

Children and Young People's Partnership

A meeting of Children and Young People's Partnership was held on Wednesday, 16th March, 2016.

Present: Jane Humphreys (Chairman),

Jane Smith, Priti Butler, Bev Bearne, Emma Champley, Lorna McLean, Martin Gray, Christine Smith, Maryssa O'Connor, Gemma Clifford, Jo Heaney, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Janet Seddon

Officers: Dominic Rowlands, Rob Papworth, Lynne Sparrey, Caroline Wood

Also in attendance: Nathan Duff

Apologies: Peter Kelly, Chris Davis, Natasha Judge, Janet Mackie, Hazel Ducker, Sue Harris, Lindsey Roberston, Paul Williams

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2016 - for approval

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2016 were confirmed as a correct record.

3 Minutes of Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Joint Commissioning Group held on 1 February 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2016.

4 Minutes of Adults' Health and Wellbeing Partnership held on 2 February 2016

Minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2016 be noted.

5 Vulnerable Young People - Benefit, Accommodation etc

Members received a presentation that outlined accommodation and support for Young People in Stockton who were in need due to homelessness/ leaving care.

The presentation covered the following areas:

- the legal context and a duty on the Council.
- How Stockton met its duties in this area.
- Cohorts of Young People in Stockton.
- what supported accommodation and placements were available.
- how arrangements were monitored.
- area of work and progress being made.

- Financial arrangements associated with housing and supported accommodation.
- emerging challenges.

The Partnership had a lengthy discussion on the information provided and that discussion could be summarised as follows:

- Members noted that the common themes around children going into care were neglect, substance misuse, domestic abuse, mental health.
- It was explained that there were strong links between the care leavers team and youth direction, including information sharing, YD had a representative on the Youth Accommodation Panel, dedicated workers and co-location.
- Noted that, nationally, an initiative called 'Staying Put', which allowed Looked After Young People to remain with their foster family. A review was underway to look at whether this should be extended to young people in residential homes. There would, however, be significant financial implications.
- There was a discussion on what had helped Young People preparing to leave care and reference was made to the success of annexes to Children's Homes. Leavers had their own front door and space but still had staff around for support before moving on to full independence.
- Leavers were often proficient in all the practical aspects of leaving care, they could hold down jobs, manage finances, cook their own meals etc but emotional resilience was sometimes an issue, as family support could be particularly limited. It was important to try and replicate that family support through semi supported independent living. CAMHS was working with the leaving care team but, perhaps, more could be done in this area, in terms of therapeutic interventions, at an earlier stage, when children first came into care.
- It was noted that looked after children did have the opportunity to hear about the experiences of those CYP who had left care, through forums and introductions.
- The secondary school representative highlighted that schools' priority tended to be around what college the student would be going to, what course etc. It was suggested that schools may have some work to do with relevant KS4 students, as there may be an imbalance around preparing them academically/ready for employment and preparing them emotionally.
- There may be a need to look at how we could support the needs of young people who we have had to place outside the Borough, because of potential risks, to continue to live outside the Borough.

RESOLVED that the presentation and discussion be noted/actioned where appropriate.

6 North Tees and Hartlepool Foundation Trust - CQC Inspection Outcomes - Children (Presentation)

This item was deferred to a future meeting of the Partnership and May was initially identified.

7 Fairer Start Update

Members were provided with background to the Fairer Start initiative. It was explained that the initiative had originally started as an unsuccessful Big Lottery Bid. It had been felt that the approach had considerable merit and the Council, CCG and VCS had agreed to take it forward. It was a multi-agency approach where people were working very closely together and information sharing. The approach was aimed at giving children the best start in life. The project was focused on Stockton Town Centre Ward but good practice was already embedding across the rest of the Borough.

The main areas of focus were:

- social and emotional development.
- speech and language development.
- nutrition

Members discussed the report and the discussion could be summarised as follows:-

- it was noted that local ward members had been consulted and engaged with but a further update would be provided to them soon.
- it was important to keep in mind achieving transformation and embracing the culture change. There was a need to continue to drive the local community ownership element of it and engage with local business to encourage them to take on some responsibility for the community they operated in.
- the Children's Centres review would be picking up some of the learning from the Fairer Start including 0-5, social emotional development, nutrition, Community Champion and volunteer elements would be included in the Children's Centres model.

RESOLVED that the report and discussion be noted/actioned as appropriate.

8 Action Tracker

Members considered its Action Tracker:

- 14 -19 presentation to be organised for the May meeting to provide an overview covering options for the cohort, what works well, what does not etc.
- Tees Valley Review post 16 may be available for the May meeting.
- Ask Charlie was now called Answer Alex. It was anticipated that some feedback might be available at the SYA's May meeting

- Self Harm update was available and would be provided to the next meeting, via the Action Tracker.

9 Forward Plan

Members considered the Forward Plan and a number of amendments were made.