

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP BOARD

MINUTES

of meeting held on 15 OCTOBER 2009 at the

Council House from 4.00 pm to 5.25 pm

indicates present at meeting

Councillor David Mellen	- Chair of the Board and Portfolio Holder for Children's Services) Nottingham City Council))
Gi Berman (Substitute for Mike Butler)	- Principal) Djanogly City Academy)
Mike Butler	-)
Tom Stockwell	- District Manager	- Job Centre Plus
Helen Voce	- Chief Executive	- Nottingham Council for Voluntary Service
Ian Ackerley	- Assistant Chief Constable	- Nottinghamshire Police
Mick Brown	-) Learning and Skills Council)
Paula Webber	- Department Area Director)
Margaret McGlade	- Independent Chair	- Local Safeguarding Children Boad
Councillor Jon Collins	- Council Leader and Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Performance, Management and Serving Nottingham Better)))))))
Ian Curryer	- Director - Children's Services) Nottingham City Council)
Jane Todd	- Chief Executive)
Gareth Owen	- Principal, Hadden Park High School))
Jane-Belinda Francis	- Head Teacher, Springfield Primary School)))
Jill Robey	- Head Teacher, Nottingham Nursery School and Training Centre)))))

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|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Ron Buchanan | - Chairman of NHS Nottingham City |) NHS Nottingham City
) |
| Helen Longland | - Child Support Agency | - Government Office for East Midlands (GOEM) |
| Jane Geraghty | - Chief Officer | - Nottinghamshire Probation Service |
| Peter Linford | - Chair |) Schools Forum &
) Board of Nottingham City
) Homes |
| Heather Sahman | - Regional Change Agent | - Strategic Health Authority |
| Edwina Harrison | - Independent Chair | - Youth Offending Team |
| John Pearson | | |

Also in attendance

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Candida Brudenell | - Director of Children's Trust Transitional Programme |)
) |
| Colin Monckton | - Head of Improvement and Policy, Children's Services |) Nottingham City Council
) |
| Catherine Ziane-Pryor | - Committee Administrator |) |
| Lucy Davidson | - Head of Children and Families Commissioning | - NHS Nottingham City |

Please note: except where otherwise indicated, all items discussed at the meeting were the subject of a report which had been circulated beforehand.

18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Ian Ackerley, Councillor Jon Collins (on other City Council Business), Mike Butler, Jane Geraghty, Tom Stockwell, Jill Robey and John Pearson.

19 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

**20 NOTTINGHAM CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP - NEW MEMBERSHIP
(Report of Corporate Director of Children's Services)**

Ian Curryer presented the report which proposed that the membership of the Board be expanded to include partners from the Education sector and that a representative from the Strategic Health Authority be invited to sit on the Board as an existing Statutory Partner.

RESOLVED

- (1) that new members representing Schools and Further Education be invited onto the Board and Senior Officer Group as follows;**
 - (a) Schools representation on the Board should consist of:**
 - (i) two elected representatives from the Primary Sector;**
 - (ii) two elected representatives from the Secondary Sector (one representing Academies);**
 - (iii) one representative from the Special Schools;**
 - (iv) one representative from School Governors;**
 - (v) each sector would have one representative at the Senior Officer Group;**
 - (b) one elected representative from the Further Education sector to sit on the Board and Senior Officer Group;**
- (2) that the Strategic Health Authority be invited onto the Board;**
- (3) that the Terms of Reference for Nottingham Children's Partnership be amended to reflect the additional membership.**

21 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting, held on 24 June 2009, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

22 MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP SENIOR OFFICERS GROUP

It was noted that the Senior Officers Group was the Executive function of the Board which met monthly and consisted of one representative from each of the represented agencies.

Minutes of the following meetings were presented to the Committee:

- 12 May 2009;
- 8 June 2009;
- 6 July 2009;
- 10 September 2009.

In reference to minute 5, 'One Children's Workforce –integrated children's workforce', of the 6 July 2009 meeting, Members queried the ratio of 25,000 workers to the 60,000 children in the City. It was noted that the figure of 25,000 workers had included volunteers and school staff. Ian Curryer agreed that it was important to identify areas of duplication and ensure that services were better aligned between the voluntary sector and statutory sector. This would be done through the establishment of an integrated strategy for front line delivery.

Also within minute 5 of the 6 July 2009, while members welcomed the 'common induction programme' with welcome meetings held on a quarterly basis for all new colleagues of the children's workforce as one way to develop better understanding of the 'one workforce ethos', the method of implication was questioned. In response the Board were informed that further development of the proposal was underway and could possibly include a web-based package.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the minutes of the Senior Officers Group be noted;**
- (2) that if members of the Board wished to ask questions or raise issues relating to minutes of the Senior Officers Group, Candida Brudenell be contacted in advance of the meeting and that she endeavour to arrange provision of the required information.**

23 CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCE REPORT (Report of Director of Children's Trust Programme)

Further to minute 13 dated 24 June 2009, Colin Monckton introduced the report which presented the Board with an overview of performance across the partnership.

Edwina Harrison, Independent Chair of the Youth Offending Team (YOT) Board, highlighted the reduction of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System and the reduction in teenage conception. While further more detailed information would be welcomed on young people not in education or training, these issues were to be considered by the YOT Board.

It was predicted that the percentage of children with special needs statements may soon rise due to measures taken to change Multi Element Plans.

It was noted that the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) was the focus of the performance scoring but comparisons with cross-cutting national indicators may be helpful to gauge achievements.

The following issues were identified for future consideration and scrutiny:

- Infant mortality;
- Educational attainment. The Board was informed that the statistical information for this indicator was only gathered once a year and so only a 'snap-shot' of achievement was available.

Margaret McGlade, Local Safeguarding Children Board, commented that these were process indicators which reported how quickly services were put into place but could not gauge the effect/result of those services on children. It was recognised that it was exceptionally difficult to gauge such effects but the fact that services were now in place should not confuse the reality of how safe children in Nottingham were. However, regional work was to be done on safeguarding outcomes.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the Senior Officer Group and Partnership Board receive performance reports on a quarterly basis rather than monthly and that two of those reports provide information on the performance of Nottingham against cross-cutting National Indicators;
- (2) that with regard to the monthly meetings of the Senior Officer Group, for those meetings to which performance reports were not submitted, consideration be given to performance issues raised by the Board regarding the last performance report;
- (3) that it be noted that further performance measures were required to evaluate delivery of the following CYPP priorities:

Priority 5 – Improving oral health;

Priority 7 – Ensuring that children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities, including those with emotional and behavioural difficulties, received co-ordinated child and family centred services of high quality;

Priority 8 – Reducing substance misuse and its impact on children and young people;

- (4) that senior officers from partner agencies reflect on whether they may have further performance measures that were not being reported and which could address delivery of the certain CYPP priorities;
- (5) that senior officers decide whether there were any local indicators that were surplus to requirements and not showing delivery of the CYPP priorities;
- (6) that it be noted that performance monitoring quarters were based on financial year reporting as follows:

Quarter 1 - April to June;
Quarter 2 - July to September;
Quarter 3 - October to December;
Quarter 4 - January to March.

24 UNEMPLOYMENT IN NOTTINGHAM AND ITS IMPACT ON YOUNG PEOPLE (Report of Director of Children's Trust Transitional Programme and Briefing Paper by Intelligence Development Manager, Children's Services)

Further to minute 13 dated 24 June 2009, consideration was given to a comprehensive report and briefing paper which detailed the past, present and projected impact on young people of unemployment.

It was noted that following the 1980s recession, it took approximately 20 years for employment to reach the same level as before the recession and that low/non-skilled people during that period appeared to remain unemployed and receiving benefits longer than other demographic groups.

It appeared that the impact of the recession was greater in Nottingham; concern was expressed specifically for young people aged 16-18 years of age. It was difficult to gauge

the unemployment rates of 18-24 years olds due to the student population but it was estimated that 11% of the 30% of the age group were claiming Job Seeker Allowance.

Jane Todd commented as follows on economic resilience:

- it was important to take a broader view and plan beyond the recession, to look to business and identify areas which needed support and ensure that the provision of required skills was supported;
- it was important to engage with people who were experiencing the immediate impact of the recession and offer advice and guidance;
- raising resident's confidence was challenging but also important at this time. The City Council's 50p sports for young people had proved very successful and the Police reported that the crime rate relating to young people had dropped significantly during the operation of the scheme.

Members of the Board commented that the health sector had responded to the impact of the recession by trying to increase the availability and access to counselling and help line support via front line services such as GPs.

RESOLVED

(1) that the following be noted:

(a) the report and issues detailed;

(b) table 0.1 to the report outlining the possible impacts of the recession on young people and service provision;

(2) that the thanks of the Board be recorded for the presentation of such detailed information.

25 NOTTINGHAM CITY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD REPORT AND ANNUAL REPORT 2008/09

(Report of the Independent Chair of the Nottingham Safeguarding Children Board and Annual Report 2008/09)

The Safeguarding Children Board was growing in strength and progressing well.

The Annual Report had previously been submitted to Young Nottingham Select Committee but was now to be presented to this Board as the most appropriate forum. Although not required to do so, the Chair of the Youth Offending Team had also contributed to the report.

Margaret McGlade, Independent Chair of the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board, presented the report and made the following points:

- since 2005 there had been a 30% reduction in anti-social behaviour activity by young people in Nottingham;
- safeguarding was being advanced but needed more people doing more work;

- the Safeguarding Board consisted of the same partners as the Children's Partnership Board but also included representatives of all NHS Trusts and the Criminal Justice Agencies;
- it was difficult to demonstrate to what extent the work had made children safer;
- it was important to ensure that Adult Services in all the agencies were seen as partners, in line with those which were in direct contact with children, as those agencies supported parents and carers and it was vital that all agencies could take a co-ordinated approach;
- it was for each agency to be satisfied that their arrangements were sound but to ensure that quality was monitored and supported, inspection was required.

Comments of the Board included reference to the appearance of some overlaps in work between the Safeguarding Children Board and the Youth Offending Team but identifying, addressing and closing the gaps in safeguarding should be the focus;

Members of the Children's Partnership Board (CPB) expressed concern that representatives from the Education sector had not been attending the Safeguarding Children Board reviews. Ian Curryer informed the Board that the issue would be raised at the next Head Teacher Business Meeting. Other education members of the Board responded that lack of attendance may be due to the capacity of the staff within the schools and the knock-on effect of withdrawing a member of staff from school business, especially as representation of experienced staff was essential.

The establishment of a Safeguarding Co-ordinator within Education was welcomed as a valuable mechanism for linking schools.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the Annual Report of the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board and comments of the independent Chair be noted;**
- (2) that the Children's Partnership Board maintain a focus on the effectiveness of its provision for safeguarding children in the City and satisfy itself that children were routinely protected; to aid this achievement, the Safeguarding Children Board was requested to submit reports twice a year in addition to the Annual Report;**
- (3) that the Children's Partnership Board state its intention to improve the overall quality of safeguarding as measured by external inspection, from adequate to good and from good to excellent and set a timescale for achieving this.**

26 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN: REVIEW AND DELIVERY (Report of Corporate Director of Children's Services and Children and Young People's Plan 2008-11)

It was a statutory requirement that the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) be reviewed on an annual basis but there was also the opportunity to link the plan directly to

the Sustainable Communities Strategy. All agencies had a duty to co-operate and stream their priorities to meet the CYPP.

The Senior Officers Group was attempting to reduce the bureaucracy of delivering such a strategy and a model with key accountable officers was to be developed by next year and would strengthen the accountability of safeguarding young people.

Much work had been done on the Common Assessment Framework and progress was being made, but additional professionals were required to engage and take the lead.

It was necessary for the Council to consider and approve the Plan before it would be submitted to the CPB in the summer.

At the next meeting the Board would consider how it intended to move the Plan forward.

RESOLVED that the Children's Partnership Board adopt the revised CYPP as the starting point for a review of the Plan.

27 CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP SENIOR OFFICERS GROUP FORWARD PLAN

It was noted that in future a Forward Plan would be submitted for the meeting to help schedule issues for consideration for both the Senior Officers Group and the Board. Any comments regarding the format of the meetings or issues which representatives wished to highlight for future consideration were to be directed to Candida Brudenell.

Members asked that the Board consider if young people were to be invited to attend and participate in the meeting.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.