked if they wanted anything specifically including in the plan, or wanted to comment/query the draft. If they did they were asked to provide details to Simon Wilson or the Chair by Friday 31st July 2015.

RESOLVED that:

1. the discussion be noted and the report be amended accordingly.
2. partners further consider the draft report and raise any issues with Simon Willson or the Chair by Friday 31 st July 2015.
3. the final version be signed of at September's meeting.

8 Action Tracker

Members considered the Partnerships current Action Tracker

During discussion it was:

- noted that the Youth Service was looking at use of twitter to engage with young people and it was suggested that a report come to a future meeting.
- a report on Foetal Alcohol Disorder Syndrome come to the Partnership later in the year.

RESOLVED that the tracker be noted and updated and the identified reports be

added to the Forward Plan.

9 Forward Plan

Members considered the Forward Plan and agreed a number of amendments.

Members noted that a paper on Early Help would be presented to the September meeting. It was explained that a strategic group had been meeting. The group had been working to capture what was currently happening as lots was going on in different areas

It was explained that the MACH would be the single point of all contact for children's services across Stockton and Hartlepool.

It was explained that Officers had looked at work being undertaken in Essex around Early Help and there were some learning points that Stockton would consider.

A report would be coming to the Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board around Early Help.

RESOLVED that the Plan and information provided be noted.