

meeting **Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Board**
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE RUFFORD SUITE, COUNTY
HALL, WEST BRIDGFORD

date **3 February 2011**

Present:

Anthony May (Nottinghamshire County Council) in the Chair, Chris Few (Chair, Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board), Richard Cooper (Education Trust Board), Frank Horsley (Ashfield District Council), Ruth Hyde (Broxtowe Borough Council), Chris Kenny (NHS Bassetlaw and NHS Nottinghamshire County), Mary McEvoy (Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue), Maggie Pape (Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Unit), Gill Saville (Further Education and Sixth Form Colleges), Fiona Simpson (Networking Action with Voluntary Organisations, Derek Higton (Nottinghamshire County Council), 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 Councillor Philip Owen had been unable to attend the meeting. Sean Anderson pointed out that due to new arrangements within the Police Service, Dave Wakelin would now be the Police representative on the CT Board and Sean would be the representative on the CT Executive.

1b Apologies for absence

Councillor Philip Owen (Nottinghamshire County Council)
John Thorn (Children's Centres)
Keith Tansley (Gedling Borough Council)
Andrew Muter (Newark & Sherwood District Council)
Allen Graham (Rushcliffe Borough Council)
Ruth Marlow (Mansfield District Council)

Anne Danvers was representing Graham Sheppard (JobCentre Plus)
Alan Goode was representing Nigel Hill (Nottinghamshire Probation Trust)
Sean Anderson was representing Dave Wakelin (Nottinghamshire Police)

1c Minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2010 and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2010 were accepted as an accurate record.

Matters Arising

Anthony May (Nottinghamshire County Council) explained the context for this meeting. At the last CT Board meeting in September it had been decided to have a Board meeting in early 2011 to review arrangements for the Children's Trust in light of the coalition government changes to Local Authorities and Children's Trusts. There would be a discussion later in this meeting on how to take the Children's Trust forward in Nottinghamshire and revise outline decisions made in September.

Item 3 The Safeguarding Improvement Programme (SIP) would be an agenda item at this meeting when Chris Kenny (NHS Bassetlaw and NHS Nottinghamshire County), Chris Few (Chair, Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board) and Anthony would give an update on progress.

Item 5 Anthony asked Derek Higton (Nottinghamshire County Council) who was the lead for the Pathway to Provision to update the Board on progress.

Derek stated that the launch for the Pathway to Provision, both as a concept and document, had taken place in October 2010 with seven district conferences that had a total of 700 attendees. A key purpose was to ensure understanding of thresholds for access to Children's Social Care and this had been well received both in Children's Social Care and across the partnership. Feedback indicated that professionals now felt better equipped to deal with referral issues than previously. A revised and improved version would be produced at the end of this financial year as part of the Early Intervention Strategy.

The Safeguarding Improvement Programme report for end of December had shown a decrease in the number of contacts and referrals and significant improvements over the last few months. These can be attributed to Pathway to Provision and Anthony was very grateful to Derek Higton and staff, partner agencies and engagement on the website by colleagues in support of this enforcement programme.

Item 7 The future of the Children's Trust would be an agenda item later in this meeting.

2 Matters arising and summary of business items discussed by the Children's Trust Executive

Anthony May (Chair of Children's Trust Executive) updated the CT Board on items discussed by the CT Executive. The SIP future arrangements had been agreed and would improve pathways and early intervention strategy and ultimately impact on Children's Social Care. The Family and Parenting service was also set to improve and become a unified structure under Children, Families and Cultural Services (CFCS).

The CT Executive had also been developing this approach with tackling Child Poverty. The Local Authority (LA) now had a statutory duty to publish a strategy by April 2011. Irene Kakoullis and Derek Higton would be developing this strategy with a duty authority wide that would be signed off by the CT Executive.

Kate Allen had given an update to the Executive on developments in the Health Service in relation to the Public Health White Paper. Chris Kenny (NHS Bassetlaw and NHS Nottinghamshire County) pointed out that the White Paper was still out for consultation until the end of March, together with the outcomes framework document and commissioning and funding route.

Anthony commented that Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) would start looking at transition of Public Health arrangements now rather than wait for the White Paper to be finalised later in the year.

Chris paid tribute to the Child and Adult Mental Health Service (CAMHS) progress over the last two years. The issues tackled were still valid and relevant and would be taken forward by the CT Executive.

Anthony endorsed this view and stated that Nottinghamshire had improved services markedly since the Joint Area Review and the work of Chris Kenny and colleagues should be celebrated.

3 Update on Safeguarding Improvement Programme

The CT Board discussed the Safeguarding Improvement Programme. A summary of the Safeguarding Improvement Programme Board meeting that monitors progress can be viewed at:

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/home/safeguardingimprovementboard.htm>

4 Revised operating arrangements for the Children's Trust and development of the new Children, Young People and Families Plan

Anthony May (Nottinghamshire County Council) gave an update on changes in legislation concerning the Children's Trust. The new Education Bill would remove a duty to co-operate on schools and colleges. There is no longer a requirement to produce a Children and Young People's Plan. Further legislative changes may be made to give Children's Trusts the choice regarding relevant partners. There had also been changes to the National Health Service which Chris Kenny would describe in more detail which would lead to the creation of a Health and Well-Being Board for Nottinghamshire. Discussions would need to take place to decide whether the CT Executive should report to the new Health and Well-Being Board. Nottinghamshire intends to apply to be a Pathfinder for Health and Well Being Boards and if successful its board

would be established in mid 2011.

Chris Kenny (NHS Bassetlaw and NHS Nottinghamshire County) commented that there was a fair amount of discretion in the proposed draft governance document in comparison to a more prescriptive approach previously. Changes to the Nottinghamshire Partnership arrangements and overseeing their role would need to be more clearly defined.

Anthony pointed out that the Health and Well-Being Board would be led by elected members and GP consortia.

Ruth Hyde (Broxtowe Borough Council) asked about District Council representation and Chris Kenny confirmed that this would be considered in the development of the Health and Well-Being Board.

Anthony highlighted page 3 of the report that suggested a way forward. There would be more discretion now with arrangements for the Children's Trust and proposals for future joint working. The Health and Well Being Board would tie this together into one structure. Anthony suggested as a halfway measure the CT Executive could continue with him in the chair and that the CT Board met less frequently as a network. When the Health and Well-Being Board had been established the CT Board could return to discuss how to continue with future arrangements. Ruth raised concerns that the Health and Well-Being Board had a vast remit and would not be able to do justice to the range of issues. It was important that the NSCB operated well and continued to provide the role of challenge and scrutiny. The proposal for district/borough partnership arrangements at local level was a good idea and it was sensible to make use of the existing structure rather than invent unnecessary links.

Chris Few (Chair, Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board) added that Eileen Munro regarded delivery of outcomes to be essential. The NSCB detail may change but its core function regarding scrutiny and safeguarding would remain the same.

Chris Kenny (NHS Bassetlaw and NHS Nottinghamshire County) commented that district council responsibility was not clear but their links between the GP consortia was crucial. It was important that GP consortia were part of local democratic and political decision making.

Anthony commented that consideration should be given to the remit of the Health and Well-Being Board as a route to channel strategic issues from the Executive.

Chris Kenny added that the Safer Nottinghamshire Board had to address similar issues and fit in new arrangements.

Anthony referred to the comment made by Ruth Hyde and the importance of linking the NSCB into other structures.

Chris Few stated that the NSCB would have to be effective in how it related to other bodies. The role of scrutiny would be with the Executive rather than the Board until the establishment of the Health and Well-Being Board when the NSCB role could be reviewed.

Chris Kenny emphasised that it was crucial to have an interim arrangement in place until April 2012.

Anthony suggested going through the proposed new operating arrangements for the Children's Trust starting with point 15 on page 3 of the report. The Board made the following comments:

Chris Kenny recommended a stakeholder approach in response to the proposed reporting structure.

Anthony commented that this approach had not yet been formulated. A network to share information and invite comment or a board type arrangement should be considered and Anthony suggested the former.

Ruth Hyde (Broxtowe Borough Council) responded to the point about the Executive working at an appropriate level and asked about the lack of district council representation. As this had not been taken forward in the past, it was agreed that Ruth would raise this at the next meeting of district council Chief Executive Officers.

Ruth Hyde

Anthony added there would be a reduction in the number of groups reporting to the Children's Trust and these would have a more strategic focus. Each district/borough would continue with arrangements to report to the Executive in terms of issues such as the Pathway to Provision and Early Intervention. Chairing arrangements would remain the same for the CT Board and Executive and the relationship with the NSCB might need some adjustment subject to Munro Report recommendations.

Anthony highlighted the second part of the report regarding the development of the new Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) Plan. There would no longer be a requirement to have a Plan from the new government. The Executive proposed referring to the partnership needs analysis to produce a shorter set of priorities agreed at the joint CT Board and Executive meeting in July 2010. Appendix 2 of the report lists the priorities. Anthony suggested that the new Plan would be called the Children, Young People and Families Plan and would have a one year remit.

Ruth Hyde commented that she was in favour of a simpler version of the Plan that would be quicker to write and focussed on the priorities, why they were necessary and how they would be implemented.

Anthony supported this view and to move away from the requirement to produce a glossy Plan that had a competitive approach between local authorities. Appendix 2 had tried to reflect this and relate to discussions

between the NSCB and CT Board.

Chris Kenny asked about views across the county and the consultation process.

Maggie Pape (Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Unit) confirmed that consultation had provided evidence for the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment that had informed the new Children, Young People and Families Plan. There would be a final consultation stage prior to publication.

Anthony asked the Board to consider the recommendations on page 6 of the report.

Chris Few (Chair, Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board) stated that this would be subject to a refocus of where the relationship with the NSCB would fit into the proposed changes and primary decision making body and how the protocol would be taken forward.

Maggie Pape confirmed that she and Clive Chambers, the Acting NSCB Manager, had started to look at the joint working protocol between the NSCB and the CT Board and would report back to relevant groups. Anthony pointed out that in his capacity as Chair of the CT Executive and a member of the NSCB he would be able to support/present any business items relevant to joint working.

Sean Anderson (Nottinghamshire Police) asked about membership and development of local delivery groups.

Anthony confirmed that their remit would be re-clarified and expectations within the partnership defined.

Derek Higton (Nottinghamshire County Council) commented that the Early Intervention Strategy would address this and would be a key output from the Children, Young People and Families Plan.

Anthony added that the Early Intervention Strategy recognised that Joint Access Teams require permanent support to sustain a consistent quality across the county.

Anne Danvers (Jobcentre Plus) asked about activities to raise employment rates and how this would be embedded with the plan.

Anthony stated that the CT Executive had decided to address employment in CYPF Plan with the child poverty priorities. The 14-19 strategy would have clear objectives regarding vocational guidance, the Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) agenda and additional needs of children and young people. Anthony had attended the 14-19 conference that supported the link between vocational education and education in the route to employment.

Chris Kenny (NHS Bassetlaw and NHS Nottinghamshire County) commented that the Health and Well-Being Board would take a more holistic approach with greater access to health services such as midwifery and immunisation.

Anthony suggested rephrasing emotional well-being and consider integrating this with planning. The Health and Well-Being Board would set priorities and GP consortia carry out commissioning.

The Children's Trust Board agreed to:

- (i) the proposed changes to Nottinghamshire Children's Trust governance arrangements,**
- (ii) that these arrangements are kept under review as the arrangements for Nottinghamshire Health and Well-Being Board are developed,**
- (iii) the approach adopted for the development of its new Children Young People and Families (CYPF) Plan for 2011-12,**
- (iv) the outline content of the CYPF Plan.**

5 Any Other Business

Chris Kenny (NHS Bassetlaw and NHS Nottinghamshire County) added that by the next meeting there would be further developments with the Health and Well-Being Board to support the way forward for the CT Board.

Anthony confirmed that he would contact the CT Board and Executive with further updates on the Health and Well-Being Board, the Safeguarding Improvement Programme or the Munro Review and post information on the CT website.

The meeting closed at 3.40 pm

Date of next meeting to be confirmed