

## The Children and Young Person's Partnership Board

**The Children's Partnership Board (CYPPB) is the name for the Children's Trust in North East Lincolnshire.** Chaired by the Assistant Director for Children's Services, the board is made up of the key local agencies who commission services for children and young people (CYP). The CYPPB has a number of key areas of focus regarding joint commissioning for better outcomes for CYP including the health and wellbeing action plan for CYP, Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) and the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP).

For the first time, the 2014-16 CYPP 2014-2016 was based entirely on the views and opinions of CYP and many of the actions linked to the identified priorities are being driven and delivered by youth groups. The CYPPB monitor the progress and delivery of the priorities which are:

- Skills and employability
- Local employment
- Independence
- Active people in the community
- Healthy lives
- Safety

## Prevention and Early Intervention

### Putting Families First in North East Lincolnshire

**Successful early intervention activities, like the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) have been taking place in North East Lincolnshire for some time,** but some initiatives and processes have not had the desired effect of appropriately addressing needs early and reducing escalation to statutory interventions.

To address this, the Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy was developed in 2013, drawing together existing good practice into a coherent and inter-related approach and including an overarching performance framework. This is an achievement to celebrate, and there are already some signs of success. An increased proportion of CAFs are being closed with positive outcomes and there has been a reduction in the number of CAF cases escalating to Child in Need. There is still work to do to fully implement and embed this work. This includes:

- Finish the development of multi-agency family hub clusters;
- Revise threshold document and related processes;
- Develop the approach to CAF, using the 'signs of safety' framework;
- Implement a significant workforce development programme;
- Develop the 'Creating Stronger Communities' model, which has four key elements 1 -Signs of Safety, 2 -Restorative Practice, 3 -Outcomes Based Accountability and 4 -Family group conferencing;
- Introduce Phase 2 of the Troubled Families Program.

## Social Care Innovation Fund

**The 'Creating Strong Communities' Program has a new program manager, Sarah Impey, who is now leading on the development of the program and recruiting to the four family group conference coordinator posts.**

Working with Hull University, we are seeking to develop a modular program, linked to the Creating Strong Communities model, a workshop is already established to work through this. The training program for the four elements of Signs of Safety, Restorative Practice, Family Group Conferencing and Outcome Based Accountability are underway. The Signs of Safety day for Leadership is imminent.

This LSCB program impacts the entire social care workforce and links to activity across all theme boards.

## Children's Safeguarding and Reviewing Services (CSRS) – Practice Alert

The CSRS recognised the need for a tool to improve quality and engender learning from good practice, measuring the quality of child protection conference and LAC review processes and alerting professionals to where practice can either be improved or replicated.

The Quality Assurance Notification (QAN) tool is completed by Independent Reviewing Officers following reviews or conferences and 'notified' to practitioners and seniors, alerting them to any remedial action needed or acknowledging and build on good practice. The tool provides a consistent and quick audit process based on a core checklist – aligned to the Inspection Framework. It was piloted with social workers during 14/15 and will be rolled out to professional partners over the coming months.

## LSCB Procedures

Triex were commissioned to manage, review and revise LSCB procedures. The procedures are reviewed six monthly, are compliant with Working Together 2013 and will be revised in line with Working Together 2015.

The application and effectiveness of safeguarding procedures are measured as part of case file audits and Serious Case Reviews. Resistant Parenting guidance has been produced following learning from SCRs. Child Sexual Exploitation guidance and Harmful Sexualised Behaviour guidance have been updated in 2014 as part of ongoing development and review.

## Quality Assurance Officer Role

Catherine Benson took up post as Safeguarding Quality Assurance Coordinator on March 30. She will ensure standards of quality across LSCB services and manage the multi-agency audit process. Catherine has distributed Neglect Audit, audit guidance and a tool in line with the Ofsted audit tool to all partners and put in place an inter-agency audit calendar until April 2016 with revised guidance which shows the whole process from selecting cases to feeding back at LSCB level. Threshold and neglect audits and work which assesses how we involve children and their families in decision making and listens to children are also underway. Catherine said: "I am not only new to the role, I am new to North East Lincolnshire. I am enjoying the role and seeing all the different services in the area."

## LSCB website [nelsafeguardingchildrenboard.co.uk](http://nelsafeguardingchildrenboard.co.uk)

Supported and financed by the Clinical Commissioning Group, the site has sections for practitioners, children, young people, families, schools, Serious Case Reviews, procedures, training, performance, good practice and national research. The LSCB sub groups feed in required updates. Initial feedback has been very positive.

## Learning from Serious Case Reviews (SCRs)

The North East Lincolnshire LSCB is committed to sharing the learning from SCRs to inform and improve practice. Areas of learning identified from recent SCRs include:

*Significant history*- All agencies, at whatever stage in a case (conducting assessments, agreeing plans or making referrals) should always consider the 'significant history' in making an analysis or in decision making. Agency records should indicate that consideration to this history has been given.

*Bruising to Non Mobile Babies*- All staff who examine non mobile babies must be aware of the significance of marks and seek an explanation. That explanation should not be accepted by one worker alone, and should be discussed with a colleague, manager or safeguarding advisor. A policy is being produced by the LSCB to assist practitioners.

*Disguised Compliance* - Agencies and practitioners need to give time to consider honestly the conditions that make it easier rather than harder for service users to deceive professionals. This requires an honest appraisal of what affects professional practice, mind-sets and how we can help create checks and balances to our own thinking and subsequent actions. I

Interagency practice forums to share this learning, explore factors that promote positive practice and consider mechanisms that reduce identified deficits in practice will be held on 18 & 19 May.

## LSCB Chair Annual Report 2013/14

*"The year has been characterised by deep reflection, a focussed determination to continuously improve and accelerated action"*

*"We have made significant progress in the last 12 months and through strong partnerships our performance is improving in key areas of activity, but we are clear there is more to be done to further improve services so that all children in North East Lincolnshire are safe"*

**'Our Story' LSCB Board Workshop, March 2015**

The quotes above provide two perspectives on the LSCB and its activities over the last year – both describe an energy and determination to make lives better for children and young people.

The LSCB Annual Report provides over 40 pages of detail and evidence to support these statements. It has already been warmly received by the Council's Scrutiny Committee, shared with the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Health and Well-Being Board and will inform our plans for 2015/16. Read the report in full at on the LSCB website.