



City of York YorOK Board
13 January 2014

AGENDA ITEM: No

TITLE: Early Help – update on local arrangements

This item relates to the following CYPP Priority:

- Supporting those who need extra help at the earliest opportunity

1. Summary:

Early Intervention and partnership working is well established in York. Since the inception of the YorOK Children's Trust 10 years ago, we have described our early help aspirations, values and priorities in the suite of Children and Young People's Plans produced during this time. 'Dream Again', our latest Children and Young People's Plan covering the period 2013-16 is no different. This approach has served as an effective and well understood basis for delivering safe and effective children's services in the city.

2. Strategy - Early Help: Next Steps

In the context of rapidly changing and challenging national policy and reducing public funding, Board members are encouraged to reaffirm our collective commitment to integrated working and the provision of early help and place a sharper focus on our combined local resources and arrangements for early help. To this end, a draft strategy document, 'Early Help: Next Steps', has been produced to describe how we deliver early help to children, young people and families both now and in the future, and how we will know that we are making a difference – this in the context of progress we have made to date. The draft strategy has been circulated to Board members.

Board members are asked to:

- read and comment on the draft strategy document;
- consider if the 'voice of the child' and children's experiences are sufficiently prominent throughout the document;
- consider if the document achieves an appropriate balance between acknowledging progress and known strengths alongside our aspirations;
- identify further examples of strong early help practice and evidence of positive impact;
- receive and approve a final version of the strategy at the March meeting of the YorOK Board.

Please could any comments be given to Judy Kent, contact details below, by 31 January 2014. Thanks.

This draft strategy document will also be tabled for comment at the meeting of the City Of York Safeguarding Children Board on 29 January 2014 and the York Education Partnership.

3. YorOK Integrated Working Implementation Group – IWIG

Board members will be aware that the YorOK Integrated Working Implementation Group, known locally as IWIG, is reformed from January 2014, with its first meeting taking place later this week.

The terms of reference for IWIG have been reviewed (draft attached) placing a clearer emphasis on delivering results and achieving impact in the context of our proposed early help strategy and local priorities. The success of IWIG will be measured in part by the following:

- an increase in the number of CAFs ('Common Assessments') and other early help assessments completed;
- an increase in the number of practitioners undertaking the Lead Practitioner role across the YorOK Children's Partnership;
- the improving quality of early help assessments;
- increasing levels of confidence and understanding of locally agreed intervention and service thresholds;
- evidence of more referring between organisations of families in need of help.

IWIG will also promote and monitor the involvement of children, young people and families in the development and delivery of our approach to integrated working and the involvement of managers and practitioners in the ongoing development and delivery of integrated working tools, processes and arrangements.

Board members are asked to:

- ensure that appropriate nominated representatives attend and actively support the work of this key group;
- monitor the impact of this forum through the regular YorOK performance updates and other reports to the Board;
- provide support and challenge to this agenda as appropriate;
- promote the use of relevant tools and support within partner agencies;
- Receive and endorse a final version of the terms of reference at the March meeting.

Author:

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Date: 3.1.14