



## BOROUGH OF POOLE

### CHILDREN'S TRUST GOVERNANCE BOARD

MONDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> February 2011

The Meeting commenced at 5 pm and concluded at 7.15pm.

#### Present:

#### Members of the Board

Anne Newton – Chair, Director of Children's Services, Borough of Poole  
Adrian Dawson – Director of Public Health, NHS Bournemouth and Poole  
Anne Shinwell – Head teacher, Poole Schools  
Blair Crawford – Third Sector Representative  
Eugene Gratwick – Non – Executive Director, NHS Bournemouth and Poole  
Gerry Moore – Service Unit Head: Children and Young People's Social Care, Borough of Poole  
Helen Brittain – Head of Youth Development, Dorset Police  
Jan Thurgood – Adult Services, Borough of Poole  
John Morton – Director of Joint Commissioning & Partnerships, NHS Bournemouth and Poole  
Linda Boland - Operational Director, Children's & Specialist Services, Dorset Healthcare NHS Trust (sub for Roger Browning)  
Mandy Goodenough – Third Sector Representative  
Ros Maycock – Chair, Professional Executive Committee  
Stuart Twiss – Service Unit Head: Children and Young People's Services: Strategy, Quality and Improvement, Borough of Poole  
Sue Pelham – Head teacher, Poole Schools  
Vicky Wales – Service Unit Head: Children and Young People's Integrated Services, Borough of Poole

#### Invited Observers

None

#### Also in attendance

Nick Wharam – Commissioning Manager, Children and Young People's Services – Strategy, Quality and Improvement (CYPSSQI) (BoP)  
Amanda Wheeler (Minutes) – Children's Trust Communications Officers, (CYPSSQI) (BoP)

#### 1. WELCOMES AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed those at the meeting and acknowledged that the Board was meeting under revised governance arrangements with a different membership. Each member was invited to introduce themselves, their role and their links to children's services within their own organisations.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies of absence were received from:

Cllr Sandra Moore – Elected member, Borough of Poole

Valerie Graves – Chief Operating Officer, B&P Community Health Services

MINUTES

**There were no previous minutes brought to this meeting**

MATTERS ARISING

None

3. BRIEFING ON THE CURRENT STATE OF THE NATION AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO POOLE CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND THE COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL POSITION

Anne Newton presented "The Way Forward for Children, Young People and their Families". The slides were as follows:

Slide 1: The way forward

Slide 2: Where are we – Local Authority Position

Slides 3, 4 and 5: Key Messages from the Local Authority

Slide 6: Children's Services Plan and Potential Priorities

Slide 7: Reducing the effects of child poverty

Slides 8 and 9: Mental and Emotional Health and Well-being

Slide 10: Reducing Inequalities and diversity-related issues

Slide 11: Child Protection

Slide 12: Conclusion

Anne Newton reminded the Board of their workshop in October 2010 where it was decided to focus on the priorities for Poole's children and young people. She stated that the Coalition government has also asked LAs to focus on a reduced set of priorities. Anne Newton said the new Child Poverty Plan reflects the priorities and that the LA budget decisions were based on emerging priorities.

Anne Newton informed the Board it had been a very challenging time and that the LA was now in a strong position to move forward to work on the agreed priorities. However there is some lack of consistency across Government departments and their policies and it will be this Board's role to navigate the way forward efficiently and effectively based on agreed priorities with clear outcome measures.

Anne Newton confirmed that of course everyone was focused and wants the best outcomes for the children and young people in Poole and she reaffirmed the Director of Children's Services role in leading the process.

John Morton was invited to share the financial position of the NHS. He said:

- The NHS got a 2% increase in overall funding, of which 1½% has to be passported to LAs (to adult services not children's services)
- Hypothicated funding is an issue. This is where the NHS has to provide a service but there was no extra funding made available, for example in the expectation to increase the health visitor workforce.
- The NHS would appear to be a better position than LAs, however NHS providers have a PCT imposed cut of 1½%. Compounded by a local target of achieving a 4½ % cut ie. a total 6% cut.
- It is the hospital, community services and mental health services that have to make the cuts
- In addition there has to be a 1% surplus in the budget to provide a contingency against in year cost pressures.
- In relation to children's services there is a National government commitment to increase health visitors, family nurse practitioners and psychology therapy services for children and young people. The PCT is trying to address these but may have to implement increases in the last month of 11/12 to reduce in year impact.

John Morton invited any of health colleagues to comment.

- Adrian Dawson added there are issues around maternity services, paediatric services – particularly around intensive services, palliative care for children and a new child health information system.
- Ros Maycock stated there were issues about enough community paediatric nurses for disabled children
- Adrian Dawson said there is a need to pull together all children's services, as they currently work in different directorates which can be difficult

Anne Newton asked if there were any questions or comments

A discussion followed:

- Eugene Gratwick asked Anne Newton to clarify about the different guidance giving lack of consistency across Government departments and their policies
- Anne Newton gave the example that the new education white paper "The Importance of Teaching" says schools do not have a duty to cooperate with LAs, with the intention of moving bureaucracy. However health documents and policies state schools have a role in supporting the health agenda. This seems to produce conflicts that schools should cooperate with some organisations and not others

- Vicky Wales asked John Morton about the issues of health visitors and asked about the commitment to provide them
- John Morton replied that they have worked out how many are needed, and knows that there is an obligation to provide them, but the budget setting is not completed. There is potentially a 12 month time lag in funding, so not sure of the commitment even though there is an obligation
- Anne Newton suggested an integrated approach would be needed to work carefully with budget time lags
- John Morton clarified that the Health Visitor number increase would be a permanent uplift.
- Linda Boland suggested there is a collective opportunity to attract funding even if it is not always non-recurring. If there is an opportunity efforts should be made to bid for non-recurring funds
- Blair Crawford asked if Poole had drawn down from reserves to fund vulnerable services
- Anne Newton said Poole had tried to protect services provided to vulnerable young people but acknowledged that budget reductions have been made and there is now a need to look at transitional arrangements, ready for next year
- Jan Thurgood said Poole's financial plan is going to Cabinet on 1<sup>st</sup> March, and that it could be found on Poole Borough website

#### 4. NEW CHILDREN'S BOARD

Introduced by Anne Newton

Anne Newton referred members to the previously circulated document "Multi-agency Planning and Governance of Children's Services in Poole"  
She said this is a challenging time, everyone is in a transitional phase and that Poole needs to have its' own local arrangements

Nick Wharam introduced an activity and suggested it would help this Board decide its future governance arrangements. He showed a PowerPoint slide with a diagram and handed out the 4 questions and the Statements of Intent for the Board to refer to. The Board was divided into two discussion groups to consider four questions

The 4 questions:

1. Children's Trust Identity  
(Children Act legislation still in place) Board members views on name of Board (keep as CT Board or change to Children's Learning, Health and Well-being Board)  
Retain Poole Children's Trust identity through Logo and Website?
2. Relationship to New Health and Well-being Boards

New Health and Well-Being Boards- where should children's governance fit in relation to the Health and Well-being Board and potential sub regional arrangements?

3. Operation of the Board and Stakeholder Group

Have we got membership right?

Statements of Intent –are these still valid?

Suggestion is that Stakeholder Group would meet twice a year, spring and autumn to align with strategic planning cycle any views?

4. Governance arrangements below the Board

Do members agree with expanding the Local authority senior management meetings to provide an Executive function below the Board?

A discussion in 2 groups followed and responses recorded

**RESOLVED that**

- i. Anne Newton and Nick Wharam will collate the responses and circulate a further proposal to the board**

5. DRAFT POVERTY STRATEGY

Presented by Nick Wharam

Nick Wharam referred members to the previously circulated documents 'Poole Child Poverty Strategy' and 'Poole's Child Poverty Needs Assessment: Reducing the Impact of Child Poverty in Poole draft version 2'

Nick Wharam presented 8 PowerPoint slides "The Child Poverty Strategy", and gave an overview

The Coalition government wants to keep the previous government's commitment to reduce child poverty. There is a significant problem building in Poole. The percent living in households entitled to housing benefit has risen from 15.7% in 2005/06 to 21% in 2009/10.

There are areas in Poole with a high level of child poverty with the highest neighbourhood having 47% of children living in poverty. Nick Wharam also pointed out the link between poverty and poor outcomes.

There are 4 dimensions that need to be included in a child poverty strategy: Employment and Skills, Financial Support, Family and Life Chances, Transport, Housing and Environment.

Child Poverty has already been identified as a priority by the Board and the Needs Assessment by Sara Ireland reflects this. The Key Outcomes need to be considered and can be addressed by targeting services. The challenges

are ensuring other partners are engaged in priorities through Poole Partnership and Poole Poverty Strategy, and achieving a targeted approach based on specific neighbourhoods with clear, measurable outcomes.

A discussion followed.

- Ros Maycock queried the Key Outcomes and how measurable they are
- Nick Wharam replied that they are very global and the detail has to be worked on, which will probably revolve around tracking specific vulnerable groups, under 5s in particular neighbourhood for example
- Adrian Dawson said it will be an interesting debate to decide whether to target geographical areas or maybe using long-term cost benefit ratios
- Linda Boland asked if any of the cut backs are going to have a direct impact on the child poverty strategy
- Adrian Dawson stated that the Board have to also consider workforce who provide the front line services and the potential issues faced by some families who are continually targeted
- Nick Wharam said that it is known which families need the most support
- Anne Newton reinforced the need to prioritise for families and helping them to access services
- Mandy Goodenough said that there were issues around the impact of benefit changes and asked that this be included in Strategy.

**RESOLVED that:**

- i. The Board will make any comments and contributions towards the Child Poverty Strategy, directly to Nick Wharam by 21<sup>st</sup> February**
- ii. The Child Poverty Strategy will be taken to the Poverty sub group of the Local Strategic Partnership**
- iii. There will be further work on agreeing targeted service response to priorities**

## 6. MULTI-AGENCY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Presented by Nick Wharam

Nick Wharam presented a PowerPoint slide “Workforce Development”, and gave an overview

Nick Wharam referred members to the previously circulated document ‘Children and Young People’s Multi-Agency Workforce Development in Poole’

Nick Wharam informed the Board that funding has been lost which means that a post has been deleted in Poole Children’s Services and that strategic group

has been reduced. He reminded the Board of the draft workforce strategy which had been circulated, but never managed to get discussed at a meeting. The priorities remain and there is still are requirements eg. for CAF training

A discussion followed.

- Stuart Twiss stated there had been a significant investment from Poole CVS, some training grants – including from the CWDC and it is all coming to a halt simultaneously. There are very important developments for the future, for example, supervision and safeguarding with vulnerable families
- Mandy Goodenough asked what exactly needs to be done.
- Nick Wharam responded that common competencies expected across the workforce is still the direction of travel
- Adrian Dawson said that there were some competencies from NICE. There is a body of evidence that says ‘these things work’ where individuals work towards a professional framework. If this is all grinding to a halt, then we need to be very worried
- Nick Wharam reminded the Board of the ‘Jellyfish’ diagram used to illustrate core competencies and then specialist competencies.
- Stuart Twiss raised the issue that interventions are for parents too. There is a need to quality assure the provision of training
- Eugene Gratwick suggested there are times when there is a need to develop something locally, and the need to work collaboratively on a wider basis. This is one of them. Workforce developments across highly localised needs and everyone should collaborate
- Ros Maycock raised an issue about the spectrum of training, and a workforce that has access to the appropriate level of training
- Jan Thurgood gave an example where training had been reviewed across an organisation and they were working on avoiding duplication by being more integrated. She queried if domestic violence training was being sufficiently integrated. She also asked if the workforce development group needs to continue and if it has the capacity to continue.
- Nick Wharam stated he was looking for reaffirmation that the group needs to continue, that the Board will support the group

**RESOLVED that:**

- i. The Board will support the Workforce Development Strategy group**

## 7. FORWARD PLAN

Presented by Anne Newton

Anne Newton suggested the next Board meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March be cancelled as it was not far away and that the priorities and much smaller draft children and young people plan should be on the agenda for 9<sup>th</sup> May Board.

**RESOLVED that:**

**i. Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March cancelled**

8. FOR INFORMATION

None

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Anne Newton, on behalf of the Board, thanked Amanda Wheeler for supporting the Board for the last 2 years. Her post has been deleted.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair advised the Board of the date of the next scheduled Meeting.

**RESOLVED that the next Children's Trust Governance Board Meeting be held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 5pm, Canford House, Discovery Court, Poole**

**CHAIR**