



Children's Trust Board

(A themed group of Darlington Partnership)

**Minutes of the meeting of the Children's Trust Board held on 18th February 2011,
9:30am, Darlington Town Hall**

Attendance: Tim Grant (Darlington College), Cllr Cyndi Hughes (Chair), Melanie Brown (Children's Trust Partnership Manager), Mike Fryer (DAG), Seth Pearson (Darlington Partnership), Mervyn Bell (DBC), Paul Richardson (14-29 Partnership), Maura Banim (Teesside University), Karen Grundy (Evolution), Chris Reeves (Durham Constabulary), Elaine O'Brien (DBC), Kevin Duffy (Education Village – Representing Special Schools), Kath Vasey (Community Health Services), Lou Okello (NHS), Charlotte Linton (Evolution), Lynne Hunter (Carmel – Representing Secondary Schools), Neil Walker (Job Centre Plus), Jan Leverfe (DBC), Kevin Kelly (DBC), Lynne Henderson (DBC), Julian Kenshole (DBC)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Cllr Hughes welcomed board members to the meeting.

Apologies Noted From – Murray Rose, Miriam Davidson, Bob Mellard, Jenni Cooke, Ada Burns, Sue Richardson

2. Minutes of the Children's Trust board meeting held on 19th January 2011

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

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Urgent Business to be considered under item 21

None

5. Family Intervention Team

Jan Leverfe presented this item on behalf of Jenni Cooke. Jan took the Board through the report. The FIT developed from DBC's Family Intervention Project that focussed

initially on anti-social behaviour before extending its remit to youth crime. The remit was based upon the funding streams under Think Family grant from the former DCSF. The Think Family Board recently agreed to amend the FIT remit to include families where the children were at risk of becoming subject to child protection plans or at risk of coming into care. Recent research quoted by the DfE (i) found that a single family intervention could save up to £49,000. Further evidence suggested that for every £1 million invested in family intervention there could be a saving of £2.5 million. This evidences high quality interventions work.

The Board noted the contents of the report

6. Disabled Services Review – Kevin Kelly

Kevin Kelly took the Board through the Disabled services review. In June 2010 outcomes UK completed a feasibility study on a 13-25 Transitions Service on behalf of Children & Adult Social Care. The report outlined the benefits of a multi-agency service which would mutually benefit developments in the integration of services across the borough. The model selected is a ‘Skeleton’ structure based on the number of service users open to social care. The model will follow the ‘customer journey’ throughout their lifetime. There has been significant work undertaken already in relation to the phasing in between specialist, targeted and universal services. In particular there has been a focus on a ‘step up and step down model’.

There is an issue of capacity as it is a very small staff group.

Kath Vasey welcomed the opportunity to commence discussions re Health Integration in the disabled services team.

Kevin commented on the confidence of sustaining pathways for young people post 16 into employment.

The Board noted the contents of this report and approved the model of integration outlined in the report.

Action

Kevin Kelly to contact Lou Okello and Kath Vasey to progress Health Integration into the Disabled Services Team. Kevin Kelly to return to a future Children’s Board Team Meeting to update on progress of Integration with Health.

7. Child Care Sufficiency Review – Lynne Henderson

Lynne Henderson took the Board through the previously circulated report. In January 2010 the Department for Children, Schools and Families issued the ‘Securing Sufficient Childcare’ Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities. The guidance sets out which groups and interested stakeholders must be consulted as part of the assessment and which areas must be covered.

Darlington commissioned a local research company called RSUK Limited to carry out the CSA demand research. The 2011 Darlington CSA has highlighted that following feedback from parents, within the local childcare market, there is a lack of age appropriate holiday places/ activities for children aged 11-14/ 17 years with a

disability and a lack of regular, reliable after school provision on school sites. Flexibility of provision is an issue with demand for extended opening times, particularly for day nurseries and after school care. Affordability is an issue for some parents with price sensitivity being highest for holiday and after school clubs. Quality of provision is a problem for a discrete group of parents and inclusivity is variable. Also, the recession is forecast to affect the supply of childcare places in the medium term, particularly with regard to childminder places. It was commented that transport for after for after school clubs restricts access for young people with disabilities and this needs to be addressed.

The Board agreed the recommendations and approved 2011-2012 Childcare Sufficiency Action Plan.

8. Darlington Engagement Strategy

Teesside University will be opening a new campus at Central Park in September 2011.

The outcomes of the development will be:

- Delivery of employer – led skills and knowledge-based programmes and activities that attract new business investment and enable local organisations to grow
- Stimulation of demand for higher education from people who might otherwise not fulfil their potential (both adults and young people)
- Retention of higher education students from Darlington who might otherwise travel outside the region
- Long-term University commitment to providing accessible higher education which is of enduring value to students and their current and future employers.

There is already a comprehensive level of interaction with Schools and Colleges in the Darlington area including the university's 'Passport Plus' initiative: a step-by-step programme to inform students of the benefits of higher education and how to get there. Future planned activities with young people include; Motivational sessions, Subject 'Discovery Days', Guest/Specialist Lectures, Talks on how to apply to University, Interactive sessions to engage non-traditional students in HE. The campus will be open to ideas for activities to be put on the campus. This item will be going to the LSP Board in April.

The Board noted the contents of the strategy.

9. Social Norms Update- David Gardiner

David Gardiner presented this item on behalf of Kate Jeffels. Seven secondary education settings have completed the annual survey which have a total of 5456 pupils. 3061 responses were used for this analysis, representing 56% of the school population (far more than the 20% evidence would suggest is required for a representative sample). The number of respondents that said they have ever had a drink of alcohol has reduced from 82% to 66%. The numbers that drank in the previous week have reduced from almost 3 out of 10 in previous surveys to 2 out of 10 this year. The results in relation to drug use also show encouraging improvements. The number of young people that said they had ever taken drugs has fallen from 21% in the last survey to 10% this year. Previously the schools social norms survey focused on alcohol and drug misuse but after encouraging results it was agreed to also include tobacco, sexual health and bullying sections as optional additional content this year. Mel Brown commented that she is pleased to see bullying included in the survey and would like to capture that information in the needs analysis for the CYPP.

David Gardiner highlighted risks to this project if the Drug Education post was not funded in 2011-2012. Kath Vasey questioned David Gardiner about whether school nurses had been considered to deliver this in schools?

The Board noted the contents of the report and support the continued use of a social norms approach to address a range of health related behaviours.

10. Announced Inspection Presentation – Julian Kenshole

Julian Kenshole took the Board through a presentation on the Announced Inspection. It was explained to the Board that it will replace the Joint Area Review and it will contribute to Ofsted annual review of local authority Children's Services. 10 working days notice will be provided of when the inspection will take place and it will consist of a minimum of 4 inspectors for 10 days.

The inspectors will arrange independent surveys for LAC and recent care leaver's, social workers and other safeguarding professionals and the Third sector. The inspectors will look at the minutes from the Children's Trust Board and case files.

The Board noted the contents of the report

11. Annual Assessment of Children's Services – Julian Kenshole

Julian took the Board through the 2010 letter of the Annual Assessment of Children's Services Darlington has gone from performs well to adequate. Recent Ofsted inspections on children's homes, settings, childminders and the PRU will have impacted on the Ofsted judgement. None of the children's homes are now classed as inadequate. Mel Brown thanked Mervyn Bell for the progress with 'What's Changed Logs' as these have been referred to in the letter as good practice. Ofsted has also acknowledged outcomes for children are improving in Darlington.

The Board noted the contents of the report

12. CYPP 2011-2014 Progress – Mel Brown

Mel informed the Board that a Task and Finish group had met again to look at commissioning priorities for the CYPP and the Executive Group had reviewed the current priorities. A draft of the CYPP will come to the next Board meeting. Consultation on the needs analysis is underway and this is available on the Children's Trust website for partners to access. Parents and Children have been involved in the consultation process. Charlotte Linton informed the Board that the consultation is underway with young people across the Borough from a variety of Schools, Youth Clubs, and Council for School Council's. Young people are developing a Children and Young People's version of the CYPP. The children were asked to break down the priorities into a simplified form for young people to understand. A small task and finish group will be set up with young people to develop the plan. It has been suggested by the young people that a Facebook page would be the best way to engage young people on the plan.

Action - Draft CYPP to be considered at May's Children's Trust Board. - MEL Brown.

Action – Children's Trust Executive Group to lead stakeholder consultation for CYPP priorities. – Mel Brown

Action Progress the CYPP for young people. – Charlotte Linton

13. Feedback from the Provider Forum – Mel Brown

The Board noted the content's from this report.

14. Family Information Service Update – Sue Davison

The Board noted the content's from this report.

15. Parenting Update – Julie Bell

The Board noted the content's from this report.

16. Feedback from the Executive Group – Cllr Hughes

The Board noted the content's from this report.

17. Feedback from the Joint Commissioning Unit

The Board noted the content's from this report.

18. Summary of Government White Paper – The Importance of Teaching

The Board noted the content's from this report.

19. **Teenage Pregnancy and Health Education Update – Catherine Shaw**
The Board noted the content's from this report.
20. **Summary of NHS White Paper – Miriam Davidson**
The Board noted the content's from this report.
21. **Urgent Business raised under item 4.**
None raised

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- 20th May 2011, 9:30am Committee Room 1, Darlington Town Hall