

# CHILDREN'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AGENDA



**Tuesday 17 November, 2015**

**at 4.15 pm**

**in the Council Chamber,  
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

**MEMBERS: CHILDREN'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

Councillor Chris Simmons, Chair of Children's Services Committee and Lead Member for Children's Services (Chair);  
Councillor Alan Clark, Chair of South and Central Neighbourhood Forum;  
Councillor Paul Beck, Chair of North and Coastal Neighbourhood Forum;  
Sally Robinson, Director of Child and Adult Services, Hartlepool Borough Council;  
Danielle Swainston, Assistant Director, Children's Services, Hartlepool Borough Council;  
Mark Patton, Assistant Director, Education, Hartlepool Borough Council;  
Louise Wallace, Director of Public Health, Hartlepool Borough Council;  
Damien Wilson, Assistant Director, Regeneration, Hartlepool Borough Council;  
Chief Superintendent Gordon Lang, Cleveland Police;  
Julie Allan, Director of Offender Management, Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust;  
Ali Wilson, Chief Officer, NHS Hartlepool & Stockton-on-Tees Clinical Commissioning Group;  
Representative, NHS Hartlepool & Stockton-on-Tees Clinical Commissioning Group;  
Lindsey Robertson, Professional Lead Nurse, Out of Hospital Care, Hartlepool & North Tees NHS Foundation Trust;  
Head of Service, CAMHS, Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust;  
Head of Service, North Locality, Hartlepool Borough Council;  
Jane Young, Head of Service, South Locality, Hartlepool Borough Council;  
Helen White, Participation Manager, Hartlepool Borough Council;  
Dave Wise, West View Project, Voluntary and Community Sector;  
Kay Glew, Housing Hartlepool, Thirteen Group;  
John Hardy, Head Teacher St John Vianney Primary School, Hartlepool Primary Schools (Vice Chair);  
Head Teacher, Hartlepool Secondary Schools;  
Head Teacher, Hartlepool Special Schools;  
Darren Hankey, Principal Hartlepool College of Further Education, Hartlepool Post 16 Colleges;  
Jonathan Fay, Partnership Manager, Job Centre Plus;  
Karen Gibson, Hartlepool Carers, HealthWatch Children and Young People's Representative  
Children and Young People Representatives  
Adoptive / Foster Parent Representatives



1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

2. **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

3. **MINUTES**

- 3.1 Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting of the Partnership held on 8 September, 2015.

4. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION**

- 4.1 Better Childhood programme / Healthy Relationships - Presentation – *Director of Child and Adults*

Date of next meeting – 23 February, 2016 at 4.15 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.



# **CHILDREN'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

**8 SEPTEMBER 2015**

The meeting commenced at 4.15 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

**Present:**

Councillor Chris Simmons (In the Chair)

Also present: Danielle Swainston, Assistant Director, Children's Services, Hartlepool Borough Council;  
Karen Douglas-Weir, Head of Service, Safeguarding, Assessment and Support  
Antony Steinberg, Economic Regeneration Manager, Hartlepool Borough Council;  
Helen White, Participation Manager, Hartlepool Borough Council;  
Dave Wise, West View Project, Voluntary and Community Sector;  
Kay Glew, Thirteen Housing Group;  
John Hardy, Head Teacher St John Vianney Primary School, Hartlepool Primary Schools;  
Darren Hankey, Principal Hartlepool College of Further Education, Hartlepool Post 16 Colleges;  
Claire Naylor, Partnership Manager, Job Centre Plus;  
Dave Pickard, Independent Chair, Hartlepool Safeguarding Children Board;  
Holly Bratt, Children and Young People Representative

Officers: Mark Smith, Head of Integrated Youth Support Services  
Deborah Clark, Health Improvement Practitioner  
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Councillor Alan Clark, Chair of South and Central Neighbourhood Forum;  
Councillor Paul Beck, Chair of North and Coastal Neighbourhood Forum;  
Sally Robinson, Director of Child and Adult Services, Hartlepool Borough Council;  
Louise Wallace, Director of Public Health, Hartlepool Borough Council;  
Ali Wilson, Chief Officer, NHS Hartlepool & Stockton-on-Tees Clinical Commissioning Group;  
Jane Young, Head of Service, South Locality, Hartlepool Borough Council.

## 2. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

## 3. **Appointment of Vice-Chair**

### **Decision**

That Mr John Hardy be re-appointed as Vice-Chair of the Hartlepool Children's Strategic Partnership.

## 4. **Minutes of the meetings held on 24 March and 30 June 2015**

Confirmed.

## 5. **Think Family, Think Communities (TFTC) Outcomes Plan** (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

The Assistant Director, Children's Services updated the Partnership on Phase 2 Think Family, Think Communities (TFTC) programme. Phase 2 of the Troubled Families programme builds on the Phase 1 programme and widens the criteria significantly. As with the Phase 1 programme the expanded programme will focus on families that have multiple high cost problems.

Due to the success of the current programme the previous government committed in principle to expanding the programme to cover a further 400,000 families across the country over the next five years. Funding was allocated for one year of the expanded programme with decisions about the future of the programme being decided by the next government. Following the recent general election result the government set out in the Queen's Speech that the Government will expand the Troubled Families Programme. It is not clear what that expansion will look like but it is likely to be based on the DCLG (Department for Communities and Local Government) previous allocations to local authorities. This equates to approximately 950 families in Hartlepool across 5 years.

The guidance for payment by results for Phase 2 is set out below (Expanded Programme financial framework)

1. Achieved sustained and significant progress, compared with all the family's problems at the start of the intervention;

OR

2. An adult in the family has moved off benefits and into continuous employment.

“The definition of the outcomes and measures that constitute significant and sustained progress for all troubled families in each local authority should be agreed locally and set out in a Troubled Family Outcomes Plan. This Plan should set out the following:

- what a significantly improved outcome is for all of six headline family problems covered by the programme,
- what will be measured to establish that this outcome has been achieved, and
- the timeframes against which the sustainability of these outcomes will be measured.

The resultant Troubled Family Outcomes Plan will provide an area-wide set of success measures applicable to all families, from which the outcomes and measures relevant to each family may then be drawn.”

In order for the Local Authority to meet the requirements of the financial framework a TFTC Outcomes Plan had been developed and was submitted with the report for the Partnership's consideration. There is a meeting planned with the Internal Audit team to make sure the TFTC Outcomes Plan meets rigorous financial requirements for the payments by results claim process.

The Assistant Director highlighted that there were a number of progress measures included within the Outcomes Plan that had not been tested to see if these were possible to collect. It was intended to trial the Outcomes Plan with the first year of families to understand if progress could be measured appropriately. A review of the plan would take place within six months and measures would be adjusted as needed. The Assistant Director commented that some of the information to be gathered, such as A&E attendances for example, could be difficult to capture and it was indicated that a request had been submitted to the North East Commissioning Support Unit for some of the information required.

The Assistant Director did caution that while the Council had been very successful with the previous programme achieving 100% of its aims, those families that would be targeted in phase 2 would be the more difficult families to work with and those with more complex needs meaning that achieving the outcomes would be that much harder.

The Chair commented that while he did not particularly like schemes that involved payment by results he was totally convinced that the approach being taken was the right one. Achieving the outcomes required may be that much harder in phase 2 of the programme but these were families that needed support. The Chair added that the Hartlepool Safeguarding Board was working on a framework document to address some of the duplications of services across the Tees valley that would inform the work now reported.

**Decision**

That the Think Families, Think Communities Outcome Plan be approved for trial with the first year of families in Phase 2 of the programme

## 6. **Annual Review of the Children Looked After Strategy 2014/17** (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

The Assistant Director, Children's Services updated the Children's Strategic Partnership on the progress of the implementation of the Children Looked After Strategy 2014/17. The strategy provided a framework for the continuous development and improvement of services for children looked after provision. The authority's performance in relation to outcomes for children looked after is good and this strategy aims to embed and improve on this performance.

The strategy s set out under the seven themes: -

- Children in Need and Family Support
- Corporate Parenting
- Sufficiency
- Care Planning for Children and Young People in Care
- A First Class Education
- Promoting Health and Wellbeing
- Care Leavers

The Assistant Director highlighted the progress during the past year and the priorities for 2015/16 for each area. One of the young peoples' representative reported on a Barnardo's scheme designed to assist care leavers into apprenticeships.

The Chair welcomed the news that five young care leavers had gained apprenticeships under the Care 2 Work scheme. The meeting briefly discussed sufficiency in foster carer numbers. The Assistant Director commented that while Hartlepool had some excellent foster carers, there were still difficulties in recruiting foster carers for larger sibling groups and teenagers.

The Assistant Director also highlighted the need to ensure looked after children received the best educational opportunities. The Chair indicated that nationally looked after children were behind other children in educational attainment. Finding those children a good home were they would be cared for and nurtured wasn't enough; they had also to get the best education available. Looked after children in Hartlepool had investigated this issue themselves and those in influence had to listen to their views.

**Decision**

That the First Annual Review of the Children Looked After Strategy 2014 – 2017 be noted and the priorities for 2015/16 approved.

**7. Children and Young Peoples Out Of School Entitlement** (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

The Head of Integrated Youth Support Services reported on the development of a strategy to secure an out of school entitlement for children and young people. Following on from the partnership meeting on the 24th of March 2015 a Steering Group had been established to support to the development of a strategy that would take the recommendations of the Children's Strategic Partnership forward to and drive forward efforts to secure an out of school entitlement for local children and young people.

The group had worked effectively to secure cross-sector trust and collaboration across organisations involved in the delivery and development of out of school provision to ensure that resources can be maximised and expertise shared going forward. The strategy established a vision and a series of strategic aims to provide direction to our collective efforts going forward and confirmed the role of the Children's Strategic Partnership within the governance arrangements relating to this piece of work.

Dave Wise, West View Project, highlighted the numbers of young people involved in play schemes through the summer holidays. There was concern that should the local authority funding be reduced, the pressure on partners to fill that gap would increase, or the provision would have to be cut accordingly.

The Chair commented that the service was valued highly, particularly in its work in preparing young people for life and independence. All partners needed to look at how the service could be maintained in the current climate of budget cuts across services. Losing these youth services would be a huge loss and everyone needed to pull together to maintain the services we currently have. The potential of an 'arm's length' trust for the service through working with partner voluntary organisations may also be a potential way forward in the future.

The Head of Integrated Youth Support Services reported that the Police and Crime Commissioner had recognised the value of youth services in diverting young people away from crime and anti-social behaviour but did have some prescriptive requirements. Where those requirements could be met the service would work with the PCC to deliver those aims.

Mr Wise commented that it was proposed that the strategy group continue. The brochure developed through the work of the group had been delivered to all schools but the longer term sustainability of the services would depend on all partner groups supporting and funding the services. The

Chair commented that he supported the continuing role of the strategy group and considered that an essential part of its future role would be to bring partner organisations together to support and fund the services. Not all agencies would necessarily be able to bring financial support but could still assist in delivering some element of the services. The longer term ability for the Council to continue to fund at existing levels was doubtful so exploration of alternative funding/organisation was essential. The Chair requested that it would be valuable for the Partnership to receive regular update reports.

### **Decision**

That the proposed vision and strategic aims outlined within the strategy be endorsed and that regular update reports be submitted to the Partnership.

## **8. Update on the Procurement of a Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Service and The Transfer of The 0-5 Public Health Services Commissioning** *(Director of Public Health)*

The Health Improvement Practitioner updated the Children's Strategic Partnership on the outcome of the procurement of a Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Service and on the progress regarding the transfer of 0-5 children's public health services from NHS England to the Local Authority.

The Public Health Department alongside HBC's Corporate Procurement Section commenced the procurement of new children and young people's health and wellbeing Service on 15th September 2014. On 9th January 2015 after an open and transparent procurement process North Tees and Hartlepool Foundation Trust were notified that they have been awarded the contract for the Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Service. The new service became operational on the 1st April 2015; Officers from Public Health would be supporting the Trust with the transformation of the new service.

The Department of Health had confirmed that children's public health commissioning responsibilities for 0-5 year olds would transfer from NHS England to Local Authorities on 1 October 2015. This transfer would join up that work already done by Local Authorities for children and young people aged 5-19. Only the commissioning responsibility was being transferred. Health Visitors and Family Nurses would continue to be employed by their current employer – North Tees and Hartlepool Foundation Trust.

Work continued between Hartlepool Borough Council, Stockton Borough Council and NHS England Area Team to develop plans for a smooth transfer of the commissioning responsibilities. A North of Tees transition board had been established with key partners to ensure a smooth transfer

happens in October 2015. Work was ongoing with the NHS England, as the outgoing commissioner, to put in place new contracts with existing providers which would ensure services were available to patients throughout the transition year. All future commissioning would be in line with the transformation of children's services under the 'Better Childhood Programme'.

The Health Improvement Practitioner also indicated that each school would have a named nurse who would develop an action plan to address issues raised within the school's health profile. There had, however, been some issues in gaining all the health data that was required.

The Chair welcomed the report and asked that an update report be brought to the partnership in six months time.

The meeting discussed the value of early health interventions and the sharing of information across agencies particularly at key stages. There was some concern expressed within the meeting at how some health issues in education had been handled in the past and there was a brief discussion on the letters issued around child obesity. The interventions that could be undertaken with families on obesity and under-nourishment of children was a concern, particularly over how those messages were communicated with families. There was discussion on how linked services, such as midwives and health visitors could be utilised. It was considered that the relationships with the Commissioning Group could be strengthened especially as partners were to be responsible for the outcomes which made the sharing of information across partners all the more important.

There were specific concerns expressed around the take-up of free school meals and the very significant drop-off when they stopped being free for children. The discussions at government level on the potential for free school meals for all children aged 5 to 7 being cut was a significant concern for all involved and the fear was that the take up of school meals could fall to a level well below that prior to the free school meals initiative.

The young people's representatives highlighted that their investigation of secondary school meals had shown that quite a number were 'unhealthy' making it difficult to criticise those going out to the local chip shop. It was suggested by the Vice-Chair that he had thought in the past that it would almost be more prudent to have the sandwich shop within the school site so there was some element of control; children didn't always make the best choices when they were given money to get something to eat. There was a brief discussion on the choice that children had in relation to school meals with comment that for younger children in particular, there may simply be too much choice and perhaps this needed to be reviewed.

The Chair thanked the meeting for the valuable debate and suggested that it would be beneficial for the Partnership to have a presentation at a future meeting from the school meals service.

**Decision**

That the report be noted and that a presentation from the School Meals Service be requested for a future meeting of the Partnership.

**9. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent**

None.

The meeting concluded at 5.50 pm.

CHAIR