

meeting **Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Board**
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE RUFFORD SUITE, COUNTY
HALL, WEST BRIDGFORD

date **10 February 2010**

Present:

Councillor Philip Owen (Nottinghamshire County Council) in the Chair, Anthony May (Nottinghamshire County Council), Les Cowling (Nottinghamshire County Council), Sue Fenton (NAVO), Chris Few (Chair – Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board), Allen Graham (Rushcliffe Borough Council), Nigel Hill (Nottinghamshire Probation Service), Ruth Hyde (Broxtowe Borough Council), Helen Jebb (Nottinghamshire Police) present for agenda items 1-5, Jo Mathieson (Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Unit), Mary McEvoy (Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue), Andrew Muter (Newark & Sherwood District Council), Maggie Pape (Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Unit), Keith Tansley (Gedling Borough Council), Frank Horsley (Ashfield District Council) present for agenda items 1-5, Terry Laws (Learning & Skills Council), Ruth Marlow (Mansfield District Council), Haf Merrifield (Government Office East Midlands), Jean Pardoe (Connexions), John Thorn (Nottinghamshire County Council) for agenda item 5, Chris Kenny (NHS Nottinghamshire County), Ruth Rigby - Observer (NHS Nottinghamshire County & Bassetlaw PCT), Chris Wall – minutes (Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Unit)

ACTION

The meeting began at 4.00 pm

1a Welcome and Introduction

Councillor Philip Owen welcomed Children's Trust Board (CTB) members.

1b Apologies for absence

Ian Ackerley (Nottinghamshire Police), Philip Marshall (Ashfield District Council), Julie Cotton (Bassetlaw PCT), Steve Brown (Bassetlaw District Council), Simon Smith (Nottinghamshire Healthcare)

Helen Jebb will be representing Ian Ackerley (Nottinghamshire Police)
Frank Horsley will be representing Philip Marshall (Ashfield District Council)

1c Minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2009 and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2009 were accepted as an accurate record, apart from Standing items 2 (2) should read:
"Work is underway to address NSCB resourcing, taking into account

partner agencies' resource constraints. NSCB is not looking for increased agency contributions for the current year."

Matters Arising

Item 5, Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Participation Strategy

Allen Graham (Rushcliffe Borough Council), who had agreed to take on the role of Participation Champion for the CT Board, gave an update. The Young People's Board had met on 9 February 2010 and chosen two representatives. Jo Mathieson (Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Unit) would be working with them to take this forward.

It was agreed to arrange a meeting between Allen Graham and the representatives from the Young People's Board to take this work forward.

Jo Mathieson

Standing items

2. Business items from Children's Trust Executive Meetings – 16 December 2009 and 21 January 2010

Anthony May (Chair of Children's Trust Executive) briefed the Board on business items from the meetings of the CT Executive. Key issues had been looked at to ensure the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2009 to 2011 and 2011 to 2014 reflected the needs of young people along with the Executive's connection to the Board. The representation of district councils on the Executive needed to be addressed and Anthony asked for the Board's view on this matter.

Ruth Hyde (Broxtowe Borough Council) suggested a rationalised approach, seeking 2-3 nominations to represent the districts.

It was agreed that:

(a) 2-3 representatives of district councils should be nominated to serve on the Executive at the next meeting of district council Chief Executive Officers.

Ruth Marlow

(b) A full update on progress on work of the Executive would be circulated with the minutes.

Chris Wall

3 Business items from Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board

Chris Few (Chair – Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board) presented highlights of a briefing summary from the meeting of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) meeting on 27 January 2010.

There had been a presentation by Mouchel in preparation for the forthcoming announced Ofsted inspection. The following issues were raised:

(1) A number of strengths of the NSCB's work in improving outcomes for children were identified and it was recognised that these and other strengths needed to be highlighted to the Inspection team.

(2) It was highlighted that there should be a commitment to good practice whether preparing for an inspection or not.

A report was received on progress with the Safeguarding and Looked After Improvement Programme (SIP). A number of areas were discussed and it was noted to represent a positive programme of work. The importance of ensuring a multi-agency approach particularly around threshold criteria development was highlighted.

Performance information had been considered including information on engagement of professionals and children and young people in the safeguarding process where some concerns were recognised.

Issues affecting individual agencies had been reported and the NSCB had been advised of the arrival of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) at Nottinghamshire Police.

Helen Jebb (Nottinghamshire Police) commented that the Capability Review within Nottingham Police had noted further improvements were needed. Police performance around safeguarding raised no concerns. She would continue to make contact with agencies across the partnership and report back to the CT Board regarding issues that were raised by the Police Capability Review.

Helen Jebb

The NSCB had agreed proposals for partners to prepare self-evaluation reports regarding their safeguarding arrangements and performance. Board members had also agreed to advise on the range of safeguarding performance information collected within their organisations. This information would be included in the NSCB annual report provided to the CT Board after July 2010.

Chris Few to bring NSCB report to CT Board after July 2010

Chris introduced the Protocol between NSCB and Nottinghamshire Children's Trust. He stated that the protocol was a joint document between NSCB and Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Board (NCTB). It reflected current national drivers and statutory guidance on how Children's Trusts work. Chris commented that the current document provides a good basis to develop and take forward joint working between the Boards.

Members of the Board discussed low level of attendance at case conferences and the provision of reports by GPs which was a cause for concern.

It was agreed that:

- (a) **Chris Kenny and Chris Few would meet to address issues relating to GPs' contribution to Case Conferences.** Chris Kenny
Chris Few
- (b) **Anthony May would check with Service Directors in Children and Young People's Services to identify any issues relating to District council representatives' attendance at Case Conferences.** Anthony May
- (c) **The Protocol between the NSCB and the Children's Trust Board was approved.**

The Board noted the Briefing Note from the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board meeting, 27 January 2010.

4 Children and Young People's Plan 2009-11

Maggie Pape (Children's Trust Unit) gave an update on the Children and Young People's Plan 09 -11 (CYPP).

The Executive would be provided with six monthly performance reports identifying progress against each CYPP Priority. Any areas of concern (or exceptionally good performance) would then result in the Executive requesting further information from the relevant partnership group. At the last Executive meeting on 21 January, additional information was requested for four priority areas. In addition, strategic leads for all priority areas would attend the Executive at least once a year, in a planned schedule, to provide an in-depth update on the work.

The annual review of the CYPP is required by June 2010 and would be produced in consultation with partners. A performance analysis would be provided by the end of May to enable the Board to refresh priorities and reset targets if necessary. Actions from this analysis would be taken forward by the Executive.

The Board accepted the update of the Children and Young People's Plan 09-11.

5 Strategic Development – Early Years Foundation Stage

Anthony May set the context for this presentation and introduced John Thorn (Nottinghamshire County Council) to the Board. Performance of the Early Years Foundation Stage had been identified by the Executive as an issue to be taken to the Board for a multi-agency response.

John Thorn gave a presentation on Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). John explained how the EYFS outcomes are measured and that Nottinghamshire was behind the national average compared to our

nearest neighbour. Measures were being put in place to address these issues but John asked the Board for their views on how best to improve the outcomes. He gave an overview of how Children's Centres are managed in Nottinghamshire.

Members of the Board discussed general areas of weakness in relation to NIs, the tracking of data and support for non-school providers.

Challenges regarding data sources, protection and sharing were discussed. There were issues of confidentiality in relation to data sharing by Health professionals. Councillor Philip Owen suggested a meeting be arranged to discuss this.

The Board discussed the distribution of take up of nursery education in Nottinghamshire.

John responded that the take up figures in Nottinghamshire were 98% of 4 year olds and 92% of 3 year olds but taken district by district some figures were slightly lower.

Ruth Marlow (Mansfield District Council) suggested sharing information about Children's Centres via district council service contacts with families, for example, with Council Tax Benefits or Free School Meals.

Sue Fenton (Networking Action with Voluntary Organisations) stated the voluntary sector focus on Children's Centres and the provision of services for Early Years and the Under 5's and requested that Nottingham Council for Voluntary Service be contacted in solutions to improving performance for EYFS.

Anthony May thanked John for the presentation and commented that this is an example of how issues can be widely understood and shared by partners.

It was agreed that:

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| (a) Board members would contact John for more information and further dialogue on how agencies can contribute to the improvement of outcomes relating to Early Years Foundation Stage. | All Board Members |
| (b) John would follow up the opportunity to distribute leaflets and contact partners. | John Thorn |
| (c) Chris Kenny would take forward the issue relating to data sharing with John Thorn and Haf Merrifield. | Chris Kenny |

6 Development of revised Children's Trust Governance Structures

Maggie Pape (Children's Trust Unit) presented proposals for the development of revised Children's Trust structures.

The Board discussed the invitation of Diocesan Boards and other faith groups on to the Board.

Chris Kenny supported point 17, which proposed that Nottinghamshire NHS Healthcare Trust, as a provider organisation, be represented on other groups within the Children's Trust structure. He stated there were many healthcare providers.

The Board went on to consider point 19, The Fire and Rescue Service membership. It is not a statutory partner.

Anthony May suggested it would be more effective for the Fire and Rescue Service to be represented on the Board rather than the Executive.

The Board discussed 14-19 representation on the Board. Anthony May stated from April 2010, Learning and Skills Council would no longer be represented on the Board and that 14-19 provision would be represented by nomination of a Further Education Principal from the 14-19 Partnership Board. It was suggested that Nottingham Futures should be represented on the Executive.

Maggie Pape presented the proposals for rationalisation of sub-groups reporting to the Board and its executive groups.

A discussion of the proposals by the Board included:

- relationship between structures and district Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs)
- balance between covering more and limiting the number of groups
- development of Health Improvement Partnership
- need for a new Think Family group
- definition of the relationship between NSCB and NCTB

Ruth Hyde commented that there were a lot of groups and that communication may be a problem. Attendance at these groups may be difficult from a District Council perspective.

It was agreed that:

(a) A Think Family Thematic Group was not needed. The Executive would need to ensure the approach is reflected

All Executive Members

across all the work of the Trust.

- (b) **The Board would accept the recommendations that representation on the Board should be at Chief Executive/Director level or equivalent, with representation on its Executive at Assistant Director/Service Director or equivalent.**
- (c) **Anthony May would discuss with the Diocesan Boards of Education representation on the Children's Trust Board and feedback at the next CT Board meeting.** **Anthony May**
- (d) **Nottinghamshire NHS Healthcare Trust and other healthcare providers be invited to become associate members of the Executive.** **Anthony May to invite to Executive**
- (e) **Connexions would no longer be statutory members of the Children's Trust Board. Nottinghamshire Futures would be invited to join the Executive.** **Anthony May to invite to Executive**
- (f) **Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service would remain a member of the Children's Trust Board.**
- (g) **Maggie Pape would ensure the final terms of reference include the Board's views on the relationship between the NSCB and NCTB.** **Maggie Pape**
- (h) **The Board would accept the general approach as defined in the proposal.**
- (i) **The Board would approve the approach to be taken with the development of thematic groups with six thematic groups except Think Family Group.**
- (j) **The Board would accept the proposals in the paper subject to the amendments outlined above.**

7 Safeguarding and Looked After Inspection Preparation

Les Cowling (Nottinghamshire County Council) updated the Board in relation to preparation for the Safeguarding and Looked After Inspection and highlighted some of the issues that inspectors will consider when evaluating the performance of the Trust. As yet no notice for a final inspection had been received. When it was received it was anticipated that interviews from the Board, such as Councillor Philip Owen, Chris Few or Chris Kenny were likely to be requested with a maximum of 10 days notice.

Anthony May responded to the update and stated workloads in Children's Social Care were increasing with a 40-50% rise. There was a

high turnover of staff and it was proving very difficult to recruit and retain them. The focus on processes and assessments still highlighted areas of inadequacy. As a result there had been a knock on effect in other areas of service such as Early Years and Legal Services. Anthony pointed out that Nottinghamshire was not the only local authority with these problems. More resources on the ground were needed to keep a sustainable system in place.

The Board agreed to note the content of the Safeguarding and Looked After Inspection Report

The meeting closed at 6.10 pm

Date of Next Meeting: 10 June 2010, 2.00 to 4.00 pm

Venue TBC

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