



### MINUTES

Date: 26 November 2014  
 Time: 2.10pm – 4.35pm  
 Place: Countryside Centre, Hinchingsbrooke Country Park, Huntingdon

Membership Board:		Attendance	Apologies
<b>Statutory Members</b>			
Councillor J Whitehead (Chairwoman)	Lead Councillor for Children's Services	Yes	
Adrian Loades	Executive Director: Children, Families and Adults (CFA)	No	Yes
<i>Vacant</i>	District Councils' Officer	-	-
Fiona Mortlock	Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)	No	
DCI Mike Branston	Police	Yes	
John Budd	Probation	No	Yes
Annette Pottinger	Jobcentre Plus	No	
<b>Other Partners</b>			
Felicity Schofield	Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)	No	Yes
Ana Rita Nunes	Healthwatch	No	
Liz O'Donnell	CATCH and Cam Health Local Commissioning Group (LCG)	Yes	
Karen Parsons	Voluntary & Community Sector	No	Yes
Jonathan Martin	Voluntary & Community Sector	No	
Alistair Day	Chair of Cambridgeshire Secondary Heads	No	Yes
Lisa Murphy	Chair of Cambridgeshire Primary Heads	No	
Kim Taylor	Special Schools	No	
Susanne Stent	Further Education & Sixth Form College (rotating member)	No	Yes
Caroline Maryon	Early Years Private, Voluntary & Independent sector	Yes	
Carin Taylor	Area Partnership – East Cambs & Fenland	No	Yes
Mike Hill	Area Partnership – South Cambs & City	Yes	
<i>To be confirmed</i>	Area Partnership – Huntingdonshire	-	-
<b>Associated Members</b>			
John Peberdy	Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust (CCS)		
Rachel Gomm	Cambridgeshire & Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust (CPFT)		
Rachel Coyne	Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Addenbrooke's)		
Catherine Morgan	The Queen Elizabeth, Kings Lynn NHS Foundation Trust		
Councillor B Chapman	Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority		
Rick Hylton	Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service		
Tracey Cogan	NHS England		

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**Membership Board:**

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**Attendance****Apologies**

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**Substitute Members**

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Roz Morrison	Probation	Yes
Josie Collier	LSCB	Yes
Thomasin Nicholds	Voluntary & Community Sector	Yes

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**Officers:** E de Zoete, L Faulkner, J Gemmell, D Revens, J Ryder-Richardson, M Teasdale, R Yule

**1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION****Action**

The Chairwoman, Councillor Whitehead, welcomed everyone to the meeting and all present introduced themselves.

**2. MINUTES – 2 July 2014**

Agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairwoman.

**3. ACTION LOG FROM 2 JULY BOARD MEETING**

Noted.

**4. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was resolved

that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it was likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information under paragraph 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that it would not be in the public interest for this information to be disclosed (information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual).

**5. LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (LSCB) UPDATE**

Received a report updating the Board on LSCB developments. Members noted that

- at the LSCB meeting in September 2014, the LSCB's annual report and business plan had been agreed and the current year's priorities of domestic abuse, child sexual exploitation and disabled children had been confirmed
- the annual report and business plan were now available on the LSCB website [www.cambslscb.org.uk](http://www.cambslscb.org.uk)
- Voiceability had been commissioned to go into secondary special schools and secondary schools with Special Educational Needs (SEN) units to talk to children about what made them feel safe; the next stage would be for Voiceability to work with disabled children outside the school setting, including with their siblings
- two serious case reviews (SCRs) were currently being undertaken and were now close to completion
- learning from the two SCRs was being shared with practitioners from all agencies through a project the LSCB had been running jointly with the NSPCC entitled 'Embedding the Learning from SCRs'
- work on child sexual exploitation remained a high priority; the LSCB continued to benefit from the learning from Operation Erle in Peterborough.

The Board agreed to

- note the contents of the report
- ensure relevant staff had a basic knowledge of child sexual exploitation
- ensure that their agencies contributed to the work of the LSCB as needed.

## 6. DRAFT CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY

Received a presentation on 'Breaking the Cycle 2 – a strategy for tackling child and family poverty and economic disadvantage in Cambridgeshire' and considered the draft strategy. Noted that there was a statutory requirement under the 2010 Child Poverty Act for agencies to work together to tackle child poverty.

In the course of discussion, members

- commented that the stress caused by living in poverty, and the effort required to cope with it, could make it difficult for people affected to learn new skills
- noted that both Mental Health and Health and Wellbeing were involved in work to tackle poverty; workplace mental health would be included in the Public Mental Health strategy
- recalled a presentation by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation to the 2013 Children's Trust conference at which it was said that if each family qualifying for free school meals were given £7,000, it would be sufficient to lift them out of poverty [see <http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/does-money-affect-childrens-outcomes>]
- noted that, in parallel with developing the Child Poverty Strategy, work was being done on the impact of welfare reform; agencies were not able to give people money, but could help them manage what they had better, and to access all the benefits to which they were entitled
- pointed out that there tended to be few branches of voluntary sector organisations in rural areas and reported that one urban community hub was looking at the possibility of establishing a voluntary sector presence in rural community hubs to e.g. hold surgeries, though lack of transport could still make it difficult for people to access these; noted that this work fitted in with work on community capacity and community resilience
- noted that children's centres still had a strand of supporting families round accessing employment, and that rural transport issues were being explored by the Health and Wellbeing Board
- suggested that transport should be included in the child poverty strategy
- drew attention to increased sixth-form entry requirements at some schools, which meant that pupils were not always able to attend their local post-16 centre, and noted that the regional colleges offered a variety of courses and transport
- suggested that partners should be giving thought to how to take education out to people through engaging a breadth of providers
- commented that getting out of poverty was not a simple matter; both transport and the living wage were ongoing concerns
- pointed out that child poverty and child neglect were not the same thing; it was important to give the workforce the skills to recognise both poverty and neglect, and the skills to identify what interventions were appropriate in each case
- drew attention to anecdotal evidence that some voluntary sector initiatives such as

toddler groups had been adversely affected when children's centres had opened nearby, and reported that, just outside Cambridge, parents were setting up groups to fill the gaps caused by the reduction in children's centre provision.

## **7. DRAFT SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) COMMISSIONING STRATEGY**

Received a report on the SEND commissioning draft strategy seeking the Board's view on the commissioning approach and intentions outlined, and the implications for future service provision and demand management. Members noted that Cambridgeshire had a higher proportion of children with statements of special need than the national average, and it was necessary to consider what could be done to stop the needs continuing to escalate. It was important to build on a family's strengths, to link the various strategies (SEND, Mental Health, Child Poverty) and to work together, because the resources were not sufficient for partner organisations to work separately.

Discussing the report and draft strategy, members

- queried how the pupil premium fitted into the personalised budget for SEND pupils, and noted that it might be possible to find ways for a school to release some of the premium to be used as part of a personalised budget, for example to enable a fifteen-year-old to attend community education classes
- commented that the pupil premium was not always being spent on the individual pupils for whom it was intended
- said that an important outcome for the strategy would be happy and satisfied parents
- stressed the importance of having realistic expectations for each child, and of not giving children aspirations far beyond anything they could possibly achieve
- suggested that boys' problems needed a different approach from girls' problems. A higher proportion of boys than girls had special educational needs, and boys had poorer educational and social skills; the development of special need in boys could be reduced if schools and pre-schools were to pay more attention to boys' social and speech skills at an earlier stage
- drew attention to the difficulties associated with moving funding to early intervention and prevention rather than crisis response
- noted the high cost of out-of-county placements, and the associated questions of what it was that the county had failed to provide for these children with very high levels of special need, and what could be done to bring them back into county, closer to their families and communities
- commented that it was difficult to reduce the numbers of statements because parents felt that a statement helped a child to get the resources the child needed
- noted that changes in central support grant meant that there was a very modest increase in overall funding to Cambridgeshire schools for 2015-16, but other than that, there was no new money, so the challenge was how to spend what money there was.

The Chairwoman invited the Board to send any further comments to the Head of Strategic Commissioning: SEND services.

## **8. PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S (CYP) EMOTIONAL WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH STRATEGY 2014-2016**

Received a report informing the Board about the progress being made against the Children and Young People (CYP) Emotional Well-being and Mental Health Strategy, since its launch in April 2014.

Commenting on the report, a member drew attention to the importance of including childcare settings in the training and guidance being provided; including wraparound care, children up to the early secondary school years attended these settings, and would often talk about problems to staff in the care setting rather than at school. Members noted that this gap in the strategy had already been identified, but work on appropriate ways of working with under school age children had not yet been completed. Officers would be talking to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust (CPFT) about their work programme.

**9a). EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was resolved

that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it was likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information under paragraph 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that it would not be in the public interest for this information to be disclosed (information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual).

**9b). FUTURE OF THE CHILDREN'S TRUST**

Received an early draft of a paper on the future of the Children's Trust, reviewing the Board's impact on improving outcomes for children, young people and their families and reviewing the cost of Children's Trust arrangements.

The paper presented four options for the future and suggested that these, and other options identified, should be explored by a small working group. A question for partners was whether the Children's Trust as currently constructed brought value to their organisation. Area Partnership Chairs had already expressed the view that the Area Partnerships gave scope to carry out activities on the ground, while the Children's Trust set overall shared priorities; there was merit in the Children's Trust Conference, and there could perhaps be a virtual Children's Trust.

The Chairwoman pointed out that the Children and Young People Committee, which she chaired, had been established following the end of the Cabinet system of County Council governance. There was some overlap between the work of Committee and Children's Trust Board; she suggested that Board members could be invited to attend Committee as observers for an item of interest, with the right to speak to Committee with due notice. Others commented that the low attendance at the present meeting suggested that formal Board meetings were not always a high priority for partners, in contrast to the high attendance at the Conference.

The Service Director: Strategy and Commissioning asked members representing the statutory organisations to let her know within the next week whether their organisation saw value in contributing an amount of money in principle to support the work of the Trust. She undertook to send an email seeking this information to statutory partners.

It was agreed

- to form a working group to explore options for how to deliver Children's Trust services and report to the Board's next meeting on 11th February 2015

**MT**

- that the members of the working group include Emma De Zoete, Mike Hill, Karen Parsons and Susanne Stent.

## **10. TOGETHER FOR FAMILIES UPDATE**

Received an update report on the process for the development of Cambridgeshire's Together for Families (TFF) Outcomes Framework (the 'Framework') required for the expanded Troubled Families programme (Phase II); the data requirements of Phase II; and the strategic and operational implications. The Board was invited to consider how it could effectively support the wider service transformation agenda enabled through Phase II of the Together for Families programme.

Discussing the report, members

- commented that Phase II would bring in more of Probation's work and reduce the isolation of Probation's involvement with families; data-sharing was important to help with the apportionment of services to prevent further offending
- expressed the view that work on Together for Families and on Child Poverty should not proceed on parallel, separate paths, and noted that TFF's work should be embedded because it was not a permanent programme
- welcomed Phase II from Health's point of view; GPs were wanting to flag families with problems, but data-sharing issues made this difficult. The Strategic Data and Performance Manager – TFF offered to send guidance to Health providers on how information could be shared
- asked whether it would be possible for TFF to act as a hub for other organisations feeding in information about the families they were working with, and noted that guidance was available for organisations on risk factors and what it was necessary to know before referring somebody
- stressed the importance of partners avoiding duplication in their work
- noted that data sharing was proving a problematic element of the TFF programme.

**JG**

The Board noted the principles, methodology and timeframe for the development of the Framework.

## **11. CHILDREN'S TRUST FORWARD PLAN 2014/15**

Noted the agenda plan, and thanked Dee Revens, the Children's Trust Manager, for all her hard work organising the development day and the recent conference.

## **12. FOR INFORMATION PAPERS**

Area Partnership minutes noted:

- East Cambridgeshire & Fenland – 24 September 14
- Huntingdonshire – 16 October 14
- South Cambridgeshire & Cambridge City – 8 October 14

## **13. DATES FOR NEXT MEETINGS:**

Noted the dates for meetings and events in 2015:

- 11 February 2015 – Development session & Board meeting at the Countryside Centre, Hinchbrook Country Park
- 19 April 2015 – Board meeting

- 8 July 2015 – Development session & Board meeting
- 7 October 2015 – Board meeting
- *November – Conference (date to be confirmed)*
- 9 December 2015 – Board meeting

Chairwoman