



**Minutes of the Children's Partnership Senior Officers Group**  
 Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2010, 09:30 – 11:30  
 Room 2.11, Loxley House

**Attendees**

Ian Curryer (Chair)	Corporate Director of Children and Families, Nottingham City Council
Jane Wilson	CitiHealth Nottingham
Simon Nickless	Chief Superintendent, City Divisional Commander, Nottinghamshire Police
Sheila Wright	Deputy Chief Officer and Director of Operations, Nottinghamshire Probation
Jane Belinda Francis	Head teacher, Springfield Primary School (representing City Schools)
Linda Watson	Safeguarding Children Nurse Specialist, CitiHealth Nottingham
Louise Harrison	Specialist Substance Misuse Midwife and Supervisor of Midwives
Beverly Nield	Specialist Midwife, Nottingham University Hospital
Paulette Thompson-Omenka	Head of Children in Care, Nottingham City Council
John Yarham	Director of Economic Innovation and Employment, NCC Children and Families
Tony Graham	Operations Director (City), Connexions Nottinghamshire
Viv McCrossen	Head of Family Community Teams Central, Nottingham City Council
Jackie Martin	Acting Service Manager, Education Welfare Service, Nottingham City Council
Geoff Jenkins	Policy and Planning Manager, Insight and Improvement, Nottingham City Council
Luke Murray	Intelligence Development Manager, Children and Families, Nottingham City Council
Holly Sheppard (Minutes)	Early Intervention Programme Support Officer, NCC Children and Families

**Apologies**

Andrew Kenworthy	Chief Executive, NHS Nottingham City
Katy Ball	Head of Market Development, Children and Families, Nottingham City Council
Jean Pardoe	Chief Executive, Connexions <b>Representation: Tony Graham</b>
Phyllis Brackenbury	Interim Assistant Director of Children's Services, CitiHealth Nottingham <b>Representation: Jane Wilson</b>
Liz Asher	Projects Director, Playworks (Representing the Voluntary Sector)

Item	Detail
1	<u>Welcome and apologies</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Attendance and apologies noted as above.</li> <li>▪ SN chaired the first 15 minutes of the meeting.</li> </ul>
2	<u>Minutes, Matters Arising and Action Log</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minutes were agreed as an accurate record.</li> <li>▪ Action no. 63: The Young People's Drug and Alcohol Strategic Lead has met with colleagues from a range young people's services and the Emergency Department of the Queens Medical Centre. The following has been fed back for the Group to note:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The profile and safeguarding issues in relation to young people attending with alcohol issues has been raised, including inpatient provision.</li> <li>○ A brief guidance document, which will be published next financial year, has been produced to help strengthen all referrals into young people's services.</li> <li>○ Stronger protocols are being developed between School Nurses and Compass to ensure that appropriate referrals take place.</li> <li>○ A data trawl is underway to ensure that previous young people were appropriately referred.</li> <li>○ Mechanisms are being explored for capturing data on frequent young attendees and for flagging up alcohol related attendances where this is a secondary factor.</li> <li>○ The pathway of referrals will be maintained and strengthened for young people under the age of 19.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ All further actions were agreed as either complete or on track.</li> </ul>

Items for discussion	
3	<p><u>Multi-Agency Pregnancy Liaison Group (MAPLG)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The item was led by LW, BN and LH.</li> <li>▪ The report informed the Group of the establishment of a Multi-Agency Pregnancy Liaison Group (MAPLG) to share the responsibility of decision-making around the social and health needs of drug/alcohol misusing women and their families.</li> <li>▪ The establishment of the Group was initially agreed by the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).</li> <li>▪ It was highlighted that the MAPLG may also pick up multiple risks for some individuals/families e.g. domestic violence.</li> <li>▪ Following recommendations from Senior Officers, LW agreed to further explore the cost benefit of the MAPLG. There are currently no allocated resources for the Group; officers contribute time for monthly meetings and preparatory/follow-up work where required.</li> <li>▪ It was agreed that the MAPLG would report to the Children's Partnership annually.</li> <li>▪ It was agreed that the item would be taken on to the Children's Partnership Board.</li> </ul>
4	<p><u>Children in Care Performance Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The item, presented by PTO, provided an overview of the City's children in care performance as of December 2010.</li> <li>▪ The recent Ofsted inspection judged the effectiveness of the City's looked after children's services as 'good', with the exception of 'achieving economic wellbeing'.</li> <li>▪ The Ofsted inspection made a number of recommendations (as detailed in the paper) for the City to action within three and six months of the inspection being published.</li> <li>▪ It was noted that a number of the current indicators do not effectively measure outcomes and therefore a review of indicators and performance measures is underway.</li> <li>▪ New Department for Education (DfE) guidance comes into effect in April 2011, with the aim of driving efficiencies and ensuring meaningful data and performance management of children in care.</li> <li>▪ The market development work by NCC's Quality and Commissioning colleagues, in relation to suitable accommodation, was commended.</li> <li>▪ The challenges around finding appropriate foster carers was highlighted. The City requires more carers who can meet and manage the specific emotional and behavioural needs of many children in care. This will result in more stable, successful placements for young people and fewer wasted resources.</li> </ul>
5	<p><u>Child Poverty</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The item, led by JY, summarised national policy context and outlined the measures being taken in Nottingham to develop a local child poverty strategy.</li> <li>▪ The MP Frank Field's review into poverty and life chances, recommends that services for disadvantaged families are better integrated and that the foundation years (womb to five years) are established as a coherent phase, equivalent to primary and secondary.</li> <li>▪ Work is underway to finalise the strategic needs assessment of child poverty in the City to inform the development of Nottingham's child poverty strategy to ensure that the most deprived families receive support to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ enter and remain in employment</li> <li>○ have sufficient disposal income; and</li> <li>○ have the parenting skills required to care for their children</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ The Group agreed to endorse the strategy.</li> <li>▪ It is expected that 4,000 young people in the City will be affected by the abolishment of the Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA), which is used to support a range of needs, most notably transport.</li> <li>▪ It is expected that this will negatively impact of the proportion on young people remaining in further education and training.</li> <li>▪ NCC has made representation to the government following a motion at Full Council and the Young Nottingham Select Committee, recognising that the City has limited options in mitigating the negative impact.</li> </ul>
6	<p><u>Attendance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The item, presented by TG, VM, JM and GJ, provided an overview of the performance and challenges faced for primary, secondary and NEET attendance.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Primary overall absence remains stubborn, with no sustained or significant improvement. The gap between the City and other areas remains wide.</li> <li>▪ Primary persistent absence also remains a challenge; the City has the second worst level of persistent absence in the country.</li> <li>▪ Secondary overall absence in the City has shown a consistent downward trend over the last few years and is closing the gap on its comparators and the national rate.</li> <li>▪ Secondary persistent absence has also seen a strong rate of decrease, however, four schools had rates above 10% last year, three of these four were academies.</li> <li>▪ The principal cause of absence in both primary and secondary schools, is sickness and ill-health.</li> <li>▪ The Group explored ways of tackling the challenges faced, including supporting schools to further challenge authorised absence and emphasise the impact on young people's education and future outcomes, with the aim of bringing about a long-term, cultural shift.</li> <li>▪ The Chair noted his intent to pull together a task group focusing on raising attendance, with the long-term vision to increase the number of young people who go on to and remain in employment (which will link into the child poverty strategy). It was suggested that the Director for Schools and Learning should lead on this.</li> <li>▪ NEET figures are excellent; the 5.4% target was met, meaning that Nottinghamshire was the best of its statistical neighbours and other core cities.</li> <li>▪ Raising of the participation age will in effect make it illegal for 17 and 18 year olds not to be in some form of employment, training or learning. Post 16 tracking will be a priority which requires partner cooperation. Senior Officers agreed to support this.</li> <li>▪ TG will be leaving Connexions at the end of March 2011. The Group commended and thanked TG for all of the positive work he has done for this City.</li> </ul>
7	<p><u>Proposed Partnership Operation and Review of the Children and Young People's Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The item was presented by GJ.</li> <li>▪ Proposed Partnership operation was discussed briefly, including how to maintain partner engagement in a changing context. It was agreed that this would be brought back to a future meeting for further discussion.</li> <li>▪ The Group noted and approved the project plan for the review of the CYPP.</li> <li>▪ A draft CYPP will be brought to the May Senior Officers Group for consultation over the Summer, to result in a final report to the Partnership in September 2011.</li> </ul>
<b>Items for information</b>	
8	<p><u>Forward Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Group noted upcoming items.</li> </ul>
9	<p><u>Any Other Business/Key Messages for Dissemination</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There was no other business.</li> </ul>