



Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 31 March 2015

PRESENT:

Councillor T Smith (Chair), Cllr W. Clements, Cllr C. Meaden, J. Hassall, P Sheridan, S Dainty, J. Graham, V. Harrison, R. Longster, J. Owens, N. Robertson, B. Walker, Supt Martin

IN ATTENDANCE:

M. Newman, T. Woodhouse.

1.0 INTRODUCTIONS and APOLOGIES

Cllr Smith welcomed the members and noted apologies had been received from J. Webster, J. Welsh, G. Price, F. Pender, N. Currie, P. Ellis, N. Clarkson, K. Podmore

2.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Meaden declared her interest as a family member was connected via employment.

3.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (20 January 2015) and ACTIONS ARISING

The minutes were checked for accuracy and a correction was noted of non-attendance of Supt Martin at the last meeting. With this amendment the minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

J. Hassall took the opportunity to announce that a small amount of money had been made available to help fund the resource at Link Forum. This would be in place from April 2015. J. Owens welcomed the good news as it was felt this was an important resource.

4.0 Ofsted's Single Inspection Framework for Children's Services (presentation)

The Board received the presentation, which outlined the recent work undertaken by S. Butcher and provided an excellent platform to take the service forward. Slide 1 focused on the difference that can be made and how well social workers and others would work directly with families to manage the risk involved. It also highlighted strengths of partnership working and how this can prove to be effective for children caught up in situations of domestic violence, drug or alcohol misuse in the home. It also noted that Ofsted would be looking for leadership and accountability as being key. The work also focused on CSE and also that this must be high on the agenda of scrutiny committees in the future. It also advised that a watch on 'child out of the area' must be maintained.

The Ofsted visits will be unannounced and high their radar will be to ensure that child protection plans are in place. During the 4-week visit they will look at the MASH process, look at a sample of cases and will also talk to foster carers. Daily meetings will be held with the director, senior managers and also practitioners. Since the Ofsted report of March no authority has been ranked as outstanding. The Board was also advised that a new Head of Service has been appointed to help ensure that Wirral is ready and prepared for any visits. J. Owens asked if any specific training or CPD has been put in place to support staff. In response it was advised that a considerable amount of extra training and support has been undertaken and a period of consolidation needs to take place to ensure all staff are clear as to what the inspectors expect.

R. Longster said that the presentation gives a clear in depth oversight and requested areas of focus or actions that the Board needed to be aware of. He was advised that the work had highlighted some areas that needed to show improvement and these were being addressed.

B. Walker suggested that the Board obtain a copy of the Leeds Ofsted report, which showed that leadership was outstanding, and also illustrated examples of good social services.

Cllr Smith thanked J. Hassall and also S. Butcher for the work and closed by saying that he hoped all areas of the council and partners would note the need for pace and also the change in culture that was perhaps needed.

It was resolved that: The Board notes the information in the presentation.

5.0 Being Healthy Group – Annual Update

The Board received the annual update. It was advised that the National Healthy Child programme sets out the recommended framework of universal and progressive services for C&YP to promote their health and wellbeing. This in part will be delivered via the HCP 0-19 programme. The Board was asked to note section No.2 of the report, which highlighted the key achievements relating to the priorities for 2014/15; the most notable being the breastfeeding needs assessment, which was completed to examine local views/best practice in order to inform service developments and the work on oral health. Section no. 3 focuses on the key issues for 2015/16, which highlighted the conversations currently taking place to develop joint commissioning for children's services. Also the promotion of Vitamin D update has been included in the Healthy Child Programme and it is hoped that uptake would increase through partner organisations.

Areas for development will focus on oral health, maternity services, work with the Better Food Wirral with regard to free school meal offer and also the strategy development for Risk and Resilience.

Sections no. 4 and 5 deal with the key challenges ahead, with the risk to outcome of delivery and actions due to budget demands and resources.

Section no. 6 outlined the areas requiring further partnership work around breastfeeding, teenage pregnancy and the JSNA. However it was pointed out that Public Health continue to impact assess any changes to priorities and regular undertakes needs assessments. Areas for reporting focus are noted in Section no. 8 and cover infant mortality, infant feeding, pupil panels, teenage pregnancy and alcohol and substance misuse.

In summary, the Board was advised that good progress has been made in delivering the Being Healthy element of the C&YP Plan and in meeting some of the relevant national indicators relating to this outcome area. Further changes and budgetary challenges will continue to affect progress during the current year and the impact of these will require monitoring and remedial action.

Cllr Smith thanked J. Graham for the comprehensive report.

It was resolved that: The Board notes the report.

6.0 Safeguarding Update: Child Sexual Exploitation

The Board received the report of the WSCB, which highlighted the 12-month campaign against CSE. It also brought the members' attention to the launch on 18 March of the

National Awareness Raising Day for Child Sexual Exploitation. The campaign is in partnership with the Merseyside LSCB and details can be found on the website www.listentomystory.co.uk. The WSCB has requested that partners answer the 4 key questions highlighted in the report with regards to their CSE preparedness, with responses returned by 24 April. The findings will then be published.

The discussions at the quarterly meetings of the WSCB are also brought to the attention of members and some of the topics covered in their 10 March meeting are contained in the report. This included a discussion on private fostering and a task and finish group would be set up to further discuss and implement recommendations with regard to private fostering. The Board was also advised that the Section 11/Section 175 Safeguarding Audit is now on line and training has been offered to all partners. B. Walker also reported on the launch of the WSCB twitter account – @wirrallscb. This will coincide with the launch of the national awareness raising day and WSCB will continue to explore other ways to be accessible to children, young people, families, professionals and the wider community including using social media and redeveloping the use of the website.

In response to a question on private fostering, Cllr Meaden explained that this was usually a private arrangement between families or extended family members to look after children or young people. J. Owens was pleased to hear about the twitter account and also advised the members of the excellent talk given to her school governors recently by David Robbins on CSE. B. Walker also offered assistance to partners with regard to the completion of the Safeguarding Audit, which although not compulsory, would be of great value if completed. An invitation to visit the May meeting of Headteachers to explain the Audit was extended to B. Walker.

Cllr Smith thanks B. Walker for his report.

It was resolved that: The Board accepts the recommendations in the report.

7.0 Annual Review and Refresh of the C&YP Plan

The Board received the report and updated Plan, which was an annual review and refresh to determine that the Plan remains relevant and fit for purpose. It is a concise tool for review against progress. The members were advised that there is no statutory requirement to have a C&YP Plan and going forward there is a proposal to evolve to a new structure as a Wirral Children's Trust Commissioning Group. The Plan has reflected this proposed change but the Children's Trust Executive has ensured that the priority areas and activity included are areas that will continue to be delivered in the final year.

It was resolved that: The Board approved the recommendation in the report.

8.0 Children's Trust Board Direction of Travel (tabled)

J. Monty tabled a copy of the Task and Finish group recommendations to the Board. This presented the recommendations from the task and finish group on the proposal to position the Board as a Children's Trust Joint Commissioning Group. This group was set up following discussions and a recommendation at the September 2014.

The proposal sets out the future direction of travel for the Children's Trust. The Children's Trust Board would continue and become the Children's Trust Partnership Board and its membership would broadly remain the same with the opportunity to review going forward. The main function of the Board would be ratify and endorse key decisions as well as being the medium for scrutinising, reporting performance and to ensure that the C&YP Plan is delivered. The Board would meet three times per year. A Children's Joint Commissioning

Group would also be established; the membership of this group would be taken from strategic commissioners from a number of partners. This group would be the vehicle to drive forward proposals and specifications and manage and align resources and focus commissioning on outcomes.

It is recommended that the Board allow the new arrangements time to operate and to commence fully in September 2015. The Joint Commissioning Group will also meet and report into the Board. It was advised that the focus for 15/16 would be on early years and readiness for school and SEND. The group's attention was also brought to section 4.3 of the proposal, which sets out the need to align intelligence/data and finance. Each member of the joint Commissioning Group would need to identify areas of responsibility, resources and budget breakdown.

B. Walker suggested that the 3 objectives of the Children & Young People be included in the terms of reference together with a reference to the Health & Wellbeing Board.

J. Hassall said the proposal is an opportunity to work with and through partners as key decisions need to be made on how the budget is used.

It was resolved that:

The Board accepts the recommendations in the proposal.

An update would be presented to the Board in July.

9.0 LADS Project (presentation)

The Board received the presentation on the LADS project which is a project aimed at young men aged between 13-19 years old and has been designed to address a number of issues relevant to young men in today's society. This could be drug/alcohol misuse: harmful/exploitative relationships: criminal/anti-social behaviour: raising aspirations and developing resilience.

Access is via the GATEWAY and 39 young men were involved and an outline of the activities and subjects covered during the 8-week development programme were outlined.

In response to a question on feedback, Mark Newman advised that no formal feedback process was followed and maybe it was something that needs to be considered. Also Supt Martin was interested in following up on the risk taking behaviour session.

Discussions followed on the possibility of holding future events but the issue of funding was raised and one area of potential was via a link to the pupil funding and the possibility of a link with schools. A suggestion that there may be access to funding via the youth offending service was also mentioned.

Cllr Smith thanked M. Newman for the presentation.

It was resolved that: The Board notes the information contained in the presentation.

10.0 Early Years, Children's Centres, Early Help - update

The Board received the report on the three key areas related to early years, children's centres and early help.

It was advised that the Early Years and Children's Centres review had been out to public consultation and four specialist events for partners and key staff were also held. The service

specification information was also considered and local consultation with service users and partners also took place. The Board was advised that all information from the consultation and events would be taken to the Steering Group for Early Years. This group would oversee the implementation, development and ongoing delivery of the proposed model.

With regard to the Ofsted inspection, it was reported that the inspections of Birkenhead Children's Centres Cluster group in May 2014 and West Wirral Cluster Group in February 2015 were both judged as inadequate but it was confirmed that no children were left compromised as a result of the inspection. It was further reported that significant improvements have taken place since the last inspection. Standards of practice and management and oversight of individual casework has been implemented in preparation for an inspection in the near future.

Cllr Smith acknowledged the work that had taken place and also that pace and a change in culture needs to be recognised. However it was also recognised that we have to target families that need support and evidence this. The Board was informed that task and finish groups have also been set up to develop a local strategy.

Cllr Smith thanked D. Gornik for the comprehensive update.

It was resolved that: The Board notes the report and appendices.

11. AOB

No further items for discussion had been raised.

CLOSE:

As there was no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 11.40 hrs

DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS

9.00 am 21 July 2015 Wallasey Town Hall