

**MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN'S TRUST
THURSDAY, 17 DECEMBER 2009**

Present: Dave Grant (Vice-Chair), Ify Adenuga, Sue Baker, Tracey Baldwin, Yolande Burgess, Councillor Nilgun Canver, Jean Croot, Jane Elias, Councillor Gail Engert, Paul Head, June Jarrett, John Jay, Peter Lewis, Mary Macleod, Richard Milner and Councillor Alan Stanton.

In Attendance: Xanthe Barker, Jan Doust, Mark Gurrey, Sharon Miller, Councillor Martin Newton, Patricia Walker, Clare Wright.

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTION BY
OBCB144	<p>APOLOGIES</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from the following:</p> <p>Graham Badman Chris Barclay Councillor Claire Kober Rob Larkman Dr Ita O'Donovan Cenk Orhan Clare Pannicker Councillor Lorna Reith Jim Shepley</p> <p style="text-align: right;">-Richard Milner substituted</p>	
OBCB145	<p>URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>No Urgent Items of Business were received.</p>	
OBCB146	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>No Declarations of Interest were made.</p>	
OBCB147	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That, subject to the amendment of paragraph four with respect to the item on the Infant Mortality Strategy 2007-10, set out below, the minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2009 be confirmed as a correct.</p> <p>'It was noted that the majority of child deaths were of premature babies under twenty-eight days born to women between twenty and forty years of age. NHS Haringey had discussed the need to carry out research work with respect to the causes of premature births and the links to deprivation and the strategy needs to have a targeted approach to addressing this group'.</p>	Xanthe Barker
OBCB148	<p>CHILDREN'S CENTRE STRATEGY</p> <p>The Trust received a presentation that gave an overview of the role and</p>	

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	<p>work of Children's Centres.</p> <p>It was noted that their key purpose was to address poverty and inequality by providing a facility that offered universal services. The centres focussed on children under five years old and delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated early education and childcare • Support for parents • Child and family health services • Helping parents to work <p>At present there were seventeen Children's Centres in Haringey and a further two were being developed. Under the Childcare Act 2006 the provision of Children's Centres had become a statutory function in November 2009.</p> <p>In response to a query the Trust was advised that Health Visitors were not attached to each Children's Centre as this did not represent the best use of resources. However, there were Health Visitors working across the Borough and there was agreement that any specific concerns that members of the Trust had with respect to this should be discussed with the appropriate officers from NHS Haringey outside the meeting.</p> <p>The Trust discussed how the Single Funding Formula might affect children's services and there was agreement that this issue would need to be considered by the Trust as a whole in greater detail. There was agreement that this should be scheduled into the Trusts Work Programme.</p> <p>Concern was raised that representatives attending the partnership bodies beneath the Trust did not have the necessary authority or seniority to make the decisions required. The Trust was advised that this point was recognised and that when the Children's Area Partnerships (CAPs) had been established ensuring that they included the appropriate officers from each organisation had been a key consideration.</p> <p>Given the increasing need for organisations to be able to commit resources to facilitate joint working, there was agreement that the Trust should receive a report on the membership of each of the sub-groups to ensure that these were fit for purpose.</p> <p>In response to concerns that were raised, as to how staff from different agencies were kept informed of the wider services available within the sector; the Trust was advised that the Safeguarding Plan required that a Directory for staff from agencies working with children was produced.</p> <p>The Trust discussed the relationship between the Voluntary and Community Sector and Children's Centres and there was agreement that training opportunities should be extended to individuals within the Sector. It was suggested that the LSCB Training Board should be asked to make provision for this.</p>	<p>All to note</p> <p>Patricia Walker / Xanthe Barker</p> <p>Peter Lewis / Patricia Walker</p> <p>Peter Lewis</p>
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	<p>It was contended that greater consideration needed to be given to the relationship between Children's Centres and GP practices and ensuring that, wherever possible, these were aligned. Given the need to make better use of combined resources it was suggested that a strategy was required to set out how multiple occupancy of sites would be achieved.</p> <p>The Chair suggested that the Trust should ask the HSP to consider this issue.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. That the presentation be noted. ii. That a report on how the Single Funding Formula might affect children's services should be programmed into the Trust's Work Programme. iii. That a report setting out the membership of each of the sub-groups beneath the Trust should be programmed into the Trust's Work Programme. iv. That the LSCB Training Board should be asked to ensure that provision was made to include individuals from the Voluntary and Community Sector, working with Children's Centres, in training opportunities. v. That the HSP should be asked to consider whether a Strategy was required with respect to creating more sites in multiple occupation by Public Sector agencies. 	<p>Peter Lewis / Patricia Walker</p> <p>Peter Lewis / Patricia Walker</p> <p>Patricia Walker / Xanthe Barker</p> <p>Peter Lewis</p> <p>Peter Lewis</p> <p>Peter Lewis / Patricia Walker</p>
<p>OBCB149</p>	<p>HARINGEY'S FAMILY INTERVENTION PROJECT</p> <p>The Trust considered a report that set out how the recently established Family Intervention Project (FIP) would operate.</p> <p>The Trust was advised that the Family Intervention Project (FIP) formed part of the Government's Think Family Strategy, which was aimed at reforming the systems and services provided for vulnerable children, young people and adults, to secure create better outcomes for children by coordinating the support given by the agencies providing services to families.</p> <p>It was noted that there were three types of FIP based around the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti Social Behaviour • Child Poverty • Youth Crime <p>In terms of the resources available to fund the FIP the Trust was advised that the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) would provide funding until 2011. It had been indicated that there was a strong</p>	

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	<p>possibility that this would be extended.</p> <p>In addition the Government had recently announced that further funding would be made available to Local Authorities to bid from to establish a Housing FIP. The Council's Strategic Housing Team was currently in the process of putting a bid together.</p> <p>The Trust was advised that the key intention of the project was to pull together a range of services around families with persistent Anti Social Behaviour problems. By working with families in a very focused and intensive way the project aimed to change ingrained patterns of behaviour.</p> <p>In response to a query it was clarified that approval was being sought for the Assistant Director to develop governance and structural arrangements required to facilitate that project. There was agreement that the Head of Stronger, Safer Communities should also assist in establishing arrangements for the project.</p> <p>The Chair noted that there were existing pathways and work being carried out that could feed into the FIP and expressed his support for this type of joined up working.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. That the report be noted. ii. That the Deputy Director for Children's Networks, with the Head of Stronger, Safer Communities, be tasked to develop the structural and governance arrangements necessary to facilitate the FIP. 	<p>Jan Doust / Eleanor Brazil ? Jean Croot</p> <p>Jan Doust / Eleanor Brazil</p>
<p>OBCB150</p>	<p>INFORMATION SHARING PROTOCOL</p> <p>The Trust considered a report that presented the revised Information Sharing Protocol and sought approval of its immediate adoption.</p> <p>It was noted that changes to the Protocol had been required in order to comply with the Haringey Safeguarding Plan and to reflect new national guidance published by the DCSF. The Guidance note attached had been produced to assist and enable staff to make decisions on a case by case basis.</p> <p>In response to concern that the Mental Health Trust responded consistently slowly to requests for information the Trust was advised that the Protocol did not address the length of time within which requests should be responded to. However, this was dealt with elsewhere and would be monitored appropriately.</p> <p>The Chair requested that any instances of poor response times should be reported to chief officers so that the necessary follow up action could be taken.</p>	<p>All to note</p>

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	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. That the Information Sharing Protocol presented by adopted as the basis for sharing information across the Partnership. ii. That members of the Trust should disseminate the guidance for practitioners so that front line staff were supported in making decisions about when and how to share information. iii. That an update report should be received by the Trust in June 2010 and as part of this each Partner agency should report on progress with respect to the implementation of this within their organisations. 	<p>All to Action</p> <p>All to Action</p>
<p>OBCB15</p>	<p>MATERNITY STRATEGY</p> <p>The Trust received a report that outlined planned developments with respect to maternity services.</p> <p>The Trust was advised that during the last decade there had been a move away from delivering maternity services locally and that more services had become hospital based. A key priority of the Plan was to change this model and move maternity services back into the local community.</p> <p>It was noted that this work would contribute towards the achievement of Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets within the Trust's responsibility.</p> <p>In response to a query the Trust was advised that there was a focus on the North Middlesex and Whittington Hospitals as the majority of women in the Borough opted to use maternity services delivered by these Hospitals.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the report be noted.</p>	
<p>OBCB15</p>	<p>CHILD POVERTY UPDATE</p> <p>The Trust received a report that provided an overview of progress made with respect to the Child Poverty Strategy.</p> <p>It was noted that the Delivery Plan was currently being refreshed by a multi agency Working Group. This group had also been tasked with identifying how data and resources could be better utilised across the Partnership to achieve joint objectives.</p> <p>The Trust discussed the impact the current financial climate was having upon parents and the need to increase awareness amongst this group of the Benefits available to them. This was particularly important to people from emerging communities who were vulnerable to loan sharks and</p>	

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	<p>other sources of unregulated credit.</p> <p>It was noted that often people in financial difficulty, who had used loan sharks, were reluctant to come forward and inform the Police. Without a victim the Police were unable to prosecute offenders. The Trust was advised that the Police were undertaking a larger piece of work looking at the exploitation of immigrants and part of this would look at this area.</p> <p>Concern was expressed at the capacity of the Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB) to offer the support and advice required with respect to financial problems at the current time. There was agreement that other means of getting information across to parents were required.</p> <p>In response to a query the Trust was advised that the measure of poverty used was the Government's definition which applied to families in receipt of out of work benefits. Other measures which could be used included the number of children eligible for free school meals.</p> <p>The Trust noted that good progress had been made with respect to reducing the gap in educational attainment for children living in poverty.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the report be noted.</p>	<p>Peter Lewis</p>
<p>OBCB15:</p>	<p>UPDATE ON THE ANALYSES OF THE PRELIMINARY 2009 SCHOOL RESULTS</p> <p>The Trust considered a report that provided an analysis of the preliminary results at Foundation Stage, Key Stages 1, 2, 4 and post 16 for 2009. The report also reviewed attendance and exclusions during the period.</p> <p>It was noted that the gap in educational attainment between Haringey and the national average continued to narrow with the best results to date being seen this year. The attainment of Looked After Children was particularly good with the percentage achieving 5+ A-C grades increasing from 22.5% in 2008 to 31.2% in 2009. This was expected to be significantly above the national average.</p> <p>In response to a query the Trust was assured that any child who was permanently excluded was not left outside the system and that there were measures in place to ensure that they continued their education. The College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London often provided places for children that had been excluded.</p> <p>It was noted that the fall in average attendance was largely due to the number of people affected by Swine Flu and the inclement weather experienced in February.</p> <p>In response to a question the Trust was advised that any fraudulent reporting of results would be picked up during statistical analysis.</p>	

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	<p>There was agreement that schools should be congratulated on the improvement in performance that had been achieved.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the report be noted.</p>	
<p>OBCB15</p>	<p>PERFORMANCE MONITORING</p> <p>The Board considered a report that provided an overview of performance against Local Area Agreement (LAA) and other targets within the Trust's responsibility since the last meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that performance against the number of Initial and Core Assessments completed within the specified timescale was still below target and the Trust acknowledged that there were legitimate reasons for this. There was agreement that it would be useful if an interim target, of the number of assessments completed in ten days, was established to track progress with respect to these targets.</p> <p>The Director of Children and Young People's Services noted that there may be issues that would make modelling this. He agreed to look at the implications of establishing an interim target and advised that he would be report back to the Trust on whether this was viable.</p> <p>It was noted that improved training and raising of awareness amongst staff across the agencies working with children had led to an increase in the number of notifications received. There was agreement that it would be useful for the Trust to receive a report analysing trends with respect to this.</p> <p>In response to a query the Chair advised that there was information that detailed where referrals were received from in terms of geographical location and he requested that this information was circulated to the Trust.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the report be noted.</p> <p>That consideration should be given to establishing an interim target for the number of Core and Initial Assessments completed within ten days and that the outcome of this should be reported to the Trust.</p> <p>That a report analysing trends with respect to the increased number of notifications received should be programmed into the Trust's Work Programme.</p> <p>That information setting out where referrals were received from in terms of geographical location should be submitted to the Trust.</p>	<p>Peter Lewis / Janette Karklins</p> <p>Peter Lewis / Janette Karklins</p> <p>Peter Lewis / Janette Karklins</p> <p>Peter Lewis / Janette Karklins</p> <p>Peter Lewis / Janette Karklins</p> <p>Peter Lewis / Janette Karklins</p>
<p>OBCB15</p>	<p>SAFEGUARDING PLAN FOR HARINGEY</p>	

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The Trust received a report that presented the final iteration of the Safeguarding Plan for Haringey for approval.

The Trust was advised that the Plan was now presented in a more streamlined format that was designed to simplify the programme and ensure that there was a focus on the delivery of actions that had to be achieved in terms of Safeguarding in the short term.

Since the report had been circulated a number of the actions showing as Red had been achieved including:

- Family Support Strategy –this would be published by the end of December
- Mental Health Specialist for Referral and Assessment Team –this had now been resolved
- Effective Working at Child Protection Conference –this would be complete by the end of December
- Expansion of Social Work Graduate Trainee Scheme–this had now been expanded and funding had been identified for the continuation of the scheme
- Developing a Multi Agency Core Safeguarding Induction Programme –it was noted that the completion of the second phase of the induction programme was now on track with respect to the attendance of appropriate staff
- Tools Implemented to Help Ensure the Quality of NHS Referrals Meet Acceptable Standards –work had now been carried out with NHS colleagues with respect to this

The Chair noted that there was also a detailed evidence log to demonstrate how each of these had been achieved.

In response to a question the Director of Children's Services advised that he considered that children in the Borough were now safer than they had been prior to this work being undertaken. There was evidence that internal departments within the Council and partnership agencies and were working in a more coordinated way and information was being shared more quickly and effectively than previously.

The Trust was advised that NHS Haringey had employed an independent team to carry out a 'temperature test' to assess how well the organisation dealt with Safeguarding issues. This had shown that the outcome of this had been very positive with the organisation being cited as a good example of innovative practice in this area.

There was agreement that a tangible sense of joint ownership had been developed across the Partnership over the last six months.

The Trust was advised that there were now nine Social Workers from the USA working in Haringey and a further eleven would be in post by the end of January.

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	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. That final version of the JAR Action Plan, re-titled as the 'Safeguarding Plan for Haringey', as set out in the report be approved. ii. That the progress made against key milestones be noted. 	
<p>OBCB15</p>	<p>CHILDREN'S TRUSTS: CONSULTATION ON NEW STATUTORY GUIDANCE INCLUDING THE CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD AND CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN</p> <p>The Trust was advised that the Department for Children for Schools and Families (DCSF) had recently issued consultation on guidance with respect to new legislation regarding Children's Trusts.</p> <p>This document would be circulated to the Trust and the Chair requested that any comments should be returned to Patricia Walker by 11 January 2010.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. That the consultation document should be circulated to the Trust following the meeting. ii. That responses should be returned to Patricia Walker by 11 January 2010. 	<p>All to note</p> <p>Patricia Walker</p> <p>All to note</p>
<p>OBCB15</p>	<p>HARINGEY CHILDREN'S TRUST COMMUNICATION PLAN</p> <p>The Trust received a report that presented the Children's Trust Communication Plan for approval.</p> <p>In response to a query the Trust was advised that it was recognised that any change in administration following the May elections may mean that alterations may be required.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the Children's Trust Communication Strategy, as presented, be approved.</p>	
<p>OBCB15</p>	<p>CHILDREN'S TRUST RISK REGISTER REVIEW</p> <p>The Trust was advised that this was due for review and would be circulated for comments following the meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that the Induction Sessions with the Director of Children's Services, for new members of the Trust, had not yet taken place and that this should be taken into account within the Risk Register.</p> <p>It was confirmed that arrangements for the Development Session agreed at the previous meeting were being made and that this would be held in</p>	<p>All to note</p>

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	<p>the New Year.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the Risk Register would be circulated to the Trust for comment.</p>	All to note
OBCB159	<p>AREA CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIPS</p> <p>The Trust received a verbal update on the work of the Area Children's Partnerships (CAPs)</p> <p>It was noted that these had not met since the previous meeting; however these were due to meet during the second week in January and a fuller update on their work would be received at the next meeting.</p> <p>There had been changes to the Chairs of the CAPs since the previous meeting and these were now Chaired by the following people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAP North -Claire Wright • CAP West -Chris Barclay • CAP South -Eleanor Brazil <p>In addition these were supported by the Council's Deputy Director, Children's Networks.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the verbal update be noted.</p>	
OBCB160	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>No items of AOB were raised.</p>	
OBCB161	<p>NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>No items of Urgent Business were raised.</p>	
OBCB162	<p>DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS</p> <p>The following dates of future meetings were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 February 2010 • 15 April 2010 	

COUNCILLOR LORNA REITH

Chair

The meeting closed at 6.55pm.