

West Cheshire Children's Trust Executive

**Action Note of meeting held on Monday 16th May 2016
(Palatine Room, Chester Town Hall)**

In attendance:

Councillor Nicole Meardon (Chair)
 Mark Parkinson – CWaC Director of Education
 Emma Taylor – CWaC Director of Children's Social Care
 Helen Brackenbury – CWaC Interim Director of Integrated Early Support
 Gill Frame – LSCB
 Alistair Jeffs – CWaC Director of Commissioning, People
 Tony Sharples – CWaC Public Health
 Julie Thorly – NHS Vale Royal CCG
 Sarah Blaylock – CWaC Policy Manager
 Isabel Noonan – CWaC Policy Manager
 Julie Karmy – CWaC Commissioning Service
 Zara Woodcock – CWaC Senior Manager Integrated Early Support
 Kim Brooman – CWaC Participation Officer
 Abbey Jones – CWaC Participation Service
 Lesley Dixon – Youth Focus North West

Item No	Minute/Action	Who
1.	<p>Welcome, introductions and apologies Councillor Meardon welcomed all to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were noted: <i>Gerald Meehan, Cllr Margaret Parker, Sue Preston, Supt. Nigel Wenham, Lorraine Crane, Terry Upton and Paula Wedd</i></p>	
2.	<p>Notes of meeting held on 21st March 2016 and Matters Arising / Review of Actions The minutes from the previous meeting held on 21st March were confirmed as a correct record subject to the following amendments and outstanding actions:</p> <p>Page 4 – Local Offer Angela Steadman still to meet with Commissioners to review the rating of services and follow up gaps highlighted in feedback; and to meet Tony Sharples with regard to linking the JSNA to the Local Offer.</p> <p>Page 4 – 0-19 Years Services and Children's Centre Consultation Report on outcome of consultation is on November agenda.</p>	Angela Steadman
3.	<p>Voice of Children and Young People – Examples/evidence Examples from Children in Care and Care Leavers</p> <p>Kim Brooman, CWaC Participation Officer explained that she supports and facilitates the Children in Care and Care Leavers Council who meet monthly and seek to influence council services. A new website has been launched with App facilities which allow greater access to information and</p>	



	<p>advice for the children and young people. The Children in Care Council is responsible for the Pledges which are the promises that underpin service delivery. Kim pointed out that Pledge 6, Named Workers has been amended following a consultation process last year and asked members to re-read the Pledge.</p> <p>There are three main forums that the children in care are members of, in addition to many interview panels for the appointment of council staff: Corporate Parenting Panel Children in Care Sub-group Leaving Care Forum</p> <p>The 2016 Children in Care and Care Leavers survey has just been completed and Kim gave an overview of the results: Children in Care had 70 responses out of 250 sent out with 25 responses from Care Leavers. Some actions have already been put in place to address some of the issues highlighted in the survey, for example 40 Children in Care did not know what an advocate was - work is being undertaken with Social Work Teams and the Workforce Development Team to raise awareness. An example for Care Leavers is that 16 out of the 25 who responded had not heard of the Leaving Care Forum – again action is being taken to address this.</p> <p>All the data and results of the surveys will be shared with the three forums.</p> <p>Nicole praised the Children in Care Council. Gill Frame referred to the issue of Advocacy Services and young people not always being aware of its existence. The Quality Assurance Sub-group of the LSCB wishes to challenge the Trust over the waiting times for advocacy services and the 'opt in' approach to referral that is reducing numbers of children accepted to the service. Julie Karmy, Commissioning Officer explained that Lorraine Crane, Commissioning Manager is meeting with the provider, National Youth Advocacy Service to address the issues.</p> <p>Concerns were raised about the low number of survey responses from the Care Leavers Service and suggestions such as writing/contacting individuals and using the professional skills of the Research and Intelligence Team in the future to help lift up responses were put forward.</p>	
4.	<p>Progress against Strategic Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Outcome 2 – To support our Children in Care and Care Leavers to enable them to achieve their full potential <p>Emma Taylor took members through progress made to date against Strategic Outcome 2 – Children in Care and Care Leavers, as follows: - Good corporate parent with strong member involvement - Accommodation for Care Leavers – new group home at Brook Street in Chester and individual dispersed tenancies being offered. Young people are being identified in advance of leaving care to begin preparation. - Employment and training – EET figures are reasonable but the aim is to improve further. A new approach to apprenticeships has been adopted whereby care leavers are given skills training before taking up an apprenticeship. More work is required to increase the number of</p>	

	<p>apprenticeships on offer across the Council and partners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educational potential – this has been an area for improvement, discussed at the Children’s Social Care Practice Improvement Meeting (CSCPIM), where Debbie Murphy, Head of the Virtual School attended. Measures have been put in place to improve performance including a PEP Coordinator to drive up the timeliness and quality of PEPs. - Health Service – need to be stronger on timeliness of assessments and dental checks. Again this is an area for improvement as part of the CSC PIM with Berenice Astbury, designated nurse for LAC attending <p>ACTION: cleansing on health data is currently underway to ensure accurate picture. Send to Executive once complete.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Placements – new fostering strategy launched to increase the number of foster carers. Placement stability has declined slightly but working to stabilise this; particularly an issue for children placed in residential care. - Children Missing – trend of a group of 9 young people who regularly go missing. Work is being undertaken in localities and by Catch 22 who undertake the return interviews to try and support these young people. 	<p>Emma Taylor</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Commissioning update – Speech and Language Services</p> <p>Julie Karmy explained the current complex service landscape of two contracts, two providers, two CCGs and two councils. The current single service specification is outdated, non-compliant, with a number of anomalies and services have grown organically over a period of time.</p> <p>A needs analysis has been undertaken to understand how many children require a service and where they are and a financial review is on-going. In the interim the existing contract have been rolled over for six months.</p> <p>For the specification going forward, the aim is to have a joint LA and health arrangement to cover the following areas: SEN in schools Speech and Language Service in mainstream schools 0.5 post in Autism Team</p> <p>The focus will be the right therapy at the right time for as long as it is needed with a reason for discharge in the specification. This approach has been tested and has shown to reduce waiting times and help families to feel more involved.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>TAF update</p> <p>Zara Woodcock provided an update on TAF activity across the borough. Advance TAF training was developed in response to learning from SCR Child A and practitioner feedback from accessing Basic Training. TAF Advisors have now been trained to deliver the training, ensuring sustainability. TAF Advisors are now focusing on the quality of TAFs and those that have been open for 12 months or longer. Early evidence is that assessments completed by agencies outside IES are not holistic or family focussed enough. In addition the voice of the child is not strong enough and a Task and Finish Group has been established to look at this.</p> <p>TAF activity is varied across the borough. IES is the largest initiator followed by primary schools. Also statistically TAFs led by partner agencies are open longer than those open to IES.</p> <p>The LSCB is conducting a piece of work exploring cases of children subject to child protection plans and what early help has been explored</p>	

	<p>prior to them coming to the attention of Children’s Social Care.</p> <p>Helen Brackenbury highlighted the fact that TAF initiations are not consistent across agencies. There have been some challenges with the mobile device known as Tevolution which enables agencies to initiate TAFs electronically. These challenges are being addressed with ICT colleagues across the partnership. However, irrespective of this all agencies still have the option to utilise the paper TAF process. These are then loaded by colleagues in IES. Helen reiterated to partners that the LSCB has supported and endorsed the use of the Team Around the Family assessment (TAF) as the most appropriate early help assessment. Helen encouraged partners to embed the use of this holistic assessment within their organisations and commissioned services.</p> <p>Gill Frame expressed her surprise at the low level of activity from some universal services such as health visiting and midwifery services and the item will be discussed by the LSCB at its meeting on 27 May 2016. TAF activity levels will be sent to LSCB members before the meeting.</p> <p>Emma Taylor pointed out that there is currently an unsustainable level of activity at child protection level and it is in everybody’s interest to move the activity back down the continuum of need.</p> <p>ACTION: Bring TAF update to meeting in September</p>	<p>Helen Brackenbury /Zara Woodcock</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ofsted Inspection Recommendations Action Plan <p>Emma Taylor reported that the formal Recommendation Action Plan required following the Children’s Social Care Ofsted inspection was sent to Ofsted on 11 May 2016. There are five recommendations with clear milestones and timescales. A multi-agency approach is expected to track and implement the recommendations, for example around care planning, health assessments and attainment of children in care. Health Assessment of children in care still requires improvement. Tracking of progress will be regularly reported to Management Team and the Practice Improvement Meeting.</p> <p>ACTION: Ofsted Recommendations and requirement of multi-agency approach be included in brief to next Health and Wellbeing Board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ofsted new thematic inspection process and implications for work of the Trust <p>New Joint Targeted Area Inspections of services for vulnerable children and young people are to be launched this year. The first wave of inspections, to be completed by summer 2016 will focuss on children at risk of sexual exploitation and those missing from home, school or care. Future areas of focus will be decided upon with input from key stakeholders.</p> <p>Nicole Meardon asked the Trust to think about its response and the implications for the future.</p> <p>Emma Taylor reported that a North East Authority had been inspected</p>	<p>Isabel Noonan /Sarah Blaylock</p>

	<p>and it was suggested that an approach be made for a copy of any formal report issued. ACTION: Enquire about formal report for Tyneside and send to Trust members</p> <p>Gill Frame suggested that our systems and processes would need to be tested and agreed that this should be a topic for the LSCB ACTION: Gill Frame to raise systems and processes for Thematic Inspection with LSCB.</p> <p>Nicole Meardon asked about ensuring that all the correct information is available and accessible and that partners are aware and up to speed. Tony Sharples suggested that there is still some work to do on this. Emma Taylor pointed out that there would be a safeguarding element because of focus on CSE and Missing from home; with Gill Frame explaining that CSE/Missing is a pan Cheshire service and wondered how cited people are on this.</p> <p>ACTION: A brief on the thematic inspection process be produced and sent to the Trust.</p>	<p>Isabel Noonan /Sarah Blaylock</p> <p>Gill Frame</p> <p>Isabel Noonan /Sarah Blaylock</p>
8.	<p>LSCB Challenge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catch 22 – concern was raised about the capacity to see children and young people within timescales required. Julie Karmy reported that there is only one worker covering this work but that the Commissioning Manager has requested a formal report come to the next meeting of the Children’s Trust Executive. • National Review of LSCBs – Report due out shortly following a review focussing on three main areas: LSCBs and Multi-agency collaboration Serious Case Reviews - there have been 180 nationally and the learning has been questioned. NSPCC may look at this on a more thematic basis Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) – should be aligned more closely to Public Health and the Health and Wellbeing Board. 	
11.	<p>Items for next Health and Wellbeing Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress against Strategic Outcome • Speech and Language Service update • TAF Update • Ofsted Inspection 	<p>Isabel Noonan /Sarah Blaylock</p>
12.	<p>Any Other Business: Lesley Dixon from North West Focus explained that they have been commissioned to deliver children and young people participation in CWaC. An open day has been arranged for 3 June to talk about C&YP involvement in service development. Mental health issues have already been identified by young people as an area they want to focus on.</p> <p>In addition, there is a Northern Power House conference at Huddersfield University on 9 July organised by a group of young people from across the North West, Yorkshire and Humber.</p>	

13.	Date of next meeting: Date: Monday 18th July 2016 Time: 3.15pm to 5.15pm Venue: Palatine Room, Chester Town Hall	
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