

Minutes

Changing for Children Executive Board (CfCEB)

13th July 2009

Level 10, Oldham Civic Centre

9.00am-11.00

Present:	Tim Mitchell (Vice Chair)	Positive Steps Oldham (and representing Changing for Children Strategy Group)
	Des Herlihy	Royton and Crompton Secondary School (Representing Secondary Heads)
	Andy Feeley	Lyndhurst Primary School (Representing Primary Heads)
	Cllr Kay Knox	Cabinet Member, Oldham Council
	Supt Stewart Goodwin	Oldham GMP
	Ian Walsh	St Luke's Primary School (New Primary Heads Representative)
	Shauna Dixon	NHS Oldham
	Lihanne Nelson	People, Communities & Society
	Leeanne Hickey (Minutes)	People, Communities & Society
	Anne Nikolaou (for item 3)	People, Communities & Society
	Teresa Broadbent (for item 7)	People, Communities & Society
	Julia DeLoughry (for item 5)	Performance, Services and Capacity
Apologies:	Michael Jameson	People, Communities & Society
	Veronica Jackson	People, Communities & Society
	Jane Hughes	Oldham Brook
	Jim Lievers	Chair of LSCB
	Cllr Williamson	Oldham Council

1 Welcome and Apologies

TM welcomed group members and explained MJ had to send his apologies for unavoidable reasons.

2 Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting (4th June 2009) were approved but following points were noted.

(2) Porter Street Funding – acknowledgment that we need to more formal partnership funding arrangements with Porter Street. Ed Francis & Keith McCabe are now taking this forward.

(3) Quarter 4 Performance –

- SD confirmed that it has been agreed that all requests for PCT data will now be taken through Nazir Saghir, Business Intelligence Partner.
- TM queried whether there may be a potential overlap between our work on recording racist incidents in schools and the wider Oldham weekly tension monitoring process.

Action: LN to explore

- LN confirmed that the new AED for Corporate Policy, Ben Spinks, will have a key role in taking forward the poverty agenda. Carolyn Wilkins and Jon Bloor are also meeting with other strategic leads who are working on child poverty in the north west and will be joining a NW Child Poverty Network to develop a shared vision, explore opportunities and share good practise.

(5) Tell us 4

LN confirmed that she has tried to link with Bruce Penhale to investigate if other optional questions which were of interest to the group (i.e. A2 which tries to establish young people's satisfaction with their local area and F1 which relates to young peoples involvement with volunteering) could be picked up in corporate surveys. As yet she has had no response. **Action: LN to try to follow up with BP again**

3 Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)

AN briefed the group on the new CAA process and provided papers giving a brief overview of how each area will be assessed on a green and red flag basis. The group agreed that this needs to be a regular item at future meetings, and the Children's Performance Profile needs to be shared at the next meeting.

Action: LN to ensure CAA - Children's Performance Profile is on the agenda for the next meeting

4 Oldham Children's Trust and links to the Oldham Partnership

LN circulated a paper outlining how Oldham Children's Trust is currently represented on groups/ boards/ partnerships in existence across the Oldham Partnership. LN briefly summarised recent discussions in respect of how new ECM thematic leads could be much more closely linked to these. There was some discussion re. who is best placed to attend Safe and Strong Communities Board meetings and it was agreed this item should be deferred to the next meeting for further discussion when MJ is in attendance.

Action: LN to carry forward as an agenda item for the next meeting.

5 Oldham Children's Trust Area Working Update

TM provided a brief update on how we developing a children's service approach to area working, in line with the corporate approach, and how we will be linking in with partners to take this forward. TM also briefed the group on a framework of actions and the questions we have to ask ourselves in order to achieve these actions. Cllr Knox emphasised that the focus politically for the first year is how to make things easier for residents by possibly delivering some things differently and using our resources more effectively. SD agreed that the use of public service monies definitely need to be explored in more detail. SG stated that ownership is a big issue from the Police's point of view as problems can be made easier and resolved by knowing who to contact.

6 **Agenda Planning**

In MJ absence, it was agreed this agenda item should be deferred to the next meeting. LN did however explore group members views on preferred meeting frequency for 2010 on the basis that the Board currently meets bi-monthly. It was agreed bi-monthly meetings should be kept for now and this will need to be revisited at the Trust Development Day in October. Board members requested that future meetings do not take place on a Monday am or a Thursday, and should continue to take place during the day.

Action: LN to defer agenda item to next meeting.

7 **Lord Laming Report**

Teresa Broadbent took the group through a briefing report she had prepared for Leadership in relation to the Government's response to Lord Laming. TB explained it was intended as an original heads up to Leadership and a first stab at explaining to the Council some of the key issues. TB explained that there are 58 recommendations in total in the report and further guidance on these is still pending. TB confirmed that the LSCB will be trying to distill how best to take forward these recommendations at their next meeting. A single comprehensive plan will need to be developed, pulling together all the different strands of work and required next steps.

TB highlighted that there are currently 8 vacancies at the frontline. 5 members of staff are from agencies where standards are variable. As a result of a recent mapping exercise, Oldham is aware its package offer for staff is lower when compared to other areas. Work is therefore now underway to try to improve the recruitment and retention of staff. TB also acknowledged that staff members are experiencing a sense of insecurity as the job evaluation process is still underway.

TB noted that recommendation 19 is a key point for Children's Trust as it is proposing that any referral made by a professional would lead to an initial assessment. TB confirmed that this would increase workload considerably and potentially also result in a lot of intrusion on families. If implemented in full, TB estimated that we will need another 4/5 Social Workers on front line to meet performance targets as assessments need to be undertaken within 7 days. There is a budget pressure of £150k if that one recommendation is to go ahead.

AF also drew the Boards attention to the fact that the bar is being raised for schools to deliver safeguarding. AF informed the Board of implications around staff not having an up to date CRB in that schools will be scored inadequate. AF stressed that HR need to understand the importance of these requirements. At the moment they appear to be struggling to keep up with capacity and information is going missing. TB agreed to do some further investigation to understand the CRB check requirements for schools staff. SD informed that NHS are undergoing inspections that are focusing on HR so she may be able to get some intelligence from there.

TB confirmed that the governance arrangements, including corporate governance, for the LSCB are being reviewed and strengthened. In light of the statutory guidance re. DCS and Lead Member role, TB advised that Cllr Kay Knox is now a member of the LSCB. TB also advised that the Development Worker vacancy is going to be re-advertised and expressed concern that the ongoing job evaluation process may be affecting applicants interest in applying for the role. TM queried whether qualifications are listed as essential criteria and proposed that the focus should be on skills rather than qualifications. TB agreed to check.

Action: TB to investigate CRB criteria under the new framework for school staff. TB to also check whether qualifications are listed as essential criteria for the Development Worker post.

8 14-19 Developments

In MJ absence, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

9 Oldham Children's Trust and Performance Management

Julia DeLoughry introduced herself to the group as the new Head of Performance for the Council. JDL explained that she will be managing all the new pooled performance functions for the council. In order to ensure the Trust performance management requirements are met, JDL explained that she will be scoping what the performance requirements are and will be setting up a group to take this forward.

Action: JDL to establish a group to review and strengthen performance management arrangements for the Trust.

10 Date and time of next meeting:

Thursday 24th September 2009, 1pm-3pm, Conference Room, Level 10 Civic Centre