

Children's Trust Board

(A themed group of Darlington Partnership)

Minutes of the meeting of the Children's Trust Board held on 16th July 2010, 9.30am, Darlington Town Hall

Cllr Cyndi Hughes (chair)	Chair, Children's Trust
Michael Barton	Deputy Chief Constable Durham Constabulary
Karen Grundy	Evolution Executive Director
Melanie Brown	Children's Trust Partnership Manager
Seth Pearson	Local Strategic Partnership
Mervyn Bell	Integrated Service Manager DBC
Kath Vasey	Community Health services
M J Fryer	Chair of Governors - DAG
Jenni Cooke,	Darlington Borough Council
Bob Mellard	Head Dodmire School
Cllr Garry Huntington	Durham Police Authority
Lucy Wheatley	Joint Health Commissioner, Darlington PCT
Jo McKeown	Job Centre Plus
Cllr Kathryn Larkin Bramley	Durham Police Authority
Tim Grant	Principal, Darlington College

In attendance

Nigel Pell-Ilderton	Lead officer DBC
Charlotte Linton (Minutes)	CYP partnership officer
David Gardiner	DAAT
Judith Morton	DBC
Julian Kenshole	DBC
Veronica Griffin	DBC
Ruth Bernstein	Head of libraries and community learning

1 Welcome and Apologies

Cllr Hughes welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies were received from:

Miriam Davidson, Director of Public Health, Darlington PCT
Paul Richardson, DBC
Anthony Prudhoe, NHS
Gill Walker, DBC
Pat Armstrong, Branksome School
Kate Jeffels, DAAT and DBC
Dela Smith, Education Village
Andy Dunn, DBC
Pauline Mitchell, DBC
Tim Fisher, Principal, QE 6th Form College
Chris Davis, Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust
Nick Blackburn, Heathfield Primary School
Dave Smith, GONE
Murray Rose, DBC
Hazel Willoughby, Probation Service

2 Minutes of the Children's Trust Board meeting held on 21st May 2010

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

3 Matters Arising

Mel updated the Board that she had received the reports from Marlene from the young inspectors programme and Mel will circulate these to the appropriate people.

Action – Mel Brown.

4 Urgent Business to be considered under Item 23

No urgent matters were raised.

5 Elective Home Education

Nigel was welcomed to the Board to give a presentation on Elective Home Education (EHE).

Nigel took the Board through the laws of EHE and explained that the main problem they face around safeguarding is that if a child has never attended school the parent is under no legal obligation to inform the local authority about their child being home schooled.

Nigel circulated to the Board a newsletter and guide designed for parents to introduce them to home education.

Nigel informed the Board that there have been improvements in this service and that very few parents now don't engage with the EHE service.

Jenny expressed the need to review the policy to try and build in around safeguarding as the current safeguarding concerns are access to the homes.

Kath expressed the need for better relationships with health and in particular school nurses. Cllr Hughes expressed that the Children's Trust had concerns about ensuring safeguarding of CYP when parents are under no legal obligation to inform the local authority of their choice to EHE.

Action – Kath Vasey and Nigel Pell – Ilderton to discuss health links further.

6 Under 18 Conceptions and Sexual Health

Donna Thorne was unable to attend the meeting. The item was deferred.

7 Adult Learning

Ruth Bernstein was welcomed to the Children's Trust Board to talk about the Adult Learning and Skills Strategy.

Ruth took the Board through the strategy. It was explained that this piece of work has been requested by both the Aspiring and Prosperous groups to fulfill the aims of the Sustainable Communities Strategy. Ruth took the Board through the data in the strategy and outlined that there are a large number of adults with under a level 2 qualification. The strategy was developed using outcome based accountability framework and will focus on narrowing the gap of those adults who are qualified under level 2.

Ruth highlighted that it was vital to work in partnership with the Third sector to meet the needs of people.

Michael Barton welcomed the strategy. Karen commented that the strategy had a good clear layout. Karen suggested to the Board that as there are current threats of

job loses employers need to look at what they are doing for their employees to help give them skills and the time they need for learning to progress their careers. Seth commented that the figures in the strategy may not be totally accurate as it may be difficult to get people to engage and for people to share their skill and qualification level.

Tim commented that there is a need to identify the priority groups and how they will meet their needs.

It was decided that any comments on the strategy were to be sent to Ruth and will be taken into consideration for future drafts.

Cllr Hughes thanked Ruth and her team for all of their excellent Community Learning Work and work with Library Service.

Action – Ruth to amend/update strategy to reflect suggestions from the board.

8 E-CAF Update

Veronica Griffin was welcomed to the Board and provided a recap on E-CAF. Veronica informed the Board of the current problem of the CAF paper system which is logged by the CAF support group and it is hard for practitioners to get hold of. It was explained that E-CAF is a national database across boundaries so practitioners can view it. It will also help produce more statistics to see what the needs are. E-CAF is an easy tool to use and user friendly. Veronica informed the Board that a letter of intent will state that E-CAF will be live in Darlington next summer and 800-1000 users will be trained across partners. Veronica asked the Board for their agreement to go ahead and for the release of practitioners for training.

The Board were informed that the E-CAF will be web based and will be accessible anywhere as long as the user has an access pin.

Mike Fryer questioned where the training would be held.

The Board were informed that there is a room set up in the Central point annex which could be used to train. It was also suggested that trainers would be trained and then they could go back to their organisations to train other practitioners.

The Board approved for this work to proceed.

9 Targeted Youth Support

David Gardiner was welcomed to the Board to present a report on Targeted Youth Support. David took the Board through the report. It was highlighted that this would target and work with young people who are on the verge of offending as a preventative measure. It will identify better use of existing multi agency working. The board were informed that area based support groups would be set up but the name of these groups has not been decided as it needs to be something parents understand.

Jenny commented that time scales need to be adjusted to allow a group of people to keep hold of a case. Jenny also brought to the Board's attention recommendation 8 in the report and suggested that this could not be agreed at this stage.

Seth commented that there needs to be a family focus not just a youth focus. Jenny informed the group that this would tie in with the Think Family strategy which will come to the Board at a later date.

David requested the support in principle of the Board.

The Board agreed to support this work.

Action – David would update TYS after discussions with partners such as police, Early Intervention and Prevention Team.

10 Operation Stay Safe

Michael Barton took the Board through the report on Operation Stay Safe. The main purpose of operation stay safe is to identify young people putting themselves at risk on the streets and these young people are then brought back to central house. They then speak to a social worker and parents are contacted. The current partners involved in the scheme are the police, antisocial behavior team, and social services. The police have agreed to mainstream funding for the police role, however there are issues around the funding of the social worker involved as there funding comes from YCAP money.

Jenny informed the Board that the YCAP commissioning group will next meet in August to evaluate all YCAP projects.

Cllr Hughes informed the Board of how crucial the role of the social worker is, to this operation as many cases are picked up that would otherwise be missed.

Tim informed the Board of the need for observation of the current interventions and see where there may be overlap and what is being missed.

Michael Barton informed the Board of a current piece of work he is undertaking which is mapping out disadvantage and vulnerable homes and seeing how many people are working with those households and he is willing to share this piece of work with the Board.

Action – Jenni Cooke to update Board about the recommendations from YCAP commissioning group following the August Meeting.

11 Youth Related Anti-social Behaviour

Judith Morton was welcomed to the Board to provide an update on Youth Related Anti-social Behaviour. Judith explained that there were concerns about the increase in youth related anti-social behaviour data so it was examined in some depth. Judith explained that factors contributing to the recorded youth related anti-social behavior included the ending of the street warden service and therefore the police were picking up a huge increase in calls to the police. There has also been a campaign to encourage people to report anti-social behavior which has also lead to an increase in recordings.

Michael Barton thanked Judith for the report and informed the Board that the way in which Anti-social Behaviour is recoded as youth related or not is down to the caller and many times they report the perpetrator as youths but they are in fact adults in their early 20s. The Board noted the contents of the report.

12 TellUs 4 Survey Report

Julian informed the group that the TellUs 4 survey was carried out by year six, eight and ten pupils and that there had been an increase of the number of schools that took part providing better representation from young people.

Julian informed the Board that the government has abolished the TellUs survey in order to reduce bureaucracy. This will mean that we lose a significant information stream as it provided performance measures to our NI set.

The issue presented to the Board is that the survey provides useful data and drives many of the priorities so another way is needed to consult with children and young people.

It was proposed to the Board that we needed to develop another survey.

Julian asked the Board if he could to liaise with partners in order to see what questions need to be asked in an alternative survey.

The recommendation made was that the Children's Trust receives an option paper to consider this at a future meeting. The Board approved this recommendation.

Action: Julian Kenshole and Mervyn Bell to progress the development of options paper.

13 Preventing Obesity Promoting Physical Activity Strategy Update

Lucy Wheatley provided the Board with a six monthly update on the Preventing Obesity Promoting Physical Activity Strategy. The most recent statistics are in the report and numbers are gradually reducing. Lucy asked the Board to note the contents of the report and to celebrate the progress.

Gary Huntington commented that many families can't access fresh food as a lot of estates do not have shops that provide fresh foods and many people do not have transport to go elsewhere for food.

The Board noted the contents of the report.

14 Children and Young People's Plan Review 2009-2010

Mel Circulated the CYPP Review for 2009-2010. Mel thanked partners for their support and work on the review and notified the Board that it will be submitted to Ofsted. Mel took the Board through the review and explained that the format has been kept the same as the previous review.

Section 3 of the review covers all ECM outcome data, story behind data and contained case studies. Mel thanked partners for being willing to share the information contained in Section 2 about partner inspection information.

Section 4 contains What's Changed logs and Mel gave thanks to Mervyn for the work from the consultation and engagement group.

Section 8 reinstates priorities and Mel notified the Board that these have been updated following the last Board meeting.

The review is to be published on the Children's Trust website and all partners must publish the review on their websites. Mel is to circulate the link for this.

Mel will circulate a presentation on the review for managers to use as a tool to inform staff. Cllr Hughes thanked Mel for this piece of work.

The following items are for information

15 Feedback from Provider forum

Mel updated the Board that there has been a review of members for this group

16 Feedback from Executive group

Cllr Hughes notified the Board that the Executive group had discussion regarding budget cuts.

17 Feedback from Joint Commissioning Unit

Jenny took the Board through the minutes.

18 14-19 Partnership Report

The Board noted the contents of the report

19 Aspiring Darlington Achievability Scorecards

The Board noted the contents of the report.

20 Perfectly Placed Analysis

The Board noted the contents of the report.

21 Aspiring Darlington Delivery Plan

The Board noted the contents of the report. Seth asked the board to note that Mel Brown undertakes considerable amount of work on behalf of Children's Trust for Aspiring Darlington as evidenced by items 19 to 21.

22 Urgent Business raised under item 4

The Board was notified that the draft Bercow action plan has been developed. It was agreed to consider who will be the new champion at the next meeting as Dela Smith retires soon and it is proposed that a Children's Trust Board member continues to be a champion for this.

Action – Children's Trust Board to nominate new communication Champion at September Board Meeting.

23 Dates of Future Meetings

Friday, 17th September 2010, 9.30am, Committee Room 1, Darlington Town Hall

Friday, 19th November 2010, 9.30am, Committee Room 1, Darlington Town Hall

Friday, 21st January 2011, 9.30am, Committee Room 1, Darlington Town Hall