



minutes

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

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

date **21 JANUARY 2009**

**Present:** County Councillor Joyce Bosnjak (Chair), Steve Brown (Bassetlaw District Council), Steve Edwards (Nottinghamshire County Council), Sue Fenton (NAVO), Sue Fish (Nottinghamshire Police), Brenda Howard (Nottinghamshire County PCT), Allen Graham (Rushcliffe Borough Council), Ruth Hyde (Broxtowe Borough Council), Terry Laws (Learning and Skills Council), Helen Longland (Government Office for the East Midlands – critical friend), Ruth Marlow (Mansfield District Council), Anthony May (Nottinghamshire County Council), Mary McEvoy (Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service), Jean Pardoe (Connexions Nottinghamshire), Steve Palframan (Newark and Sherwood District Council), Keith Tansley (Gedling Borough Council), Sheila Wright (Probation Service) and Philip Martin (Nottinghamshire County Council – minutes)

## **ACTION**

The Board meeting began at 5.00 pm

### **1a Introductions**

At Councillor Bosnjak's invitation, colleagues introduced themselves.

### **1b Congratulations**

Councillor Bosnjak extended congratulations to Steve Edwards, attending his first meeting of the Board since his appointment as acting service director for strategic services in the Children and Young People's Services Department, covering Marcie Taylor's secondment to GOEM.

### **1c Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Danny Fox (Young People's Board), Frank Horsley (Ashfield District Council), Andrew

Muter (Newark and Sherwood District Council – represented by Steve Palframan), Lyndsey Radford (Youth Worker), Afzal Sadiq (Nottingham and District Racial Equality Council), Wendy Saviour (Nottinghamshire County PCT – represented by Brenda Howard), and Almas Shah (Young People’s Board).

**2. Minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2008 and matters arising from the minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2008 were accepted as an accurate record.

Matters arising were as follows:

- i) *Joint Development day with the Children’s Services Executive Group and the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board*** – it was confirmed that this joint development event would now take place on Friday, 20 March 2009 (1.30 – 4.30 pm) at a venue to be arranged. Up to two volunteers from the Board were invited to join the planning group for the event – nominations to be routed to Philip Martin as soon as possible.

**All**

**3. Performance Management Framework**

Mike Lee, Head of Performance Review, Data and Communications at Nottinghamshire County Council, attended for this item and gave a presentation in support of his report which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

The following issues relating to the Framework were addressed by the Board:

**a) *Proposed cycle of reporting -***

- there is a need for the Board to have a manageable number of key performance reports to consider
- the Children’s Services Executive Group (CSEG) should undertake the detailed analysis of the relevant performance data on a cyclical basis as proposed in the report
- the Board would consider the Children and Young People’s Plan at its next meeting on 9 March 2009 and identify priority areas for which performance could be helpfully highlighted by CSEG.

**b) *Financial strategy -***

- the issue of a Partnership financial strategy should be discussed further when the new CYPP for 2009-2011 is considered by the Board
- relevant links should be made with the Local Area Agreement (LAA) – to that end it was suggested that an officer

representative of the LAA management group should be invited to attend the Board meetings as an observer.

**ACTION**  
**Steve**  
**Edwards**

c) *'Hot Spot' performance reporting -*

- 'hot spot' reporting was supported in principle but it was felt that it should be made clear that 'hot spot' in this context does not necessarily have a geographical connotation, but will usually relate to a specific issue of under performance.

d) *Outcome based accountability -*

- the 'Turning the Curve' approach is currently being trialled in relation to teenage pregnancy rates in the Ashfield district – it was suggested that this could possibly be used as a case study for the Board to consider before it endorses the approach for Partnership wide adoption
- it was however recognised that 'Turning the Curve' is one performance management technique only and there may be other valid approaches depending on what issue requires consideration; its use was seen to be an operational management issue, not a strategic issue
- the 'Turning the Curve' approach would need to be evaluated before the Partnership was committed to using it more generally
- it was felt that the Board's role was to identify key performance concerns which partner agencies could then address at an operational management level
- it was agreed that CSEG should be asked to identify issues of weak performance which require attention.

e) *Participation -*

- it was agreed that young people's views on the development of policies and services across the Partnership should be actively sought by all agencies
- it would be helpful to seek young people's views in a focussed way, on key issues as they are identified rather than by adopting a broad based approach
- it would be helpful to provide partners with details of the existing participation arrangements to that agencies can seek to utilise them as appropriate
- it was agreed that it would be helpful for a representative of the Participation Sub-Group to present at a future Board meeting, with a view to explaining the sub-group's work and enabling the Board to task it as appropriate
- it was suggested that appropriate links should be made with Simon Hobbs (Chief Executive of the Police Authority) who is leading on participation with regard to the Safer Nottinghamshire Board.

**Steve**  
**Edwards**

**Steve**  
**Edwards**

**ACTION**  
**Steve**  
**Edwards/Mike**  
**Lee**

In summary, it was agreed that, recognising the strategic role of the Board, it should receive performance reports, via CSEG, on an exceptional basis, only for those areas of significant underperformance which in CSEG's view would warrant consideration at Board level. In addition, the Board would be given access to the more detailed range of performance reports for information.

#### **4. Update on Strategy for Change 2**

Anthony May gave an oral update on the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) initiative and tabled a diagram portraying the relationship between the BSF Project Board and other strategic boards/groups.

Key points covered/discussed included:

- the Strategic Stakeholder Reference Group has now been established and has met for the first time
- Nottinghamshire's Strategy for Change 1 has been evaluated by central government and has been rated as 'good' in most respects
- we are now moving to Strategy for Change 2 which provides more detail with regard to investment in the first tranche of the BSF programme (in Newark and Sherwood District and parts of Mansfield). There is active engagement over this with stakeholders in the districts. There is however an ongoing debate with central government over the level of funding necessary to implement the programme, taking account of the costs of CLASP building replacement – details of the government's intentions in this respect are expected by 23 January 2009
- this will be followed in due course by the construction of an outline business case, which will provide detailed information on an individual site basis
- it was agreed that the detailed work on BSF should be left to the Strategic Stakeholder Reference Group but there should be a brief progress update at each Board meeting
- John True will be asked to produce and circulate the notes of the Strategic Stakeholder Reference Group meetings.

**Philip Martin**  
**to include on**  
**future agenda**

**John True**

#### **5. Revised statutory guidance on Children's Trusts, and DCSF consultation on the role and responsibilities of the Lead Member for Children's Services and the Director of Children's Services**

Anthony May introduced this item, referring to the report which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

Key points covered/discussed were:

*Revised statutory guidance –*

- additional guidance is awaited on safeguarding arrangements following the review undertaken by Lord Laming – this to be covered at the joint development day with CSEG and the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) scheduled for 20 March 2009
- meanwhile, Anthony May assured colleagues that the County Council's safeguarding practice had been judged by Ofsted to be good in most respects, and adequate in others, and that consequently we were not deemed to be at risk in this area
- the statutory guidance on Children's Trusts envisages that legislation will, in due course, extend the range of statutory partners under a duty to cooperate to include schools and colleges of further education etc
- the Board will have to resolve how to engage most effectively with the new statutory partners, consider its relationship with the Nottinghamshire Strategic Partnership (at both county and district level) and the NSCB, and determine how parents, GPs and the private sector can be engaged with the work of the Children's Trust – colleagues individually to give thought to this ahead of a more detailed discussion at the Board's next meeting on 9 March 2009
- concerns were expressed about government expectations in respect of the expanding remit of the Board – with particular concerns that the breadth of responsibility being attached to the Children's Trust potentially serves to lead to an unfocussed approach to issues and a consequent disconnection with outcomes
- there is a need to streamline the Board's arrangements to ensure it is more responsive and actively drives change across the Partnership
- it may be helpful to look at successful/creative governance models in other local authorities ahead of the Board's next meeting – Helen Longland's advice and assistance in that respect to be sought
- it was suggested that the issue of "accountability" needs to be clarified before further consideration can be given to the role of the new statutory partners – this was seen to be critical in terms of developing an understanding of the Board's role and accountabilities. It was identified there were particular difficulties in that respect for two tier authorities such as Nottinghamshire.

**All**

**Helen  
Longland**

## ACTION

It was agreed that:

- Anthony May and County Council colleagues would develop proposals and offer a definition of accountabilities for the Board's next meeting on 9 March 2009
- Helen Longland will feed back to the DCSF on the Board's discussion.

**Anthony May  
Helen  
Longland**

*Consultation on the role of the Lead Member and Director of Children's Services –*

It was agreed that any suggested responses to the DCSF consultation responses should be routed to Philip Martin by 6 February 2009 so as to feed into the overall consultation response required by 10 February 2009.

**All**

### **6. The role of the Partnership Board in monitoring the integration of services**

Steve Edwards gave a presentation on this issue.

Key points covered included:

- the Partnership Board needs to oversee the work of the Pathway to Integrated Services Board, including the two test beds in Newark and Sherwood and Ashfield districts, and monitor and evaluate the joint commissioning priorities identified
- there is a need to address the key questions posed by the Audit Commission's self-assessment tool, "Are we there yet?"
- Steve to report back on the test beds at the Board's next meeting
- the pace of implementation for the joint access teams (JATs) has been accelerated to the extent that there will be a JAT in every family of schools' area by the end of 2009
- JATs are not solely focussed on targeted support – it is important to develop integrated approaches to universal services as well
- there is a need to be clear about children and young people's perspectives regarding what they want in relation to services
- discussions on integrated working are being held in parallel in other agencies e.g. community safety – there is a need to ensure appropriate connectivity in that respect
- we should be looking to learn from successful examples of integrated working practice in other areas
- it may be helpful to consider the proposed reporting arrangements at the Board's next meeting.

**Steve  
Edwards**

## **7. Any other business**

- a) *Joint inspectors' report* – reference was made by Ruth Marlow to the summary of the third joint inspectors' report published towards the end of 2008. This had raised issues about the welfare and mental health of young people in the criminal justice system.

Anthony May advised that the Safeguarding Children's Board had considered the summary and had analysed our performance. It was agreed that Laurence Jones, the Head of the County Council's Youth Offending Service, should be invited to the next meeting of the Board to explain his service's responsibilities in this context.

**Philip Martin**

- b) *Chair of the Safeguarding Children's Board* – it was confirmed that arrangements are in hand to recruit an independent chair of this board, consistent with central government's views of best practice. The post has been advertised, with a closing date of 26 January 2009. It was agreed that it would be helpful if there could be a Partnership appointment to the post – possible candidates should be referred to Anthony May for an informal discussion. Details of the post had been previously circulated to the Safeguarding Children's Board for wider Partnership dissemination and it was agreed that a copy of the relevant advert should be sent electronically to the Partnership Board members.

**Anthony May**

## **8. Date of the next meeting**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as being Monday, 9 March 2009 (5.00 - 7.00pm) at County Hall.

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