

Children and Young People's Partnership

A meeting of Children and Young People's Partnership was held on Wednesday, 23rd September, 2015.

Present: Jane Humphreys (Stockton Borough Council – SBC) (Chairman), Peter Kelly (SBC) (Vice Chairman), Priti Butler (The Big Life Group), Chris Davis (TEWV), Anita Johnson (4Children), Cllr Ann McCoy (SBC), Janet Mackie (North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust) Julie Nixon (SBC), Hazel Ducker (Primary School Rep), Gemma Clifford (Catalyst), Lindsey Robertson (North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust), Paul Williams (CCG), Simon Willson (SBC), Margaret Whellens(SBC).

Officers: Margaret Waggott, Kirsty Wannop(LDS)

Also in attendance: Dave Willingham, Jane Wright, Jill Anderson, Alison Cartwright(SBC).

Apologies: Emma Champley (SBC), Ian Coates (Cleveland Police), Phil Cook (Stockton Riverside College),

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

2 Minutes of the meetings held on 21st July 2015

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meetings held on 21st July 2015.

Members discussed the issues raised at the last meeting from the young carers. This was being raised at Primary and Secondary Heads meetings and once discussions had been held feedback would be given to Eastern Ravens Trust.

RESOLVED the minutes be approved.

3 Early Help Proposals

Members considered a report that provided details of the Early Help Proposals going forward. In conjunction with the report a LGA Peer Review had been concluded last week on Early Help and the findings and recommendations would be received shortly.

The Chair had been leading an internal group looking at Early Help proposals including the Multi Agency Partnership that included representatives from Health, Schools and Police to help co ordinate proposals. In Stockton the aim was that Early Help and prevention services should:

- respond to local need in a clearly targeted way
- be coordinated across partner agencies to ensure a 'menu' or pathway of support for children and families
- empower parents and families to take responsibility for their children
- focus on clearly demonstrating an impact on outcomes for children, young people and their families

The agreed key objectives of the Early Help and Prevention Strategy were:

- To identify the needs of children, young people and their families across the continuum of need.
- To understand and respond quickly to the needs of children and young people and families across the continuum of need.
- To support the re-focusing of resources from crisis intervention to prevention.

- To provide the context for multi-agency partnerships to work together to improve outcomes for children, young people and families across the continuum of need.

The group looked at good models in terms of Early Help and visited Essex to look at its model. Essex had reduced pressures and made savings within front line teams which had been re-invested in early help. It was hoped that adopting a similar approach would have the same impact in Stockton.

It was important that the early help had a much better co-ordinated approach linking in with the good work already happening around troubled families, Police led Joint Action Groups (JAGs) and Multi Agency Children's Hub (MACH). It was also important to have key areas and ways to measure the success of the model.

The proposed Early Help Panel was discussed and proposed panel and attendees was provided along with its remit. The Service Manager of Early Help would Chair initially but in the long term this could change.

Members were informed that a Family Services Directory was being produced and would be launched. It was also stated that recruitment had taken place to appoint a helpline post particularly for out of normal working hours.

It was raised that there was issues with consent, and work needed to be done in ensuring that when consent was given relevant information was passed on to the right organisations and an opt out approach was taken forward.

The Partnership sought agreements from organisations to be involved in the Early Help Proposals and Panel.

It was highlighted that there was huge gaps in the Early Help agenda and primary care. GP's would know if a child was subject to a protection plan but anything below that wouldn't have insight into and it was felt there was a gap. The CAF team had visited all GP's to help sharing information but consent was needed from parents. Early Help would hopefully help each partner to engage in the process.

RESOLVED that the Early Help Proposals be agreed.

4 Children and Young People's Plan

The Partnership considered the final draft version of the Children and Young People's Plan. The previous draft version of the plan was considered at the Partnership's meeting on 21st July, and had subsequently been submitted to Stockton-on-Tees Local Safeguarding Children Board, and the Council's CYP Management Team. The final draft had taken account of any feedback received from these meetings.

Members were reminded that the plan had been developed as a reasonably brief, strategic document, focused on providing clarity about the Partnership's priorities, the rationale for these, and the way in which the Partnership would monitor delivery and achievement of actions required to achieve priorities.

At the time of preparing the report, there were a small number of data items to be confirmed for inclusion in the profile on page 5 of the document. These should be completed by the 23rd September.

It was proposed that, following final approval of the content of the plan, the document would be designed in a more user friendly format. Consideration would be given to producing a 'child and young person friendly' version also.

RESOLVED the Plan be agreed.

5 Housing Options Diagnostic Peer Review

Members considered a report that provided the Partnership with information in relation to the recent Diagnostic Peer Review of the Council's Housing Options Service.

DCLG was funding the National Practitioner Support Service (NPSS) to develop and deliver the Gold Standard Challenge.

The challenge follows a 10 step continuous improvement approach that started with a pledge for Local Authorities aspiring to 'strive for continuous improvement in front line housing services' and culminated in an application for the Gold Standard Challenge. It was not compulsory for Local Authorities to participate in the challenge, however it had been indicated that the Government's Homelessness Grant paid to Local Authorities may be influenced by non participation. Our decision to participate in the Challenge had also been influenced by the desire to embrace continuous improvement in service provision and customer satisfaction. Details of the 10 challenges were provided.

The review had confirmed that we had a very effective and efficient Housing Options Service that was achieving good outcomes for our customers, partners and stakeholders. The findings and recommendations from the review were being translated into a continuous improvement plan which would enable us to meet the 10 Local Challenges of the Gold Standard Award. This however would be a large term process and initially it was anticipated we would reach bronze standard.

We were continuing to work with the NPSS to identify the first 3 challenges which we aimed to meet this financial year.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

6 Managing Transition - Senior Management Structures at SBC

The Partnership considered a report that provided information on the proposal for a managed transition towards a new senior management structure for the Council. Members were provided with the report that was presented to Cabinet and would also be considered by Council.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

7 Review of meeting frequency/membership attendance

Members discussed the frequency of meetings and who was attending from the different organisations. It was agreed that the frequency of meetings was right. The Chair would contact the Police, Secondary and post 16 representatives regarding the attendance to the Partnership.

RESOLVED that the frequency and membership remain the same.

8 Annual Conversation

The Partnership considered update arrangements for the annual conversation. A suggestion of groups and organisations were provided and any other suggestions needed to be received by 30th September 2015.

A list of topics for discussion was provided and again the Partnership was asked to put any suggestions forward. The Annual Conversation was also for the Partnership to commit to helping facilitate discussion. A suggestion for an artist to attend spray paint the discussion the young people were having to make it more interactive. It was highlighted that we needed to be mindful with regard to moving the young people around on such a busy evening.

RESOLVED any suggestions be put forward to Democratic Services by 30th September 2015.

9 Action Tracker

Members considered the Partnerships action tracker.

The following was highlighted:-

8 - Would now be reported in January 2016

13 - This was now subject to a Scrutiny Review.

Performance reports would now be considered every six months by the Partnership and the first of this year would be considered in November.

RESOLVED that the Action Tracker be noted.

10 Forward Plan

The Partnership considered its forward plan for the following year.

The quarterly report of early years would be considered in January 2016.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.