

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP BOARD

MINUTES

of meeting held on **29 JUNE 2011** at

Loxley House from 4.00 pm to 5.45 pm

indicates present at meeting

Councillor David Mellen	- Chair of the Board and Portfolio Holder for Children's Services)))	
Jane Todd	- Chief Executive)	
Councillor Jon Collins	- Leader)	Nottingham City Council
Ian Curryer	- Corporate Director of Children's Services))	
Katy Ball	- Head of Early Intervention and Market Development)	
Gill Ellis (representing Mr Curryer)	- Director of Schools and Learning)	
Ron Buchanan	- Chair)	NHS Nottingham City
Shirley Smith	- Assistant Director of Commissioning – Community Services)	
Paul Scarrott	- Assistant Chief Constable	-	Nottinghamshire Police
Wendy Smith	- Chair	-	CONGA (City of Nottingham Governors' Association)
Jane Geraghty	- Chief Officer	-	Nottinghamshire Probation Service
Heather Sahman	- Regional Change Agent	-	Strategic Health Authority
Graham Sheppard	- District Manager	-	Job Centre Plus
Margaret McGlade	- Chair	-	Local Safeguarding Children's Board
Steve McLaren	- Urban Angel Project Manager	-	On behalf of the Community and Voluntary Sector
Mike Butler	- Chief Executive	-	Djanogly City Academy
Malcolm Cowgill	-	-	Castle College

Jill Robey	- Head Teacher	- Nottingham Nursery School and Training Centre
Jane-Belinda Francis	- Head Teacher	- Springfield Primary School
Andy Sloan	- Head Teacher	- Rosehill School (Special School representation)
Gareth Owen	- Head Teacher	- Hadden Park High School
Lauren Davey)	
Jamie Mansell) Youth Council	
Aaron Riley)	
Darrell Redmond		Nottingham Equal

Also in attendance

Deborah Hooton		- NHS Nottingham City
Carol Jackson	- Constitutional Services Officer	- Nottingham City Council
Elaine Mitchell	- Integrated Workforce Manager	- Nottingham City Council
Colin Monckton	- Head of Commissioning and Insight	- Nottingham City Council
John Rea	- Strategic Lead for Engagement and Participation	- Nottingham City Council
Natalie Robinson		- Youth Council
Dot Veitch	- Partnerships Support Officer	- Nottingham City Council
Chris Wallbanks	- Programme Manager Early Intervention and Partnerships	- Nottingham City Council
John Yarham	- Director of Economic Innovation and Employment	- Nottingham City Council

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

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jon Collins (Nottingham City Council), Malcolm Cowgill (Castle College), Jane-Belinda Francis (Springfield Primary School), Jill Robey (Nottingham Nursery School & Training Centre), Graham Sheppard (Job Centre Plus) and Shirley Smith (NHS Nottingham City).

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

3 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 25 May 2011, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

4 YOUTH CABINET RESEARCH

Consideration was given to a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Families, copies of which had been circulated.

The Strategic Lead for Engagement and Participation introduced members of the Youth Council who explained that the Youth Council was the steering group for youth engagement and other associated forums in strategic partnership decision making. The Youth Cabinet, on behalf of the Youth Council had been asked to lead two pieces of research on behalf of the Children's Partnership Board and its proposed research programme for 2011. The work was intended to inform future policy development and operational decision making around two challenges and their impact on other related issues. It was explained that the benefit of youth-led research was the direct connection with young people and the belief that, by looking at long standing issues with a fresh pair of eyes, this would result in fresh insight and provide new and innovative ideas to tackle the problems.

Key points highlighted by members of the Youth Council included:

- the first piece of research was peer to peer research into what motivated children and young people and families to maintain a healthy weight and to look at what could be done to encourage more people to maintain a healthy weight;
- the second piece of research was developing and delivering research to identify causes of low school attendance by some children, particularly in primary schools and looking at what could be done to improve attendance;
- it was hoped that results could be achieved by:
 - workshops at participation events such as Youth Council and Primary Parliament meetings;
 - focus groups at area youth forums and other neighbourhood based groups;
 - peer-led research in schools;
 - meetings with professionals and decision makers;
 - creative engagement and a problem-solving approach;
 - feedback to relevant bodies with actions to follow.
- the Decade of Better Health Youth Conference 2011 was all about healthy weight and related health behaviours. It was designed and delivered by young people, with diverse participation from across the City. It had seen the launch of Decade of Better Health Children and Young People's engagement strand;
- the Board could help the research by:
 - championing the approach;

- contributing to activities;
- making sure it used the results effectively and kept children and young people informed;
- providing the resources and expertise needed to do the work.

The Chair thanked the Youth Council members for their presentation.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the Board agreed that young people-led research provided an opportunity for fresh insight into these two strategic challenges, and supported the Youth Cabinet in their work;**
- (2) that the different styles and approaches to gathering user views utilised in this research be noted, and the Board considered it could contribute to each research agenda;**
- (3) that the Board receive and consider the findings of the research positively when submitted and wherever possible, support the innovative approaches and change actions suggested by the research;**
- (4) that the research work be supported with resources commensurate with the two proposed activities to ensure high quality engagement and participation by users, including making provision for research officer time to ensure the research outputs were robust for analysis and planning purposes.**

5 NOTTINGHAM CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP WORKFORCE STRATEGY 2011/12 REFRESH ACTION PLAN

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Quality and Commissioning Children and Families, copies of which had been circulated.

The Integrated Workforce Strategy Manager introduced the report which aimed to draw the Board's attention to the achievements and changes of circumstances from the 2010/11 Action Plan and asked the Board to note the wider engagement and involvement in each sector to produce the refreshed Action Plan. The Workforce Strategy had been developed by the Children's Workforce Partnership Group and the Action Plan was the second year of the action planning process.

The following key points were highlighted to the Board:

- there had been massive changes since the Plan was drawn up, but not everything had been achieved. Of the 34 actions listed in the previous Plan last year, 73% of these had been achieved or were progressing;
- the Partnership Workforce Strategy Group had committed representatives with growing membership;

- the New Action Plan was in line with Children and Young People's Plan refresh and there had been collaboration on policy and practice changes;
- successes to date had been achieved in:
 - developing a partnership wide Core Training Standard;
 - delivering an 'every colleague matters' series of events;
 - delivering safeguarding training for voluntary sector;
 - remodelling family support;
 - introducing Common Assessment Framework (CAF) standards for audit;
- key actions for 2011/12 included:
 - Family Support Pathway and toolkit linked to CAF to be developed and promoted;
 - delivery of healthy eating and childhood nutrition training across the Partnership;
 - review of Parenting Programmes for evidence based and cost effective provision;
 - development and delivery of a whole family approach between adult and children services linking to a trilogy of risks;
 - scoping development of a top down 'communication style' based on solution focused therapy and motivational interviewing approaches.
- areas for development and quality assurance included:
 - more work to be done to identify one children's workforce data for better workforce planning/commissioning;
 - the Joint Venture Agreement would support better integration of services and pooled budgets. This was still to be realised;
 - Partnership Workforce Strategy Group was tasked with monitoring the actions and to reporting to the Senior Officers Group/Board.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the Partnership Workforce Strategy Action Plan for 2011/12 be approved;**
- (2) that the Children's Partnership Workforce Strategy Group monitor and report progress to the Senior Officers Group/Partnership Board on the Action Plan in an end of year report.**

6 DEVELOPING A CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY FOR NOTTINGHAM

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Economic Innovation and Employment, copies of which had been circulated.

The Director of Economic Innovation and Employment explained to the Board that child poverty was an issue which cut across the whole of the Children's Partnership. The development of a strategy to significantly reduce child poverty aimed to achieve this through its impact upon the inter-generational cycle of poverty that resulted in low attainment levels, poor health and worklessness being perpetuated for the City's most deprived citizens.

Key issues highlighted in the presentation included:

- there was a changing definition of child poverty with a move away from purely financial measures to also include:
 - early intervention;
 - education for disadvantaged pupils;
 - university access and apprenticeships;
 - risky behaviour and health inequalities;
- particular challenges facing the City:
 - 37% of children in the City were living in poverty, based on tax credits. This was the 10th highest in England;
 - 23% of children in the City lived in severe poverty. This put the City in 6th place nationally;
 - 35% of children in the City lived in workless households;
 - 34% (20,000) of children in the City lived in low income households;
 - hotspots in the City included Aspley, St. Ann's, the Dales, Bridge and Bilborough wards.
- there were however, some encouraging signs:
 - there had been a rise in the City's place in the indices of multiple deprivation rankings (from 13th most deprived in 2007 to 20th);
 - the free school meal attainment gap was not as great as other areas;
 - teenage pregnancies were falling;
 - youth offending was falling;

- the NEET figures (young people not in education, employment or training) were the lowest out of any of the Core Cities;
- welfare reforms such as the removal of the education maintenance grant, the proposed reduction in housing benefit levels and the freezing of child benefit rates, would have a major impact on most City families;
- to make a meaningful difference, there should be a connection of several existing or emerging strategies as follows:
 - financial inclusion strategy, involving partners that worked with disadvantaged families to ensure that support was effectively co-ordinated;
 - family support strategy;
 - employment and skills strategy;
 - early intervention strategy.
- work was starting in Aspley to look at connecting these existing strategies.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the changing context of child poverty be recognised, noting that the Government was placing more emphasis upon the wider implications of poverty such as education and health, alongside the previous Government's focus upon material deprivation;**
- (2) that the emerging structure for the child poverty strategy, where links between existing strategies were made, be endorsed;**
- (3) that the potential impact of the Government's welfare reforms be considered and appropriate steps taken to reduce the impact of the changes.**

7 NOTTINGHAM TOTAL PLACE

Consideration was given to a presentation by Head of Commissioning and Insight, copies of which had been circulated.

Key issues highlighted in the presentation included:

- the Total Place project involved integrating information i.e. having a web interface available for practitioners allowing them to search for children, adults, addresses and see who was involved with them across the Partnership. A cost calculator tool would show the cost for each type of intervention across the Partnership. This would allow for learning and influence future service delivery by identifying how many children and families had multiple or complex needs, what those needs were and at what level and what this meant for the capacity to deliver services and improve outcomes in the long term. Decisions could then be made about what needed to change to improve future service delivery;

- the main problem was that there had not been a joined up view of the cost or needs of complex families. The costs and needs analysis which had been carried out involved:
 - joining together data held in partner systems for individuals and households (Police, Probation, NCH, Connexions, Schools and Early Years, Adults and Children's Social Care, Children's Centres, Mosaic and some health information);
 - developing a costing tool so each intervention and outcome was costed for each individual;
 - updating periodically;
- the cost and needs analysis could be used:
 - to establish cost of services across the Partnership to enable the more efficient use of partner resources;
 - to give a better understanding of the cost and needs within households and families;
 - to better commission and target services to areas of need;
 - to identify segments with similar range of needs;
 - to lead to potential for commissioning to outcomes rather than individual service;
- the result of the analysis showed that the highest cost 10% (6,500 citizens) accounted for over 63% (approximately £61million) of allocated costs and the highest cost 2.5% (1,636 citizens) accounted for 37% (approximately £46million) of allocated costs;
- as a result of the learning, an action plan had been drawn up for the Partnership including:
 - strategic commissioning to adopt 'Total Place' approach across Adults & Children's Services;
 - information sharing to be improved at a strategic and practitioner level ;
 - new locality working ;
 - the adoption of an organisational culture and best practice.

RESOLVED that the presentation be noted.

8 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP

The Chair then asked for the Board members and others present at the meeting to form three separate, multidisciplinary groups in order to discuss the implications of the matters raised in minutes 5, 6 and 7 above, with particular emphasis on what the implications were

for the Partnership and the individual organisations, the sharing of information and suggesting ideas as to how best to tackle the issues raised.

The key points which arose from the discussions held by the three groups were:

- organisations needed to be adaptable;
- issues connected to disability needed further exploration;
- commissioning based on outcomes should be clustered around geographical areas;
- structures should facilitate the types of intervention that would make a real difference to individuals and families;
- long standing relationships with families made the difference, with the particular example of mentoring cited;
- there was a need for something visual (i.e. a map) to explain to staff the range of support and interventions taking place;
- links between the Children's Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board needed to be clarified;
- there was a need to clarify why the various organisations came together;
- there were huge social/demographic issues to be considered;
- there was a need to look at how money was spent and to make sure that those most at risk were targeted;
- there was a need to challenge each other more;
- there was a need to know when integration would contribute to better outcomes/improved services/common systems/data processes and to look at the differences – scope overlap and costs (costliest families may not be same in different agencies)
- there needed to be a radical way of addressing the issue of the cost per high-need complex family (£20,000 per family) The balance between reward and punitive measures needed to be addressed. There was no quick fix.

10 CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP BOARD FORWARD PLAN

The Chair asked members to advise the Head of Early Intervention and Market Development if they had any ideas for future items of discussion by the Board.

RESOLVED that the following items be considered at future meetings:

September 2011

- **partnership operation;**

- **Children and Young People's Plan;**
- **obesity;**
- **Science City;**
- **Strategic Commissioning Intentions.**

11 KEY MESSAGES

The Head of Early Intervention and Market Development highlighted the following key message:

The Council's Early Intervention Programme was selected as winner of the Delivering Better Outcomes Achievement of the Year award at the MJ (Municipal Journal) Achievement Awards 2011 ceremony. The Early Intervention Programme aimed to break cycles of intergenerational underachievement and deprivation experienced by some children, families and adults in Nottingham. The award recognised the strong early indicators of a positive impact on the 21,500 families who had benefited from the programme to date through 16 pilot projects.

RESOLVED that the key message be noted.