

SUNDERLAND HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

24 May 2013

FEEDBACK FROM SUNDERLAND CHILDREN TRUST BOARD – 2 MAY 2013

Report of the Chair of the Children's Trust

1. Membership of the Children's Trust

Beverley Scanlon (Head of Schools and Lifelong Learning) presented a report setting out the need to change the current membership of the Children's Trust to reflect national and local changes to NHS structures and responsibilities, outlined in the Health and Social Care Act 2011.

The following recommendations were agreed:

- Dr Ian Pattison, Chair of Sunderland's CCG be invited to ensure that children's health continues to be a priority area.
- A representative from the Area Team of NHS England be sought.
- Sue Winfield (former Chair of the PCT and vice chair of the Trust) be invited to join the Board as a lay member.
- Letters of invitation will be sent on behalf of Cllr Pat Smith, Chair of the Sunderland Children's Trust.
- The nomination and agreement of the vice chair of the Board was deferred, and in the meantime nominations will be sought via email.

2. Child Sexual Exploitation

Catherine Joyce (Leaving Care Team Manager) gave a presentation to ensure that the Board are aware of the work of the Police and Social Care and the strategies that are in place to allow the Sexually Exploited and Missing (SEAM) Group, which is supported by a performance analyst and principal social worker.

There is a sub-regional Strategy in place, which is supported by the SSCB procedures in relation to Missing and Sexually Exploited Children. There is also a Sunderland Operational Group which monitors and raises awareness of the issues.

There are a number of Actions for Prevention in place, including:

- Promoting awareness and understanding of the issue with young people.
- Promoting high quality sex and relationships education in schools to include teaching young people about sexual consent.
- Offering schools drama based productions (Chelsea's Choice) to raise issues with young people.
- Work with young parents and carers to support them in recognising the signs and symptoms as well as identifying vulnerabilities.

3. Health and Wellbeing Board

Keith Moore (Executive Director Children's Services) provided the Trust with an update on items discussed at Health and Wellbeing Board on 22 March 2013.

It was agreed that minutes from the meeting would be circulated with Trust members once approved.

4. Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

Meg Boustead (Head of Safeguarding) provided a report which set out proposals for a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), which would be similar to those set up in other parts of the country, including Devon and Staffordshire.

The Sunderland Hub would deliver an integrated safeguarding response to children at risk of harm. The intention is to replace the current single agency social work Initial Response Team with a co-located team comprised of a Social Care Team Manager, a team of social workers, two police officers and two Health Safeguarding Advisors, based at Gillbridge Police Station. It is also proposed to place the Local Authority Designed Officer (LADO), which is a statutory role that deals with allegations against staff and volunteers across the city to benefit from the information sharing environment.

The proposal is to establish the Sunderland MASH to initially only respond to concerns about child protection, including child sexual exploitation and missing children.

There is also a project running parallel to this, to migrate initial contact for Children's Social Care into the Council's Customer Service Network, and whilst these two proposals are inter-connected, they are not totally dependent on each other, but it is hoped to realise significant benefits from running them in parallel, with an implementation date of July 2013.

The Northumbria Police Head of Crime has formally confirmed support, whilst the views of the Police Crime Commissioner are being sought.

A report will be submitted to the Council's Executive Management Team on 7 May 2013 seeking formal approval to proceed.

5. Children's Trust Advisory Network (CTAN)

Agnes Rowntree (Business Relationship and Governance Officer) presented a report which provided the Children's Trust Board with an update on the work of the Children's Trust Advisory Network.

- Gentoo undertook consultation to seek views on the different forms of communication that can be used to connect with young people.
- CTAN agreed to participate in inter-generational sessions and workshops.

The next CTAN meeting will take place on 14 May where presentations will be received regarding the development of the Music Strategy and the new City Hospitals Paediatric Unit.

The representative (Alison Wheeler) from the Office of the Children's Commissioner is visiting CTAN on 11 July and Cllr Pat Smith and Keith Moore, representing the Board, will meet with Alison on the day.

6. Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board

Meg Boustead (Head of Safeguarding) provided a verbal update on the key discussion items from the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) held on 24 April 2013. The following items were discussed:

- Review of the Joint Committees of the SSCB and Adult Safeguarding Board.
- Impact of efficiencies on the SSCB – how do you measure the impact?
- Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) - see note above.
- Francis Inquiry in the Mid-Staffordshire NHS Trust – lessons to be learned.

Ofsted and Inspection: A copy of a letter from Sir Michael Wilshaw (Chief Inspector) to Michael Gove (Secretary of State for Education) was received. It set out Ofsted's plans to delay the launch of the proposed multi-agency child protection inspections, for the following reasons:

- There should be no separation of the looked after children and Child Protection inspection.
- The pilot inspections raised a number of issues including how to test, challenge and judge the specific accountabilities for each agency to protect and help children, young people and their families.

Ofsted will publish a new framework for inspection of LAC and safeguarding to be piloted from June 2013.

Working Together 2013: The new Working Together Guidance was issued towards the end of March 2013. The guidance is considerably shorter than previous guidance and thus leaves some room for interpretation. There is a separate action plan to be discussed at the SSCB.

Copies of associated reports and presentations for all of the above mentioned items are available from Agnes Rowntree (agnes.rowntree@sunderland.gov.uk or 0191 561 1482)

