

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES TRUST BOARD

Wednesday, 8th September, 2010

Present:- Councillor Lakin (in the Chair); Andy Buck, Dr Russell Byrnes, Sue Skalycz, Joyce Thacker, Pat Ward and Janet Wheatley.

In attendance:- Sue Farmery, Dean Fenton, Jackie Lincoln, Jenny Lingrell, Gani Martins and Janet Wheatley.

Apologies for absence were received from Martin Kimber.

D13. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES TRUST BOARD HELD ON 6TH AUGUST 2010

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Children and Young People's Trust Board held on 6th August, 2010, were approved as a correct record.

D14. MATTERS ARISINGValue for Money Review (VFM) – Prevention and Early Intervention Scoping Paper

Andy Buck reported that NHS Rotherham had now been involved since mid-August with a further meeting having taken place yesterday.

Common Assessment Framework Team Funding

Reference was made to the recommendation from Minute No D6 of the previous meeting which stated that a further report would be submitted to the board on funding options and cost/benefits for 2011/12, and a query was raised as to when this was expected. It was confirmed that Simon Perry was the lead for this and that it would be brought to the meeting in October.

It was agreed that this would also be discussed as part of today's Risk Management Training Session.

Corporate Parenting Review

Reference was made to the Annual Report in respect of the above, and it was suggested and agreed that a position statement to date be presented to the next meeting with an annual report from when the new Board is established.

D15. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

It was agreed that issues and concerns were be addressed as part of the Risk Management Training session.

D16. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE INDICATOR QUARTER 1 2010/ 11

Consideration was given to a report presented by Julie Westwood, Director of Resources, Planning and Performance in respect of Children and Young People's Services Performance Indicators 2010/11 Quarter One.

Members attention was drawn to Appendix A of the report, Performance Assessment by Every Child Matters Outcome which provided details of performance by each Every Child Matters theme including:-

- Performance against targets (Comparing outturn performance against set targets)
- Direction of travel analysis (Comparing 2010/11 quarter one performance to 2009/10 outturn performance)
- Year to Date Performance (judged by corporate monitoring system Performance Plus)
- Performance against Statistical Neighbours average
- Performance against National average
- Areas of Success
- Areas of Under-performance
- An update on previous performance clinics
- Recommendations for future performance clinics

Overall Performance

Across all themes, 50% of the National Indicator components targets had been met, which was a 2% decrease from 52% in 2009/10 outturn report. It was noted that a number of indicators collected quarterly was significantly reduced compared to the outturn and therefore affected the %. There had been a significant increase in the Staying Safe theme which had 67% indicators on target compared to 36% at outturn.

There were still however, 40% of all indicators not meeting targets. The Achieving Economic Wellbeing theme was particularly underperforming with 67% of indicators not meeting targets, although only three indicators components were collected. Future targets were being reviewed by managers to ensure that they were appropriate and realistic, whilst continuing to drive improvement.

Across all themes, 57% of the National Indicator components in Quarter 1 had shown improvement from the 2009/10 outturn. This was particularly evident in the Staying Safe at home which showed 78% of components improving. Performance had declined in 27% of components in comparison with 2009/10 outturn performance. This could be seen predominantly within the Achieving Economic Wellbeing theme which showed 33% of components having a downwards direction of travel

although this related to only 1 out of 3 components.

This quarter, the benchmarking data downloaded from the Local Area Interactive Tool showed that 40% of indicator components were in line or above the national average with only 23% being below. Comparison against statistical neighbours showed that 47% of components were inline or above and 27% were below the statistical neighbour average.

Areas of Success

Being Healthy – the take up of primary school lunches (No 1a/NI 52a) continued to improve. An outturn figure of 43.9% had been achieved against a target of 40.5% and there had been a further increase to 45.9%. This was 6.6% above the latest available national average of 39.3%.

Staying Safe

Two indicators were performing at least 2% or better above target. These were:

Percentage of children becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time (No 8/NI65) had reduced from an outturn figure of 13.8% to 7.4% for Q1. This exceeded the target between 10% and 15% and was better than both National and Statistical Neighbour averages of 13.5% and 11.7% respectively.

Percentage of child protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales (No 10/NI67) had maintained top performance of 100% and was above the statistical neighbour average of 99.8% and the national average of 99.1%

Enjoying and Achieving

Special Educational Needs statements issued within 26 weeks (No 15 a & b / NI 103 a & b) had maintained top performance (100%) excluding exceptions. This exceeded the target of 95% and was above the statistical neighbour average of 97.2%. This was an improvement on 2009/10 outturn figure of 97.4% and was above the statistical neighbour average of 94.4% and the national average of 82%.

Making a Positive Contribution

First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17 (No 20 / NI 111 a & b). The number of first time entrants (part a) was 248 and the number of first time entrants per 100,000 population (part b) was 917. Both significantly exceeded the targets of 514 and 1900 respectively.

Achieving Economic Wellbeing

Care leavers in employment, education and training (No 24 / NI148) had a

Q1 figure of 87.5% which was above the target of 67% and showed an improvement on the 2009/10 outturn of 63.6%. This was above both the statistical neighbour average of 58.2% and the national average of 63%.

Areas of Under Performance

Being Healthy

The take up of secondary school lunches (No 1 b / NI52 b). Q1 performance of 33.1% was below the target set of 34.2% and had a downward direction of travel against the 2009/10 outturn of 35%.

Staying Safe

Timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption (No 5 . NI61). This was a cumulative indicator and therefore performance would improve through the performance calendar. There was a new focus within family finding which ensured the adoption of children who had waited the longest. This would mean an initial dip in performance but was an essential part of the recovery plan and overall performance was therefore on trajectory to improve.

Enjoying and Achieving

Reduction of number of schools judged as requiring special measures and improvement in time to come out of the category (No 14a / NI89a). This indicator had historically been a major area of success with no schools being in Special Measures from December 2006 until the 2009/10 academic year. Performance at Q1 showed five schools in special measures, which had increased from two at the 2009/10 outturn and was not hitting the target of 0. Ofsted procedures made it unlikely that any of the schools would be released from special measures before Spring 2011. However all but one had demonstrated at least Satisfactory progress on Ofsted monitoring visits in the last term and were therefore on track for release during 2010/11.

Making a Positive Contribution

Young people within the Youth Justice System receiving a conviction in court who were sentenced to custody (No 17 / NI43). This National Indicator performance of 11% did not meet the target of 5% and showed a downward direction of travel from 7.1% in the previous quarter. Performance was also worse than both the statistical neighbour average of 4.4% and the national average of 5.8%. Whilst custody figures were beginning to decline in real terms, the rate of custody continued to be below target due to the success of reducing the number of first time entrants (NI 111) which continued to drop quarter on quarter.

Young offenders' engagement in suitable education, training and development (No 18 / NI45). The National Indicator performance of 68.2% did not meet the target of 78% and showed a downward direction of travel from the previous quarter performance of 71%. Performance was also worse than both the statistical neighbour average of 75.6% and the national average of 73.10%.

Achieving Economic Wellbeing

Care leavers in suitable accommodation (No 23 / NI147). The National Indicator performance of 87.5% did not meet the target of 92% and showed a downward direction of travel from 100% at 2009/10 outturn. This was also below the statistical neighbour and national averages of 89.3% and 89.6% respectively. It was noted however, that the impact on the performance against the target of one young person being in unsuitable accommodation was high because on the small number in the cohort.

"PERFORMANCE CLINICS"

Resolved:- (1) That the Performance Report be received and performance noted.

(2) That the recommendations regarding performance clinics be approved.

D17. INSPECTION OF FOSTERING SERVICES - SUMMARY OF THE REPORT AND ACTION PLAN

Gani Martins, Director of Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting presented a report which summarised the main findings of the inspection of the Fostering Service undertaken by Ofsted, week commencing 21st June, 2010, and presented an action plan devised to address the recommendations of the Inspectors.

The overall judgement of the inspection was 'Satisfactory' with 'Good' being achieved in:-

- Helping children to be healthy
- Achieve well and enjoy what they do
- Make a positive contribution and;
- Achieving economic well-being.

Resolved:- That the Fostering Service Inspection report and action plan arising from it be noted.

D18. INSPECTION OF SAFEGUARDING AND LAC

Julie Westwood, Director of Resources, Planning and Performance presented the submitted report in respect of the Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children.

The Inspection was very positive and this had resulted in an overall rating of Adequate with some elements rated as Good. The key recommendations were:-

For Immediate

- Ensure that all recording, including assessments, recording of meetings and within case files, incorporates up to date and key information and identifies risk and protective factors.
- Improve the effectiveness of strategy discussions and child protection plans and the active review of these by core groups and child protection reviews, and the quality of recording, including details on what action is to be taken.

For the Next Three Months

- NHS Rotherham and Rotherham Foundation NHST should ensure that within A&E services there is access to suitably trained and qualified children's nursing staff when children and young people are seen in the department
- NHS Rotherham should ensure that A&E staff at Rotherham Foundation NHS Trust have access to and use the electronic System 1, to ensure that children and young people can be easily identified if they are already known to social care services.
- Improve the quality of social care supervision so that staff receive the right level of challenge, development and support.
- Ensure that the workforce training and development plan clearly identifies how it will meet the development needs of all staff.
- Update the protocol for children missing from home, care and education to reflect the new national guidance.

The key recommendations for Looked After Children were:

For Immediate

- To strengthen the role of the virtual head by ensuring that the work of the School Improvement and Effectiveness team is more focused on supporting and challenging schools to improve the attainment of looked after children.

- Develop the independent visiting service to ensure that all eligible children are able to have access to an independent visitor.

For Next Three Months:

- To strengthen the capacity of the independent reviewing officer service to ensure that all children and young people are effectively supported in making a contribution to their care plans and that care plans are robustly challenged.

An Action Plan was being produced and would be monitored closely to ensure full completion in timescale and that full compliance was achieved. All actions were already in train as these were picked up in the self assessment prior to the inspection.

(1) That the report be received and the key recommendations to be implemented be noted.

(2) That all staff be thanked for the work undertaken in respect of this inspection and congratulated on the outcome.

D19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Joyce Thacker, Strategic Director referred to the Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy which was launched in April 2010 and asked for comments on when it would be most appropriate to look at progress on this, before the Comprehensive Spending Review or after.

It was suggested that this be looked at as part of today's Risk Management Training session and to have a substantive discussion at the next Board meeting in October.