



Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 17 November 2014

PRESENT:

Councillor T Smith (Chair), Cllr W. Clements, Cllr C. Meaden, J. Hassall, P Sheridan, S Dainty, L. Loughran, J. Webster, J. Welsh, V. Harrison, I. Batman, N. Currie, R. Longster, M. Kilcoyne, J. Owens, K. Podmore

IN ATTENDANCE:

D. Robbins, S. Blevin, P. Smith, C. Drucker, G. Lorenz, N Clarkson, T. Woodhouse.

1.0 INTRODUCTIONS and APOLOGIES

Cllr Smith welcomed the members and noted apologies had been received from K. Podmore, B. Walker, B. Morgan, Chief Supt. J. Martin

2.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (29 September 2014) and ACTIONS ARISING

Agenda item no. 4 Alternative Provision: The Director of Children's Services advised that discussions have taken place with colleagues to ensure a robust system will be set up with regard to the collection of data. It was confirmed that information is being made available from schools and work is progressing.

Agenda item no. 11 Wirral Children's Trust Future Direction of Travel

J. Hassall advised the group that discussions pre and post meeting had been held with the Strategic Director of Families and Wellbeing and the Director of Public Health (Strategic Lead for commissioning). A task and finish group has been established to progress this issue and a report will be presented to the Board in 2015.

Amendments: B. Morgan was in attendance and R. Longster submitted his apologies. The Link Forum Annual report was presented by L. Loughran. With these amendments the minutes of the meeting on 29 September were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4.0 Children's Workforce Development Strategy 2014/15

The members received the report from Sue Blevins who advised that the CT Workforce Development Committee had revised and updated the Strategy. This review had resulted in the development of the following:-

- A one-year key action plan
- Development of an integrated competency framework
- Development and roll out of online training needs analysis tool
- Development of a performance management framework

The members also received a presentation that provided a comprehensive overview of the activities and work associated with the above key areas of work.

A one-year action plan had been developed which focused on the key deliverables for the group in the following 12 months. This action plan also reflected changing priorities and focus of Children's Trust partners. Part of this review had also been the development of a comprehensive competency framework for the assessment of core skills required by all staff working in the area of children and families.

Concern was raised about the level of experience and knowledge which could be lost due to the number of people leaving the council and partner organisations as a result of the economic situation. It was further stated that the information obtained as a result of the training needs analysis was not captured or available via one database. It was suggested that perhaps this was an opportunity for a joint piece of work with partners. V. Harrison, Community Trust, advised that they have a staff training database which is updated following training.

Discussions continued around the potential use of the performance framework and ideas as to how this could be cascaded to partners and schools; however it was considered that any training would be captured as part of any appraisal process and it was suggested that it might be appropriate to pilot this with key groups in the first instance.

Cllr Smith thanked S. Blevins for the comprehensive and informative report and presentation.

It was resolved that:

- **The Board notes the report and the information contained in the presentation**
- **All members to give consideration to the possibility of piloting the PMF and communicate with S Blevins to progress this**
- **An update report to be provided at a future meeting**

5.0 Child Poverty: Qtr 2 report

The members received the report that provided an update on the current work of the Child Poverty Group and the development of the school community hubs.

It was advised that the outcomes for both school hubs can be considered exceptional considering they have been operational less than 8 months. Arrangements have been made for this work to be presented to the Liverpool City Region and also for the 2 head teachers to present at the January meeting of the Board. J. Hassall confirmed that the work of the hubs can be considered a great success and highlighted the leadership and dedication of the two heads and was also a good example of how the ABCD model currently being championed across the borough can be used. In view of the success of the hub model, a proposal will go before Cabinet to approve funding in order to roll out the 'hub' model to a further school in Birkenhead.

Other areas of activity being undertaken by the Child Poverty Group cover the update of the JSNA section on Child Poverty and also the establishment of the Wirral Credit Union.

Cllr Clements voiced her support for the project and also for the development of the Credit Union. Cllr Smith also acknowledged the outstanding work currently being undertaken which was an excellent example of building on the strengths and wellbeing of the local community and working in partnership with parents and families.

It was resolved that:

- **The Board notes the report and approves the recommendations.**

6.0 Standards and Inclusion Strategy Group Annual Report

The members received the first report of the Standards and Inclusion Strategy Group. This group was formed in February 2014 and subsumed the activity of the Economic Wellbeing and Enjoy & Achieve Strategic Outcome groups. The Strategy Group meets on a regular basis and is chaired by K. Podmore. The report provides the Board with evidence and the impact of the work of the group against each of their priorities in the 2013 – 2016 Wirral Children & Young People's Plan.

Following discussion J. Hassall stated it was good to have the data and information in one very comprehensive report.

Cllr Smith offered his support and thanked the group for their work.

It was resolved that:

- **The Board notes the report and accepts the recommendations.**

7.0 Family Mental Health Project KIDSTIME (presentation)

C. Drucker and G. Lorenze advised the background to the work of KIDSTIME. This programme has been established with the aid of a small grant and a partnership of services working with them. They presented an outline of their activity at the recent workshops, which had been held with adults and children. The Board also viewed a UTube video which covered a parent with mental illness. They also advised the members that they have had about 50 plus referrals into the programme and that 12 families regularly attend the sessions. However, they also advised that their funding would cease at the end of March 2015. J. Hassall said she would discuss this with D. Gornik, lead commissioner for children's services.

Cllr Smith, on behalf of the Board, thanked the presenters for sharing the work of KIDSTIME with the members.

It was resolved that:

- **The Board notes the report.**

8.0 Neglect Strategy: Safeguarding update Qtr 2

The Board received the quarter 2 update from the Safeguarding Board. This covered key developments locally and nationally, updates on the progress of local serious case reviews and work locally and also key challenges for the partnership and agencies. The following updates were noted.

Child Sexual Exploitation. An assessment of Wirral's partnership actions to date had been undertaken in light of the Jay Report into CSE in Rotherham. A number of actions in Wirral have been implemented to strengthen the strategies and approaches to further ensure Wirral's ability and capacity to respond to each and every instance of CSE.

Neglect Strategy: The WSCB and partners published the Wirral Multi Agency Neglect Strategy in May 2014 and this was circulated to all partner agencies. A neglect strategy delivery plan has also been published and detailed actions and the timetable for completion of the three strategic objectives. This updated version has been included with the report. Progress on the strategy and delivery plan continues to be reported into the Staying Safe

Strategic Group and the WSCB Executive and the Board will continue to receive updates through the safeguarding reports.

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). This Hub went live on 17 September 2014 and is made up of a co-located team of professionals drawn from a range of agencies. It exists to improve the sharing of information in safeguarding Wirral's children and families. The development of the MASH is linked to priorities in the Children & Young People's Plan and the WSCB Business Plan in order to support the development of safeguarding approaches.

It was resolved that:

The Board notes the report.

9.0 Performance Report: Qtr 2

N. Clarkson updated the members on the performance and advised that of the 22 indicators that can be measured, 12 have set targets. Of these 6 are performing well against targets (GREEN) and 6 have missed the target by more than 10% (RED).

Exceptions:

Child Protection Plan (RED) this is a complex indicator, there is currently a lower rate than anticipated which was being reviewed.

Timeliness of adoptions: 3 children have been adopted by foster carers: currently stands at 15 but with 10 adoptions being on time. As the indicator is cumulative expectation is improvement over the year.

NEET indicator is RED related to the time of year as young people move around September however this is expected to improve.

Outcome 4 Attainments KS2:KS4: P. Sheridan discussed the data regarding this indicator and noted that target setting would be reviewed for the next year.

Outcome 5 : S. Dainty advised that the recent health survey to schools had been delayed as a couple of questions had been added about drugs and concerns had been raised. This was being progressed.

It was resolved that:

The Board notes the report.

10.0 AOB

The group was informed that Iris Batman was retiring at the end of 2014. On behalf of the members Cllr Smith thanked Iris for her contribution and commitment to the work of the Children's Trust over the past years. He went on to wish her a long and happy retirement.

CLOSE:

As there was no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 11.50 hrs.

DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS

9.00 am 20 January 2015

9.00 am 17 March 2015

9.00 am 19 May 2015

9.00 am 21 July 2015