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SOUTHAMPTON CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRUST BOARD  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON  
25TH NOVEMBER 2009

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Present:

BOARD MEMBERS

Cllr Holmes	- Cabinet Member for Children Services (Chair)
Cllr Walker	- Cabinet Member for Safeguarding Children
Clive Webster	- Executive Director of Children's Services and Learning
Sri Kandiah	- Police Authority
Phil Lee	- Representing Jo Ash, Southampton Children and Young People's Alliance
Jon Dyer Slade	- Safe City Partnership
Donald McPhail	- Local Safeguarding Children's Board
Ian Langley	- Wessex YOT
Andrew Mortimore	- Primary Care Trust
Alice Wrighton	- Further Education Representative
Hazel Inskip	- Governor's Forum and Council of Faiths Representative
Cassie Ellins	- Secondary Heads Conference Representative

IN ATTENDANCE

Sue Allan	- Head of Commissioning, Performance and Planning
Alison Alexander	- Lead, Achieve Economic Well Being Steering Group
Felicity Budgen	- Lead, of Stay Safe Steering Group
Paul Nugent	- Lead, Enjoy and Achieve Steering Group
Stephanie Ramsey	- Lead, Be Healthy Strategic Commissioning Steering Group
Donna Chapman	- Joint Commissioning Manager

1. APOLOGIES

ACTION

Apologies were received from Cllr Matthews, Anne Marie Mountifield, Andy Evans, Matthew Greening, Jo Ash and Gerida Montagu-Munson.

2. UPDATE ON SOUTHAMPTON REVIEW OF INTER-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS

The Trust Board received and noted the report of Stephanie Ramsey detailing the findings of an independent review that had been commissioned by the Chief Executives of Southampton City Council, NHS Southampton, Southampton University Hospital Trust and Hampshire Constabulary into Interagency Safeguarding Arrangements. It was noted that the aim of the review was to identify areas that required joint work to improve safeguarding within the city and ensure good outcomes for children and young people.

The review followed seven lines of enquiry

# ITEM NO. 8

- Workforce capacity
- Workforce capability
- Escalation processes and protocols
- Information flow and data sharing
- Use of data and information
- Quality and performance management

The review identified many areas of positive developments and good practice within the City and between and within agencies. However 94 substantial recommendations for possible development or further review were made which were detailed in the Executive Summary attached as appendix 1 of the report. It was noted that a proportion of these were already in place and being worked upon. It was noted that a small group of members from the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) were working on these recommendations and would be identifying actions to move these forward together with the development of an action plan which would be a Partnership approach to delivery and would require submission to both the Children and Young People Trust and LSCB for adoption/sign off.

LSCB  
Working  
Group

The Trust Board noted that there was not a requirement for this review to have taken place but given national press it was felt to be a proactive approach and would ensure that all processes and resources were in place to safeguard children and identify those families which were at risk. Communication would be vital throughout the processes to ensure efficiency and delivery of services.

It was noted that an Information Sharing Protocol was also being developed across agencies involved with this review which was with respective lawyers at this stage for final approval but it was stressed that information sharing across agencies would continue to take place.

### 3. STAY SAFE STEERING GROUP

The Trust Board received and noted the report from Felicity Budgen, Stay Safe Steering Group Lead detailing the activities of the Stay Safe Steering Group and providing information on capacity within Children's Social Care, the amalgamated agencies response to the Lord Laming Action Plan and the Stay Safe Action Plan and Performance Indicators.

The Trust Board specifically noted that information in relation to the Threshold Criteria had been shared through Heads briefings, LSCB and the Trust Board and that information had also been shared with all schools on open social cases on a half term basis. Felicity Budgen reported that out of the Primary Heads briefing clearer knowledge had been requested on what was available in each locality at Tier 2 and what was available pre CAF.

It was note that considerable funding had gone into recruiting additional social workers and that retention of staff would be vital; therefore workload and personal development were critical. It was noted that a number of

## ITEM NO. 8

initiatives were in place to ensure that staff felt valued.

It was AGREED that Councillor Holmes would write a letter to all social workers in Children's Social Care thanking them for their support.

Cllr Holmes

Discussions took place in relation to Looked After Children and the impact of immigration and the significant support that was required for these young people. It was noted that all unaccompanied asylum seekers went into care and that there was dedicated social care team for this in the City. Discussions were also taking place with the Border agencies, however it was highlighted that the Border agency had advised that Southampton Asylum Seekers figures were relatively low compared to other areas.

Reference was made to the Post 16 Interface and how best information could be managed, it was AGREED that Alice Wrighton, Alison Alexander and Felicity Budgen would work further on this.

AW/AA/FB

The Trust Board also discussed the need for a mapping exercise of Tier 2 services (Preventative Services) to identify what was available, what would want to be available, how commissioning and pooling of budgets could happen. It was AGREED that this would need developing as a matter of urgency over the next few months which would impact significantly on Looked After Children.

FB

#### 4. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION PLANS FROM SERIOUS CASE REVIEWS AND UPDATE FROM LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

The Trust Board received and noted the report of Donald McPhail, Independent Chair of the Local Children's Safeguarding Children's Board detailing the implementation of four serious case review action plans and seeking assurances from the Children and Young People Trust that key elements of safeguarding were put into place to improve outcomes for children and young people.

The Trust Board noted that a meeting had taken place between the Chair of the Safeguarding Children Board, the Director of Children's Services and the Safeguarding Adviser for the Government Office for the South East and the lead for Safeguarding from the Strategic Health Authority. The meeting had reviewed progress on the implementation of the four action plans and presented evidence of the actions taken by all agencies to achieve implementation of the plans. The main themes from the reviews had been communicated in workshops to staff across all agencies, and workshops held specifically for supervisors and managers in agencies.

It was noted that the main themes had been:

- the need to be clear about any changes in household composition
- the need to engage and assess male partners as well as mothers
- the need for all practitioners to identify risk factors from parental history
- the need to recognise which policies applied to the current situation

## ITEM NO. 8

- the need to undertake multi-agency pre-birth assessments
- the need to assess the implications of drug and alcohol misuse on the capacity of parents to meet the needs of their children.

The Trust Board noted that none of these themes were new and all were consistent with findings from serious case reviews nationally. The challenge for agencies of the Children's Trust in Southampton would be not to just learn the lessons again, but to embed the learning in practice to make a difference for the provision of services to improve the safeguarding of children. The themes had been passed to the chairs of the Monitoring and Evaluation and the Professional Practice sub-committees of the Local Safeguarding Children Board and to the Lead on Workforce Development to consider how the necessary changes could be embedded and to verify that these changes have been effective in safeguarding children.

Donald McPhail also highlighted the following issues that had been raised by the LSCB:-

- Information had been presented which demonstrated that there had been a reduction in the number of cases held by children's social workers. Whilst there had been progress in this respect, it was clear that caseloads within the children's social work workforce, although reduced, remained very high. The Safeguarding Children Board would continue to monitor the capacity within the children's social care workforce while this level of risk remained.
- The Board was concerned about the slow pace of engagement by Trust agencies with the Common Assessment Process. The CAF was an essential component of an integrated multi-agency assessment process, designed specifically to identify needs at the earliest possible stage to reduce the potential for the escalation of problems and to increase the potential for improved outcomes for children. The Safeguarding Children's Board considered that it was essential that Trust agencies fully engaged with the new strategies for the role out of the CAF to catch up with practice nationally.

### 5. 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS AGAINST ACTIONS IN THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN AND THE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The Trust Board considered the report of Sue Allan, Head of Commissioning, Planning and Performance detailing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Performance and progress against actions in the Children and Young People's Plan and the Annual Performance Assessment to date focussing on outcome indicators and actions where there was currently slight or significant variance.

The Trust Board noted that outcome indicators and actions were assessed against the following criteria:-

- Within 5% of or exceeding the set target - on target (coded green).
- Between 5% and 15% below set target - slight variance (coded amber).

## ITEM NO. 8

- More than 15% below set target - significant variance (coded red)

At the end of quarter two 59% of the outcome indicators monitored were on target or were exceeding their target, 25% were showing slight variance, and 16% were showing significant variance.

### RESOLVED:

- i. That the overall progress made towards achieving targets, for the outcome indicators in the Children and Young People's Plan be noted
- ii. That authority be delegated to the Chairs of the five Steering Groups to:-
  - Ensure that corrective action was implemented to bring the 35% of monitored indicators that were showing slight variance, and the 7% of indicators that were showing significant variance back into line with targets.
  - Ensure that targets were set for all measured outcomes
  - Co-ordinate action to bring the 47 actions currently showing variance back on schedule.
- iii. that progress being made in implementing the actions in the Children and Young People's Plan and Annual Performance Assessment implementation plan be noted.

All Steering  
Group  
Leads

### 6. CHILDREN'S ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT SCRUTINY INQUIRY

The Trust Board received and noted the report of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel who had conducted an inquiry into the Children's Annual Performance Assessment against the following objectives:-

- To consider whether the actions in the plan were appropriate, achievable and would deliver the necessary improvements to overcome the weaknesses identified
- To consider whether the plan could demonstrate sign up from key partners and partnerships including the Children and Young People's Trust and the Governors' Forum
- To consider performance in these areas since the APA letter was received
- To identify lessons learnt and how they could be reflected in assessments of performance to drive year on year improvement in key areas within Children's Services and Learning activities
- To identify any areas for more detailed investigation and support.

The Trust Board noted that the inquiry had identified the following recommendations for consideration by the Trust:-

- To raise the aspirations of children and young people in Southampton it was recommended that partners from the Children and Young People's Trust develop ways of identifying and promoting the

## ITEM NO. 8

achievements of “successful” young people from Southampton so that they could act as role models to children and young people.

- To improve data collection and how effectively data was used to help support performance improvement it was recommended that in the short term the City Council and Children and Young People’s Trust partners maximised the use of current corporate performance management systems with a view to improving integration with performance management systems used by the council and key partners.
- To improve the ability to track the development of children and young people in Southampton it was recommended that NHS Southampton City undertook regular health checks on children and young people in the City as they grew older and shared appropriate information with Children and Young People’s Trust partners through the use of the Council’s performance management system and that the City Council, in conjunction with Children and Young People’s Trust partners, collected and reviewed information available on the property type that children lived in (property type, tenure and ward area) to enable analysis to be undertaken of the relationship between housing, health and well-being and academic attainment. This analysis could then inform the actions needed to improve outcomes for children and young people in Southampton.
- That Cabinet worked with the Children and Young People’s Trust to identify further opportunities to develop the co-ordination of services delivered to children and young people to ensure that all relevant services were focussed on improving outcomes identified in Every Child Matters.
- That the Children and Young People’s Trust and appropriate partnerships had collective ownership of the issues identified within the report.

Discussions took place in relation to the recommendations and in particular the image of young people and the need to endorse positive images of them. It was noted that the Make a Positive Contribution Steering Group would be submitting a paper to a future meeting of the Trust Board in relation to the promotion of young people and recognising their voice and celebrating their successes.

AA

### 7. HEALTH AND WELL BEING STRATEGY 2009-12

The Trust Board considered the report of Stephanie Ramsey, Lead for Be Healthy Steering Group detailing Southampton’s Health and Wellbeing Strategic Plan 2009-12 for the City which addressed a number of local priorities for action that were identified in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

The Trust Board noted that there were key areas of overlap in strategic priorities with the Children and Young people’s plan as one of the key

## ITEM NO. 8

Strategic Priorities was:

“Achieving a healthy start in life - ensuring that every child and young person in Southampton would be given the opportunity to have the healthiest possible start in life and be supported to make healthy lifestyle choices.”

RESOLVED:

- i. That the Health and Well-being Strategic Plan and the joint accountability for the Strategic Priority be noted;
- ii. That the joint accountability for the shared Strategic Priority be agreed; and
- iii. That the actions identified be endorsed by the Trust Board.

### 8. NEW APPROACH TO PLANNING ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

The Trust Board considered the report of the Head of Young People and Community Support detailing a new approach to planning English for speakers of other languages (ESOL).

It was noted that ESOL had been published by the department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the department of Communities and Local Government, working alongside the Department for Work and Pensions and the Home Office. It placed new responsibilities on local authorities to work with their strategic partners, stakeholders and learning and skills providers to identify, support and prioritise individuals and groups that were not currently engaging with English learning, especially those who had made a long term commitment to remaining in the United Kingdom. Southampton's Local Strategic Partnership had nominated the Children and Young People's Trust to be the co-ordinating body for this strategic planning, in recognition of the central role of English language skills in the achievement of all outcomes for children and families, and of the responsibility of the Executive Director of Children's Services and Learning for the strategic development and delivery of adult learning and skills. The New Approach would involve English language needs being considered as part of wider local planning arrangements. This would engage a range of partners including local authorities, the Learning and Skills Council (to be replaced by the Skills Funding Agency from April 2010), Jobcentre Plus, colleges and other key planning and delivery partners, including the voluntary sector, working together to identify:

- key priority groups in the local area linked to data and strategic analysis;
- issues that were preventing these groups from engaging or progressing in their learning; and
- Actions to address these issues.

As part of the approach, a plan was to be submitted to the Learning and Skills Council by December 2009 to strategically inform local commissioning of English for Speakers of Other Languages for the academic year 2010/11.

RESOLVED: That authority be delegated to the Children and Young People's Trust Executive to approve the Plan prioritising English for speakers of other languages for submission to the Learning and Skills Council in December 2009.

CYPTE

9. CONSULTATION DRAFT ON THE STATUTORY GUIDANCE TO THE NEW CHILDREN'S TRUST ARRANGEMENTS

The Trust Board noted that a consultation document had been published detailing the Children's Trust Statutory Guidance on Co-operation Arrangements, including the Children's Trust Board and the Children and young People's Plans and Children and Young People's Plan Regulations.

It was noted that the consultation period would run from 13th November to 29th January, 2010. Individuals could respond or alternatively Sue Allan would collate any comment and respond. Comments were requested by the middle of January.

10. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th September, 2009 were agreed as a correct record.

11. MATTERS ARISING

None.

12. STEERING GROUP MINUTES

(a) Stay Safe

The minutes were received and noted.

(b) Enjoy and Achieve

The minutes were received and noted.

(c) Achieve Economic Well Being

The minutes were received and noted.

(d) Positive Contribution

The minutes were received and noted.

(e) Be Healthy

The minutes were received and noted.

## ITEM NO. 8

13. WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme was received and noted and updated accordingly.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- It was noted that the new Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill had introduced a requirement on the Local Safeguarding Children's Board to report to the Trust Board any comments on Safeguarding. It was anticipated that further details would be included in revised Working Together Guidance.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2010, Wheatsheaf House.