

# Children's Trust Board

(A themed group of Darlington Partnership)

## Minutes of the meeting of the Children's Trust Board held 27<sup>th</sup> November 2008, 2pm, Darlington Town Hall

<b>Present:</b> Cllr Chris McEwan (Chair)	Darlington Borough Council
Lynne Athey	Education Village
Deputy Chief Constable Gary Barnett	Durham Constabulary
Mervyn Bell	Darlington Borough Council
Karen Blackburn	National Probation Service Co Durham
Mel Brown	Darlington Borough Council
Jenni Cooke	Darlington Borough Council
Jo Dawson	Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust
Joanne Evans	Darlington PCT
Mike Fryer	Darlington Association of Governors
Karen Grundy	Evolution Darlington
Pat Howarth	Hummersknott School and Language College
Rob Jones	Darlington Borough Council
Julian Kenshole	Darlington Borough Council
Bob Mellard	Dodmire Junior School
Trevor Mortlock	Job Centre Plus
Murray Rose	Darlington Borough Council
Steve Rose	Darlington Partnership
Wade Tovey	University of Teesside
Kath Vasey	Darlington PCT
Gill Walker	Darlington Borough Council
Lucy Wheatley	Darlington PCT
Karen Williamson	Darlington Borough Council
Angela Wilson	Learning and Skills Council, Darlington

**In attendance:** Paul Unsworth, Durham Constabulary

### **1 Welcome and Apologies**

Cllr Chris McEwan welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mel Brown, the newly appointed Children's Trust Manager, was introduced and welcomed. Apologies were received from:

Ada Burns, Darlington Borough Council  
Carina Carey, National Probation Service Co Durham  
Miriam Davidson, Darlington PCT  
Tim Fisher, Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College  
Jane Robinson, Darlington Borough Council  
Dave Smith, Government Office North East

### **2 Minutes of the Children's Trust Board meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2008**

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

### **3 Matters Arising**

**Family Nurse Partnership:** It was noted that Cllr McEwan has written to Jan Finn.

***Disabilities Strategy and Implementation Plan:*** Steve Rose suggested this should be taken to the LSP Board meeting in March.

***Autistic Spectrum Disorder card:*** Jenni Cooke reported that two meetings have taken place regarding the card - people are very positive about the idea and the work is moving forward.

***The Bercow Report:*** Following the Development Day, a speech, language and communications Task and Finish Group has not been established. An appropriate leader for the group now needs to be identified.

#### **4 Urgent Business to be considered under Item 15**

It was agreed that the following would be discussed under agenda Item 15:

- JAR summary
- Children's Services Conference
- Bid for Targeted Mental Health Funding

#### **5 Development Day: Lessons Learned**

Gill Walker reported on the recent Children's Trust Development Day held on 9<sup>th</sup> October, facilitated by Clive Miller from the OPM. 20 Children's Trust partners attended and considered a range of materials, focusing on issues such as sponsorship, scoping and sign off and active support of Children's Trust work within a project management framework. A range of outcomes were produced including the need to clarify the role and responsibilities of Children's Trust Board partners.

It was noted that currently we have an excellent range of strategic partners around the table, but in the event of a dispute, there is currently nothing to stop partners walking away. The sign up will deal with this issue. It was noted however, that the vast majority of partners have a duty to cooperate and public sector bodies cannot walk away. It was felt that there is a need for the prevalent culture of the Trust to be one in which partners are happy to work outside their normal area of concern.

Kath Vasey indicated that she has commissioned very experienced project managers to undertake short term project management work. She would like to share these resources with partners. Gill very keen indeed to have discussion further around this work.

**ACTION GW/KV**

It was noted that some commissioning work is already taking place. In order to develop our skills as commissioners, DCSF was asked to provide 10 days support for commissioning. The Development and Commissioning Group has discussed this and the consultant has spent 2 days with Karen Grundy in eVOLution supporting commissioning work there.

The Board agreed the recommendations of the report.

#### **6 Young People's Services**

Gill Walker introduced this summary report and draft strategy for the development of Young People's services in Darlington.

The strategy links with plans to deliver integrated services to improve early intervention and is for all young people aged 11-19 in Darlington. The strategy brings together data around young people and services, proposes new lines of accountability to continue to capture the data and proposes how we might work with others or commission services from the third sector.

Consultation on the strategy runs from 7<sup>th</sup> November 2008 to 5<sup>th</sup> January 2009. Page 13 of the draft strategy indicates how the process will work with the establishment of a Young People's Steering Group. Page 14 shows the related strategies to which this strategy must be aligned and outlines the groups which will be consulted. Karen Grundy asked that the strategy also goes to the third sector Aspiring network.

Murray Rose highlighted text on page 12 which shows the areas of responsibility considered to be core for the Darlington Borough Council Youth Service and noted that the Children's Trust will increasingly be exploring commissioning of the third sector to deliver major events, a range of universal activities and out of hours activities in schools.

Partners felt it is important to have such diverse provision within the model and it was noted that the private sector would also fall within this category.

Mervyn Bell confirmed that this echoes the work taking place under Aiming Higher.

It was suggested that there may not be a need for a steering group, as appropriate structures already exist. Mel, as lead officer, would ensure appropriate communication between other lead officers and move the work forward in that way. Julian Kenshole suggested that as other themed groups do not have a dedicated officer, there may not be sufficient capacity to carry out this work. Rob Jones emphasised to need to timetable the work into existing work programmes.

After discussion, recommendations A and B were agreed. Recommendation C was rejected. Instead, there would be a single assembly or series of assemblies which would act as a young people's planning event (including young people and the Member of the Youth Parliament). Following this, the 5 lead officers of themed groups would progress the work and report back to the Development and Commissioning Group.

## **7 CYPP Performance Scorecards (including LAA)**

Julian Kenshole reminded partners that at the last meeting, the Board agreed a structure and rationale for monitoring progress against the CYPP and the Aspiring Darlington theme of the SCS. The performance scorecards offer a view of performance in 3 levels – SCS PIs, LAA indicators and the remaining NIs of local authorities and their partnerships.

Currently, the scorecards show many !s (insufficient baseline data to establish status) but as time goes on, the number of these will reduce. Triangles indicate the areas of concern; for example, NI 112 Under 18 conception rate. Lucy Wheatley highlighted the work being undertaken in this area – new work on hot spots, ages and the type of service young people would like to see. A new SRE post in this area will be going to advert soon.

It was noted that there are a number of triangles within Priority 3 relating to education. It was noted that as a result of the recent abolition of Key Stage 3 SATs, some targets will change and / or disappear.

It was noted that NI 6 does not have an allocated lead officer and no baseline data. However, its status would be triangle. Karen Grundy agreed to be the lead officer for the NI, although we must all take on ownership for the indicator as volunteering is of vital importance in Darlington.

The LSP has created a framework in which to work, and some PIs do not fit neatly into one themed group. This accounts for John Simpson being lead officer for NI 116. It is clear that Aspiring Darlington and Prosperous Darlington will need to undertake some joint work for some of the PIs.

The Board noted the contents of the scorecards and asked that for future meetings, an exception report is also produced highlighting the areas of concern.

## **8 Recommendations for commissioning: Play, Safer School Partnership**

**Play:** Gill Walker reported that 12 months ago a Play Strategy, which was developed for a funding opportunity, was agreed. The current report considers the condition of Play across the Borough. The Play Strategy Group, which is working on the strategy, has enhanced its membership and now includes the third sector. Last year, Big Lottery funding was secured to support 3 play projects, all of which have made good progress towards their targets.

The Play Strategy Group has completed a SWOT analysis to identify gaps and overlaps and it has raised concerns about sustainability. In order to build on existing good work, a set of principles are presented and 3 options are offered.

The recommendations include an allocation of £46,000 to support play projects at Red Hall and Firthmoor, £4,000 for a play project at the Refuge and £135,000 to extend the offer to the other 9 deprived wards.

Murray Rose indicated that in an ideal world, we would like to fund for 3 years, particularly for the third sector. All recommendations were agreed and it was further agreed that the work should be supported for 2 years. A tender specification would be developed for 2009 – 2011.

**Safer Schools Partnership:** Paul Unsworth explained that the police are very keen to ensure that our schools are safe places for young people. The Safer Schools Partnership ran as a pilot at Eastbourne School. It is resource intensive, so alternative models were considered.

The police have identified resources and established link officers to work in schools across Darlington. Steps are being taken to ensure that the link officers have appropriate training, for example, they are familiar with CAF. Paul is currently organising appointments to see Head Teachers in Darlington to introduce the link officers, some of whom have a great deal of experience at the relevant schools.

There are potential funding opportunities for the Safer Schools Partnership work with the Youth Crime Action Plan and it was noted that the police are doing this work within budget; it is a commissioning and de-commissioning exercise.

It is anticipated that a newly developed model for the Safer Schools Partnership will be finalised over the next few weeks. A further progress report will come to the Children's Trust Board in January.

Partners welcomed the work.

## **9 Bidding and External Funding**

Gill Walker reported that a large amount of bidding activity is taking place and it would be useful for partners to share information about current bidding to avoid unnecessary duplication and allow collaboration.

The following bids are currently ongoing:

- Targeted Mental Health bid (see agenda Item 15)
- Play Builder
- My Place

- £1.1m Child Poverty bid for revenue funding. The Child Poverty Pledge related to this bid was circulated.

It was agreed that bidding would be a standing item on future agendas, with information circulated in advance of the meeting.

Karen Grundy indicated that bidding would also be a standing item on the third sector network agendas.

Wade Tovey indicated that the University of Teesside undertakes a great deal of bidding work, including bidding with the third sector, and they are very happy to collaborate with other Children's Trust partners in this respect.

#### **10 14-19 Arrangements (Machinery of Government)**

The contents of the report on the latest position regarding the 14-19 arrangements (machinery of government) were noted.

#### **11 Preventing Obesity, Promoting Physical Activity**

Partners noted the progress regarding the development of a strategy to prevent obesity and promote physical activity for children and young people in Darlington. Cllr McEwan thanked the PCT for installing dance mats in every school in Darlington. It was noted that a Danceathon for young people is being held at the Arts Centre on 20<sup>th</sup> December.

#### **12 Feedback from Development and Commissioning Group**

Actions from the Development and Commissioning Group meetings of 20<sup>th</sup> October and 12<sup>th</sup> November were noted.

#### **13 Feedback from Planning and Implementation Group**

The main minutes from the meeting of the Planning and Implementation Group held on 10<sup>th</sup> October were noted. It was noted that the review of adult learning in Darlington has taken place. Murray Rose and Gill Walker will look at the report from the review and consider the way forward. There are clear links between the Aspiring themed group and the Prosperous themed group with respect to adult learning.

**ACTION MR/GW**

Angela Wilson asked that the LSC, as the funding body for the work, receive a copy of the report. This was agreed.

#### **14 Local Development Framework Core Strategy**

Partners noted the contents of the report regarding the Darlington Local Development Framework. Cllr McEwan indicated that he has encouraged the Council to engage with young people about this piece of work. The strategy sets out options for the next 15 years and will have an impact on our young people in the future.

#### **15 Urgent Business Raised under Item 4**

**JAR summary:** The JAR report was published on Tuesday; a summary of the report was circulated. It was noted that the report is exceptionally complimentary with respect to partnership, collaboration and willingness to move forward. The JAR was not an inspection of the Local Authority, but of children's services across the Borough. The relationships the police have with

their partners was described as ‘outstanding’, which is testimony to the hard work of our constabulary. Gary Barnett indicated that partnership is 2-way and he appreciates the support of partners in the Children’s Trust.

***Children’s Services Conference:*** Partners felt the recent Children’s Services Conference on Narrowing the Gap was excellent. The 3 main speakers have national profiles and have all advised the government. The conference allowed us to compare ourselves to the best nationally and it was felt that there is not a huge difference between the best and the position in Darlington. Partners felt our direction of travel is towards the best, but the detail provided by the conference workshops indicated that we have some way to go. It was noted that some of the decisions taken in Kingston in particular were brave.

***Bid for Targeted Mental Health Funding:*** The previously circulated letter of support for this bid was considered. Bob Mellard reported that cluster D had been chosen for part of the bid for DCSF funding with schools in Durham. The funding is now for £175,000 for each cluster for each of 2 years. It was agreed that the bid document would be circulated to partners.

**ACTION BM / KW**

Cllr McEwan congratulated Pat Howarth on the recent OFSTED inspection at Hummersknott School. The school was graded as ‘Good with Outstanding features’.

Thanks were recorded to Julian Kenshole for all his hard work as Lead Officer of the Children’s Trust since its inception. This role will now be taken by Mel Brown.

## **16 Dates of Future Meetings and Agenda Items**

The following dates of future meetings were noted:

- Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2009, 9.30am, Committee Room 1, Darlington Town Hall
- Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2009, 9.30am, Committee Room 1, Darlington Town Hall
- Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2009, 9.30am, Committee Room 1, Darlington Town Hall
- Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2009, 9.30am, Committee Room 1, Darlington Town Hall
- Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2009, 9.30am, Committee Room 1, Darlington Town Hall
- Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2009, 9.30am, Committee Room 1, Darlington Town Hall