

# YorOK BOARD EXTRAORDINARY MEETING



**Date:** Wednesday 5 February 2014

**Time:** 8.30am

**Venue:** The Severus Room, West Offices

Scott Butterworth	-	Deputy Headteacher, Millthorpe School
Juliet Burton	-	Children's Advice & Early Intervention, CYC
Angela Crossland	-	Youth Offending Team
Paul Edmondson-Jones	-	Director of Public Health & Interim Director Adult Services, CYC
Cllr Janet Looker	-	Cabinet Member, Education, Children & Young People's Services, City of York Council (Chair)
Niall McVicar	-	Family Information Service Manager
Sally Rees	-	Interim Director of Children's Services, Education and Skills
Paula Richardson	-	Children's Centre Strategy Manager
Cllr Carol Runciman	-	Elected Member, City of York Council
Lesley White	-	Public Health Children and Young People's Manager
In attendance:	-	Carolyn Ford, Inspection & Planning Manager (Minutes)
Apologies:	-	Tricia Head, Jayne Hill, Judy Kent, Graeme Murdoch, Lynn Parkinson, Eoin Rush, Jen Slaughter, Lynette Smith, Jon Stonehouse, Catherine Surtees, DCI Maria Taylor

## **ACTION**

### **1. Minutes of the Meeting Held on Monday 13 January 2014**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13 January 2014 were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting. There were no matters arising.

### **2. Ofsted Early Help Inspection – Reflections and Feedback**

Two Ofsted inspectors spent two days in York looking at case files and meeting staff and service users. Feedback was mixed and there is a need for all agencies to be more sharply focused going forward. Areas of good practice were identified and it is hoped that at least one will be included in the final Ofsted report.

Positive feedback included:

- Good quality, sound advice provided by the Front Door.
- Referrers are confident about the advice they are given and highly value the Advice Team.
- Staff receive training and are aware of messages from SCRs.

Cllr Runciman arrived at 8.45am.

Areas identified for improvement included:

- Plans need to focus on the issues, be clear about action to be taken, be outcome focused and include clear timescales.
- Plans need to focus on the child rather than the parent.
- There is a mixed picture regarding fathers' involvement in plans.

- The quality of referrals is mixed and inconsistent, and needs to be addressed.

It is anticipated that Ofsted will include the voice of the child, the child's journey and the quality of QA and performance management as KLOEs when they undertake the "Inspection of Services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers".

It is imperative that the YorOK Board is clear about its focus and rigorous in targeting work. Board members need to know the critical issues, have a plan to address them and then receive feedback. Board members need to challenge weaknesses and have the confidence to change direction if something is not working.

In terms of the voice of the child, the YorOK Board needs to evidence that it has listened to children and young people, services have changed as a result and that findings have been fed back to children and young people. It was agreed that any feedback received from children and young people be presented at each YorOK Board meeting and that the Board identifies any themes about which it would like to consult with children and young people.

There was a discussion about the 170 new CAFs produced in the city to date this year. The main referrers are secondary schools, primary schools and children's centres. The YorOK Board needs to understand why there are variations between schools and within schools in terms of the quality of their CAFs and their ability to provide early help support. It was suggested that structures and staffing levels may explain the variance. However, it is essential that good quality CAFs are produced and partners were reminded that this should be a collaborative effort, with all agencies working together to intervene early.

YorOK Board members noted that there are training issues around practitioners' understanding of CAF, CAF processes, integrated working, QA systems and the new SEN assessment.

### 3. **Early Help**

#### Updated Early Help Strategy

The updated Early Help Strategy reflects the findings of the Ofsted Thematic Review of Early Help and is available as a short version, long version and one page summary. The one page summary will be available on the YorOK website. YorOK Board members agreed to adopt the Early Help Strategy.

## Draft Early Help Action Plan and Priorities

The final version of the Action Plan will be available within two weeks, and partners were invited to send through comments to Judy Kent.

## IWIG – Priorities and Challenges

IWIG reformed on 17 January 2014 and will focus on increasing the use and quality of early help assessments and tools. The group identified early priorities to be:

- **Improved communication** with the workforce about integrated working practices and resources to ensure consistency of early help. Schools will be encouraged to use the school lists, identify the “Top 300” children and reduce barriers to data sharing.
- **Workforce training** around the quality of assessments and the voice of the child. CAF training has already been changed to reflect this.

Priorities for IWIG will also reflect on feedback following the Ofsted Thematic Review of Early Help. An IWIG action plan will be produced and Judy Kent is to confirm how IWIG will report to the YorOK Board.

## 4. Performance and Outcomes Frameworks

### Early Help Outcomes Framework

Juliet Burton reported that there are still gaps in the framework but that it will be continually reviewed. The document is RAG rated in terms of achievement of the aspirational outcomes, however Paul Edmondson-Jones warned against simply reviewing anything flagged as red.

Colleagues discussed how children and young people could be spotted and offered help earlier, as often children who, for example, receive free school meals or have a poor school attendance record, go on to become persistent offenders.

It was noted that York’s good academic results mask large achievement gaps for vulnerable children. A project to identify the “Top 300” primary school children who are hitting certain indicators and to intervene early is being considered. The project will have external academic accreditation and rigour, with a formal evaluation at the end. Cllr Looker suggested that when a child is identified for intervention, we should also look at younger siblings to see if we can intervene earlier to prevent the same problems occurring.

There was a discussion about the significant amount of Pupil Premium money in the city and the need to look at different ways of providing intervention for individual children. There is some research available around best practice, which includes nurture groups, ELSAs, breakfast clubs and pre-teaching. There is a need to disseminate this best practice as widely as possible in order to ensure best use of funding.

YorOK Board members agreed to receive a position statement, reporting exceptions, on a quarterly basis.

### Safeguarding Learning and Improvement Framework

The Safeguarding Learning and Improvement Framework has now been presented to the Safeguarding Board and the YorOK Board. Partners were asked to forward any final comments to Juliet Burton within the next two weeks. The document will then be finalised by the Performance Sub Group at the end of February, ready for the Safeguarding Board meeting in April.

## 5. Voice and Involvement Strategy – Update and Priorities for Action

Niall McVicar presented his report on the work to develop involvement of children and young people in relation to early help and safeguarding. The Safeguarding Children Involvement Group has been established and the work of this group compliments the work of the YorOK Involvement Group.

There are well-established arrangements in place for listening to the views of groups of children. However, sharing messages and outcomes from these groups is in need of development. A key area for development is listening to individual children in a way that influences their journey and experiences. The Ofsted Thematic Review of Early Help highlighted the variance in practice. In one of the tracked cases the “child shone through” but this is not always consistently so. The IROs also report that some cases present an exceptionally balanced view of the child and for some, the child’s voice is absent.

The Safeguarding Children Involvement Group will challenge where the voice of the child is absent or poor, and an action plan has been developed to drive improvement in individual areas. Niall McVicar encouraged YorOK Board members to take opportunities to attend group meetings in order to hear the voices of children and young people.

To further support the board and the wider YorOK workforce to understand what children and young people are saying, an "Involvement Digest" is being produced. This will summarise the messages from children and young people, provide a case study of changes as a result of involvement, and direct contributions from children and young people. These will be produced throughout the year and it was highlighted that these messages need to be heard at the York Education Partnership, at the Health & Wellbeing Board, at the YorOK Board and by practitioners.

The YOT has used Viewpoint to gain the views of young people, and the YOT Management Board will now analyse the results and produce an action plan. The YOT is looking into the possibility of using smart phone technology in order to obtain the views of young people, and Facebook for Yorzone is being considered as a mechanism to feedback findings to them. The YOT has produced leaflets that indicate which services have been provided as a result of the voice of young people or parents.

It was suggested that it would be possible for children to attend YorOK Board meetings with their parents or teachers and be given a brief, which they could then report back on to the YorOK Board. Some groups, such as young offenders, would be less willing to engage in this way and bespoke sessions are a more productive way of gaining their views. Paula Richardson noted that new technologies and methods can be used to engage with very young children at the pre-verbal stage.

It was agreed that Voice and Influence would be a regular agenda item, a programme of consultation themes would be drawn up and that Niall McVicar would bring the refreshed Involvement Strategy to the March YorOK Board meeting.

6. **Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

7. **Date of Future Meetings**

Monday 3 March 2014

Monday 12 May 2014

Monday 7 July 2014

Monday 8 September 2014

Monday 10 November 2014

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 10.00am.