

# Children's Trust Board

(A themed group of Darlington Partnership)

## Minutes of the meeting of the Children's Trust Board held on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2010, 9.30am, Darlington Town Hall

Cllr Cyndi Hughes	Lead Member, Children's Services
Melanie Brown	Darlington Children's Trust
Paul Richardson	14-19 Partnership Manager
Mike Fryer	DAG
Melanie Brown	Children's Trust Partnership Manager
Jo McKeown	Job Centre Plus
Mark Cain	Children's Services Locality Lead, Darlington PCT
Julian Kenshole	Darlington Borough Council
Seth Pearson	Local Strategic Partnership
Mervyn Bell	Darlington Borough Council
Dela Smith	Education Director, Education Village
Gill Walker	Darlington Borough Council
Paul Richardson	14-19 Partnership
Alison Jackson	Durham Constabulary
George McQueen	Darlington Borough Council
Bob Mellard	Dodmire School
Sue Davison	Families Information Service
Kate Jeffels	Safer Darlington
Maura Banim	Teesside University
Kathryn Larkin-Bramley	Durham Police Authority

In attendance;

Charlotte Linton (Minutes)	Evolution
Odette Sanderson	DSCB
Josh Bailey	Student visitor
Lucy Atkinson	Student visitor
Sophie Aisbitt	Student visitor

### **1 Welcome and Apologies**

Cllr Hughes welcomed members to the meeting.

Apologies were received from;

Ada Burns, Darlington Borough Council  
Jenni Cooke, Darlington Borough Council  
Miriam Davidson, Director of Public Health, Darlington PCT  
Tim Fisher, Principal, QE 6<sup>th</sup> Form College  
Anthony Prudhoe, NHS  
Michael Barton, Deputy Chief Constable Durham Constabulary  
Chris Davis, Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust  
Murray Rose, Director, Children's Services, DBC  
Karen Grundy, Evolution  
Pat Armstrong, Secondary schools  
Pauline Mitchell, DBC  
Donna Thorne, NHS  
Kath Vasey, PCT

## 2 **Minutes of the Children's Trust Board meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2010**

The minutes were approved and adopted by the Children's Trust Board.

## 3 **Matters Arising**

GW updated the group that more work is being done on the adult learning strategy to reflect the current climate.

## 4 **Urgent Business to be considered under Item 21**

It was announced that Dela Smith will be retiring and it was proposed and agreed that Sue Richards will be the new representative for special schools on the Children's Trust Board.

MB informed that Pat Armstrong has resigned as Secondary school representative for the Children's Trust Board and that Lynne Hunter from Carmel had been nominated to fill this board vacancy. This was approved by the board.

### **ACTION**

MB is to contact new representatives.

## 5 **Lessons Learned- Serious Case Review**

Odette Sanderson was welcomed to the Board to present this paper. OS informed the Board that there had been a serious case review carried out in Darlington. This was Darlington's first serious case review. The review has been submitted to Ofsted and details of the review cannot be shared until feedback from Ofsted is received. OS explained that an independent author and chair must be commissioned and this is at a cost of around £500 per day. The report has outlined the following multi-agency recommendations.

- Training opportunities to be developed with neighbouring LSCBs for authors of IMRs. LSCB and Children's Trust members to ensure that their agencies have a pool of potential authors.
- When SCR processes are instigated senior officers within individual organisations need to ensure that an appropriate author is appointed and support is offered.
- Briefing sessions to be arranged by the LSCB for senior officers, clarifying the SCR process and the importance of 'sign-off'. LSCB and Children's Trust members need to ensure that appropriate representation attend these briefings.
- Following the publication of the Executive Summary. A programme of multi-agency sessions will be arranged to disseminate the lessons to be learned. LSCB and Children's Trust members need to ensure that professionals within their agencies are given opportunities to attend.
- All of the actions from this review are being monitored by the LSCB Performance Management sub-group. LSCB and Children's Trust members need to ensure that actions are completed by the designated leads, within the agreed timescales. Updates on the recommendations and action plans will be reported to the LSCB and Children's Trust.

These recommendations were agreed by the Board.

GM raised concerns of the costs of the independent chair and author and suggested partnership agreements with other authorities that we do not currently work with such as North Yorkshire. OS is to look into this possibility.

## 6 University of Teesside Presentation

Maura Banim delivered a presentation to the Board on the development of the Teesside University Darlington Campus. The Vision of the campus is to raise higher education in Darlington from level 5 to levels 6 and 7. Darlington has been chosen as a location as it is accessible to people outside of the town. The campus is scheduled to open September 2011. DS commented that when the campus is open they should have more contact with schools to inform at an early age about higher education.

GM highlighted that the University consider addressing the gap of training qualified social workers.

SP commented that this will have a positive impact on Darlington's economy and that links with businesses is important.

**ACTION** Maura will take back all comments. If partners have any other suggestions they are to contact her directly.

## 7 FIS Update

Sue Davison updated to the board that:

- In the Quarter April to July 2009 there were 2018 hits to the Service Directory, for the same period for 2010 there have been 3238 hits. This represents a 38% increase in customers accessing the Service Directory online.
- Outreach work has also been increased to raise awareness of the service to families. An outreach action plan has also been developed. This was circulated to the board.
- The number of enquiries arising from parent/carers is rising year on year. For the period April to July 2009 the number of enquiries was 1824, for the same period in 2010 the number of enquiries has been 3161 this represents a 42% increase.

The report outlined the following recommendation:

Partners are requested to agree to provide regular updates of their services and activities to the Families Information Service in order to ensure that the Service Directory continues to be accessible and up to date for families within Darlington

The Board agreed to the recommendations in the report.

## 8 Common Assessment Framework Update

Gill Walker took the Board through a presentation on an update of CAF and the three area teams. GW updated that the three area teams are fully operational offering services to children up to the age of 19 and beyond as part of the whole family.

They are currently CAF support groups taking place on a Friday afternoons which have been identified as an area of good practice from HMI Inspectors.

Early intervention and prevention support panels have been developed and will commence on 1st October for each area. These will be located in each area team. GW circulated a diagram with the time and location of each meeting.

**ACTION** GW is to bring a report to a future Board meeting on the analysis of trends for CAFs.

**ACTION** MB to circulate the times and dates for the three area support groups.

## 9 Participation Strategy

Mervyn Bell took the Board through the report on the Participation Strategy and highlighted the changes from the original strategy and informed there had been a refresh of objectives and actions. MB requested that partners complete the 'What's Changed' logs.

KJ commented on the stopping of the TellUs survey and suggested that the Social Norms survey could be extended to support this.

JK explained he had been in discussions about commissioning a provider who is delivering a alternative survey a 'pupil perception survey' at this stage a high number of authorities are participating with this which would be beneficial in terms of benchmarking purposes.

**ACTION** It was agreed that KJ will bring a paper back to the Board on social norms so that this option can be discussed further.

DS highlighted that question time will be coming to the education Village and will pass on details to partners

## 10 Children's Trust Reform

MB took the Board through the report. The consultation on the Children's Trust was positive and 96% of respondents said they wish to see a Children's Trust partnership continue in Darlington. However many commented that they wished to see a reduction in frequency of meetings. As a result of this it was agreed that the Children's Trust Board will move from bi-monthly to quarterly meetings. It was agreed that this change will take place after the November Board meeting as Board members agreed this will be an important meeting following the October spending review.

It has been agreed that Darlington will continue to publish a new CYPP as all respondents to the consultation stated they would like to see the plan continue and the vast majority would like to see it stay as a three year plan. The plan will now be published in June as appose to April 2011. As the CYPP is no longer a statutory document it no longer needs to follow the previous guidance and will be a more succinct and localised document. There have also been many suggestions the plan has a more family focus and links up with adult's services.

It has now been agreed by the Board that the partner newsletter will continue but will move from bi-monthly to quarterly in line with the Board meetings.

The Board decided that the decision on whether or not to continue with a Children's Trust Conference should be discussed and decided after this year conference with will take place at Darlington Football club on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November. Invitations for this will be circulated soon.

DS commented that whilst the duty has been removed from schools to cooperate with a Children's Trusts she would like to see Schools involvement continue. DS expressed that strong partnership working has been a factor in the success of Darlington Schools.

## 11 Children's Trust Development Session

MB updated the Board that the Executive group was involved in a development session delivered by Steve Davies from the Commissioning Support Programme.

The Executive Group considered the current vision of Darlington Children's Trust which was developed prior to the launch of the current CYPP in 2007. Following discussion during the development session the group agreed to update the vision. The Executive group had also considered the current commissioning principles for Darlington Children's Trust. The group had agreed to revise some of these commissioning principles.

**ACTION** MB is to take back any comments to the next Executive group.

**12 Under 18 Conceptions Rate**

Apologies were received from Donna Thorne who was scheduled to present this report. MB asked the board to note the content of the report. An additional report which was emailed that morning with the updated figures for under 18 conceptions was also circulated.

Any comments or queries on the recommendations are to be sent to MB to feedback.

**The following items were for information only**

**13 Feedback from Provider Forum**

The contents of the report was noted

**14 Feedback from Executive Group**

The contents of the report was noted

**15 Feedback from Joint Commissioning Unit**

The contents of the report was noted

**Urgent Business Raised Under Item 4**

Cllr Hughes thanked Dela for all her support as a board member for Darlington Children's Trust. Dela expressed her view that the Children's Trust was a 'great' board.

**16 Dates of Future Meetings**

Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2010, 9.30am, Committee Room 1, Darlington Town Hall