

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S  
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP  
14 DECEMBER 2011**

**PRESENT: PETER DUXBURY, LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (CHAIRMAN)**

Malcolm Barham (Voluntary Sector), Debbie Barnes (Lincolnshire County Council), Chris Cook (Chairman of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board), Michael Follows (Lincolnshire Schools' Forum), Fiona Griffiths (Primary Head Learning Provider Group), Lynne McNiven (NHS Lincolnshire), Rachel North (West Lindsey District Council), Karen Parsons (Voluntary Sector) and Keith Smy (Lincolnshire Police).

Also in attendance: Elaine Bousfield (Xenzone Ltd), Councillor Chris Burke (City of Lincoln Council), Stuart Carlton (Lincolnshire County Council), Charlotte Gray (Commissioning and Development Officer), David McWilliams (Lincolnshire County Council), Zamia Stevens (Lincolnshire County Council), Paul Tipper (Xenzone Ltd), Graham Watts (Lincolnshire County Council) and Sue Westcott (Lincolnshire County Council).

14. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Richard Collins (Lincolnshire County Council), Terry Hawkins (Lincolnshire County Council), Allan Kitt (Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust) and Chris Seymour (Special School Head Learning Provider Group).

15. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING AND ACTION POINTS OF THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP HELD ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2011

The following points were raised from the minutes of the previous meeting of the Partnership held on 21 September 2011: -

- concerns were expressed in respect of the lack of representatives from health organisations that attended meetings of the Partnership. It was noted that representation would be reviewed;
- in relation to minute number five, an update report on the activities that were undertaken as part of the 11 Million Takeover Day would be circulated to all members of the Partnership, for information;
- further to minute number six, it was noted that a number of children and young people from Lincolnshire had been selected to carry the Olympic Torch as part of the run up to the 2012 Olympic Games in London. Information would be circulated to all members of the Partnership to outlined the schools those individuals came from;

ACTIONS

David McWilliams

David McWilliams

Debbie Barnes

- in relation to minute number seven, it was noted that a meeting had not been held between the Assistant Director of Children's Services at Lincolnshire County Council and the Head Teacher for Washingborough Primary School. The relevant Assistant Director agreed to follow this up;
- a concern was raised in relation to minute number eight and Head Teachers initiating the Team Around the Child process, subsequently resulting in them becoming the lead professional, and the consequent time and financial commitments the lead professional role came with. It was reported that the County Council was aware of this issue and officers were meeting with groups of Head Teachers and Deputy Head Teachers. An update report would be submitted to the Partnership in the spring following a review of the Team Around the Child process;
- confirmation was sought in relation to the 'Meeting the Needs of Children in Lincolnshire' document, which was referred to in minute number ten. The minutes stated that the document was approved by the Partnership, however, the same document was subsequently considered by the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board whereby a number of amendments were requested, specifically in relation to health issues. It was reported that the same colleagues from health organisations were in attendance at both meetings and the issues raised at the meeting of the Safeguarding Board were not initially raised when the document was approved at the Partnership. Concerns were expressed as, despite the Partnership's approval, the document could not be rolled out due to the fact that the Safeguarding Board had requested changes to it. The Chairman of the Strategic Partnership and the Chairman of the Safeguarding Children Board agreed to meet to address this issue and agree upon an appropriate way forward.

Sue  
Westcott

Sue  
Westcott

Peter  
Duxbury and  
Chris Cook

## RESOLVED

That the minutes and action points of the previous meeting held on 21 September 2011 be confirmed and agreed as a correct record.

### 16. KOOTH – ONLINE COUNSELLING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 11 TO 25 WITH EMOTIONAL WELLBEING CONCERNS

Consideration was given to a report which informed the Strategic Partnership of the new online counselling service available in Lincolnshire for young people aged 11 to 25 who had emotional wellbeing and mental health concerns.

It was reported that, in order to enhance early intervention Child and Adolescence and Mental Health Services and the Brilliant Lincolnshire approach, the County Council's Departmental Management Team approved a one-year pilot project to deliver online counselling. Online counselling had the potential to solve a number of key local problems by providing the following: -

- out of hours provision including weekends;
- easy access to services despite the rural nature of the county;

- reduced stigma associated with physically accessing a service and needing to involve other professionals;
- immediate support from point of registration with no waiting for an intervention, thus helping to prevent the escalation of concerns;
- interim support for those waiting to receive a Child and Adolescence Mental Health Service intervention;
- value for money due to low overhead costs;
- useful needs analysis data showing the type of concerns young people were presented with.

KOOTH was a project facilitated by a company called Xenzone Ltd who specialised in online counselling. Two representatives from Xenzone Ltd attended the meeting and provided the Strategic Partnership with a brief presentation on the KOOTH project, which included samples of the web-pages that young people would see when using the online resource.

The KOOTH project had been running for seven years and was currently commissioned by local authorities and primary care trusts in twelve geographical areas throughout the United Kingdom. The service was provided by fourteen qualified psychotherapists and counsellors, some of which were also trained nurses. All staff were clinically supervised by the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy and received regular face-to-face supervision, caseload management and training.

Visits were often undertaken by the KOOTH team to schools and colleges, as well as other relevant settings, to promote the website and train staff. Examples of some of the marketing materials used were circulated at the meeting.

Details of how young people registered onto the KOOTH system were outlined in the report, although it was emphasised that a person's anonymity was always guaranteed. Further to this, however, it was noted that the system could identify and report on which locality area young people were accessing the service from and could provide output data on user age, gender, ethnicity, how users spent their time on the system, time of logins, day of logins, nature of concerns and numbers of referrals to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service and other agencies.

In terms of measuring outcomes, members were informed that the KOOTH project was licensed to use the Child Session Rating Scale and the YP-CORE outcome measure, in respect of those children aged fourteen years and over, which was being used by the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Outcomes Research Consortium.

During discussion, it was noted that 225 young people in Lincolnshire currently used the KOOTH system, 100 of which had accessed the counselling service.

In response to a question about security of the site, members were informed that strict moderation was in place and messages or information from users would not be inserted onto the site until it had been cleared or approved by a moderator.

The pilot scheme, which was funded through the County Council's Early Intervention Grant, ended in August 2012 and the first contract management meeting for the KOOTH system had recently been held. The next reporting period would provide specific information about trends and usage of the site and service, therefore, a full evaluation report would be produced on the pilot scheme which should be available for July 2012.

## RESOLVED

That the report and presentation be noted.

### 17. CHILDREN'S CENTRE PAYMENT BY RESULTS TRIAL

A report was considered, which provided the Strategic Partnership with an overview of the purpose of 'payment by results' and the current Children's Centre payment by results trial that Lincolnshire County Council was currently involved in.

It was noted that payment by results provided a way of motivating providers to improve the performance of the services they delivered. As part of this process, performance targets would be agreed between the commissioners and the providers of services, with payments then being linked to the performance achieved against the agreed targets. These targets, where possible, should be linked to improved outcomes.

Lincolnshire County Council submitted an application to become a trial area for Sure Start Children's Centres payment by results. The application was successful and Lincolnshire was now one of 27 local authorities taking part in the trial. The trials were also expected to inform the roll out of payment by results across all local authorities in the future and it was reported that the County Council intended to lead the way in embedding payment by results in advance of it becoming a national strategy. By being selected for the trial, Lincolnshire would also be eligible for some financial support to implement payment by results, the exact amount for which was yet to be confirmed by the Department for Education.

In terms of Lincolnshire's approach to the trial, the following partnership working incentives would be utilised: -

- reduction of inequalities (in outcomes) for children and young people;
- development of parenting skills to improve children's learning including literacy and numeracy;
- development of outstanding early years childcare provision and ensure

- school readiness for all children;
- reduction in the number of families with complex needs;
- raising of aspirations and the self-esteem of families;
- maximising available funding to improve outcomes for the children in greatest need;
- reduction in pressures on high cost statutory duty budgets;
- improvement in value for money across early years provision;
- encouragement of early intervention and preventative practice;
- further enhancement of integrated working and productivity arrangements at local level;
- providing an enhanced focus on the core purpose of Children's Centres.

A project team would be established to complete the work, with governance and reporting arrangements undertaken through the County Council. Members of the Partnership were invited to contact the report author should they be interested in being part of the project team. It was envisaged that additional reporting arrangements of health outcomes would take place via the Health and Wellbeing Board.

#### RESOLVED

That the report be noted and an update report be submitted to the Strategic Partnership in six months.

#### 18. CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES STRATEGY

The Partnership considered a report which provided Members with a copy of the County Council's Strategy for Children with Disabilities 2011 – 2016.

The Strategy was drafted in summer 2011 and underwent a three-month consultation with a range of partners and key stakeholders and sat within the vision agreed by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership. It also set out the reasons why a strategy for children with disabilities was important and why services should be improved for this group of children and their parents, whilst meeting increasing demand and a changing political and organisational environment. It was highlighted that Public Health had requested an extension to the consultation to allow more opportunities to engage with the Clinical Commissioning Groups.

In view of the substantial changes to the education system nationally, it was agreed that a summary report outlining the key developments from a Lincolnshire perspective should be submitted to a future meeting of the Strategic Partnership.

David  
McWilliams  
to invite  
Andy  
Breckon

## RESOLVED

That the Children with Disabilities Strategy 2011 – 2016 be subject to further consultation with the Clinical Commissioning Groups be resubmitted to the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership for approval.

### 19. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE – CITY OF LINCOLN REPORT 2011

Councillor Chris Burke from the City of Lincoln Council attended the meeting and provided the Strategic Partnership with a presentation on the Council's 2011 report into the children and young people's advocate.

A copy of the City Council's report was circulated and considered by the Partnership. It was reported that the City of Lincoln Council had long supported the principles of the Every Child Matters agenda, alongside which this principled approach had been a strong determination to influence the transitional youth group aged 16 to 25 away from crime. Comprehensive information was provided in the report under the following key headings: -

- context;
- attainment;
- Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET);
- child poverty;
- ward level child poverty;
- children and young people and the strategic priorities;
- community leadership and scrutiny;
- transitional vulnerable young people;
- safeguarding children;
- neighbourhood teams;
- anti-social behaviour;
- leisure and sports development;
- recreation services;
- other strategic work.

It was noted that the intention of the report was to highlight both the Council's operational and strategic work in the vital area of children and young people, together with the authority's concerns for the welfare of this crucial section of the community. The City Council was currently working with other District Councils in the county regarding the issue of children and young people's advocates.

During discussion it was agreed that the key messages from this report would complement other pieces of work, such as the national consultation around child poverty. It could also help address some of the challenges that children and young people would face in the future, such as transport, the raising of the participation age and the need for more apprenticeship placements or

opportunities to be identified.

## RESOLVED

That the report and presentation be noted.

### 20. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2011

A report was considered which informed the Strategic Partnership of the further development of the Children and Young People's Plan, including revisions in light of the consultation responses and an outline of the proposed approach to refine the Plan in readiness for implementation in April 2012.

A draft Children and Young People Plan was consulted upon between August and October 2011. The Plan had been amended in light of the feedback received to produce a focussed, succinct document which could be understood and accessed by the general public and partners. The latest version of the Plan was appended to the report, which clearly set out the following: -

- the vision;
- the five principles that underpinned the work of the Partnership;
- the five priorities for the Partnership, including the key tasks or activities which underpinned the priorities and the key performance indicators used to measure success;
- the links between the Children and Young People Plan and other key planning documents.

It was emphasised that the Plan was still developing and would be subject to a number of amendments regarding specific details about individual partners following feedback that continued to be received.

In response to a query regarding implementation plans, members were informed that the revised Plan had lots of other plans, policies and strategies behind it, all of which would be hyperlinked in an online version so that people were adequately signposted to the relevant supportive documents. The previous plan had an implementation plan attached to it, but this resulted in numerous update reports being submitted for individual tasks and this was considered to be too extensive.

Reference was made to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and its headlines under the children and young people section. It was agreed that these headlines should be reflected in the Children and Young People's Plan so that the two documents were consistent.

## RESOLVED

- (1) That the Children and Young People's Plan be approved as a 'live' document and be subject to any changes that may be required.

David  
McWilliams

- (2) That approval be given to work being completed to develop the key task and activities, performance measures and targets for 2012/2013.
- (3) That the needs assessment and other contextual information previously shown in the draft Children and Young People's Plan be published separately as appendices.

## 21. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP HEALTH CHECK

Members received a presentation which informed them of the headlines following a recently undertaken health check of the Children and Young People Strategic Partnership.

In terms of things the Partnership was doing well, it was reported that lots of effective work was being undertaken regarding local needs analysis and district level partnership working. In addition, there was clear agreement on main priority areas for the Partnership amongst its members.

Membership was one area that was identified as an area for improvement as the Partnership still did not include all relevant partners as members. Concerns were also raised that there was limited opportunity for Partnership members to change or influence decisions being made, submit items for inclusion on agendas or vote at meetings.

An overview of attendance at meetings of the Partnership was carried out over a two-year period. It was noted that meeting attendance had been as low as 23% on one occasion in respect of those people who were classed as members of the Partnership. The Partnership had also never achieved a full complement of members at any of its meetings in the last two years.

A flowchart was shown to members, which detailed those sub-groups that had disbanded, included the Partnership's Executive Group, and those that remained in place. It was agreed that a comprehensive review of the Partnership's governance arrangements should be undertaken.

Discussion ensued, further to which the following points were noted: -

- the Partnership's membership should be refreshed to involve all relevant partners;
- representation from District Councils should be reconsidered;
- mechanisms had to be in place to ensure that local partners could influence central decisions made at the Strategic Partnership;
- governance arrangements should be reconsidered;
- the use of time-limited task and finish groups should be considered to take forward specific pieces of work;



- mechanisms had to be in place to ensure stakeholder input into the Partnership, via an annual stakeholder partnership event;
- a work programme or forward plan for meetings of the Strategic Partnership should be introduced.

Members were reminded that a development day for the Children and Young People Strategic Partnership was scheduled to be held in February 2012. It was agreed that the reconsideration of the Partnership's governance arrangements should form part of the development day. A number of proposals for governance models would be developed to assist this process.

David  
McWilliams

## RESOLVED

That the update on the Children and Young People Strategic Partnership health check be noted.

## 22. ANTI-BULLYING UPDATE

The Partnership considered a report which provided members with a copy of the Children's Services Anti-Bullying Strategy.

Anti-Bullying Week 2011 took place between 14 to 18 November 2011, with the theme 'stop and think – words can hurt'. Interviews with local press and BBC Radio Lincolnshire during the week helped to highlight the work that was taking place in the county. All members of the multi-agency Anti-Bullying Working Group promoted a coordinated message countywide to schools and practitioners, with several assemblies, workshops and presentations delivered during the week.

Raw data following an Anti-Bullying Census carried out in schools was contained within the report. It was particularly targeted at years 4, 6, 8 and 10 and had been designed to gain a snapshot of what children and young people said about how bullying effected their lives, including questions on whether they had experienced bullying. All schools that took part in the census would receive a pack including an overview of the results that were received for their individual census and a guidance document to help promote anti-bullying work in the future.

## RESOLVED

That the Anti-Bullying Strategy and Anti-Bullying Model Policy documentation be adopted.

## 23. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following items were raised under Any Other Business: -

i) Families Working Together

It was reported that the quality standards and operational procedures in relation to Families Working Together would be submitted to the next meeting of the Strategic Partnership for consideration.

ii) Membership

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service had requested membership on the Children and Young People Strategic Partnership. It was agreed, further to minute number 21 above, that this would be considered at the development day in February 2012 as part of the comprehensive review of the Partnership's governance arrangements.

iii) Executive Director of Adults and Children's – Lincolnshire County Council

The Chairman, who held the post of Executive Director at the County Council, informed the Partnership that he had been successful in applying for a Director post at Birmingham City Council.

The meeting closed at 4.30 p.m.