

the responsibility of everyone. This will be trialled in a few schools and once the process is correct CAMHS will look at how to roll it out.

CAMHS is also working to increase the involvement of young people in developing plans and asking them if they know how to access services, what they want to see and how should services look.

Part of the transformation is looking at Community Paediatric Services. There are currently very long waiting lists and early intervention could avoid inappropriate medication. The plan has been presented to hospitals for reviewed and will be subsequently presented to partners. J Hassall added that this will help with early intervention for prevention of self-harm, which is increasing nationally. She re-iterated that linking with schools is key and that schools are all keen to be able to have access to expertise and early help.

P Sheridan and J Owens commented that governors could be involved in monitoring that training of staff is undertaken. P Sheridan also asked if thresholds would be developed. J Hassall said that thresholds are being reviewed in relation to the single referral route and that if possible all partners should sign up to using the same criteria/thresholds so that each level is the same for all the different partners. M Kilcoyne suggested that voluntary organisation workers in schools should also be included in training.

It was resolved that: The Board noted the update.

5.0 PERFORMANCE REPORT Q2 2015-16

The board received the report. Of the 22 indicators 15 were green, 2 amber and 5 red.

CSC001: Rate of referral to Children's Social Care. There has been significant increase in referral, including increase in reporting of domestic abuse. J Martin said that there is increased reporting and better recording of domestic abuse but that the incidence is also increasing. Workshops in Social Care have potentially led to an increase in the number referrals accepted. The numbers are still high compared to other LA's. From December the figures have actually decreased a little.

CSC014 and CSC016: Family Intervention Service engagement with families and positive outcomes with families. Although delayed by the implementation of merging two teams into one service, the single service has been live from October and is now getting back on track. The team are still waiting for a Data Officer to be employed and once data is returned to Government, the funding can be claimed retrospectively.

EDU006: The achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers. There are now 3 Locality Boards which are proving effective at scrutinising and challenging each other, including gaps in pupils' attainment. There was a discussion about schools becoming academies and how they will work with the Local Authority to deliver on Wirral's 2020 pledge that all children will attend good or outstanding schools. The strength of partnership working and all signing up to the outcomes in the pledges, will be key to achieving these aspirational targets for all children to attend good / outstanding schools.

CSC019: % of families with an under 5 living in the 20% most deprived SOA's who have sustained contact with a Children's Centre. The service is being restructured but staff should be in post by March for the new service to start in April. J Hassall drew the board's attention to the improved figures in CSC020 and CSC021 despite the disruption during the restructuring of the service.

CSC008: Rate of Looked After Children. Wirral has high numbers of young people who have been in care for a long time and this must be reduced. The CLA taskforce is looking at foster care which could become permanent for children through Special Guardianship Orders being granted and where care orders for children living at home can safely be removed. In response to a question from Cllr Clements about if this will reduce foster carer capacity if they become Special Guardians, J Hassall agreed that it will, and this will need to be a factor in our Sufficiency Plan which sets out the nature of new provision required to meet existing and future children's needs. Additionally, whilst Government encouragement for post 18's to remain with their foster carers benefits those young people, this further reduces the resource. J Owens asked if the numbers just relate to Wirral children or does it include those from other boroughs residing in Wirral and also does it include Wirral's out of borough children. J Hassall said the figures only include Wirral children. P Sheridan added that Wirral is a nett importer of looked after children and they are all placed in good schools and often achieve very well. This is not reflected in Wirral's CLA performance figures as they are not included, however, Wirral's out of borough young people are included and these are often the children with the most complex needs and are often placed in schools which are not as good as they should be and this impacts on how well children achieve. J Hassall said that the numbers of children being placed out of borough needs to be challenged, particularly those children moved as automatic response when the child is at risk of or has experienced sexual exploitation; this can make the child feel as if they are being punished, they may run away to reach home and so put themselves more at risk.

C Campbell asked if the Out of Borough register can be shared with CAMHS as they need to know if a young person is able to access relevant mental health services in the area where they have been placed. J Monty agreed to look at how this information can be sent securely to CAMHS. The information is currently shared at Resource Panel but lists are not provided. J Hassall said this can be looked at by the Children's Joint Commissioning Group.

Cllr Meaden asked about use of independent fostering agencies when children are placed out of borough.

It was resolved that:

- 1. The Board noted the report.**
- 2. Julia Hassall to take to the Children's Joint Commissioning Group**
 - a. The secure sharing of independent sector placement information**
 - b. Use of independent fostering agencies when placing children out of borough**
 - c. Challenge the numbers of children being placed out of borough.**
- 3. Julia Hassall to bring more detailed report about out of borough placements to the next meeting.**

6.0 UPDATE: WIRRAL CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING BOARD

The results of the safeguarding audit (Section 11) were encouraging but are not grounds for complacency. There were some issues as a result of all 5 Merseyside LA's undertaking this jointly, mostly around the terminology used in the questions not being universally recognised. For this reason it has been decided to just undertake a Wirral audit next time although the region is working together to resolve the issues. There was discussion about how this can be achieved.

J Owens suggested using safeguarding governors of schools as point of contact to ensure schools have carried out the audit. This would be in addition to the current checks carried out by the Consultant Heads.

WSCB now meets every other month to ensure that workload is covered. In response to a query from J Owens, B Walker said that the Board membership is still compliant with Government Guidelines and Board members agreed to the increased frequency of meetings.

There will be a dedicated website by 1st April. J Owens said that the membership of the WSCB published on the Council Website is out of date.

There has been a recent Government announcement about a Review of Children's Safeguarding Boards. Wirral don't know when this will take place but it will be fairly soon.

J Harvey suggested that child deaths should be included.

It was resolved that:

1. The Board noted the report.

7.0 Leasowe and Woodchurch Pilot Hub evaluation report.

A short video was shown of parents giving their views and showing some of the activities for children. J Hassall presented the report on behalf of Rebecca Mellor who could not attend, and asked the Board to consider the recommendation of the report:

- To look at key learnings
- To determine how to take this forward.

After a discussion about how much funding and how to ensure it is sustainable, J Hassall suggested that each of the 2 hubs should be given £25,000 for one more year and the LA considers putting in a bid to Government for Innovation Funding as this is a good innovative project which builds community relationships and attracts further funding from local voluntary organisations. It was agreed in principle that some further funding must be provided but that there must be clarity on what the money is spent on and going forward we must ensure that LA funding does not hinder the building of funding relationships with voluntary organisations. It should also be explored if families attending the hubs would be willing to pay for some of the things that are provided.

It was resolved that: The Board noted the report and took the decision to

- 1. Fund the existing 2 hubs for a further year, providing there is an understanding of how the money will be spent. J Hassall to discuss spending with the two schools.**
- 2. The LA should explore Innovation Funding for taking forward and rolling out.**

8.0 FOUNDATION YEARS PROJECT UPDATE

Z Munby introduced her replacement as she is retiring.

The report presented to the Board included a brief summary of all Foundation Years services which ran during 2015. Moving forward, restructuring of data monitoring to cope with larger numbers accessing the service is a priority. Challenges have been synergy with Children's Centres during their restructuring and engagement in Rock Ferry. Zoe Munby's replacement has worked with Rock Ferry previously; it is hoped that this will help to improve the engagement at Rock Ferry.

A more in-depth review of the Bump-Start service piloted in Birkenhead was presented. The aim for this service was to provide a core service across Birkenhead by the end of 2015 and this has been achieved. All milestones, except one, were met.

The pilot shows that there needs to be dialogue with the Local Authority around families who have lost one child to care but have kept a new baby, with Bump-Start support, for the first 6 months. How these families can continue to be supported needs to be reviewed. Or would Wirral prefer that these families are not included in the Bump-Start service. It was agreed that these families do need support and should continue to be included.

Councillor Clements, on behalf of the Board, thanked Zoe Munby for this report and for all her previous input on Foundation Trust projects.

It was resolved that: The Board noted the report and took the decision that

- 1. the Bump-Start project should continue to engage with families who have lost a previous child to care**
- 2. Z Munby's team to talk to Deborah Gornik re continuing support when Bump-Start is stepped down for these families.**

9.0: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN

I. Update of Action Plan (not on agenda)

The action plan has been updated to ensure that work is progressing. This can be used to inform the new strategy and reminds of what has gone before. J Hassall said that the strategy was developed in 2014 and it is important that ongoing work is captured as the outcomes are still relevant for each area and will be reviewed in order to see whether there are any outstanding actions which need to be part of the new Children's Strategy.

10.0 CHILDREN'S STRATEGY

II. Consultation Engagement for Children's Strategy 2020

J Monty brought the survey to the meeting. It engaged with all young people covering different age groups and included disabled children and young people. This was followed up with focus groups to find out further detail about the answers. Work was also undertaken with parent groups. The survey asked young people where they felt safe and where they didn't feel safe. The responses will be taken into the new Children's Plan.

There was discussion about some of the figures highlighted by the survey and that further work can be done with future focus groups to elaborate on these.

III. Children's Strategy Update

J Hassall is sponsoring the development of a new Children, young People and Families Strategy. The framework includes an Introduction and Foreword from Councillor Tony Smith and 3 pledges:

- Children will be ready for school
- Young people will be ready for work and adulthood
- Vulnerable young people will reach their full potential

The key principles will be

- Children's voice
- What works for families
- Children and families will only have to tell their story once and work with one key worker.

For each of the three pledges the strategy will set out

- what Wirral does
- what Wirral knows
- what Wirral will do.
- national commentary and insight
- local insight
- national survey work

The action plan will be split into priorities and themes and will link to other strategies. Wirral is working with partners, it is important it is a partner and not council document.

It was resolved that: The Board noted the three items relating to The Children's Strategy.

11.0 CHILDREN'S JOINT COMMISSIONING GROUP UPDATE

The Early Help Strategy was signed off by the group in the November meeting. The December meeting focused on strategy. The Child Poverty Strategy has become Improving Children's Life Chances. It is important that this year the work of the group will include ensuring that the Children's Strategy is delivered. C Campbell asked if all groups that feed into the CJCG will have accountability and JM assured that they would.

It was resolved that: The Board noted the report.

12.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

None

CLOSE

As there was no other business the meeting closed at 12.00 hrs.

DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS

16TH May 2016 at 9.00am

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