

Children's Partnership Senior Officers Group

Monday, 8 March, 10:00 – 12:00

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

Attendees

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| Ian Curryer (Chair) | Corporate Director of Children and Families, Nottingham City Council |
| Katy Ball | Early Intervention Programme Manager, Nottingham City Council |
| Andrew Kenworthy | Chief Executive, NHS Nottingham City |
| Craig Berens | Director of Programmes, Nottinghamshire YMCA |
| Lyn Bacon | Acting Chief Operating Officer, CitiHealth Nottingham |
| Jean Pardoe | Chief Executive, Connexions |
| Shaun Beebe | Chief Superintendent, Nottinghamshire Police |
| Sheila Wright | Deputy Chief Officer and Director of Operations, Nottinghamshire Probation |
| Jane Belinda Francis | Head teacher, Springfield Primary School (representing all City Schools) |
| Jennifer Key | Acting Young People's Drug and Alcohol Strategic Lead, Children and Families, Nottingham City Council |
| Clare Gilbert | Young People's Drug and Alcohol Strategic Lead, Children and Families, Nottingham City Council |
| Grant Butterworth | Head of Planning Transport and Intelligence Strategy, Nottingham City Council |
| Charlie Sunderland | Department for Transport (shadowing GB) |
| Satinder Gautam | Director of Safeguarding, Children and Families, Nottingham City Council |
| Colin Monckton | Acting Director of Commissioning and Resources and Head of Improvement and Policy, Children and Families |
| Geoff Jenkins | Policy and Planning Manager, Improvement and Policy |

Apologies

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| Candida Brudenell | Director, Children's Trust Transition Programme, Nottingham City Council Representation: Katy Ball, Early Intervention Programme Manager |
| Paula Webber | Deputy Area Director, Nottingham Learning and Skills Council |

Minutes

| Item | Detail |
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| 1 | <u>Welcome and apologies</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Apologies and representation noted as above. |
| 2 | <u>Minutes, matters arising and Action Log</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The minutes were agreed as an accurate record, no matters arising. ▪ Action no. 41 remains incomplete. The February Integrated Processes Board was cancelled due to low attendance. The Group were asked to stress the importance of attending this meeting to their relevant staff. The Group proposed that a new, more people-centred title would be more engaging and may help to improve attendance at meetings. ▪ Action no. 43 - Margaret McGlade sent the required information on the judging of Internal Management Reviews to IC. It was agreed that there was no need to circulate the information more broadly. Issues raised will be dealt with internally. |

| Items for discussion | |
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| 3 | <p><u>Safeguarding – update on Priority Two performance actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SG presented the item following the discussion at the February Senior Officers Group meeting regarding safeguarding performance at quarter three. ▪ It was noted that the national average for completion of looked after children (LAC) case reviews, within the timescales, is 91%; only 12 local authorities achieve 100% compliance. Nottingham City Council achieved 76% compliance. ▪ It is believed that this underperformance is caused by the shortage of Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs), due to the downgrading of pay proposed by Single Status. ▪ It was noted that a report went through to Overview and Scrutiny in November 2009 to address the issues which Single Status had raised. ▪ Agency workers are currently in post to address the issue in the short-term. ▪ Monthly updates on the actions in place and the progress on the recruitment issues are provided to the Stay Safe Board. ▪ It was agreed that SG would draft a letter to the Social Work Taskforce on behalf of the Children’s Partnership to suggest a national pay scale for Social Workers. ▪ It was agreed that SG would provide the Group with a list of the specific actions in place to address the underperformance. |
| 4 | <p><u>Greater Nottingham Aligned Core Strategy: Option for Consultation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GB presented the item. ▪ The Core Strategy will form the central element of the City Council’s Local Development Framework, which will set out statutory planning policies to determine the future development of the City. It will replace the existing Nottingham Local Plan. ▪ The process involves consultation with citizens, partners and other interested parties on a number of draft planning policies. The aim is to seek views to help guide and influence the development of the next stage of the Core Strategy. ▪ The Option for Consultation document was approved for consultation purposes by the City Council’s Executive Board on 19th January 2010. Consultation is taking place until April 2010. ▪ It was noted that the Councils which make up Greater Nottingham must provide at least 52,050 new homes by 2026. It is essential that services are aligned in order to support this growth. ▪ The Group noted the Option for Consultation publication and gave the following views in response to it; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A current issue which the City faces is the excessive number of winter deaths, caused by poor heat retention. It is essential that the new housing stock is sustainable and has effective heat retention systems. ○ Due to the development, there will be a significant rise in the levels of waste being produced. Bio-digesters were suggested as a possible way of dealing with the excess waste. GB offered to have a separate conversation with AK regarding this outside of the meeting. The Group were informed that a joint, City and County waste plan will be in place. ○ The significant increase in the volume of traffic will cause problematic congestion issues. Citizens may choose to work outside of the City to avoid travel issues. It was suggested that increased rail provision could help to ease the problem. ○ It was noted that housing must be developed in areas which are sustainable, for example, not in areas which are at risk of flooding. The Group were informed that these risks have been assessed. ○ It was noted that a simulation model of the development and the effects it would cause would be very useful for colleagues to see in advance of the changes taking place. It could be a useful tool to help plan mitigating actions. ▪ GB agreed to raise the points which the Group had made. |

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| 5 | <p><u>Children and Young People's Plan Review</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CM presented the monthly progress update of the revised Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). ▪ The draft Plan, produced by Tim Thorlby (SQW), was circulated to the Group in advance of the meeting in order to give the Group opportunity to comment. ▪ It was noted that the revision is on track with no issues. The Group agreed that the Plan is moving in the right direction. ▪ It was noted that children and young people need to be engaged in the Plan. It has been agreed that children and young people will be present at the May Children's Partnership Board meeting. ▪ To increase children and young people's engagement, it was suggested that a shorter, simplified version of the CYPP should be developed. ▪ A new title, Stronger Families, was suggested for the Plan in order to link in with the Family Nottingham priority of the Sustainable Community Strategy. However, it was agreed that the Plan would remain to be called the Children and Young People's Plan and that the strap line 'Improving outcomes for children and young people in Nottingham' would be added to clarify what the Plan aims to achieve. ▪ It was noted that consultation with the NHS needs to be taken into account in the next iteration of the Plan. ▪ It was agreed that this item would be brought back to the April Senior Officers Group meeting before going on to the May Children's Partnership Board. ▪ The Group agreed to provide any comments on the Plan by 12.03.2010 |
| 6 | <p><u>Quarter Three Performance Exceptions Report</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The original and the amended Quarter Three Exceptions Performance Report were circulated to the Group in advance of the meeting to allow for comparison. ▪ It was suggested that a statement was added to the front of the Exceptions Report which clearly details the purpose of the document. ▪ Currently, the report focuses on those indicators which are underperforming. It was agreed that the report should also include those indicators which are performing well. This information will highlight what is working and can be used to share the good learning and best practice. ▪ As the April Children's Partnership Board meeting has been put back to May, it was agreed that it would now be the Quarter Four Performance Report which will go the Board to ensure that the Board receives the most up to date information. |
| Items for information | |
| 7 | <p><u>Young People's Substance Misuse Treatment Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The item was presented by JK and CG. ▪ The Plan sets out the strategic actions and objectives to deliver a reduction in substance misuse and its impact on children and young people during 2010/11. The Plan is based on a local assessment of need in relation to substance misuse and children and young people in Nottingham City. Consultation is currently taking place with the workforce. ▪ It is essential that partners are aligned and work together in order to implement the Plan. ▪ The report asks that the Group provide direction and guidance on the way forward for young people's substance misuse commissioning. ▪ The Group noted that a clear accountability model is essential for such a large piece of work. The Plan currently states the organisations which are responsible for the actions. This will need amending to include the name of the individual who is responsible. ▪ The Group agreed to submit any comments before the intended sign off date, April 9th 2010. |
| 8 | <p><u>Briefing Note – Think Family Grant</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The brief provided an update to the Think Family grant proposal that was agreed in December 2009. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As the usual internal vacancy route is not appropriate for the five week secondments, support was requested from the Senior Officers Group to promote and support the secondment of staff to the Family Intervention Project Team. ▪ An email will be sent to partners including secondment details and full time lines. This information can then be disseminated to staff asking for expressions of interest. ▪ Learning from the secondments will be shared through the appropriate channels to highlight any changes that might improve a service area through a Think Family approach. |
| 9 | <p><u>Item signed off on behalf of the Children's Partnership</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Early Intervention Project – Best Practice Tool for Nottingham City Primary Schools (£1,000) b. Insight and Evaluation Analysts – money re-profiled from Early Intervention project underspend (£61,550) c. Nottingham Family Intervention Project (£85,000) d. Creative Links (£31,910) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Group noted the above items. |
| Other items | |
| 10 | <p><u>Forward plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There was no business to discuss. |
| 11 | <p><u>Any other business/key messages for dissemination</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There was no other business. |