

## YorOK BOARD MEETING



**Date:** Monday 3 March 2014  
**Time:** 9.30 – 12.00  
**Venue:** The Severus Room, West Offices

- |                      |   |  |
|----------------------|---|--|
| Juliet Burton        | - | Safeguarding Development Officer, Children's Trust Unit  |
| Angela Crossland     | - | Youth Offending Team   |
| Paul Edmondson-Jones | - | Director of Public Health & Interim Director Adult Services  |
| Polly Griffiths      | - | Healthwatch  |
| Chris Hewitt         | - | Management Information Service   |
| Jayne Hill           | - | Commissioning Partnership Unit   |
| Cllr Janet Looker    | - | Cabinet Member, Children's Services, Education & Skills (Chair)  |
| Graeme Murdoch       | - | York College   |
| Paula Richardson     | - | Children's Centre Strategy Manager   |
| Cllr Carol Runciman  | - | Elected Member, City of York Council   |
| Eoin Rush            | - | Assistant Director, Children's Specialist Services   |
| Jon Stonehouse       | - | Director of Children's Services, Education & Skills  |
| Catherine Surtees    | - | York CVS   |
| DCI Maria Taylor     | - | North Yorkshire Police   |
| Simon Westwood       | - | Chair, Safeguarding Board  |
| In Attendance        | - | Carolyn Ford, Inspection & Planning Manager (Minutes)  |
|                      | - | Amanda Gaines, Strategic Commissioner: Teenage Pregnancy, Substance Misuse and Risky Behaviours          |
|                      | - | Jess Haslam, Head of Disability and SEN  |
|                      | - | Alan Hodgson, Advice Team  |
|                      | - | Vicky Japes, Parent  |
|                      | - | Holly Melvin, Public Health Student  |
|                      | - | Lesley White, Public Health, Children and Young People's Manager   |
| Apologies:           | - | Scott Butterworth, Tricia Head, Judy Kent, Janet Probert, Debra Radford, Jen Slaughter and Aniela Wenham |

## **ACTION**

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

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

Cllr Looker noted that there are several agenda items which will need to return to the YorOK Board for further discussion and some, such as "Voice of the Child", that will be regular agenda items.

There was a discussion about domestic abuse and it was agreed that a report should be brought to a future board meeting. The report will cover issues, white ribbon status, the joint York/North Yorkshire strategy and York's own strategy. There are issues around "joining up", and both the Adult's and Children's Safeguarding Boards will need to be involved. It was agreed that a dedicated group, led by Paul Edmondson-Jones, should lead on this agenda.

PEJ

## 2. Trust Update

Simon Westwood arrived at 9.50am.

Juliet Burton summarised Judy Kent's report and the following key points were noted:

- The online induction programme now links more closely with the Early Help Strategy and is being re-launched. Board members were asked to promote its use amongst staff. All
- A "deep dive" will be undertaken for the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment at some time in the future.
- Advocacy is now being offered, from the age of 5, in line with other authorities, for children and young people with child protection plans. The next step will be to extend this to the under 5s.
- The Positive Sexuality survey identified that young people would prefer sex education to be delivered by a health professional. 70% also felt that internet sexting/chatting or online dating were not sufficiently well covered in sex education lessons. It was suggested that the Youth Council could further explore sex education and report back to the board. Further work is required with schools, the school nursing service and ELSAs around the sex education agenda, which overlaps with both the domestic violence and mental health agendas. JL
- A Scrutiny Review had noted that there is minimal use of the Mental Health Toolkit. The CAMHS Executive need to promote its use more widely and raise any issues or obstacles with the board.
- Simon Westwood queried the effectiveness of the E-safety group and this will be discussed with Amanda Gaines. SW

## 3. YorOK Performance Monitoring: Quarter Three

A corporate review of performance arrangements is currently being undertaken, which provides the opportunity to consolidate scorecards and review which boards have responsibility for which indicators. A paper will be brought to the next YorOK Board meeting for consideration. JK

Eoin Rush reported the following performance:

- The Troubled Families arrangements have changed radically. The new CIN team is smaller, staff have lower case loads and can now access children's case records. Good progress against the Troubled Families criteria was highlighted and the team is on track to hit its target and secure "payment by results" funding. Whilst the Troubled Families criteria do not currently match all of the council's strategic priorities, the new CIN Teams, now

situated within Children's Social Care, are working with a broader range of children who meet the S17 criteria as children in need.

- Cllr Looker reported that some staff have queried the name of the CIN Team, stating that it ignores the family surrounding the child. Eoin Rush responded that the new CIN team was broadening out its intervention work and working even better with families. Eoin Rush is to arrange for staff to be further briefed on the remit of the CIN Team. ER
- The number of Looked After Children is reducing and is close to the 200 – 210 target set, which is in line with regional and national figures. Simon Westwood commented that the reduction in the Looked After Children population and CP population was a real positive, as in many authorities the number of Looked After Children and CP is increasing despite significant funding in prevention and early intervention.
- The CAMHS Strategy action plan has been agreed by the CAMHS Executive and will be presented to the YorOK Board at the next meeting so that key tasks can be allocated to agencies. JK
- The NEET figure continues to improve and the YorOK Board will receive an update from Steve Flatley on the thematic review of NEET arrangements. Ofsted has requested a repeat visit to look further at outstanding practice in the city. JK
- Chris Hewitt was asked to replace Roger Thompson's name with Simon Westwood's name on the Performance Scorecard. CH
- Performance below target was noted in relation to the completion of LAC Health Assessments. This was attributed to the delay in advising Health of the date when a child becomes looked after, and older children not wanting to undergo a health assessment. Simon Westwood requested that numbers as well as percentages are provided. CH
- The 2012/13 Health Profile for each local authority will be released next week and will show York doing well against all the indicators other than admission to hospital for accidental injury. Paul Edmondson-Jones is to bring a report on the Health Profile to the next YorOK Board meeting. PEJ

#### 4. Early Help Strategy Action Plan

The Early Help Strategy, approved by the YorOK and Safeguarding Boards, will be delivered through the Early Help Action Plan. Board members endorsed the action plan as "work in progress" and agreed that it be brought back to the next meeting once named lead individuals had been added. JK

The Integrated Implementation Group will lead on delivering the action plan and regular updates will be provided for the YorOK

Board. Board members were asked to consider whether all agencies with links to early help were represented on the board.

JK

Monitoring the effectiveness of early help is a statutory function of the Safeguarding Board but board members felt that responsibility for Early Help should remain with the YorOK Board. Jon Stonehouse and Simon Westwood are to discuss lines of accountability for Early Help outside the YorOK Board meeting.

JS/SW

Board members were asked to approve, and agreed, these three key proposals:

- The introduction of the “flagging” of concern on the early help child index will allow practitioners to record that they have a non-safeguarding concern about a child where there is no consent. Each “flag” will prompt a review by the Advice Team of the child’s circumstances.
- As from April 1<sup>st</sup>, copies of all Early Help Assessments produced across the city will be sent to the Children’s Advice Team.
- There are plans to introduce three Early Help Hubs across the city to improve information sharing at both a locality and city wide level. Subject to support, this piece of work will be coordinated through the Children’s Trust and the Children’s Advice Team, and implementation will be monitored through the YorOK Integrated Working Implementation Group.

Graeme Murdoch added that students at York College can also have issues post 16 and that his staff are being trained on integrated working and CAF. He requested that students’ Early Help support information transfers with them from their school to the college. York College is now represented on IWIG.

JK

Board members asked that the action plan, which is still subject to development and amendment, contains specific actions, provides clear accountability, has longer deadlines to complete the work and indicates which board would have an interest in the outcome.

JK

Holly Melvin left the meeting at 10.30am.

In response to a query, Eoin Rush noted that the Early Help Hubs would allow the CIN Teams to work more closely with communities, just as Children’s Social Care and Children’s Centres do. A further paper around Early Help Hubs will be brought to a future YorOK Board meeting. Board members were asked to distribute the Early Help Strategy and the CSC poster and cube to all staff within their own agency.

JK

All

## 5. Child Poverty

Eoin Rush referred board members to the paper circulated with the agenda, which gives a snapshot of the current position in terms of progress against the Child Poverty Action Plan.

Eoin Rush described the “York 300” initiative. Most children in York do well but there are some disadvantaged children for whom the achievement gap is too great and widening. A research project is to be undertaken to identify these children and the strategies that are working for children with similar characteristics elsewhere in the country. Partners will then be approached to work with these children in order to improve their outcomes. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation will undertake an evaluation of the project, and the project will be reviewed after twelve months to determine whether services have made a difference to the lives of these children.

Paula Richardson noted that she was more concerned about the children she did not know about. Despite working closely with midwives and health visitors, she is still unable to identify all the children born in the city. The role of the health visitor and the birth assessments produced are key to the York 300 project. It was noted that York has a good level of health visitors, who will transfer to the local authority in 2015.

Board members noted the York 300 initiative and were keen to champion the approach. In response to a question, Eoin Rush clarified that the 300 children would be actively sought, agencies would be challenged around their input with these children and support would be brokered with parents.

Cllr Looker asked that “Universal infant school meals” be added to the forward plan for the YorOK Board.

JK

Paul Edmondson-Jones left the meeting at 10.50am.

## 6. Strategic Partnership for Disabled Children

Lesley White, Jess Haslam, Vicky Japes and Amanda Gaines arrived at 10.55am.

Jess Haslam presented an update from the Strategic partnership for Integrating Services For Disabled Children on the impact of the national reforms for SEND and the priorities of the strategic partnership. She was accompanied by a parent, Vicky Japes.

Jess Haslam described how York is an inclusive city with a strong history of multi-agency partnership working. However, the Children

and Families Bill is more outcome focused and the challenges for York are:

- Post 16 outcomes for young people with SEND, which are below national averages. 32% of young people with SEND are NEET.
- A significant increase of 57% in the last four years in the number of children with autism. Numbers will increase further this year as CAMHS has appointed two full-time psychologists to process the backlog of referrals.
- An increase in the number of children and young people with BSL as their first language.
- An increase in the number of pupils where behaviour, emotional and social difficulties are identified as the primary need.
- Increasing demands for EOTAS and out of area provision, as well as the SEND Support Services, at a time of decreasing local government funding.

Vicky Japes noted how the Strategic Partnership had always involved parents in developments to improve their children's outcomes. She described the great support parents receive and noted that her son had been involved in the pilot of a combined education, health and care plan, which describes "who he is" rather than the disabilities he has.

Jess Haslam updated the board on the following:

- Parents and carers are members of the Strategic Partnership, and services work with CANDI, the parents' forum, listening and responding to their needs. A group of parents is considering applying for funding from the DfE for Independent Supporters, a free and independent disagreement resolution service for parents and families.
- A more coordinated assessment process for children and young people with SEND is provided through the use of the CYC My Support Plan and draws on the views of family and children.
- York was the first LA to develop its Local Offer and it is available nationally as an example of good practice. Parents and professionals alike really appreciate the wealth of services that they can access and which are described in the Local Offer.
- Twenty-six families access direct payments for social care provision for their children and all young people who are eligible for adult social care are offered a personal budget. No children access a direct payment for health or education. Learning will be taken from the trials currently being undertaken in North Yorkshire around personal health budgets.
- Key working is well embedded in York and has produced strong outcomes for families. The task now is to ensure approaches are embedded in all agencies for children and young people aged 0 – 25 years.

- The co-located transition team works to provide seamless support for disabled young people aged 14 - 25 years. An increasing number of young people when moving into adulthood are having their needs met in York, and there are exciting developments around personalised learning and pathways.
- The Family Intensive Rapid Support Team works to keep children in York by supporting families whose children have challenging behaviour.
- Families highly value the Short Breaks programme at The Glen.
- The specialist outreach teacher at Applefields School is working in mainstream schools, “skilling up” staff to meet city-wide need.
- 172 ELSAs support children and young people with emerging mental health needs across 50 schools in the city.
- An independent review of the enhanced resource provision has led to the remodelling of support within the Primary ERPs.
- Joint commissioning for speech, language and communication needs across the city has begun. Joint commissioning needs to be further developed.
- SEND banding thresholds provide greater transparency for families, describing a child’s level of need and what support should be put in place. Schools now have to confirm how their SEND funding has been spent.
- Funding remains a significant challenge for services and agencies.

Vicky Japes described the parent mentoring programme which works with families who have additional parenting needs around, for example, bedtime routines, eating, homework, discipline and days out. Families really appreciate this voluntary support and all the services and support networks made available to them.

Jess Haslam suggested that next steps were; truly working together; embedding SEND reforms; becoming even more outcomes focused; embedding key working; rolling out training on EHCP, My Support Plan and coordinated assessments; and developing a single brokerage system across health, education and social care for personal budgets and direct payments for children and young adults.

In summary, Integrated Services for Disabled Children is making good progress due to multi-agency commitment to the agenda and working with families, but there is still more to do. The YorOK Board endorsed the vision of the strategic partnership.

Lesley White queried how Health had been involved in the agenda and Jess Haslam responded that she had described the reforms to providers, and that the Partnership Commissioning Unit was

providing training. Lesley White added that health visitors and school nurses are available to support if required.

Cllr Runciman queried why the number of autistic children was increasing. Jess Haslam responded that the increasing number of children with learning difficulties could be attributed to foetal alcohol syndrome but that there was no clear cause of autism. In response to the increasing numbers, 1.5 special teachers for autism and two TAs have been appointed but they have high case loads. The approach has been to keep these children in school, however there are issues where schools are unable to progress to a higher Ofsted grade due to the attainment of the children in specialist provision.

Simon Westwood requested that a report on safeguarding disabled children, including issues and best practice, be brought to a future safeguarding board meeting.

JH

Graeme Murdoch noted that York is underfunded for the increasing number of post 16 students with high needs. Currently York College is supporting these students and there is only a 2% difference in their achievement compared to their peers, however, this support cannot continue. Cllr Runciman is addressing the funding issue directly with David Laws and will report back in due course.

CR

Jess Haslam and Vicky Japes left the meeting at 11.25am

#### 7. **Multi-Agency Partnership for Looked After Children**

This item was deferred to next meeting.

JK

#### 8. **Risk & Resilience Partnership/Network**

In 2011 the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and Substance Misuse Strategy were combined to become the Risk and Resilience Strategy. The new strategy includes vulnerable young people under the age of 25 and will take into account different approaches and a range of partners that are best placed to work in particular with young people 10 – 14, 15-19 and 20 – 24 years.

The updated strategy takes into consideration the prevention, support and treatment elements of the previous teenage pregnancy, sexual health and young people's substance misuse strategies, including legal highs, smoking, alcohol and cannabis, as well as teenage relationship abuse and the delivery of the Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan. It also recognises that young people who are vulnerable to a range of negative outcomes are also open to risks of being exploited in other ways. The strategy therefore supports the city's "Prevent" agenda. Considerable work



is being undertaken around domestic extremism and the risk of exploitation. A briefing paper on child sexual exploitation and relationships was presented at the recent headteacher briefing and, as a result, staff training on relationships will be provided.

Board members agreed that the focus needs to be on talking to young people as early as possible, providing parents with access to information and support, and the need to join up services to ensure best value for money. The updated strategy was approved by the YorOK Board.

The board noted that the number of teenage pregnancies is continuing its downward trend, with a 58% reduction since 2007.

Simon Westwood agreed to forward information to Amanda Gaines on a risk and resilience assessment, and information on the risks which should be considered when completing a CAF.

SW

Amanda Gaines will be linking with the University of York around binge drinking following the tragic death of a student in the city.

#### 9. **Forward Plan & Dates for Future Meetings**

The May YorOK Board meeting will include a Safeguarding Board report from Simon Westwood, and he was asked to include his vision for the board and a position statement on inspection readiness. Simon Westwood stated that his intention is to attend every other YorOK Board meeting.

SW

Partners were asked to forward any proposed agenda items to Judy Kent or to advise her if they would like any items moving up the agenda. The May YorOK Board meeting will focus on commissioning, and the July meeting on vulnerable children and Young People's Services.

All

#### 10. **Date of Future Meetings**

Monday 12 May 2014  
 Monday 7 July 2014  
 Monday 8 September 2014  
 Monday 10 November 2014  
 Monday 12 January 2015  
 Monday 2 March 2015  
 Monday 11 May 2015  
 Monday 6 July 2015  
 Monday 14 September 2015  
 Monday 9 November 2015

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 12.00 noon.

