

Minutes of the Children's Partnership Senior Officers Group

Monday 8th November 2010, 09:30 – 11:30

Room 2.13, Loxley House

Attendees

Ian Curryer (Chair)	Corporate Director of Children and Families, NCC
Katy Ball	Acting Head of Service, Children Trust, NCC
Lucy Davidson	Assistant Director of Children and Family Commissioning, NHS Nottingham City
Liz Asher	Representing the Voluntary Sector
Phyllis Brackenbury	Interim Assistant Director of Children's Services, CitiHealth Nottingham
Jean Pardoe	Chief Executive, Connexions
Ian Howick	Superintendent, Nottinghamshire Police, City Division
Sheila Wright	Deputy Chief Officer and Director of Operations, Nottinghamshire Probation
Jane Belinda Francis	Head teacher, Springfield Primary School (representing all City Schools)
Mandy Smith	CAF and Lead Professional Manager, NCC Children and Families
Colin Monckton	Head of Insight and Improvement, NCC Children and Families
Geoff Jenkins	Planning and Policy Manager, NCC Children and Families
John Yarham	Director of Young People Learning and Skills, NCC Children and Families
Dorne Collinson	Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, NCC Children and Families
Clare Gilbert	Strategic Lead, Young People's Drugs and Alcohol, NCC Children and Families
Wendy Morton	Head of Learning Transformation, NCC Children and Families

Apologies

Andrew Kenworthy	Chief Executive, NHS Nottingham City Representation: Lucy Davidson
------------------	--

Item	Detail
1	<u>Welcome and apologies</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Apologies noted as above.
2	<u>Minutes, Matters Arising and Action Log</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minutes were agreed as an accurate record. ▪ All actions were agreed as complete or on track.
Items for the Children's Partnership Board	
3	<u>Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) Performance Report</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The item was presented by CM, GJ and Accountable Officers (DC, CG, JY and WM). ▪ The paper provided the performance data collected from Quarter Two, using National Indicators and local performance measures to show progress on each of the 17 CYPP objectives. ▪ 12 objectives were rated as amber, two green and one red. The two remaining objectives, Science City and Transforming Learning, currently have no performance measured against them. It was agreed that further discussion and proposals for performance management of these objectives would be brought back to a future meeting, led by WM. ▪ Due to the risks identified in the performance report, it was agreed that three objectives would be focused on during the meeting; Safeguarding, Reducing Substance Misuse and Child Poverty. ▪ Safeguarding (led by DC): Due to grant funding and short-term commissioning, the financial position for domestic violence services is fragile, posing a threat to continuation of service. The Strategic Domestic Violence Group is currently reviewing the position and making recommendations for service provision post March 2011. The Director for Quality

	<p>and Commissioning, Nottingham City Council Children and Families Department to come to SOG in December, to discuss the process of ensuring colleagues with City-level strategic overviews are included on all decommissioning review panels and to ensure that there are links with partner commissioners, to reduce the risk of a fragmented view.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Substance misuse (led by CG): Funding is fragile; it will prove very costly if the cohort is not picked up through the current provision. Main areas of concern are (1) the number of young people leaving treatment in an agreed and planned way and (2) access to alcohol services. It was agreed that CG would come back to the Group with a clear proposal for going forwards, including actions to improve performance in these areas, following discussions with health colleagues and the Queens Medical Centre. ▪ Child Poverty (led by JY): The proposed changes to housing benefits and income support may have a significant negative impact on child poverty, if the number of accessible jobs does not match the loss of family income. More positively, the number of individuals claiming Job Seekers Allowance has decreased and the number of job vacancies has increased since March 2010. It was agreed that JY would come back to the Group with an update in the New Year. ▪ A list of Accountable Officers, aligned against each of the CYPP objectives was provided. ▪ It was agreed that Matthew Neal (Head of BSF and Capital Assets) would replace Jim Mason as the Accountable Officer for Transforming Learning, alongside the Head of Learning Transformation. ▪ The remaining accountabilities were agreed to be accurate.
4	<p><u>Annual Children's Services Assessment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The item was presented by IC. ▪ The report outlined the daft Annual Children's Services Assessment for Nottingham City Council (NCC), which has gone from performing 'well' last year, to performing 'adequately' this year. NCC is currently appealing the assessment due to technicalities; data has been collected on the number of settings, as apposed to the number of children, which proves misleading. The analysis on the whole is positive. ▪ The outcome of the appeal and final assessment grade will be confirmed no later than November 17th 2010. ▪ The Assessment letter for each local authority will be published on the Ofsted website on December 9th 2010.
Items for discussion	
5	<p><u>Common Assessment Framework (CAF) Progress Report</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The item was presented by MS. ▪ The paper outlined the progress of the CAF over the past 15 months and provided proposals to firm up the next stages. This included the recommendation of a more prescriptive approach, robust performance management and identified target groups for CAF assessments. ▪ It was highlighted that there is a particular capacity issue within schools to deliver minimum targets and standards. ▪ It was noted that there will always be exceptions within the identified target groups. This should be noted in guidance materials. ▪ It was agreed that single agency CAFs should be monitored within partner organisations and not recorded on the City-wide data-base. This needs to be taken into consideration with any comparison data with other local authority areas. ▪ It was agreed that Senior Officers would be provided with further detail on the target groups and that impact/outcome information, including case studies, would be made available for Officers to share with colleagues. This target groups will be brought back to the December 6th Senior Officers Group.
6	<p><u>Government Policy Implications on Children's Agenda</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The item was presented by GJ. ▪ The paper provided an update on the implications to partnership work from the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) and recent Government announcements. ▪ Detail on each of the CYPP priorities and the implications that that CSR has on them was provided. ▪ In addition, the implications for the following areas were detailed; voluntary and community sector, Total Place, child poverty, Sure Start, childcare, early intervention, higher education and apprenticeships. ▪ Risks to Nottingham were noted.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The next monthly update will be provided at the December 6th Senior Officers Group.
Items for information only	
7	<p><u>Forward Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Group noted upcoming items. ▪ It was agreed that the following items would be added to the Forward Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ December: Nottingham City Council Children and Families decommissioning and commissioning review process (Candida Brudenell) and CAF – refined targets (Mandy Smith) ○ January: Science City (Wendy Morton), Children and Families ○ January: The future of Connexions/Careers Services (Jean Pardoe) Attendance – review of leadership (Tony Graham) ○ February: Transforming learning (Wendy Morton)
8	<p><u>Any Other Business/Key Messages for Dissemination</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Children’s Workforce Dataset: The Nottingham Children’s Partnership Workforce Strategy was agreed by the Partnership in June 2010. An action within the Strategy was to develop workforce data to support workforce planning, comprehensive development and identify economies of scale. A software tool to collate, manage and analyse partnership workforce data, using existing datasets within each agency, is now being purchased by the Integrated Workforce Team. An agreed set of processes and procedures to enable the secure sharing of workforce data, which will pave the way for including more fragmented workforce groups, such as the voluntary sector, is also being established. ▪ It was noted that the final National Support Team visit for Infant Mortality is due. Progress of the recommendations from the initial visit a year ago will be reviewed. ▪ It was noted that attendance at child protection reviews has been poor. The Group were asked to feed this back to their organisations and ask that attendance is ensured at future meetings. DC to provide information on which organisations have had poor attendance.