

**SUNDERLAND SHADOW  
HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

22 March 2013

**SUNDERLAND CHILDREN TRUST BOARD – 28 FEBRUARY 2013**

**Local Healthwatch**

Joanne Thynne and Pauline Forster, Commissioning Specialists from Health, Housing and Adult Services attended the Trust to provide an update on the arrangements being put in place with regard to Healthwatch Sunderland, including the vision, functions and the transition process.

The Trust were particularly interested in the consultation which had taken place with young people which was targeted through schools and the Children's Trust Advisory Network. Young people's views will be taken into consideration when the service specification is being developed.

It was proposed that Healthwatch Sunderland consider being part of the programme of inspections which will be carried out by Sunderland Young Inspectors.

It was also noted that although there was not remit for Healthwatch Sunderland to be able to undertake walk in and view inspections in children's homes, if an issue was raised by a young person living in a children's home, every effort would be made to accommodate an appropriate inspection.

**Health and Wellbeing Board**

Keith Moore (Executive Director Children's Services) provided the Trust with an update on items discussed at the Shadow Health and Well-being Board on 25 January 2013.

It was agreed that minutes from the meeting of 25 January would be shared with Trust members once approved.

**Young Inspectors / Children's Trust Advisory Network (CTAN)**

Agnes Rowntree (Business Relationship and Governance Officer) presented two reports for information on behalf of Jane Wheeler (Participation and Engagement Officer).

Young Inspectors

The Trust was informed that Sunderland's Young Inspectors had completed their training and from 1 March 2013 were available to inspect services. The Young Inspectors programme is a critical tool for commissioning agencies to check from the viewpoint of children and young people whether services are meeting their contracted objectives and providing quality services.

There are seven stages to the inspection:

- Recruit services – would you like to be inspected?
- Brief services – organisation being inspected understanding the commitment needed, the process and their responsibilities.
- Brief Inspectors – young inspectors understand the organisation, what is being inspected and key questions to be asked.
- Inspection visit – visit the organisation and speak with a wide range of staff, volunteers, stakeholders and users.
- Draft Report – develop a set of evidence based recommendations to identify how outcomes for young people could be improved.
- Dissemination of information – report passed to organisation and service users.
- Follow-up visit – return visit to see if recommendations have been implemented and made an impact.

If any partners on the Shadow Health and Well-being Board would like further information or to have an inspection carried out, please contact Jane Wheeler (Participation and Engagement Officer) [jane.wheeler@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:jane.wheeler@sunderland.gov.uk) or 0191 561 7430.

### Children's Trust Advisory Network (CTAN)

The Trust received an update on recent and future activity to be undertaken by CTAN, including:

- Sunderland Library Service consulted to seek views and opinions on the future of libraries in Sunderland, in particular those services and activities relevant to their needs and interests. A feedback session has been arranged for September to discuss how CTAN proposals are being used to shape future delivery of library services.
- Scrutiny Panel's Children and Young People Policy Group met with CTAN to discuss participation and engagement of young people as part of their current Policy Review.
- In May, the lead officer from the Sunderland Music Hub will visit to discuss the development of a Sunderland Music Strategy and to get views from CTAN on the questions to be asked in a citywide questionnaire.

### **Looked After Commissioning Strategy**

Meg Boustead (Head of Safeguarding) presented the Multi Agency Looked After Panel's (MALAP) Looked After Commissioning Strategy, to ask for the Trust's agreement to the strategy and receive further reports on its implementation, which was agreed.

The commissioning intentions are aligned with the objectives of the Children and Young People's Plan and the Strengthening Families Strategy and include:

- Invest in Early Intervention to identify families' issues at the earliest opportunity and provide them with the support they need to avert crises and prevent children coming into the looked after system.
- Promote the well-being of looked after children by providing them with stable homes where they feel safe and secure and can form healthy attachments with adults.
- Ensure every child in Sunderland who needs an adoption plan, has the opportunity to be adopted.
- Ensure all children in care are supported to be healthy.
- Provide good education services so that looked after children achieve good educational results and have a range of choices available to them after compulsory education.
- Support looked after children to make positive lifestyle choices.
- Protected looked after children and care leavers from sexual exploitation.
- Develop a lifespan service for disabled children, including those who are looked after.
- Ensure there are systematic processes in place so that looked after children have a voice, can participate in the design and development of services and their views are acted upon.

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### **Disabled Children Update**

Meg Boustead (Head of Safeguarding) provided an update on the issues relating to services for disabled children. This included information on:

- The Children and Families Bill - published on 4 February 2013 and includes a wide range of policy changes affecting adoption, looked after children and childcare, and includes the Government's plans for transforming provision for children with Special Educational Needs (SEN), which includes disabled children.
- Short Breaks for Disabled Children - covers a wide range of services designed to promote inclusion and enable disabled children and young people to have a positive experience doing purposeful, fun activities, whilst also giving their parent/carer a break. Short breaks are delivered after school and/or at weekends and school holidays. The Council is currently in the process of recommissioning short breaks, to run from September 2013.
- Lifespan Service - options for the development of a Lifespan Service are being considered. As part of moving towards this approach, the Children's Disability Team (social work service) and the Personalisation Service of HHAS have been co-located.
- Children and Young People's Continuing Care – Government published guidance on the Implementation of National Framework for Children and Young People's Continuing Care. Work is being carried out at Sea View Road to identify those children and young people who may be eligible to receive this funding.
- Individual Budgets – work is taking place to design an individual budget scheme for children and young people in Sunderland, which is consistent with the current adult scheme in order to facilitate transition to adulthood.

## **Adoption Inspection**

Meg Boustead (Head of Safeguarding) informed the Trust that Children's Services had recently received an Ofsted Inspection of its Adoption Arrangements. The outcome will be shared with the Trust once the finalised report has been published.

## **Measles Vaccination Catch-up**

Lorraine Hughes (Children's Health Improvement Lead) provided the Trust with an update on options which are currently being considered to mitigate against any possible measles outbreak.

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