

**CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES PARTNERSHIP**  
**Wednesday, 14th January, 2015**

Present:- Councillor Roche (in the Chair): together with Dr. D. Clitherow (CCG), K. Etheridge (RDASH), M. Evans (Director for Universal and Targeted Services), T. Guest (Sheffield WCA), Acting Chief Inspector J. Lax (South Yorkshire Police; on behalf of J. Harwin), D. McWilliams (Director for Commissioning and Performance), J. Mott (Newman School – Special School Representatives), R. Nicholls (Rotherham Colleges), J. Parfremment (Director of Safeguarding and Disability Services), I. Thomas (Interim Strategic Director for Children and Young People's Services), J. Wheatley (Voluntary Action Rotherham), E. Royle (CCG; on behalf of S. Whittle), S. Wilson (Performance and Quality Manager), F. Hunt (School Effectiveness Service), R. Hart (Public Health).

Apologies for absence were received from:- Councillor Beaumont and J. Ormondroyd, J. Harwin (represented), S. McFarlane and S. Whittle (represented).

**321. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The CCG Representative confirmed that, in relation to 309 (Budget Analysis across all agencies), the CCG had provided the financial information relating to the total spend that supported the Children and Young People's Plan.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2014, be approved as a correct record.

**322. ISSUES AND CONCERNS**

Nothing was raised under this item.

**323. FOUNDATION YEARS' SERVICE - BEST START STRATEGY**

Frances Hunt, Assistant Head of School Effectiveness of Early Years and Child Care Services, submitted a report on the development work that had taken place and the progress made towards improved multi-agency partnership working for better outcomes for the most disadvantaged children and young people in the Borough.

In the context of the significant restructuring of the 22 Children Centres across Rotherham, there would be a reduction of the number of designated Children's Centres whilst increasing the size of each remaining Centre.

In order to meet the challenge, work had started in March, 2014, to plan and develop an improved and sharper integrated multi-agency partnership working arrangement with a particular focus on Health with Children's Centres at the hub of each locality. It was initially through the concept of a Foundation Years' Service which had now evolved into an integrated

Best Start Partnership Strategy. It was intended that this would be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2015, and would coincide with the restructuring of the Children's Centres.

A short term aim of the 'Best Start' Strategy was that the following would be in place and implemented to support increased and improved integrated partnership working for the benefit of improving outcomes for children and families:-

- Agreed data sharing information and reporting protocols between Health, Adult/Family Learning, DWP/Job Centre Plus, Troubled Families, Local Authority Performance and Management Team and Children's Centres;
- An integrated Children's Centre leadership team model including representation from Health and Troubled Families as well as the Head of Centre and lead Family Support Worker;
- An agreed mapped core universal Health Service offer including Health workforce in each locality/Children's Centre reach area.

The principles of the Best Start Partnership were set out in the report submitted together with the tasks completed so far.

The Assistant Head of the School Effectiveness Service outlined that, of the ten Children's Centres that were due to close and be de-registered, all of the Headteachers of the linked primary schools were taking over the buildings and the provision of some elements of Early Childhood Services would continue. This was a positive step and should be promoted within communities.

An overview of the work that had been undertaken towards achieving partnership working was provided: -

- April, 2014 event ran by Public Health, Midwifery Services and the Local Authority's Early Years and Childcare Services to 'sign-up' key partners;
- Agreed data sharing protocol, particularly including health;
- New way of having an integrated leadership model – incorporating education, Family Support Workers, senior health and troubled families to create a universal health offer - mapping of reach;
- Pre-conception to 5 - an 'Early Help' offer;
- Best Start Strategic Group had been operating since May, 2014;
- Three Best Start Task Groups had been created to focus on driving the agreed actions for development work to allow the expected outcomes to be achieved by April, 2015. Representation from the Children's Centres, Health, Voluntary and Community Sector, Human Resources and Performance Management staff. Job descriptions were being analysed for an integrated leadership model. This work had not yet been formally agreed and was continuing.

Councillor Roche commended the example of multi-agency work; it was pleasing to see how the structure was coming together and readily sharing data. He asked that the 10 school-controlled centres be included as much as they could be to develop the model. Was the data that the Service held needed, and was it treated confidentially?

The Assistant Head of the School Effectiveness Service explained how the Service would be accountable based on the data outcomes. Ofsted would look at this and it would be used by the integrated leadership teams to serve the local community needs, to look at what was being achieved well and where the gaps to meet childrens' and families' needs were. All partners were signed up to the information sharing protocol. Information was totally anonymised.

Councillor Roche asked about situations where numerous agencies had been consistently asked for the same data time and again.

The Performance and Quality Manager confirmed that all information was held centrally. It would be possible to report from the centre and also report on each area in a way that was sharable and anonymised.

The representative from the Sheffield WCA asked about the role of voluntary sectors in the protocols. The Assistant Head of the School Effectiveness Service confirmed that they were part of the Strategic Group.

The Special School representative asked about the role of Special Schools. The Assistant Head confirmed that a Special Headteacher sat on the Best Start Strategy Group.

The Interim Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services Directorate welcomed the piece of work and commended the role being taken on by primary schools taking over buildings that used to be Children's Centres. He asked what consideration was being given to ensure the work was consistent with SEND reforms and early intervention. The Assistant Head of the School Effectiveness Service confirmed that future work would be undertaken to ensure it was aligned to SEND issues.

The Interim Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services Directorate outlined the creation of a pathway for specialist and targeted services available from birth that the Director of Commissioning and Performance was bringing together.

Resolved: - That the report be received and the content relating to the progress against the development of the Best Start Strategy be noted.

### **324. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

Sue Wilson, Performance and Quality Manager, presented the 3<sup>rd</sup>

monitoring report setting out the original 6 priorities and the progress made against them in the last 6 months.

The following areas were highlighted:-

**Priority 1: We will ensure children have the best start in life**

- Increasing number of children in Reception and Year 6 who were overweight or obese of those children measured – both saw an increase from the previous year and were higher than Yorkshire and Humber and National comparators;
- There was an increase in the uptake of school meals, 21,500 per day, compared to 18,000 in November, 2014;
- Work to progress midwives in Rotherham consistently and accurately assessing levels of alcohol consumption during pregnancy by the use of the screening tool, Audit C, had been delayed due to the late start of the alcohol project in the hospital. The Interim Strategic Director invited Dr. D. Clitherow to join the Strategic Group.

**Priority 2: We will engage with parents and families**

- Ofsted Inspectors found that the voices and experiences of the most vulnerable children were not routinely heard in Rotherham and that their views, wishes and feelings were not always taken into account when planning services – work was already under way to address this;
- Rotherham Charter – led by the Parents' Forum – was a good example of core production;
- 'Young Inspectors' – quality assurance and inspection activity were providing real added value to the Service. The Special School Representative confirmed that she knew young people who would be able to perform this role within her own School.

The Interim Strategic Director for Children and Young People's Services Directorate spoke about a review he was commissioning in relation to permanently excluded young people to ensure that they were receiving appropriate support so they did not become disenfranchised or disengaged.

**Priority 3: We will reduce harm to children and young people who are exposed to domestic abuse, alcohol/substance misuse and neglect**

- In relation to Adult Substance Misuse Services it was important to ensure that appropriate Safeguarding checks were undertaken – the most recent adults completed had shown a slight decrease in performance highlighting a slight downshift since the original audit in 2012;
- Linkages between Adult Safeguarding, including whether

appropriate checks had been undertaken. This needed to be taken forward via the Health and Wellbeing Board;

- Substance misuse scenario – Know the Score;
- Expect Respect – relationships and domestic abuse information for primary school-aged children.

**Priority 4: We will work with partners to eradicate child sexual exploitation**

- Work continues and meetings had been arranged with the Crown Prosecution Services to increase their understanding and awareness of CSE;
- The Multi-Agency Support Hub was bringing partners together through co-location;
- A conference for over 100 delegates from the voluntary and community sectors on identification of what individual organisations could do collectively to support the CSE agenda in Rotherham;
- 557 young people had taken part in training and awareness sessions.

The Interim Strategic Director for Children and Young People's Services Directorate spoke about the need for evaluation of the training sessions to take place.

**Priority 5: We will focus on all children and young people making good progress in their learning and development**

- Two secondary schools were below the DfE Key Stage Four Floor Standard in 2014. One of the schools was below in 2013, this school has an Executive Headteacher system leadership arrangement in place. It was the first year that the other school had been below Floor Standard. This school converted to an Academy in September 2013 and had been graded as a Good school by Ofsted;
- Key Stage One and Two outcomes and the gap to national average had been closed to 2%;
- Child Minder Ofsted outcomes – 82.1% were Good or better;
- Maths – Key Stage One outcomes were above the national average.

**Priority 6: We will target support to families in greatest need to help access learning/employment opportunities**

- The Rotherham NEET figure was higher than both national and statistical neighbours. Our Not Known return of 4.7% was significantly lower than both national (11%) and statistical neighbours (10.7%) which suggested more robust data;
- Focus groups – targeting support to communities and geographical areas.

**Priority 7: Rotherham Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)**

- Temporary or permanent arrangements for the post of SEND Inclusion manager were needed. This would be addressed as part of the new structure in Children's Services moving forward;
- Need to clarify how SEND information and advice was organised and how it fitted with the broader Council Communications Strategy.

**The next steps: -**

- Review of the structure and Terms of Reference of the Children, Young People and Families' Partnership;
- A refresh and update of the Children and Young Peoples' Plan;
- Link to outcomes.

Resolved: - (1) That the report and presentation be received and the third monitoring report against the Children and Young People's Plan be noted.

(2) That a formal review be undertaken to review the structure and the content of the Plan earlier than intended to ensure the content was aligned to the current improvements in CYPS arising since the publication of the Alexis Jay and Ofsted inspections reports.

**325. EMERGENCY HORMONAL CONTRACEPTION UPDATE**

Richard Hart, Public Health, presented a report on the proposed expansion of the Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) Sexual Health Services commissioned from community pharmacies across Rotherham and the development of care pathways and safeguarding reporting mechanisms for all young people accessing the services.

The current Public Health Services contract (from April, 2013) in relation to Emergency Hormonal Contraception with pharmacists operating in Rotherham specified that they provide the service, free of charge, to females aged 16 years and over. This was an alternative choice of provision within the community to that which was offered by General Practitioners, Outreach Nurses and the Rotherham Integrated Sexual Health Service.

It was acknowledged that by an expansion of the existing Service to 14-16 year old females, providers needed to be especially vigilant in relation to any Safeguarding issues that may arise, especially concerns around the possibility of Child Sexual Exploitation. It was acknowledged that there were also specific Safeguarding issues in relation to this vulnerable group of young women which needed to be taken into consideration. Any pharmacist supplying EHC to a young woman aged 14-15 years of age would automatically refer through to the Rotherham Integrated Youth

Service where support, appropriate referral and a further risk assessment would be carried out.

The proposal to extend the provision of EHC at pharmacies had been considered by the Local Pharmaceutical Committee who had agreed in principle to the necessary variations to the local contract. The variation would include the necessity for all participating pharmacists to have successfully completed the Council's online training package on CSE and sexual abuse.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- The Acting Chief Inspector asked about the timescales for training – Richard Hart explained that the scheme would be active from this month and the training package was completed on-line;
- The Acting Chief Inspector asked about referrals to the IYSS. Did this include referral to PPU's for vulnerable people? The Director for Universal and Targeted Services confirmed that assessment for possible signs of exploitation would be included in the protocol;
- The Operational Commissioner asked about protocols for cases where young women wished to remain anonymous. Would this be allowed?

Resolved: - That the report be received and the update against the progress made to date on the expansion of the Emergency Hormonal Contraception Sexual Health Services be noted.

### **326. CSE UPDATE**

Jane Parfremment, Director of Safeguarding and Disability Services provided a verbal update on issues relating to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in the Borough.

- The 15 Jay Report recommendations;
- Ofsted had made a number of recommendations nationally.

The CSE Sub-Group of the Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board was charged with monitoring progress against the recommendations. Overall, the action plan was unwieldy and a refresh was required. Similar recommendations would be combined to avoid duplication. The refreshed action plan would highlight a clear set of priority actions.

Freedom of Information requests had been received asking for progress made against the 15 Jay recommendations.

Support for victims and survivors of CSE was a key area. Ongoing needs analysis by Public Health and Partners was taking place on demand, profile, and the services needed. £120,000 of immediate funding had been made available and had been given to voluntary and community

sector agencies. A partnership helpline had been established, an additional post created within the Rotherham Integrated Youth Support Service to signpost to services and additional capacity had been created in teams.

The Central Government had announced a national fund of £7m for victims and survivors of CSE and sexual abuse areas that had experienced at least a 15% increase in reporting.

It was recognised that a more robust Children's Services as a whole and more robust partnership arrangements were required to help those who were vulnerable and in need of protection. Therefore, actions had been undertaken to strengthen Children and Young People's Services: -

- Changes within the senior management team of CYPS;
- Key appointments had been made on an interim basis;
- A restructure was under consultation;
- Increased number of staff co-located to work towards a fully operational Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH);
- Leadership arrangements to take forward the MASH implementation had been confirmed;
- Creation of a CSE Lead post in the Local Authority.

Discussion followed and the following areas were covered: -

- The Acting Chief Inspector spoke about the Police and Crime Commissioner's commitment to further resources for the PPU; numbers of personnel would increase. Ten years ago one officer covered this role as part of their job, now there were 60+ members of staff for Rotherham;
- The Acting Chief Inspector outlined the ongoing Operations in respect of historical and current cases of CSE. The investigations were still at the victim stage, there was a long road ahead;
- The National Crime Agency was due to look at historical cases of CSE including cases where information files were missing. They were currently developing a Terms of Reference;
- There were Focus Groups for survivors and victims' needs assessments, including support to victims to give their evidence safely and credibly and to support them through a court process;
- The Voluntary Sector Co-ordinator asked whether key messages were going to be given out?: - The Director for Safeguarding and Disability Services had spent time with Journalists from the Rotherham Advertiser providing updates, which had not been published at the time of the meeting. Newsletters were being developed to be distributed to raise awareness of progress.

Resolved: - (1) That the information shared be noted.

(2) That further updates be provided to the Children, Young People and



Families' Partnership meeting on CSE issues.

**327. YOUTH CABINET**

Nothing was raised under this item.

**328. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Director for Commissioning and Performance (CYPS) requested an agenda item on the next meeting agenda on young inspectors to increase awareness amongst the Children, Young People and Families' Partnership.

The Interim Strategic Director wished to place on record the thanks of the Partnership to Dorothy Smith on retiring from her post of Director of Schools and Lifelong Learning, Children and Young People's Services Directorate, following almost five years in the role. All wished her well for the future and a long and happy retirement.

Resolved: - That the information shared be noted.

**329. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Resolved: - (1) That the next meeting of the Children, Young People and Families' Partnership take place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2015, to start at 2.00 p.m. in the Rotherham Town Hall.

(2) That future meetings take place on: -

- 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2015;
- 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2015.

All meetings will commence at 2.00 p.m. in the Rotherham Town Hall.