

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

A meeting of Children and Young People's Partnership was held on Wednesday, 16th September, 2020.

**Present:** Martin Gray(Chairman), Cllr Lisa Evans , Julia Armstrong, Rhona Bolland, Gill Booth, Scott Cowie, Karen Grundy, Eddie Huntington, Sarah Massiter, Liam Twizell, David Willingham, Julie Wilson

**Officers:** Michael Henderson, Jane Smith , Sarah Whaley

**Also in attendance:** Cllr Jim Beall, Nick Seek

**Apologies:** Claire Abley, Sarah Bowman - Abouna, Simon White,

### **CHP      Declarations of Interest**

**1/20**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **CHP      Update from Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board**

**2/20**

Councillor Jim Beall, Chair of the Council's Health and Wellbeing Board was in attendance to provide an overview of the Board's current position.

The Partnership noted that the Board had not met, as a Committee, since February, however it would next meet on 30 September 2020. The Board had held two workshop sessions, in June and July, where it had looked to reset its agenda, in the light of the impact of Covid.

The Chair referred to the positive attitudes that had been evident across the community and a willingness to find ways around obstacles and respond to new and difficult problems. Often people had undertaken work, outside their own area of expertise, to provide support elsewhere, where it was most needed. The Chair thanked the community and all organisations involved, for their flexibility, hard work and commitment.

He explained that, during the workshop sessions, the Board's members had developed an Action Plan and would be considering it further, at its meeting, on the 30 September 2020. The Action Plan set out the Board's initial priorities and, of particular interest to this Partnership, was the inclusion of the impact on emotional wellbeing of children, which was even more significant than it had been pre Covid. Other priorities included Domestic Abuse and Healthy Schools.

### **CHP      Minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2020**

**3/20**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

### **CHP      Covid 19 - Reflection for CYPP**

**4/20**

Members received a presentation that reflected on the impact of Covid 19, on Children's Services, with a view to the Partnership undertaking a broad

discussion on members' experiences during the pandemic and look at what had arisen and what were the issues the Partnership wanted to respond to.

The presentation examined:

The Implications for Children's Services, including:

- issues associated with maintaining contact with vulnerable children.
- difficulties using or varying some procedures.
- Provision for children with Special Educational Needs, not being delivered.

What the service did and learned, including:

- we were able to implement large scale changes to working, very quickly and stick to them.
- staff and children were very resilient.
- we had a better understanding of what schools wanted and didn't want, from the Council,

Long term implications, including:

- absence from education, catch up programme.
- job losses and the impact of poverty.
- loss of the informal protective system – what had that led to and what would the impact be.
- impact on staff – stress - ability to respond again.
- most vulnerable children's situation exacerbated.

Where next:

- Recovery planning – reforming our approach and ways of working.
- Operating model - closer to schools.
- Flexible working and efficiency.
- Vulnerability working.
- Accelerating transformation in Children's Services.
- Child development and system focus: physical; cognitive; behavioural; emotional – putting children at the centre of the system.

It was important that partners highlighted their experiences and what they had learned and what should continue. The Partnership needed to discuss the long-term implications and what organisations should be working on together? How could we build on the flexibility/openness that had been created?

Members received a presentation about the vulnerable children's data base which had been developed, as a response to Covid, in order to monitor the vulnerable children in the Borough. The data base had only been possible through the sharing of information, across partners, and had created important strategic opportunities.

In summary the data base had resulted in the development of a matrix of vulnerability and risk. Children's Services had undertaken work to identify and quantify where the children/families, it worked with, featured on the matrix. For instance, the matrix indicated that 1% of the families were at the highest risk and highest vulnerability levels, whereas around 17% were at the lowest risk and lowest vulnerability levels. A significant proportion of families could be described as being in moderate categories, for risk and vulnerability. The data challenged some historical assumptions about where resources needed to be directed and provided some basis for considering whether those resources needed to be redirected to make them more effective.

More data sets would be added including anti-social behaviour, mental health, worklessness, deprivation etc. Associated costings/resources would be overlaid to help us think more strategically and creatively, across the Partnership.

#### Discussion:

- Members welcomed the work undertaken and the opportunities it may create. It had been a very thought-provoking presentation.
- The work highlighted the importance of maintaining the level of communication and data sharing that had been achieved during Covid.
- It was noted that an issue for schools, following lockdown, was children who had not returned to school, if they hadn't then there needed to be an understanding of where they were. Some had moved out the area for various reasons e.g. to be nearer family, have access to a garden. Some children would be suffering from anxiety and/or loss.
- Sending whole year groups (Mega bubbles) home was a challenge for schools.
- Testing packs and how they were distributed and allocated was a difficult consideration. Should it be centralised, with a consistent rationale?
- It was explained that there was a high attendance rate across schools, but Children's Services was doing some work around cross checking if there was disproportionate return to school from any communities.

The Partnership received a further presentation, about emotional health and

wellbeing and the enhanced offer available to schools.

It was explained that the Council had been working with colleagues from the CCG and providers of mental health services to provide a clear, coordinated offer to early years settings, schools and colleges for emotional health and wellbeing support directly related to COVID19.

This included:

- training, support and quality assured resources for use within a whole setting approach led by SBC Education Improvement Service.
- access to a range of group sessions for children and young people facilitated by emotional health and wellbeing practitioners.
- direct work with parents/carers to help them to support their child and/or manage their own emotional health and wellbeing.
- access to 1:1 specialist therapeutic intervention, as clinically appropriate.
- referral routed and coordinated through the Early Help Single Point of Contact (SPOC).

Discussion:

-It was noted that interventions did not replace what was already available but attempted to provide additional capacity to support those, for whom COVID 19 had had an impact. These were Covid specific interventions.

-Interventions could be tailored for groups and individuals. The SPOC would receive referrals and look at need and match to interventions.

RESOLVED that the presentations and discussion be noted.