

Leeds Children's Trust Board

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2011, John Jamieson School – East Specialist Inclusive Learning Centre

Present:

Cllr Judith Blake (chair)	Leeds City Council - Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Nigel Richardson	Leeds City Council - Director of Children's Services
Cllr Sue Bentley	Leeds City Council - Elected Member
Cllr Alan Lamb	Leeds City Council - Elected Member
Matt Ward	NHS Leeds - Associate Director of Commissioning
Sam Prince	NHS Leeds – Managing Director – Leeds Community Healthcare
Simon Whitehead	West Yorkshire Police – Chief Officer Leeds Community Safety
Jim Hopkinson	Leeds Youth Offending Service – Head of Service
Diane Reynard	School representative – SILCs
Alan Bolton	Academy representative – David Young Community Academy
Chris Radelaar	Children's Centre Manager – Shakespeare Children's Centre
Neil Moloney	West Yorkshire Probation – Head of Leeds Probation
Ann Pemberton	Leeds Voice – Manager Home Start Leeds

In attendance:

Simon Flowers	Leeds City Council – Strategic Leader – Education Integration
Barbara Newton	Leeds City Council - Children's Services - Strategic Leader
Jackie Wilson	Leeds City Council - Chief Officer – Children and Young People's Social Care
Bryan Gocke	Local Safeguarding Children Board Manager
Kate Arscott	Leeds City Council - Children's Services - Governance and Partnerships
William Newham	Leeds City Council - Children's Services - Project and Administrative Assistant

Apologies

Tony Adlard	College Representative – Principal, Notre Dame College
Jane Held	Local Safeguarding Children Board – Independent Chair
Martin Fleetwood	Schools Representative - Secondary
Kirsten Finley	Schools Representative - Primary

Item	Action by
1.1	Welcome, introductions, apologies and alternative representatives
1.2	<p>Cllr Judith Blake welcomed all colleagues to the meeting. Introductions were made and apologies delivered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Blake introduced Kate Arscott (Children's Services Governance and Partnerships) who will be supporting the CTB and LSCB, picking up some of the responsibilities previously covered by Martyn Stenton and Rebecca Suaznabar. Cllr Bentley will be replaced by Cllr Downes in July. Cllr Blake thanked her for her contribution to the Board.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting (18th April 2011) and matters arising

- 2.1 The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.
- 2.2 Re point 3.11 – Simon Flowers is now the Leeds City Council lead for the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) theme 'have fun growing up' and Mariana Pexton for the theme 'minimise the effects of poverty'
- 2.3 Re point 5.8 – Cllr Blake updated that following a meeting of the Leeds Initiative main partnership board it was agreed that the Children's Trust Board will retain its name.

3.0 Obsession Focus – Number of Looked After Children

- 3.1 Jackie Wilson delivered a presentation on the CYPP obsession of 'reducing the need for children and young people to be in care'.
- 3.2 The presentation complemented a previously circulated report that provided an update on efforts to reduce the need for children and young people to be looked after. As an initial report, attention was focused on the baseline position at the end of the 2010/11 financial year and the actions being put in place to address this, especially at the locality level.
- 3.3 Jackie called on the Board to:
 - Consider the implications of the baseline position for 2010-11
 - Comment on the activity plan as a basis for going forward with this obsession
 - Share partners' perspectives on progress against this obsession
 - Require individual agencies to share their experience of new approaches and to evaluate impact
 - Consider the usefulness of the report as a basis for Children's Trust Board consideration of CYPP obsessions.
- 3.4 Following Jackie's presentation key points / comments made were as follows:
 - A number of members of the board queried the high average weekly costs of external placements. Jackie commented that the costs were in line with other local authorities.
 - The Board noted the desire to increase the numbers of CAFs taking place.
 - Members of the Board provided some very positive feedback on the progress in working relationships between partners that was being seen on the ground, particularly when seen against the backdrop of a huge increase in referrals coming through the system.
 - Jim Hopkinson commented on the value of the cluster level data, which would help to drive improvements and the commissioning of services at a local level.
 - Cllr Lamb added to this point, commenting that clusters need to receive appropriate data especially around where a child or young person goes to school in a different area to where they live. We need to make sure children and young people are not missed and that someone has ownership, as well as addressing the question of who holds the funding in these circumstances.
 - The Board discussed the desire to progress the wider partnership elements of the cluster arrangements. It was agreed that the relevant Board members should get together as soon as possible.
 - Cllr Blake commented that following the presentation highlighting the costs involved we should consider raising awareness of the cost of failure to address this obsession, and the potential money that could be released to reinvest in early intervention when we start to turn the curve..
 - Nigel Richardson added that we need to have highly visible scorecards built up from a cluster to

city level.

- Simon Whitehead indicated that the strategic leadership team for Leeds Community Safety have started considering the relevant priorities of other partners once a month in order to maintain a broader awareness. This was considered to be a useful model for the Trust Board to consider.
- Members agreed that the format of this report provided a useful basis for future reports on CYPP obsessions.

Action:

3.5 **Nigel Richardson, Simon Whitehead, Matt Ward, Jim Hopkinson, Jackie Wilson and Mariana Pexton to meet to progress implementation of cluster arrangements.** NR

3.6 **Include updates on relevant priorities from other partners on future agendas.** KA

4.0 Leeds Education Challenge

4.1 Simon Flowers delivered a detailed update presentation on the Leeds Education Challenge highlighting key issues for the Board's consideration. In summary:

- A series of meetings are being used to start the 'Big Conversation' with Elected Members, groups of head teachers, governors and other stakeholders – culminating in a meeting for all head teachers in July
- School Improvement, Basic need, 14-19 provision, locality working and the new relationship with the local authority will all feature in the conversations.
- At the July event Sir Tim Brighouse will present his review of the learning landscape in Leeds at the end of the Education Leeds contract. The meeting will then open discussion on the new relationship between the local authority, wider children's services and partnerships, schools and other learning settings.

4.2 In his presentation Simon touched on the current position in Leeds; the Education Bill and its implications for Leeds; the Brighouse Review, positives on which to build, gaps to fill and areas of focus; the Leeds Education Challenge; the Big Conversation; and key next steps.

4.3 Simon went on to recommended that the Board consider the implications for the partnership of the emerging agenda and the new relationship with schools and that the Board agree to hold further discussions as the agenda develops.

4.4 Following Simon's update key points / comments made were as follows:

- Nigel Richardson commented that it is essential that we have a solid learning offer across the city as the bedrock to delivering our priorities for children and young people.
- The Board discussed the importance of clusters built around schools to provide co-ordination of services at local level, and stressed the desire in Leeds to build an integrated framework. They also talked about the potential for fragmentation and variation in quality of service if everyone went their own way.
- Simon Flowers commented that we are in a good position in Leeds and it is important that we play on the strengths that we have got. There is a real opportunity in Leeds to get this right now. Head teachers have a much better understanding of their collective responsibilities in localities / clusters and are keen to hear about the support on offer through a partnership approach.
- Nigel Richardson added that the feedback so far has been very positive with schools recognising that the vision is ambitious but that this is everyone working together for the benefit of all children and young people in Leeds.
- Cllr Blake commented that school governors also need to be engaged. It was confirmed that the 'Big Conversation' will be taken to a number of governors' meetings / forums.

- Jim Hopkinson queried whether schools could sign up to a pledge committing them to a minimum expectation around clusters. Nigel Richardson responded that this is something that we want for all cluster partners as a visible sign of their commitment to the partnership, but that essentially this is a mechanism for achieving the CYPP outcomes, which is the real goal.

Action:

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| 4.5 | Chairs of governors to be informed of 12 July event. | SF |
| 4.6 | Minimum standards to be developed for clusters. | NR |
| 4.7 | Children's Trust Board to be kept updated on the progress of the Leeds Education Challenge and the outcomes of the 'big conversation'. | SF/KA |

5.0 Child Friendly City Update

5.1 Barbara Newton delivered an update on developments in the Child Friendly City programme for Leeds and provided an indication of the next phase of work.

5.2 Barbara provided background information to the programme and went on to summarise the findings from consultation activity with children and young people, parents and carers, providing details of the emerging structures that are being established to enable delivery of the programme. (A comprehensive report on consultation activity with children and young people, parents and carers was also attached as an appendix.)

5.3 Barbara drew the board's attention to a summary diagram highlighting the rights of every young citizen in a Child Friendly City. These rights have been grouped into five themes and five working groups have been established to consider potential areas of focus for that area of the programme. Barbara added that these groups will be joined up and work with the working groups that the Youth Council is establishing for the same five themes to agree the focus for each group and use this to draw up the menu of pledges that we can ask organisations to commit to delivering.

5.4 Following Barbara's update key points / comments made were as follows:

- Alan Bolton commented that CYPP sponsors should be appropriately involved in this work. Action: Barbara Newton
- Cllr Blake commented that we need to look at how impact of this programme is monitored.
- Cllr Sue Bentley firstly commented that this is an excellent piece of work. She then went on to comment that residents need to be involved in the programme as there is a cultural issue of disengagement with young people, especially with the elderly. Anne Pemberton commented that the Older People's Forum is keen to support services and recognise the needs of children and young people. Cllr Lamb also added that there are good examples of children and young people working with older people within wards which can be built on.
- Nigel Richardson commented that we need to make it clear that children and young people have responsibilities as well as the rights outlined in the summary diagram. He also commented that there remained a challenge to broaden participation to capture the 'unheard' voices.

Action:

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| 5.5 | Ensure CYPP sponsors are appropriately involved in the Child Friendly City developments. | BN |
| 5.6 | Consider how the impact of the programme is to be monitored. | BN |
| 5.7 | Children's Trust Board to be kept updated on progress. | BN/KA |

6.0 Leeds Safeguarding Children Board Strategic Plan 2011-15 and Business Plan 2011-12

6.1 Bryan Gocke delivered an update on the LSCB Strategic Plan 2011-15 and the Business Plan for 2011-12. Bryan commented that:

- The Strategic Plan provides a framework for the work of the LSCB over the next four years. Within this, the Business Plan, identifying outcomes and objectives, will be developed and refreshed on an annual basis.
- The LSCB has undertaken a consultation process with partners to identify its strategic priorities for 2011-15. The resulting strategic plan complements the CYPP and is in line with the priorities and obsessions.
- The Business Plan for 2011/12 has been developed as part of this process and sets outcomes and objectives. LSCB sub groups will adopt a programme management approach to progressing work plans.
- In implementing the Business Plan the LSCB will bring emerging safeguarding issues to the attention of the CTB for discussion and challenge where appropriate.

6.2 The CTB received and noted the Leeds Safeguarding Children Board Strategic Plan and Business Plan.

7.0 Leeds Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report

7.1 Bryan briefly outlined the draft LSCB Annual Report which was summarised in a cover report focusing on a summary of achievements in 2010/11, emerging challenges for the CTB and emerging challenges for the LSCB.

7.2 Bryan requested that the CTB comment on the outline LSCB Annual Report. Partner agencies were asked to consider the emerging themes and challenges in the draft report and provide feedback through their LSCB representatives to Bryan by 24th June 2011. The CTB will receive the final LSCB Annual Report at the next meeting on 11th July 2011.

7.3 Following Bryan's updates key points / comments made were as follows:

- The CTB agreed that members would respond to Bryan's request for feedback on the LSCB Annual Report. Kate Arscott agreed to forward Bryan's request for feedback to those members who had to leave the meeting early.
- Members agreed that it was important to reflect on how far we have come in the last year and the improved strength of our partnership working.
- Nigel Richardson commented that it would be worth a themed discussion to look at the relationship between various boards, in particular the mutual accountability between the CTB and the LSCB, and the potential development of joint score cards.

Action:

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| 7.4 | All to provide feedback on the annual report through LSCB representatives to Bryan Gocke by 24 June. | All |
| 7.5 | Final draft annual report to come to CTB on 11 July. | BG |
| 7.6 | The Board agreed to a future discussion on the relationship between various boards and the potential development of joint score cards. | KA |

8.0 Improvement Update Report

8.1 Report circulated for information. Nigel Richardson circulated a letter from Graham Archer (Deputy Director – Local Improvement and Intervention Division - DfE) following a meeting held between Leeds City Council and the DfE on 20th May 2011. Nigel commented that the letter was very positive and acknowledged significant improvement in Leeds.

9.0 Leeds Initiative Partnership

9.1 Report to Leeds Initiative Board circulated for information. The changes will be reflected in the annual governance review of the Children’s Trust Board arrangements due to take place in the autumn.

Action:

9.2 Changes to be reflected in the CTB annual governance review.

KA

10.0 Reports from sub groups / other partnerships

10.1 Key messages from the following boards / sub-groups were circulated for information:

- Local Safeguarding Board. It was agreed that Richard Jackson would be a deputy representative for Jane Held on the Children’s Trust Board.
- Workforce Reform and Practice Development Sub-Group
- Commissioning and Finance Sub-Group
- 11-19 (25) Learning and Support Partnership Sub-Group

11.0 Date and time of next meeting

11.1 Monday 11th July (9:30 – 12:30) Venue TBC

KA