

## **Children and Young People's Partnership**

A meeting of Children and Young People's Partnership was held on Wednesday, 22nd January, 2020.

**Present:** David Willingham (Chairman for this meeting), Rhona Bolland, Lynne Brown (Substitute for Claire Abley), Gill Booth, Alice Robinson (Sub for Sara Dalton), Nicola Childs (Substitute for Kimm Lawson), Sarah Massiter

**Officers:** Michael Henderson, Peter Mennear, Mandy Mackinnon, Mandie Morris, Eve Conner-McGill, Mark Ralphs, Debbie Peel

**Also in attendance:**

**Apologies:** Martin Gray, Cllr Lisa Evans, Julia Armstrong, Sarah Bowman - Abouna, Scott Cowie, Stephanie el Malak, Simon White, Julie Wilson, Liam Twizell

### **1 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **2 Minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2019**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2019 were confirmed as a correct record.

### **3 JSNA - Self Harm and Suicide Prevention**

The Partnership received the completed template relating to Self-Harm and Suicide

Members noted some of the work that needed to be undertaken in the Future, including:

- a whole system approach was required to prevent suicide, involving multiple agencies.
- a data sharing agreement was needed to reveal the whole picture and impact of self-harm and suicide on individuals and organisations.

RESOLVED that the JSNA template be approved for publication.

### **4 CYP Strategy - Relationships Theme**

The Partnership considered the Relationships, which was one of the key themes within the Children and Young People's Strategy.

Partners were provided with details of ongoing work associated with relationships across the following broad areas:

- Preventing family breakdown work
- Relationships education
- restorative practice examples

- Family Group Conference and family focused working.

### **Preventing Family Breakdown**

It was explained that the Council worked with 10 other Councils in the Reducing Parental Conflict Programme North East, known as Relationships Matters, that provides funded pathways of intervention. The interventions had been proven to improve family stability and improve outcomes for children. Referrals were made, via a questionnaire, sent to a gateway referral team, based with Gateshead Council. The questionnaire helped practitioners facilitate discussions with parents; the practitioner provider was Changing Futures North East.

The programme helped with family disagreements and habitual bickering but did not aim to address domestic abuse. However, providers were able to identify when this might be a factor and help, appropriately.

Referrals were not limited to Social Workers and schools could make referrals.

Partners were informed of Empowering Parents in Conflict (EPIC) Training and noted the programme of staff training and courses planned for parents, in Family Hubs.

The training aimed to provide staff with an understanding of the impact that parental conflict had on children and give them skills to help reduce parental conflict.

It was envisaged that the training would result in, amongst other things:

- a consistent multi agency response aimed at reducing parental conflict.
- a reduction in reported relationship distress and consequent improvement in outcomes for families.

### **Relationship education**

Partners considered a note relating to the features of Relationship and Sex Education and Health Education (RSHE), which would be mandated, in all schools, from September 2020.

Members were also provided with information about support offered in Stockton, including:

- Primary and Secondary Personal Development Networks
- Whole School Approach to Health, Wellbeing and Resilience Framework
- Stockton Public Health and Resource Library
- Stockton on Tees Community Practitioner Resilience Network

## **Restorative Practice**

The Partnership was provided with details of some of the restorative work that was being undertaken. The aim of the work was to provide staff with:

- skills and knowledge in the use of restorative practice and approaches.
- skills to facilitate and lead Family Network Meetings.

It was envisaged that restorative working would become part of the workforce culture in Stockton on Tees.

It was explained that the restorative approach looked to maintain and build relationships and repair those that had broken down.

Engagement with Secondary Schools had been very successful and it was hoped that a school would be identified, that could be showcased.

The restorative approach helped with a range of relationships outside the school environment e.g. within, and between, teams; during team meetings etc.

It was important that participants in a restorative approach had the opportunity to tell their story but they needed to fully understand what was involved and be open to the various stages involved.

## **Family Group Conferencing**

Members noted that FGC was a meeting, led by family members and other interested parties, to work out a plan for the care of a child, at risk. The children were usually involved in the meeting.

In Stockton on Tees this had originally been set up for children on the edge of care but was particularly effective as an early intervention.

Members noted that the FGC did not always fit perfectly with statutory responsibilities of a social worker.

Families and social workers were positive about the conferences and plans were often acceptable to social workers and averted escalation. The conferences helped draw out latent resources, within the family, and more people contributed towards the plan. The process could create capacity for the Social Worker.

It was estimated that around 70 children would have gone into care but FGC had prevented this.

The representative from the 0 -19 service indicated that the principles of FGC could assist in Family Action and this would be considered outside the meeting. It was agreed that the principles of FBC could be applied across other services.

RESOLVED that the presentation and discussion be noted.

**5 Forward Plan**

Members noted the Partnership's Forward Plan

**6 Items for Information**

**JSNA - Cancer**

**JSNA - Cardio Vascular Disease**

Members noted that these JSNA had been agreed by the Adults Health and Wellbeing Partnership and only a small element of them related to Children and Young People. The templates had been provided for information and Partners could raise any issues for clarification/ a response outside the meeting.