

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES PARTNERSHIP
Wednesday, 19th November, 2014

Present:- Councillor Beaumont (in the Chair); Councillor Roche, Rebecca Atchinson Dr. David Clitherow, Tracey Guest, Ian Hill, Phil Morris, Barbara Murray, Rachel Nicholls, Roche, Wheatley and Whittle and Sue Wilson.

2 members of the public were present (Dave Pickering and Christine Peters).

Apologies for absence were received from Steve Ashley, Harwin, Mott, Radford, Smith, Parfrement and Ormondroyd.

307. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 24TH SEPTEMBER, 2014

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 24th September, 2014, be approved as a correct record subject to the inclusion of a member of the public (Mr. D. Pickering) as being in attendance.

308. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

There were no issues and concerns to report.

309. BUDGET ANALYSIS ACROSS ALL AGENCIES

In accordance with Minute No. 304 of 24th September, 2014, further discussion took place on the ability to disseminate partners' budget spend across the Children and Young People's Plan priorities.

It was again questioned what the outcome and benefit to children would be of the exercise. In theory an understanding as to how much each partner contributed to the different parts of the children's agenda was very much needed but in reality was quite complex due to the budgets not being aligned in that manner.

There would be an element of double counting and the data being out of date very quickly.

Partners, however, did feel that there needed to be an understanding of the finances and how much each was contributing to Children Services but not assigned to the priority headings.

Resolved:- That Joanne Robertson, Finance Manager, contact each of the partners for the total spend that supported the Children and Young People's Plan

310. IAN THOMAS, INTERIM STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

The Chair introduced Ian Thomas, the newly appointed Interim Director of Children and Young People's Services, who would take up post on 1st January, 2015.

311. ROTHERHAM LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

Phil Morris, Business Manager of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board, presented the 2013-14 Annual Report.

Boards were required to produce and publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding children in the local area as mandated in the Children Act 2004 (S14a) as amended by the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009. Under the recently revised statutory guidance, the annual report should:-

- Provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. It should identify areas of weakness, the cause of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action. The report should include lessons from reviews undertaken within the reporting period
- Be published in relation to the preceding financial year and should fit with local agencies' planning, commissioning and budget cycles.
- List the contributions made to the Board by partner agencies and details of what the Board had spent including on Child Death Reviews, Serious Case Reviews and other specific expenditure such as learning events or training. All Board member organisations had an obligation to provide Boards with reliable resources (including finance) that enabled it to be strong and effective. Members should share the financial responsibility for the Board in such a way that a disproportionate burden did not fall on a small number of partner agencies

Key priorities for Rotherham's Board within its Business Plan and highlighted in the 2013/14 Annual Report included:-

- Child Sexual Exploitation
The LSCB had provided excellent training and awareness sessions for professionals working with families and the community. It had audited the risk assessments used on child sexual exploitation cases and identified some improvements which had been implemented. The priority for support for victims was currently being progressed with the Health and Wellbeing Board and commissioning groups within the Borough
- Child Neglect
In 2013 the LSCB had undertaken a review of cases where children

had been seriously neglected. The review, the key findings of which were briefly outlined in the 2012/13 annual report, highlighted the importance of identifying neglect early, utilising assessment tools designed to assist in identifying neglect and in assertive interventions with the aim of addressing the factors underpinning the neglectful parenting.

The challenge to all agencies working with children and families was to ensure the review's lessons were implemented. To this end, the RLSCB had disseminated the review's key lessons through presentations at a range of high level strategic inter-agency meetings including the Improvement Panel

- Domestic Abuse

In 2013 the Council's Improving Lives Select Commission conducted a Scrutiny Review of Domestic Abuse the focus of which was to develop more integrated domestic abuse service provision that had clear protocols and pathways for all risk levels that were understood by every partner agency. It was also recommended that domestic abuse should be more integrated at a strategic level so that other workstreams were addressing the impact as it had on victims. By responding to the review recommendations, Rotherham would be able to

- Evidence its local compliance with the national Violence Against Women and Girls' agenda
- Evidence that the Domestic Abuse Priority Group on behalf of the Safer Rotherham Partnership were proactive in reducing the risk of domestic homicide in line with emerging national best practice that was focussed and co-ordinated
- Enable the actions of agencies to withstand scrutiny in a Serious Case Review or Domestic Homicide Review
- Respond to victims and their families effectively

As part of the Service developments, the Local Authority, Police and other partners were implementing a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). A domestic abuse hub was being developed that would see Police Officers, Social Workers, independent Domestic Violence advocates and other professionals working together to provide an effective and timely response possible to domestic abuse. This would include the use of a Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment matrix to enable identification of risks, protective factors and the most effective response for individual children and their families.

The definition of domestic abuse had been changed in March, 2013, to include young people aged 16-18. In 2013-14 13 young people (aged 16-17 years) had been referred to Rotherham MARAC. The Department of Education had provided funding for a Young Persons Domestic Violence Advocate who had key responsibility for the high risk cases that were referred to MARAC and provided specialist

advice to professionals on cases of under 16's. In 2013-14 there were 328 (of 455) cases referred to MARAC which encompassed a total of 518 children.

A priority area identified for improvement in Rotherham was the multi-agency response for children and their parents where there was domestic abuse and the victim had no recourse to public funds.

- Early Help

In the last 12 months the Local Authority had developed an early help dashboard to provide the LSCB members and advisors with an overview of activity in the Borough. This included caseload information relating to child/young person/family support provided by, amongst others, Children's Centres, Targeted Family Support Team, Integrated Youth Support Service and Learning Support Service.

- Voice of the Child

The LSCB had listened to what children and young people had said through:-

- The results of the Lifestyle Survey
- The work of the Looked After Children Council on experiences of children in the care of the Local Authority
- The work of the Youth Cabinet on self-harm issues
- The advocacy support work for children on a Child Protection Plan

Discussion ensued on the report with the following issues raised/highlighted:-

- An executive summary at the beginning of the document would be useful
- The report would be submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board, Cabinet and the Police and Crime Commissioner. Partners reported that they would be taking through their respective governance structures
- It was a public document and attention should be drawn to the fact that it was available
- There was an open invitation from the Chair of the LSCB for contact with any professional within or outside the Borough or member of the public
- The annual report had been due to be published in early September and referred to the previous business year. The introduction had been changed acknowledging the Alexis Jay report. Progress on the Jay report recommendations would be reported on a frequent basis to

the Board and would be reflected in the 2014/15 annual report

- The Board placed great value on the voice of a child and there were a number of specialism in terms of listening to what a child said e.g. for Looked After Children there was the Corporate Parenting Panel which the Board saw as being the primary forum for Children in Care having a voice and being listened to. The Board took assurance from the Panel that action was being taken and responded to the voice of children in care
- The challenge was to say how a training course attended by an officer made any difference to the outcomes for children. Following completion of the training course feedback sheets, the Board undertook a 10% sample 3 months later asking what difference the training had made. Audits were used within the quality assurance framework to ascertain if the learning had been translated into outcomes
- Early Help Services/Youth Worker/Welfare Officer/Health Visitors etc. needed to ensure they were capturing the voice of the child so they had a safe journey
- The Board had had discussions with the National Working Group for CSE, regarding understanding the motivations of offenders, to ascertain if any research had been conducted nationally either by the Group or in partnership with an academic institution which might be useful
- Differences in the statistics contained within the Board's annual report and those quoted in the newly published Ofsted report
- Suggestion that the Performance Indicators in terms of vulnerability were too narrow and should include Mental Health, CAHMS, Sexual Health, school attendance and Police
- The report referred to the work of the Youth Cabinet and Lifestyle Survey
- Senior managers would have a visible presence and would accompany front line staff on visits

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

312.

ORAL HEALTH OF CHILDREN IN ROTHERHAM

Rebecca Atchison, Public Health, presented a report on the oral health of children in Rotherham.

Oral health had become the responsibility of the Local Authority and Public Health in April 2012. Public Health held 2 Service Specifications to

deliver oral health activity i.e. Oral Health Promotion Service and the Dental Epidemiology Service. Each of the specifications had been reviewed and the values reduced to ensure value for money. Dentists and specialist community dentistry were commissioned by NHS England.

The CYPS Performance Team had been requested by the CYPS Departmental Leadership Team to explore dental health activity and performance against Indicators. A meeting was held to discuss the current commissioning and provider agreements and review the plans for the future.

Current performance was measured by the DFMT rates in the Public Health Outcomes Framework 4.03 (Tooth Decay in Children aged 5). It was recognised that the rates did not evidence the full impact of dental issues within the communities.

An Oral Health Improvement Strategy had been developed to address the issues and develop a clear outline of the Oral Health Needs of Rotherham residents. It was anticipated that the Strategy would be out for formal consultation by December, 2014.

Discussion ensued on the report with the following issues highlighted/clarified:-

- The reasons for Rotherham's increasing poor dental wellbeing was not known, however, the Strategy would address oral health improvement across the Borough. It would allow the Authority to take stock of where it was now as well as a clear vision of where it intended to go in the future
- The newly commissioned Oral Improvement Service was now more focussed and targeted and hopefully would start to deliver improvements across the whole of Rotherham. It had focussed funding on specifically increasing fluoride within the vulnerable communities targeting those communities where there were known high levels of dental decay
- Dental Nurses no longer went into schools to check children's teeth on a regular basis. A survey was conducted on an annual basis by dentists but only for a particular cohort. It was planned to move to developing "brush groups" that a specialist would go into school and set up sessions so that schools could take them forward with the messages provided by a number of professionals. It was also noted that the Colleges had a high number of ESOL students with whom work could take place
- The Healthy Schools Programme advocated and encouraged schools to only provide water and not have fizzy drinks/other drinks on the premises. It was also strongly advocated that for younger children milk or water be the drinks of choice

- It was suggested that dental health be included in the new Pre-Birth and Beyond Programme that was currently being developed
- Public Health England were working on the issue of water fluoridisation
- The options appraisal that would be considered by the Council would include fluoridisation possibly on a sub-regional basis due to the boundaries of the various water companies in South Yorkshire
- The Strategy would be subject to consultation as from December, 2014

Resolved:- (1) That the review information that was collected by CYPP to align with the date within the Service specifications be noted.

- (2) That an options appraisal be developed for increasing fluoride across communities possibly as a South Yorkshire project
- (3) That the consultation and reporting process for the Oral health Improvement Strategy be approved.

313. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consideration was given to the Partnership's terms of reference and membership.

It was felt that both required updating to reflect the findings of both the Alex Jay and Ofsted reports and a review of the Partnership's purpose which would determine the terms of reference. Partners suggested the following:-

- Addition of a Children and Young People's Consortium representative
- Representation from the Youth Cabinet
- The Partnership should be pro active

Resolved:- That a review of the Partnership's terms of reference and membership be undertaken.

314. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE INDICATOR REPORT - QTR1 2014-15

Sue Wilson, Performance and Quality Manager, presented the outline performance as at the end of Quarter 1 2014/15 against targets with direction of travel against previous year's performance and comparisons with statistical neighbours and national data where available.

Attention was drawn to the following:-

- There were no red Indicators in Quarter 1
- Thematic qualitative case audit process - 192 case audits
- Qualitative audit checklists for all Looked After Children Reviews – 267 cases reviewed resulting in 18 informal concerns, 7 Stage 1 concerns and 4 Stage 2 concerns being raised
- Qualitative audit checklists for all Initial and Review Child Protection Conferences – 197 conferences (421 children) resulting in 38 concerns being raised through the escalation/challenge procedure
- Active involvement in the development and contribution to the LAC Action Plan
- Development of a new LAC Care Plan and LAC statutory visit template together with refreshed guidance and standards
- Multi-agency training regarding the new Children in Need/Child Protection Plan delivered to 50 front line professionals
- Refresh of CYPS Team Manager Learning Sets including the development of an intranet site providing a central repository of information that encompassed changes in national guidance, changes in legislation, sharing of good practice, evidenced based practice and research papers
- Development of “Capturing the thoughts, feelings and wishes of Children involved with Social Care Services in Rotherham”
- Monthly meetings between the LSCB Business Manager/Quality Assurance officer and CART manager or responsible Service Manager to carry out dip sample of contacts that had been deemed to required No Further Action

Resolved:- (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That any Indicators where there were ongoing issues or poor performance be subject to performance clinics.

315. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE INDICATOR REPORT - QTR2 2014-15

Sue Wilson, Performance and Quality Manager, presented the outline performance as at the end of Quarter 2 2014/15 against targets with direction of travel against previous year's performance and comparisons with statistical neighbours and national data where available.

Attention was drawn to the following:-

- Priority 2: Protecting our most vulnerable people and families, enabling them to maximise their independence - Measure Nos. 40 (% of Assessments completed to target date) and 41 (% of Assessments completed within 35 working days (local upper limit)) were rated Red
- Qualitative Case Audit Process – 47 case adults including Child Sexual Exploitation risk assessments, enhanced Child Protection, Children in Need and Looked After Children

- Qualitative Audit Checklists for all Looked After Children Reviews – 274 cases reviewed resulting in 54 informal concerns, 12 Stage 1 concerns and 1 Stage 2 concerns being raised
- Qualitative Audit Checklists for all Initial and Review Child Protection Conferences – 203 conferences (429 children) resulting in 31 concerns being raised through the escalation/challenge procedure. 2 concerns had progressed to Stage 2 of the procedure
- Active involvement in the Ofsted Inspection
- Delivery of the new Children in Need/Child Protection Care Plan to 12 newly qualified Social Workers as part of the Assessed and Supported Year in Employment
- Learning Set developed and delivered to LAC Teams about the importance of how CSE Risk Assessments informed and influenced the child's Care Plan
- Development of CYPS Social worker Practice Aide-memoirs – initial 4 included reflective practice, missing children, meeting the needs of LAC children and LAC reviews

Resolved:- (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That any Indicators where there were ongoing issues or poor performance be subject to performance clinics.

316. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN'S COUNCIL (LACC) UPDATE

An update on the work of the Looked After Children's Council was submitted highlighting:-

- Voice and Influence
The LACC were currently meeting for weekly training and development sessions.

They held regular meetings on weekends and evenings to prepare presentations and complete high profile project work. Up to 15 Looked After and Leaving Care young people had attended meetings at any 1 time during the quarter in question.

Over the past 5 months the LACC had engaged in a variety of Voice and Influence sessions working on team building skills, self-awareness and self-esteem.

- Annual Peer Consultation Feedback
LACC members had conducted their annual consultation asking 62 Looked After and Leaving Care young people their opinions of the

Service they had been provided with over the previous year. Face-to-face consultations had also taken place as well as visits to local residential accommodation and semi-independent units. Social Care Managers had been asked to support the process and given the LACC 'Have Your Say' form to distribute around the young people they worked with to encourage their voluntary engagement, however, this had had limited success.

- Youth Voice Vehicle Overnight Residential
The LACC, UK Youth Parliament and Youth Cabinet had an overnight residential to Habershon House on 23rd and 24th July. As well as team building activities they had collated and analysed the feedback from the above consultation and started to form the basis of their recommendations to improve their Service.
- Summer Holidays Chill and Chat Activities
Young people had worked together to create a complete summer activity Chill and Chat activity schedule to cover the 6 weeks summer holiday with the aim of giving themselves the opportunity for continuing support, keeping in touch with each other and spending positive time together engaging in fun activities.
- Healthy Eating on a Budget
A successful bid had been made to Easy P's to purchase 5 Healthy Eating Life Skills Sessions whereby young people were encouraged to work together to create healthy eating on a budget menus and work in kitchens to cook their own creations. The group had engaged in 2 of the sessions so far.
- CSE Ofsted Inspection
2 Ofsted Inspectors had visited LACC to discuss, amongst other things, avenues and experiences of support, feelings and perceptions about the recent findings in the Jay report and media coverage. 4 LACC members chose not to participate.
- Peer Consultation Feedback
Councillors Beaumont, Lakin and Jane Parfrement had been invited to a meeting where the feedback was presented together with recommendations to improve the Looked After and Leaving Care Service for Rotherham young people. It was agreed that the suggestions should contribute to the LAC Pledge when it was updated.
- Children in Care Council (CiCC) Conference
Members had visited Nottingham to take part in the conference which focussed on the Health and Wellbeing of Looked After and Leaving Care young people. The annual conference drew together LAC Councils from across England to discuss and explore ideas.
- Youth Voice Vehicle Training Day

The LACC, UK Youth Parliament and Youth Cabinet had worked together as part of the 3 strands of youth democracy in Rotherham which made up the Youth Voice Vehicle. The training day had involved planning youth democracy projects for the coming year and engaging in team building exercises.

- Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service
4 young people had represented the LACC at the Service in Rotherham Minster. They had written a special message and laid their poppy wreath of remembrance on behalf of all looked after and leaving care young people.

317. CSE UPDATE

Ian Thomas, Interim Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services, gave the following update on CSE.

- There was an action plan following the Jay report and the Ofsted themed inspection
- Work had started on the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy which was now out for consultation and to be introduced as from 1st April, 2015
- Deputy Leader to launch a new campaign on 24th November at the New York Stadium entitled "Standing Together Against CSE"
- Consideration being given to the practices in terms of CSE when referrals were received. Working closely with the Police to ensure appropriate action was taken
- Raising awareness of issues in terms of grooming, signs to look for etc. It was hoped a learning event would be held in the New Year with other authorities that had secured convictions
- The themed inspection had revealed that no area in the country had solved the problem and every partner should look at themselves critically and ensure they had all the processes and systems in place to prevent and disrupt such criminals

The voluntary and community sector reported on the following meetings that had taken place:

- A conference had been held on 5th November which over 100 people from the voluntary and community sector had been invited to talk about some of the lessons learnt and moving forward in terms of community awareness training. A number of victims had been in attendance and had spoken. The conference had been commissioned prior to the publication of the Jay report

- A VCS Women's BME CSE meeting had been held on 3rd November as well as a meeting with some of the BME groups whose main focus of delivery was women. The messages from those meetings needed to be fed in. It had also been highlighted the need to work specifically with BMI groups and Asian women/girls/young people. It was clearly not just the voice of young people but also the voice of women
- There had been 5 specific areas of concern – raising awareness, working and supporting the victims, bringing the perpetrators to justice, issues with some specific areas where they did not feel safe and the rebuilding of Rotherham, learning from what had happened and building trust.
- Agencies who worked with older people, especially within the Asian community, stated that women did not feel safe going out any more and the impact it had had on families
- A meeting had been arranged with the Police on 1st December because of the number of issues raised about the use of the 101 telephone number

Resolved:- (1) That the reports be noted.

(2) That the notes of the VCS Womens BME CSE meeting held on 3rd November be circulated to Partnership Board members.

318. ROTHERHAM LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

The contents of the minutes of the meeting of the Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board held on 4th September, 2014, were noted.

319. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ian Thomas, Strategic Director, Children and Young People's Services gave a verbal update on the Ofsted Report the recommendations of which were fully accepted and the Local Authority committed to putting right.

There had been a series of non-compliances at the Council. The 2013 statutory guidelines "Working Together" had not been adhered to. The Service had no vision, the Service Plan was weak, performance management was not used to drive performance, partnerships were fragile, lack of management from some partners and the LSCB had been found to be inadequate around the challenge to seek resolution and remedial action

Although the Service was not as bad as Ofsted had stated, more could have been done prior to the inspection to get the Authority to a much better position. Assessments under the new Framework were much tougher with only 27% of authorities having reached "good".

It was not just Social Workers who came in at the end and dealt with the minority of cases. There needed to be effective and robust Early Help Services that worked with community partners e.g. Health Visiting Service, GPs, teachers who saw the problems first before the clients met the Social Care threshold.

There needed to be 3 clear objectives. Firstly to ensure people were protected from offenders, secondly that they were healthy and ready to start school and thirdly ensure young people and their families were ready to learn. An action plan would flow from those with smart objectives that held agencies to account. Frontline workers needed to be supported with their workload with management oversight through effective supervision.

A community response was required. Meetings were to take place with Rotherham United and other sports/athletics clubs who had iconic status with the young people. All were very supportive, as was the voluntary and community sector, in rebuilding the town.

320. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Children, Young People and Families Partnership be held on Wednesday 14th January, 2015, commencing at 2.00 p.m. in the Town Hall, Rotherham.