

WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 22 November 2011

Present: David Armstrong, Councillor Ann McLachlan (Chair), Bev Morgan, Emma Dodd, Fiona Johnstone, Councillor Pat Williams, Andrew Davies, Chief Superintendent John Martin, Kathryn Podmore, Gillian Thomas, Lyn Loughran, Sue Brown, Lisa Cooper, Debbie Mayor, Pat Higgins

In Attendance: Nancy Clarkson, Tracy Little, Julia Hassall, Mark Parkinson, Maureen McDaid, Matthew Humble; Ann Clarkson, Lesley Griffiths, David Robbins.

64 09:00 APOLOGIES AND INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Sheila Clarke, Richard Longster (Wirral Schools Forum), Derek Kitchin (WASH), Andy Styring (CAMHS), Adrian Hughes (Paediatrician), Jane Owens (Wirral Governors).

Cllr McLachlan welcomed Lisa Cooper to her first meeting as the representative of Wirral Community Trust (NHS).

65 09:00 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Bev Morgan and Emma Dodd declared an interest in minute items 71 and 72, as they represent commissioned services.

66 09:05 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes agreed as a true record.

67 09:10 CHILDREN'S SERVICES ASSESSMENT 2011

The recent OFSTED Children's Services Assessment has improved from a GOOD (Grade 3) to EXCELLENT (Grade 4). Wirral is one of 28 areas that have achieved excellent and is a testament to the combined hard work of all the organisations working with children across the Children's Trust.

David Armstrong requested that Board Members share the information with everyone in their organisations and pass on his thanks for all the dedication that has gone in to making the services for children in Wirral amongst the best in England.

The OFSTED assessment is very comprehensive; the report outlines the range of services and settings inspected. The challenge is to continue this high standard in the current financial climate. The Board were all pleased with the result. The Chair added her thanks and congratulations to all the organisations involved, the assessment was a result of all the multi-agency work that takes place across the Borough.

68 09:15 ENJOY AND ACHIEVE ANNUAL UPDATE

Mark Parkinson presented his annual report from the Enjoy and Achieve Outcome Group. Mark noted there was good progress at each key stage (KS), with room for further improvement particularly at KS1 and KS5.

Mark added that although the Narrowing the Gap (NTG) measure for KS4 is above 30%, the overall performance at KS4 is top quartile nationally, ranking Wirral the 18th LA in England.

Mark noted at KS4 the “100 club” worked with 100 FSM children who were at risk of not achieving KS4 5 A*-C (including English and maths). Additional funding and support was targeted to these children. The gap narrowed by a further 1% above what was expected. The “100 club” project will be revised and repeated.

Mark added that the challenge to raise attainment for children with FSM is a complex issue requiring a partnership approach. He added that the KS4 5 A*-C (English and maths) is a key milestone for children to progress to better outcomes further on in life.

Speech and language therapists are working in schools as an advice and consultancy service. This service effectively triages concerns about speech plus language issues and is showing some good results.

The MEAS and music service have been revised.

David Armstrong added that the NTG area was highlighted at post 16 in the OFSTED letter.

Kathryn Podmore asked if a similar project to ‘the 100 club’ was being used for KS5. Mark noted that work with KS5 is in place. The “100 club” type project is being considered at KS5 however, there is much less resource to implement this.

Mark noted that the SEN Green paper will be a priority area over the coming months.

Key challenges ahead include:-

- Implementation of Education Bill
- Ensure Education Quality continues to meet school requirements.
- Impact of budgets challenges.
- Narrowing the Gap.
- Consider the impact and the implementation of the Munro Review.

Key risks include:-

- Implications of reduction in staff.
- Implications of Academies.
- ICT infrastructure and support

David Armstrong noted the number of primary children at risk of permanent exclusion from school has increased. Mark noted that a managed moves policy was in place in secondary schools where schools undertake preventative work to support children before escalation to a move or exclusion. This process is under development in the Primary sector. Julia Hassall added that these children are often referred by primary schools for behavioural issues to CAF and TAC meetings.

Mark noted that four case studies are available for colleagues to read these include Step into Leisure, Discovery CLC, Education Quality and an SEN case study.

Councillor McLachlan thanked Mark and his team for all their work in this area. Councillor McLachlan asked that a referral pathway for behavioural issues is developed between CTB partners and that “behaviour” is brought back to a future meeting. Debbie Mayor offered to ensure health representation in this area.

Resolved - The Board note the report.

69 **09:55 CHILDREN'S FIRST STRATEGIC BOARD BI ANNUAL REPORT**

The Children's First Strategic Board is a multi-agency board with a focus on activity relating to children under five and their families. Mark Parkinson reports to the Board bi-annually on progress in this area.

The success of the childcare places for two year olds funding initiative is being built upon to increase the number of children accessing the free offer to 20%.

Work is planned to evaluate the sufficiency of child care across the Borough.

Wirral Children's Centres are involved in a pilot Department for Education payment by results (PbR) research project. Pat Higgins noted that it may be helpful to learn the lessons from PbR work in the NHS. Mark agreed and noted he was working closely with Rose Curtis.

The e-start database is now well established in children's centres providing a wealth of data and analysis to improve targeted activity.

Andrew Davies asked if there has been any work being conducted to look at the effect of transition between settings from F1 to F2 and the effects on FSP results. Mark responded he would take this back to Catherine Kerr, nothing had been done nationally that he was aware of.

Resolved – The Board note the report.

70 **10:15 CHILD POVERTY**

Bev Morgan updated that the Roots and Wings Draft Child Poverty Strategy has been approved by Cabinet. Further work will take place regarding developing the strategy and action plan. The focus on reducing child poverty should be embedded into the planning and work of all organisations in Wirral.

Bev added that awareness of the Child Poverty work has been raised by recent media coverage and that the Wirral Strategy will be officially launched in April. The Liverpool City Region Child Poverty Strategy has been launched and Bev will provide a web link to be circulated.

Twelve delegates have visited the Borough from America to look at how Child Poverty is managed in the region.

Nancy Clarkson added that staff, across the Council, are working on developing the strategy and that a Performance Management Framework was under development to ensure that delivering the strategy and associated action plan resulted in measurable improved outcomes for children, young people and their families.

Councillor Williams noted the importance of raising the aspirations for children and also to ensure that health issues are addressed, teaching children to eat well and look after themselves in the first instance.

Julia Hassall added that there is clear links between the Child Poverty and the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy. Bev added a pilot is underway to work with a handful of teenage mums to raise their aspirations and that of their children.

Resolved - The Board noted the report.

71 10:45 COMMISSIONING UPDATE

Maureen McDaid updated on the quarterly monitoring of the Early Intervention Grant. Maureen outlined the four priority areas.

Priority Area One: Parenting/Compromised Parenting

In some Parenting Programmes performance has been rates as red, due to new service providers preparing to become fully operational. There has been a delay in the 16-18 domestic violence programmes due to recruitment of staff. Actions have now been agreed and are being tightly monitored. Other contracts are working well.

Julia noted the success of the cross-agency needs led identification of young people involved in domestic violence and the good joint working from partners to identify and achieve this.

Priority Area Two - Short Breaks for Disabled Children

Two services have been rates as red, these are due to set up times and also issues of recruitment. These issues are being address and are being closely monitored. Six services have been rated as green.

Priority Area Three - Working with Young People at Risk of Exclusion from Schools

Within targeted support two service areas were rated as red. The funding paid for these activities will be reclaimed.

Priority Area Four - Universal Services

With regard to universal services, one area rated as Red and 10 services rated as green.

Maureen added that there has been a particular success at one youth club in Birkenhead, where 80-100 young people are attending the "Saturday night". Lyn Loughran, who volunteers at the club, noted that a number of the young people are vulnerable and the centre provides them a safe place to meet.

A drama workshop about substance misuse will be rolled out to schools. Maureen also added that four "Big Nights" will take place over the coming months which will be very exciting and provide positive events for young people.

David Armstrong noted that the Wirral Youth Theatre have moved into the old Gilbrook site. It has been renamed The Pilgrim Street Arts Centre.

Resolved - The Board note the report.

72 11:10 COMMUNITY BUDGETS

Maureen outlined the background to Community Budgets. Their purpose is to provide multi-agency support to families with complex or multiple needs and to address those needs to make a positive difference to the families involved.

There is no additional funding available, other than £20,000 for support to develop a project plan and the possibility of up to £50,000 for technical support in preparing a Community Budget implementation plan from April 2012.

By January it is expected that the programme would have the following in place:

- Timescales and decisions agreed
- Noticeable increase in understanding and commitment
- Commitment from managers to deadlines

Julia Hassall added that Wirral are already working in partnership well and have a solid foundation. Julia noted that the development of the criteria to determine “troubled families” within the Borough was required. Initial thoughts are that Seacombe would be a neighbourhood that would benefit from such a scheme.

Fiona Johnstone noted that this would align to the work of the Wellbeing Project which is using a locality approach. Sue Brown noted the impacts on children when one or more parent is in custody and of the importance of identifying families that may be known to the justice system.

Resolved – The Board note the report.

73 11:25 MULTI-AGENCY WORKING THROUGH AREA TEAMS

Matthew Humble presented an update into the physical co-location of teams across the Borough. Teams are located within buildings that children and families use including children’s centres and schools.

Ann Clarkson outlined the purpose and functions of area teams. The teams offer advice and guidance on TAC meetings and monitor the frequency and quality of TAC meetings.

The core team is made up of, social worker, information sharing co-ordinator, education social worker, a family support worker. In addition there may be youth workers, CAMHS workers, health visitors and school nurses.

David Robbins outlined that 50% of CAF activity takes place over Birkenhead and Rock Ferry. CAF activity can be reported to a small geographical area and ECM outcome area. Most common reasons for CAF include behaviour, parenting and health issues. Around 4,000 consultations have taken place over the last 12 months.

Lesley Griffiths gave an example of a child aged 8. The case came to light at CADT and has been sign posted and referred to different professionals. A further child aged 14 has had behavioural issues and is at risk of exclusion. She has had a number of interventions put in place and is progressing well.

Lesley added that the physical co-location of the Area Teams and the Assessment Teams has built good positive relationships and information sharing. The benefits for children and young people are wide-ranging including more timely interventions, efficient joined up approaches and improved outcomes for children and their families.

Bev Morgan noted the positive impact she has seen in families with regard to the co-location of the area teams.

Cllr McLachlan thanked colleagues for their report.

Resolved – The Board note the report.

74 11:45 QUARTER 2 CYPP PERFORMANCE REPORT

Tracy Little presented the Children and Young People's Plan Quarter Two performance report. Tracy noted that at quarter two twenty nine indicators could be reported of which 61% are either hitting or exceeding targets.

Performance headlines for children's services include:

- OFSTED Children's Services Assessment – PERFORMS EXCELLENTLY
- Wirral primary schools continue to perform well, 77% of all pupils gained a Level 4 or above in both English and Maths, compared to 74% nationally and 76% for the North West.
- This year's provisional GCSE results show that Wirral students have once again achieved the best ever results. 58% of Wirral students in maintained schools achieved the national benchmark of 5+ A*-C including English and mathematics, which is up from last year's result of 54%. 80% achieved 5 or more A*-C GCSE results, which again was up on last year's figure of 73%.
- The percentage of looked after children reaching level 4 at Key Stage 2 were 65.7% in English and 62.9% in Maths, exceeding the targets set and improving on last year's performance of 52% and 56%.

The performance of indicators rated amber and red was also outlined, actions are on place to address areas of under performance or indicators at risk of not meeting the annual targets.

Cllr. McLachlan gave her thanks for the report.

Resolved – The Board note the report.

Any Other Business

David Armstrong thanked everyone for their contribution to the Children's Trust over the last twelve months and Cllr. McLachlan echoed this and wished everyone a Happy Christmas.

David Armstrong updated that a new Director of Adult Social Services has been appointed; Graham Hodgkinson, he will start in the New Year.

Next Meeting: 24th January 2012, 9:00 – 12:00 PEC, Acre Lane