



minutes

meeting **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S
PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT COUNTY HALL, WEST
BRIDGFORD**

date **21 SEPTEMBER 2009**

Present: Philip Owen (Nottinghamshire County Council) in the Chair, Barbara Brady (NHS Nottinghamshire County), Steve Brown (Bassetlaw District Council), Julie Cotton (Bassetlaw PCT), Steve Edwards (Nottinghamshire County Council), Sue Fenton (NAVO), Chris Few (Chair - Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board), John Hemstock (Nottinghamshire County Council), Derek Higton (Nottinghamshire County Council), Frank Horsley (Ashfield District Council), Brenda Howard (NHS Nottinghamshire County), Ruth Hyde (Broxtowe Borough Council), Irene Kakoullis (Nottinghamshire County Council), Terry Laws (LSC), Ruth Marlow (Mansfield District Council), Jo Mathieson - minutes (Nottinghamshire County Council), Anthony May (Nottinghamshire County Council), Mary McEvoy (Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue), Andrew Muter (Newark & Sherwood District Council), Maggie Pape (Nottinghamshire County Council), Jean Pardoe (Connexions Nottinghamshire), Helen Ryan (Nottinghamshire County Council) and Keith Tansley (Gedling Borough Council).

ACTION

The Board meeting began at 5.00 pm

1 Introduction and welcome of the new Chair

Councillor Philip Owen introduced himself as the new Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services at Nottinghamshire County Council, and as such, the new Chair of Nottinghamshire Children and Young People's Partnership.

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Helen Longland (GOEM), Simon Smith (Nottinghamshire Healthcare) and Sheila Wright (Nottinghamshire Probation Service).

Ruth Hyde (Broxtowe Borough Council) and Sue Fenton (NAVO)

both gave apologies to leave the meeting at 6pm.

3 Minutes of the meeting held on 15 June March 2009 and matters arising from the minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2009 were accepted as an accurate record.

Matters arising were as follows:

County Council Election Update and Chair of the Partnership Board

John Hemstock confirmed that details of the new cabinet positions and spokespeople, along with opposition spokespeople, have been circulated to the Board.

Children and Young People's Plan 2009/11

Maggie Pape confirmed that the Plan is now available on the Partnership website and that a limited number of hard copies have been produced. Board members received their copy of the Plan at the meeting. Those unable to attend will receive them in the post.

Partnership Delivery Unit

Actions under this item were to be covered in items 4 and 5 of this meeting.

Quarterly Performance Bulletin

Actions under this item were to be covered in items 6 and 7 of this meeting.

4 Partnership Governance Structures

Maggie Pape presented a report on proposed changes to the governance arrangements for the Children and Young People's Partnership, as requested at the previous meeting of the Board.

Maggie summarised the background and national context for the proposed changes and explained that the proposals within the report relate to six key areas of governance:

1. Name of Children and Young People's Partnership
2. The function and structure of the CYP Board
3. Review of the executive for the CYP Board
4. Establishment of a work programme for the Board and its executive
5. Review of sub-groups reporting to the Board and its executive groups.
6. The relationship between the CYP Board and the NSCB.

A discussion the proposals by board members followed, which included the points below.

- The need to examine how different partner agencies might be represented on the executive group, especially in terms of district council representation (Ruth Hyde – Broxtowe Borough Council).
- Rationalisation of groups to develop the relationship between the Children’s Trust and Nottinghamshire Partnership Groups including the Safer Communities strand. (Ruth Hyde – Broxtowe Borough Council).
- The need to balance the inclusion of theme/sub-groups of LSPs in county-level structures with their direct link to their main local LSP, thereby avoiding possible stifling of locality creativity (Andrew Muter – Newark & Sherwood District Council).
- Careful consideration will need to be given to the inter-relationship between the existing Health and Well-being Partnership which acts as the theme group for the Nottinghamshire Partnership/LAA and the new Children and Young People’s Health and Well-being Group proposed by the report presented today (Ruth Marlow – Mansfield District Council).

Anthony May (Nottinghamshire County Council) provided responses to some of the discussion points raised.

- The name “Education Trust” was decided upon locally, following consultation with head teachers. It is distinct from the Schools Forum that focuses on funding issues for schools.
- The recommendation for a Children and Young People’s Health and Well-being group is partly in response to the Joint Area Review which recommended a more strategic overview to the health of children and young people
- The role of the Director of Children’s Services (DCS) to hold Board members to account for the implementation of the Children and Young People’s Plan is laid out in the DCSF guidance for the role of the DCS. This stems from the Children’s Act (Section 10). This would be through a partnership approach, making use of performance management and ensuring challenge is delivered in a supportive way.

It was agreed that:

- i. the name for the Children’s Trust for Nottinghamshire to change from Nottinghamshire Children and Young People’s Partnership to Nottinghamshire Children’s Trust**
- ii. the Children’s Services Executive Group and the Pathways to Integrated Services Board be amalgamated to form one**

group known as the Children's Trust Executive

- iii. **the Corporate Director for Children and Young People's Services (Nottinghamshire County Council) to chair the Children's Trust Executive**
- iv. **the Board accept the proposals around the review of sub-groups reporting to the Board and its executive groups in principle, and that the Children's Trust Executive take responsibility for developing them further**
- v. **the Board follow the approach outlined for work with the NSCB, including that the Lead Member attend NSCB meetings as a "participant observer" and that a reciprocal arrangement be implemented for the Chair of the NSCB.**

5 Partnership Delivery Unit

At its previous meeting in June, the Board approved, in principle, the temporary establishment of a Partnership Delivery Unit. In response to a request made at that meeting, Maggie Pape presented a report providing further information on the roles and responsibilities of the Unit and its staff, along with information on the funding and likely costs and benefits of the unit.

Maggie summarised that the Unit will

- ensure that business processes and information flow for the Partnership are managed effectively
- provide support to the Board and its executive groups to develop and implement policies, strategies and actions and in planning and commissioning activities.

Maggie highlighted that national grant funding for the Unit is available until March 2011, providing an 18-month time period for the Unit to set up working arrangements and to demonstrate its effectiveness. Longer term arrangements for the common funding of these posts by the Partnership Board will need to be explored further, including the potential coordination of work and sharing resources with of business processes, and alignment of planning work and resources, such as staff time, with Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board.

.Following the presentation of the report, members of the Board shared their views on it. Ruth Hyde and Andrew Muter both raised concerns regarding the creation of new posts in the current financial climate and the implications this may have for the long term sustainability of the Unit.

Philip Owen agreed that the long-term sustainability of the Unit is an issue. However, the funding *is* available until 2011 and, if the

Unit *does* deliver in the way we hope it will then we can consider whether we can source it from elsewhere.

Anthony May suggested that there is a need for the Board to move forward in its role and responsibilities in order to fulfil its duty and implement the Children and Young People's Plan. Acknowledging the risks and recognising the concerns of some members, it is preferable to fund the Unit to support the Partnership to move forward over the next 18 months than not at all.

In recognising the context of the current financial climate, Steve Edwards (Nottinghamshire County Council) suggested considering the risk of not supporting the Unit and recognising the role that that the Unit could play in helping the Board to develop solutions for the challenges ahead, for example, by leading on the rationalisation of the CYP Partnership structures and working on developing joint commissioning, planning and performance.

Frank Horsley (Ashfield District Council) added that the Unit should drive its own efficiencies from the start.

Following the discussion, the Board approved the proposals for the operation and funding of the Partnership Delivery Unit until March 2011.

6 Performance Item – Teenage Conceptions

Following a request at the June Board meeting, Derek Higton (Service Director for Engagement & Enrichment, Nottinghamshire County Council), Irene Kakoullis (Temporary Head of Health Promotion & Development, Nottinghamshire County Council) and Barbara Brady (Consultant for Public Health, NHS Nottinghamshire County) gave a presentation on the current position and future challenges regarding teenage pregnancy in Nottinghamshire.

The Board noted the following points.

- Teenage pregnancy is a national and local issue because of the negative social, emotional, educational and economic impact it has teenage parents and their children. Teenage pregnancy is most prevalent amongst those already facing issues complicating their lives. Statistical information to support this view was handed out to the Board
- There are significant variations in teenage conception rates across the county, creating unacceptable inequalities.
- There are currently two national targets – to reduce under-18 conceptions by 50% by 2010 and to engage 60% of teenage mothers in education, employment and training by 2010. Good progress is being made in relation to statistical and regional

ACTION

neighbours but there is a considerable challenge to continue this reduction.

- The strategic leadership of Teenage Pregnancy Partnership has recently been reviewed, leading to the creation of the new Teenage Pregnancy Executive Group.
- In recognition of complex nature of the issue, responses to it need to be embedded into the work of all partners and partnership groups.
- There are considerable variations between and within districts, some explained by a correlation with deprivation and educational attainment, compounded by the lack of aspiration in some areas.
- Risk factors show that all organisations have a role to play in reducing teenage pregnancy.
- Challenges for the future include targeting specific areas, tackling the factors that have the most impact but are hardest to influence (e.g. aspirations and self-esteem), embedding the strategy across all partners, and the complexity of the inter-relationship between risk factors.

The presentation was followed by a question and answer session which covered the following issues.

- In recognition of the time lag in the production of data it was agreed that the most up-to-date data would be distributed to Board members after the publication of 2008 quarter three data.
- The Teenage Pregnancy Executive Group is currently identifying the work that each partner needs to do to contribute to the reduction of teenage conceptions.
- It is difficult to identify a single measure that has the biggest impact on teenage conception rates due to the complex interactions between and longevity of factors. The strategy currently tries to strike a balance between universal preventative services to keep rates low and focussing resources on young people and areas that that need most support. Evidence suggests that those who are sexually active at a younger age are more likely to get involved in other risky behaviours and more likely to have poor educational achievement or attendance at school.
- Work is currently underway to establish how the Teenage Pregnancy Executive Group will link with district partners who need to play a part in the implementation the strategy. The Teenage Pregnancy Executive Group will be a sub-group of the CYP Partnership Board and link to it via its executive group. Once work is completed to identify the specific contribution that each partner needs to make in each district, a report will be brought to the Board.

**Derek
Higton/Irene
Kakoullis/Bar
bara Brady**

**Derek
Higton/Irene
Kakoullis/Bar
bara Brady**

7 Performance Item – Children’s Social Care

Following a request at the June Board meeting, Helen Ryan (Service Director - Social Care & Health, Nottinghamshire County Council Children and Young People’s Service) presented a report on Key Social Care Indicators providing an overview of key trends and issues emerging from the data. Helen highlighted a number of issues, including those listed below.

- The performance relating to the timeliness of responses has reduced, mainly as a result of an increase of volume and complexities of ICS system. A range of management actions are in place to improve timescales and are being revisited to try to improve response times. There are some issues for Mansfield and Ashfield (a shared duty point), workload is particularly high, and there is a higher proportion of newly qualified staff running a complex and challenging service.
- The number of children with child protection plans is increasing, whilst those with repeat child plans has reduced slightly. High numbers of repeat plans may mean that children are not being supported properly and so are coming back to the service. On the other hand, this may be a positive indication that children are supported to come back into the system when their circumstances change.
- Timescales of adoption have slowed down and the numbers of children looked after has been increasing steadily over the past two years (so not entirely a post-Haringey effect). There has been an improvement in outcomes for care leavers regarding accommodation, but a downturn in terms of employment and training. Performance for children looked after is steady and good arrangements are in place. However, there is room for improvement as they are one of the most disadvantaged groups in our community. Work now needs to focus on narrowing the gap.

Helen responded to questions and queries, which led to a discussion on interventions to reduce turnover of, and to improve support for, front-line staff in social care and health, who are often newly qualified but working in very challenging and demanding contexts. Initiatives are in place and are being further developed.

Philip Owen informed members of a recent approval by NCC Cabinet of £500,000 to help deal with staffing issues within children’s Social Care and Health Service. This is part of £1.7 million to continue this work in 2010/11.

8 Building Schools for the Future

Members were referred to a briefing outlining progress since the last meeting that had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Anthony May informed the Board we will shortly receive our provisional assessment for the CAA. The outcome of this announcement will be circulated to Board members.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 23 November 2009 (5.00-7.00pm) at County Hall, West Bridgford.