

**CHILDREN'S BOARD
MONDAY, 21ST JUNE, 2010**

Present:- Councillor Lakin (in the Chair); Dr Russell Brynes, Shafiq Hussain, Joyce Thacker, Richard Tweed, Pat Ward, Sarah Whittle and Julie Westwood.

In attendance:- Dean Fenton, Jenny Lingrell and Dr Steve Warburton

Apologies for Absence were received from Andy Buck and Anne Lawrence.

88. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE CHILDREN'S BOARD HELD ON 21ST APRIL 2010

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Children's Board held on 21st April 2010, were approved as a correct record.

89. MATTER ARISING

South Yorkshire Police - Crime Statistics

Further to Minute No 76, Chief Superintendent Richard Tweed reported that the analysis had now been done and the information would be shared with the Locality Teams.

Children and Young People's Services Notice to Improve Update

Reference was made to the CAF Training which had re-commenced and a query was raised as to how the figure of 490 had been arrived at in respect of staff numbers. It was confirmed that these were prioritised relevant staff as opposed to all members of staff. It was further confirmed that the number of staff who had received training to date had now risen to 459 out of 490 with an additional 50 Managers also receiving training.

90. CURRENT ISSUES/CONCERNS.

Rotherham MBC

Joyce Thacker, Strategic Director for Children and Young People's Services reported that the Fostering Inspection had started today and would be taking place up to Friday lunchtime. The Inspection team would be reporting back on Friday afternoon, and this information would be passed on to members of the Board as soon as practicable after this time.

Voluntary Sector

Shafiq Hussain made reference to the current economic climate and asked that should there be any proposed funding cuts that they be a party to the discussion before any decisions are made.

91. PRE-INSPECTION PREPARATION

Dr Steven Warburton circulated four documents which he had produced in relation to the pre-inspection preparation. These were:-

- Details of the 21 Safeguarding and LAC Inspection Grades which had been published
- Illustrative questions for the Children's Trust
- Extracts from Inspection Reports
- Analysis of the minutes of the last six meetings up to 10th March 2010.
 - Overall Impressions
 - General points to consider
 - Specific points to consider

The Chair queried whether the minutes of the Board were presented at any other meetings, such as Scrutiny but it was confirmed that it had been agreed at the outset that the minutes would remain private. However confirmation was given that they were shared at the NHS Board meeting and also the South Yorkshire Police Public Protection Unit meetings.

The Chief Executive suggested that the information needed to be taken and fully absorbed and the further discussion could take place at the next meeting.

It was suggested that when the time came for the inspection to take place that a sub set of members from the Children's Board get together and work through the illustrative questions to ensure that the inspection ran smoothly.

92. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S BOARD RISK REGISTER SESSION

Julie Westwood and Dean Fenton circulated a document which set out the possible risks faced by the Board upon "sign off" of the Children and Young People's plan.

The Chair suggested that a workshop be arranged prior to the next meeting of the Board in July to look at:

- The Role of the Board
- Where the minutes are circulated
- Leadership

It was felt that this would enable the key strategic risks to be identified from a Board perspective.

The Chief Executive further suggested that prior to the workshop taking place that all members of the Board consider the following issues:

- What do we want from a Risk Register as a Board
- What are the things which we should therefore see in the Risk Register

It was agreed that Julie Westwood would canvas for suitable dates in order for the workshop to take place.

93. MEMBERSHIP CONSULTATION AND GOVERNANCE

Julie Westwood, Director of Resources, Planning and Performance presented the submitted report which presented a summary of the consultation about membership and governance that had been undertaken in the last few weeks.

The Board Members were consulted on their views about:

- The purpose of the Children's Trust Board
- The Board's role as Commissioner
- Holding partners and designated officers to account for delivering services to high standards
- Ensuring a "golden thread" is evident through strategies, plans and meeting forums
- Monitoring performance and progress related to the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) and challenging poor performance and practice
- Risk Management
- Membership

All members agreed with the following:

- The principles surrounding the Audit of Need and CYPP
- The Board's role as commissioner
- Holding officers and partners to account
- Ensuring a golden thread
- Risk Management

All members agreed that performance should be monitored but did not agree about the level of detail. There was an even split about the membership options which were:-

1. Retain current membership and add only those it was required to by statute
2. Retain current membership and add both statutory and discretionary partners
3. Retain current membership and add statutory partners and select some discretionary partners

Half of the members preferred Option 1 and the other half preferred Option 3, with no-one choosing Option 2. Of those choosing Option 3, there was a strong feeling that the size of the membership should not be too large as this would prevent effective business discussion. Their reasons for preferring Option 3 were related to future planning related to current changes related to NHS services. Whilst the Hospital Foundation Trust were not considered to be a statutory partner, it would be prudent to include them given the proposals for the HFT to manage Primary Care community based services as well as Acute services. It was felt that the membership should be dictated by local needs and to ensure that it remained relevant that the terms of reference should be reviewed annually.

A number of people did query the need for non-executive membership and felt that only lead organisations should be represented by their Chief Executive or equivalent.

A suggestion was put forward that those discretionary partners not engage in the Board membership, could be invited to join the Think Family Board.

A partnership protocol covering all aspects of Children's Trust Board governance had been drafted, based on recent discussions and developments. This was currently being assessed by the Council's legal advisers and it was proposed that this is presented to the Board in July 2010 for consultation and consideration.

A discussion ensued and the following issues were raised and clarified:-

- The Chair queried whether it was feasible to remove the non-executive members from the membership. It was confirmed that the current non-executive member had queried her role on the Board and was content with the decision to remove the position from the membership.
- A suggestion was made that there should be representatives on the Board from Primary Schools and Special Schools. It was agreed that the Strategic Director and Director of Resources, Planning and Performance would address this.

Agreed:- (1) That the report be received and that Option 3 be agreed as the preferred membership option.

(2) That the Partnership Protocol be presented to a future meeting for consideration.

(3) That a letter be sent to Ann Lawrence, Non Executive member thanking her for her contribution to the Board.

Jenny Lingrell, Policy, Planning and Research Officer circulated two documents relating to Section 5 "Action plans and performance indicators" and Section 7 "Resourcing the Four Big Things".

She confirmed that Alcohol had now been included as an area of focus, but that it had been felt that Obesity needed to remain also, which meant that there were now nine areas of focus.

It was noted that the action plans would remain as living documents and would be posted on-line rather than forming the main body of the Children and Young People's Plan.

The Strategic Director reported that there would be a logo on the document and confirmed that students from RCAT had been working on developing this.

Agreed:- That the Children and Young People's Plan be approved for publication.

95. RESOURCING THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN - ROTHERHAM'S SELF ASSESSMENT

The Strategic Director for Children and Young People's Services presented the submitted report in respect of resourcing the CYPP – Rotherham's Self Assessment.

At a previous meeting the Board identified that the Audit Commission had developed key lines of enquiry which Children's Trust Boards could use to determine their position and they agreed to the key partners contributing to the self assessment and to report back on their findings.

The key partners who had contributed were the local authority, NHS Rotherham, South Yorkshire Police and Voluntary Action Rotherham and their findings were summarised within the report.

It was noted that the issues flagged in the self assessment would be addressed in the aforementioned Partnership Protocol.

Agreed:- That the report be received.

96. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES NOTICE TO IMPROVE ACTION PLAN

Consideration was given to a report which provided an overview of progress made since the Notice to Improve was received in December.

Based on a RAG rating the following was the current position as at 20th April 2010:

CHILDREN'S BOARD - 21/06/10

Red: 2 (5%)
Amber: 22 (50%)
Green: 20 (45%)

It was noted that the high risk areas were:

- NI59 – Initial assessments within 7 days
- Improve the quality of serious case reviews

Targets which had been completed were:

- PDR guidance had been issued to managers for 2010 with a May deadline set for the completion of PDRs
- The Director of Children & Learners at GOYH was now a member of the improvement panel.
- Additional administration staff were now in place in the social care locality teams with the resources having a positive impact.
- The Portal development for sharing social care reports for social workers and managers was in place
- Social work staff now had access to the VPN home working solution with the roll out of laptops completed and SWIFT desk guides had been issued to localities
- The Safe and Well Protocol had been updated
- The Safe and Well Protocol was launched on 22nd April 2010
- No children's homes were inadequate
- A Self Assessment had been written against the safeguarding and looked after children criteria to identify areas for development
- A World Class Primary school reported had been written and submitted to DCSF
- Improvements had been made to the Induction Process
- The overspend for 2009/10 was reduced to £3.99m
- Funding issues were investigated during 2009/10 and further work was now being done around benchmarking.

Improvements had also been made in the following areas:

The CAF training re-commenced in February with 459 practitioners and 50 managers being trained since the training commenced. Further training would re-commence in the middle of June.

Since 1st March all initial and core assessments were being audited with a bank of good practice being developed.

It was noted that since the time of writing that an appeal against a Serious Case Review judgement had be upheld and that the outcome was 'Adequate'.

Agreed:- That the report be received.

97. LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10 AND BUSINESS PLAN 2010/11

Alan Hazell, Independent Chair of Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board presented the submitted report in respect of the Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report and Business Plan.

He confirmed that a strong sub group had been established and they had produced a work plan, which would be looked at in the context of the business plan.

It was suggested and agreed that future update reports would be quarterly by exception.

Agreed:- That the report be received and noted.

98. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING.

Agreed:- That the next meeting of the Children's Board take place on Tuesday 27th July 2010 at 1.00 pm.