

meeting **Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Board**
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT KELHAM HALL, NEWARK

date **10 June 2010**

Present: Anthony May (Nottinghamshire County Council) in the Chair, Fiona Simpson (Networking Action with Voluntary Organisations), Chris Few (Chair – Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board), Steve Brown (Bassetlaw District Council), Andrew Muter (Newark and Sherwood District Council), Allen Graham (Rushcliffe Borough Council), Rob Mayall (Government Office East Midlands), Richard Cooper (Education Trust Board), Maggie Pape (Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Unit), Terry Laws (Nottinghamshire County Council) for item 5, Paul Farrell (Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust), Philip Marshall (Ashfield District Council), Roy Haynes (Nottinghamshire County Council) for item 5, Keith Tansley (Gedling Borough Council), Gill Saville (Further Education and Sixth Form Colleges), Laurence Jones (Nottinghamshire County Council) for item 6, Devon Allen (Nottinghamshire County Council) for item 4, Chris Wall – minutes (Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Unit).

ACTION

The meeting began at 2.00 pm

1a Welcome and Introduction

Anthony May welcomed Children's Trust Board (CTB) members and each person introduced themselves. Anthony explained that he would be in the chair as Councillor Philip Owen had been unexpectedly called away on urgent business.

1b Apologies for absence

Councillor Phillip Owen (Nottinghamshire County Council), Ruth Hyde (Broxtowe Borough Council), Mary McEvoy (Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue), Chris Kenny (NHS Nottinghamshire County), Frank Horsley (Ashfield District Council), Graham Shepherd (JobCentre Plus).

Ajman Ali will be representing Ruth Marlow (Mansfield District Council)

Mark Taylor will be representing Nigel Hill (Nottinghamshire Probation Service)

Richard Fretwell will be representing Ian Ackerley (Nottinghamshire Police)

Angela Main will be representing Ruth Hyde (Broxtowe Borough Council)

1c Minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2010 and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2010 were accepted as an accurate record.

Matters Arising

Item 2(a) 2-3 representatives of district councils to be nominated to serve on the Children's Trust Executive.

There would be a meeting of district council Chief Executive Officers on 11 June and it was agreed that Andrew Muter (Newark & Sherwood District Council) would raise this matter there.

**Andrew
Muter**

Item 6(c) Diocesan Boards of Education representation on the Children's Trust Board.

Anthony May reported that it had been decided by the Diocesan Boards of Education that they did not wish to join the Children's Trust Board. Anthony would give feedback from the Children's Trust Board at his termly meetings with them.

Item 6(d) and 6(e) Anthony confirmed that Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust and other health care providers had been invited to become associate members of the Executive and that Nottinghamshire Futures had been invited to be a full member.

Standing items

2 Business items from Children's Trust Executive meetings – 1 March, 12 April and 20 May 2010

Anthony May (Chair of Children's Trust Executive) briefed the Board on business items from the meetings of the Children's Trust Executive:

- (i) There was commitment to District Council representation to serve on the Executive and this would be raised at the meeting on 11 June of district council Chief Executive Officers.
- (ii) The Executive had agreed to set up an additional meeting of the Children's Trust Board and the Executive on 5 July 2010, 2.00 to 5.00 pm at the Assembly Rooms, County Hall. This would enable a more in-depth consideration of the strategic priorities for the new Children and Young People's Plan 2011-14 (CYPP) and the Children's Trust partnership activities to deliver safeguarding improvements. It would be an opportunity to seek the views of the CT Board and Executive and look at ways to take this work forward. If members were unable to attend due to the short notice they might wish to consider sending representation.
- (iii) The development of proposals for Pathway to Provision were in progress, building on work that had been done prior to the Ofsted Inspection. This would be presented to the CT Board in September for approval and to seek recommendations on how to take the implementation plan forward.

- (iv) The draft of the refresh of the children and young people's chapter of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment had been presented to the Executive. This was seen as an extremely important document to support the current CYPP and a platform to build priorities for the new 11-14 Plan.

3 Response to Safeguarding Inspection

Anthony May stated that the outcomes of the Inspection for Safeguarding and Looked After Children had been agreed by the Department for Education on 9 June 2010. Anthony explained that the Inspection had been conducted in two parts (1) Looked After Children's Services and (2) Safeguarding.

The Looked After Children's Services had been given an 'adequate' grade and Safeguarding had been judged as 'inadequate'. This had been an expected outcome. There has been a heavy increase of workloads and a 43% rise in referrals in Nottinghamshire. The Ofsted report was published at the same time as the executive summary of the serious case review on Charlotte Avenall. Both had been under scrutiny by local and national media.

Anthony circulated a letter from Tim Loughton, MP, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families, outlining the government's intentions following the Inspection. Anthony pointed out there had been an unannounced inspection, followed by a full inspection, both within a five month period as well as a serious case review. (The usual expectation was to have only one within a year).

Anthony distributed the draft Improvement Notice. The implementation of changes required in the Improvement Notice would be managed by Nottinghamshire County Council. Targets have been set for initial and core assessments, re-referrals to children's social care and improvements in relation to key workforce indicators.

The Board discussed the Safeguarding Inspection and the following comments were made:

Gill Saville (Further Education and Sixth Form Colleges) asked what measures were in place for monitoring performance management and how would the Board be informed of this.

Anthony confirmed that there would be the introduction of a new improvement framework with capacity for performance management and audit. The CT Board would be provided with a quarterly performance report and Anthony would give updates throughout the Improvement Notice period. Anthony added that further dedicated Human Resources support was being provided to manage absence, with occupational health support for any stress-related absence.

Paul Farrell (Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust) asked if there was a

time period in the definition of re-referrals (regarding the 30% reduction in the number of re-referrals by September 2010). Anthony confirmed there was a time period and agreed to forward the details to Paul Farrell.

**Anthony
May**

Andrew Muter (Newark and Sherwood District Council) commented that a huge effort would be made to improve partners targets but outcomes might not be affected. What assurance can be given for a substantial quality of service. Anthony responded that:

- Qualitative measures regarding outcomes would supplement the quantitative measures in the Safeguarding Improvement Programme (SIP).
- Improvement in outcomes is related to effective risk management and to developing a skilled workforce.
- The development of the Pathway to Provision would provide a clear strategy for early intervention and escalation to specialist support, including social care.

Mark Taylor (Nottinghamshire Probation Service) asked about understanding the workforce. Anthony responded and stated that in the past the Children's Social Care workforce had been very stable but this had changed recently. There were issues with workload management and recruiting and retaining experienced skilled staff. Twelve new Senior Practitioners had been appointed to mentor staff and the Outcomes UK Agency contracted to provide two dedicated teams for a period of one year.

Gill Saville asked if there would be secure funds going forward into the next financial year. Anthony stated that this was a major priority for the County Council and would be given consideration in the budget setting process.

Ajman Ali (Mansfield District Council) raised the question about district council support understanding of multi-agency thresholds. Anthony explained Pathway to Provision would support the referral process and application of thresholds. The system would be developed to accommodate district councils and set out clear information about the referral route.

Allen Graham (Rushcliffe Borough Council) agreed that a multi-agency approach was required to take this work forward. He commented on new Rushcliffe procedures and the role of district councils.

Anthony stated that he would be interested to see any models of good practice and encouraged partners to share such models and to escalate any safeguarding concerns.

Anthony distributed the Improvement Programme Board draft Terms of Reference. He explained the Board would have an independent chair,

with key membership from the Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Board (NCTB) and Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB). Ged Rowney who had led recent intervention in Stoke would be the Chair. Meetings would take place on a monthly basis. Anthony invited members of the Children's Trust Board to comment as Papers for this meeting would be sent out next week. Anthony would give monthly updates to the CT Board.

Nottinghamshire County Council Children's Social Care workforce data May 2010 and Initial and Core Assessment Timescales for Nottinghamshire children's social care were given out to the Board for information.

4 Approval of Housing Protocol for 16-17 year olds

Devon Allen (Nottinghamshire County Council) presented the Joint Agency Protocol for Young People Leaving Care and Homeless 16 and 17 year olds. The protocol gives a clear framework about how District and Borough Councils, together with Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) and the voluntary sector, can work together with homeless 16 and 17 year olds. The House of Lords Ruling May 2009 states that there should be one protocol across Nottinghamshire to provide consistency rather than agencies working independently as in the past. The new protocol, which is the first of its kind in Nottinghamshire, would provide young people with smooth transition and support between providers.

Andrew Muter asked if there was any significant difference between the protocol and how district councils provided services in the past.

Devon explained that in 2003 Gedling Borough Council and NCC Children and Young People Services had produced a protocol that could be added to by other agencies. However, there were inconsistencies as some districts did not have any set procedures in place.

Allen Graham queried the wording in relation to housing providers and Devon responded that it was a challenge to provide appropriate accommodation. Housing providers are committed to develop the protocol and take this work forward. Anthony added that housing associations and providers would work on a strategy to contribute to this.

Devon confirmed that duty of care rests with local authorities under Section 20 to accommodate homeless 16 and 17 year olds and gave examples. Previously there had been confusion between local authority and housing provider duties. The House of Lords Ruling May 2009 makes this very clear and the protocol sets these duties out in detail.

Anthony added that colleagues from district councils had contributed to this document.

Steve Brown (Bassetlaw District Council) asked if the Bassetlaw study reflected the views of the local community and Devon confirmed this.

Fiona Simpson (Networking Action with Voluntary Organisations) raised the question regarding omissions and how this would be monitored. Devon responded that there were monitoring arrangements countywide and monthly review meetings. There would be some minor alterations to the protocol before the launch on 21 June.

Chris Few (Chair – Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board) commented that under Section 20 of the Children’s Act there would be a need to develop appropriate supportive accommodation for young people across the county. This would avoid inappropriate foster placements as a result of lack of capacity.

Devon responded to questions from then Board about the voluntary sector and involvement by Hostel Liaison Groups. He confirmed that the groups were putting in place strategies for immediate, mid and long term accommodation. Allen Graham stated that it would be a difficult task to achieve a balance across the sector.

Rob Mayall (Government Office East Midlands) added that the protocol was a significant and really positive step forward.

Anthony May thanked all partner agencies and the NSCB and stated he would look forward to the launch.

The Board agreed to approve and adopt the Joint Protocol for young people leaving care and homeless 16 and 17 year olds.

5 14-19 Strategy

Terry Laws (Nottinghamshire County Council) and Roy Haynes (Nottinghamshire County Council) gave a presentation on the 14 -19 and Raising of Participation Age Plan for Nottinghamshire 2010-2011. The Board were updated on priorities and what issues would be taken forward. Conceived by the previous national administration, the 14-19 Plan set the context for future commissioning by which Local Authorities have responsibility for all 16-19 education from 1 April 2010. This strategy would form part of the Children and Young People’s Plan.

Anthony May stated that the 16-18 commissioning budget was subject to the same dispensation as schools, with an obligation across the Trust to consider pre 16 and post 16 education. It was important to have strong strategic planning that employs and supports the needs of young people and forms a significant part of further education provision. The contracting arrangements with Nottinghamshire Futures would create a smooth transition to the new governance arrangements for 14-19.

The Board agreed to adopt the 14-19 and Raising of Participation Age Plan for Nottinghamshire 2010 to 2011 and to incorporate it within the Children and Young People’s Plan.

6 Youth Crime Prevention Strategy

Laurence Jones (Nottinghamshire County Council) briefed the Board on Nottinghamshire Youth Crime Strategy 2010 to 2013. Laurence explained that the Youth Crime Strategy was a combination of the Youth Justice Plan and the Youth Crime Prevention Plan. Some minor amendments would still have to be made and would be incorporated into the final document. There had been a children and young people's version that consisted of three You Tube videos. Laurence outlined the aims of the strategy and covered the three main areas included in the action plan to be reviewed annually. Governance would be through the Youth Crime Board, the Children's Trust and Safer Nottinghamshire Board.

Anthony May commented that the Youth Crime Strategy was another really good example of how to take work forward using the Children's Trust. This area of work was very challenging and not an easy task to progress. Anthony thanked Laurence and his team and other agencies involved. He added it was a model of good practice to adopt in relation to the Safeguarding Improvement Programme and Pathways to Provision.

Paul Farrell asked if Nottingham City had a similar strategy. Laurence explained that although approaches varied, joined up working would be ideal practice especially in relation to crimes committed in Gedling and Broxtowe by young people from City areas.

Rob Mayall added that the Youth Crime Strategy should be incorporated in the Children and Young People's Plan together with the 14-19 Strategy for Nottinghamshire.

The Board approved Nottinghamshire Youth Crime Strategy 2010 - 2011

7 Any Other Business

Chris Few commented on public confidence following the Ofsted report on the inspection of safeguarding and looked after children services. Regional and national media coverage had seemed in proportion. The public and especially young people's perception on services would have a direct impact on safeguarding effectiveness and any successes across the county should be promoted. The Children's Trust Board today had been presented with the Youth Crime Prevention Strategy, 14-19 Strategy and Joint Agency Housing Protocol for 16-17 year olds which were examples of success. Chris encouraged members of the Board to contact Abbe Jakeman, NCC Corporate Communications Officer, with any information celebrating achievement across the county.

Anthony May reminded members of the Board about the extraordinary meeting on 5 July, 2.00 to 5.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 3.50 pm

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 5 July 2010, 2.00 to 5.00 pm (please note extended times)

Venue: Assembly Rooms, County Hall, West Bridgford, NG2 7QP.