

Children's Partnership Senior Officers Group

Thursday 10th September, 16:00 – 18:00

Directorate Boardroom (D14), Sandfield Centre,
Sandfield Road, Lenton, Nottingham, NG7 1QH

Agreements, actions and key points

Attendees

Ian Curryer (Chair)	Acting Corporate Director of Children's Services
Candida Brudenell	Director, Children's Trust Transition Programme
Janet Sheard	Chief Operating Officer and Executive Nurse, City Health Nottingham
Jean Pardoe	Chief Executive, Connexions
Margaret McGlade	Independent Chair, Local Safeguarding Children Board
Colin Monckton	Head of Improvement and Policy, Children's Services
Satinder Gautam	Director of Specialist Services, Children's Services

Apologies

Shaun Beebe	Chief Superintendent, Nottinghamshire Police
Sheila Wright	Deputy Chief Officer and Director of Operations, Nottinghamshire Probation
Andrew Kenworthy	Chief Executive, NHS Nottingham City
Craig Berens	Director of Programmes, Nottinghamshire YMCA
Paula Webber	Deputy Area Director, Nottingham Learning and Skills Council

Representation

- § Andrew Errington, Director of Community Protection, will represent Shaun Beebe
- § Neil Maclaren, Business Development Manager will represent Craig Berens
- § Lucy Davison, Acting Assistant Director of Commissioning, NHS Nottingham City

Item	Detail
1	<u>Welcome and apologies</u> Apologies noted as above.
2	<u>Minutes, matters arising and Action Log</u> Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record. Item 3 (CAA) - Still awaiting CAA – areas being explored include NEET, attainment and obesity. Item 4 (Locality Development Model) – Movement is beginning around potential changes in boundaries. Alignment and change to be consulted and worked on by the Group. Group to help ratify the approach in the future and support teams into the new, more integrated model. Item 7 (Any other business) – The Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) was one of only two areas successful in their bid to the Central Team to undertake a piece of research work focusing on group sessions. This is currently in the planning stage.
Items for the Children's Partnership Board, 15 th October	
3	<u>New membership</u> It was previously agreed that membership of the Children's Partnership would be extended to include representation from the education sector. The report seeks approval from the Group for the report to be taken to the Board on the following

recommendations;

The report proposed that schools' representation should consist of;

- § Two elected representatives from the primary sector to sit on the Board and Senior Officers Group;
- § Two elected representatives from the secondary sector (one representing Academies) to sit on the Board and Senior Officers Group;
- § One representative from special schools to sit on the Board and Senior Officers Group; and
- § One representative from school governors to sit on the Board

The Group agreed that it would not be appropriate to have five schools representatives and agreed that schools will need to work on a suitable route for how they should be represented.

Additional representation proposed was;

- § One elected representative from the Further Education sector to sit on the Board and Senior Officers Group; and
- § One representative from the Strategic Health Authority to sit on the Board
- § Further work is underway to identify a mechanism for General Practitioner representation

The Group agreed the above proposed representation.

It was requested that the Group send comments on the report to CBrudenell by 28.09.09 to allow the report to be taken to the Board.

4 LSCB update and Laming implications:

Chairs report

- § The review of the constitution is complete and being implemented from September 2009.
- § The revised thresholds for accessing social care services review has been accepted by the LSCB. The September Safeguarding Board is anticipating a project review plan from the Director of Targeted Services focusing on work in relation to closing the 'safeguarding gap', which will require commitment from all children's agencies.
- § The LSCB aim to have a better approach to communicating safeguarding issues and are keen to link up with other agencies communications functions.
- § The annual LSCB report executive summary (circulated) is being taken to the Board.
- § The current serious case review has been signed off and there are no more pending.
- § The Performance Management post has been signed off and is being progressed.
- § The budget requires a full review to reflect changes from the Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) to the Safeguarding Board – the review will be brought to the Group for Senior Officers attention.
- § A note was made for IC and MM to liaise about organising a Chief Executives meeting to focus specifically on safeguarding issues.
- § MM will report to the Board in October.

LSCB report to Laming

- § MM to send letter to SOG members regarding the recommendation of detail to front line staff.
- § The Group were asked to send any comments to MM.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> § It was noted that Nottingham’s higher than average rate of referral to children’s social care compared to its statistical neighbours could relate to the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) not being embedded sufficiently well; not just the amount of CAFs but the quality of them. There is still a need for working with families in a more integrated way. The amount of CAF training is positive but the amount and quality of Lead Professional training is less positive. Another reason for the higher referral rate could be due to the fact that children stay on the register for longer in the City. § It was noted that more support is needed for Lead Professionals. There appears to be a lack of confidence and competence to manage the complex situations the Lead Professionals are faced with. The professionals need to be encouraged to take ownership and have the confidence to make justified decisions. § The Police are currently undertaking a piece of work looking at the lack of well trained professionals due to them moving out to the County once trained.
5	<p><u>Performance management (Colin Monckton)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> § The Group agreed with the new recommendation that that the performance reports are reduced from monthly to quarterly due to many of the indicators only being updated annually. § It was suggested that the performance reports focus on the areas which are being flagged by the CAA as red flags; and also green flags to build a robust case as to why that area is a green flag. § It was suggested that a set of indicators around safeguarding practice and NEET should be brought to the Group. § It was noted that post 16 retention and attainment of 19 year olds will be brought to the November meeting. § It was suggested that the reports should take into consideration NST visits. § The Group noted that priorities 5, 7 and 8 contain measures that are insufficient to measure delivery. § The Group noted it would be useful to pick out cross target themes. § The Group requested that the priority summary boxes are broken down into individual rows for ‘better/worse than target’ and ‘better/worse than previous year’ to reflect timely improvements. § It was agreed the performance report would go to the Board once recommended amendments had been made. <p><u>Unemployment report</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> § The report was requested by Cllr Mellen to focus on the impacts of rising unemployment locally and the impacts that the recession may have on children and young people. § It proved difficult to get this data for children and young people; easier for ages 18 – 24. § It was noted that the demand for services is likely to increase over the next few years and at the same time funding and capacity within the public and third sectors will decrease. § It was noted that unemployment in the City has been predicted to rise until 2011. § The report notes that the impacts of unemployment are different depending on the age groups of young people so it is necessary to split the possible impacts into age groups. § The Group noted that it would be useful to know if there is a rise in referrals to CAHMS and mental health services and any increases in child tax credits § This will not go to the Board as an individual item; it will instead be noted in the Performance Management item.
6	<p><u>Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) implications (CM)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> § The Group noted the planned approach and timescales for the Implementation

	<p>Planning process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> § The Group agreed partnership resource to support the Implementation Planning process and the compilation of required assessments and action plans. § The Group were asked to identify and notify senior leads for each headline target. § CM to email members of the Group highlighting actions and attach the SCS. § This item will not go to Board, it will instead be noted in the CYPP Refresh item
7	<p><u>Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) refresh</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> § The Group noted the proposal to review the CYPP 2008-11 leading into a full renewal of the CYPP for 2011-14. The programme is intended to be a continuous process with key deliverable points. § An annual review and revised CYPP will be brought to the October meeting which will then go on to the Board. § The report details key areas where the CYPP text is likely to change. These include the importance of raising aspirations, developments in Early Intervention, economic downturn, reference to the SCS and new governance arrangements. § The Group recognised the need for partnership support during this process in the form of supporting with commitment of time, facilities and financially. § IC presented to the Chairs of Governors requesting that they represent the CYPP in schools improvement plan. The Chairs of Governors asked how the schools improvement plan will influence the priorities and were particularly interested in family support (domestic violence, social care and general family support). § It was noted that all encompassing priorities can be a weaknesses as much as strength. It was therefore recommended to focus on specific priorities at the most relevant times, making it more effective and manageable. § It was noted that Point 7 of the report should end in March 2012 not 2011. § The Group agreed that the revised CYPP will be brought to the October Group with delivery plans which will then go through to the Board.
8	<p><u>Items for information</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> § Tender forms signed off by CB on behalf of the Children's Partnership (in absence of IC); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Early Intervention Infrastructure (£193,506) - Reaching Higher for Young People in Care (£120,000) - Nottingham Cares for Kids Breakfast Club (£15,000) <p>The Group agreed that they are happy with the process of any items signed off on behalf of the Children's Partnership being included in the 'Items for information'.</p>
9	<p><u>Forward plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> § It was noted that there is a joint commissioning framework paper to come through in November and a session in place at the end of September. § It was agreed that the Commissioning Decision Making report will be circulated early to allow the Group significant discussion with colleagues before the October meeting. § It was agreed that the December meeting date will be timed to include a Christmas dinner. Details will be sent to members
10	<p><u>Any other business</u></p> <p>There was no other business.</p>