

Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee

16 November 2015

Present: Councillor M Madden (Chair)
Councillors K Bolger, K Clark, M A Green,
D Lilly, G Madden, P McIntyre and M Thirlaway.

Mr G O'Hanlon Church Representative
Rev. M Vine Church Representative

CES26/11/15 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Brooks, C Davis, P Oliver, and J Munby and Mrs Little and Mrs Ord, Parent Governor Representatives.

CES27/11/15 Substitute Members

There were no substitute members reported.

CES28/11/15 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made or dispensations reported.

CES29/11/15 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 October 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

CES30/11/15 North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2014/15

The sub-committee received the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board's (NTSCB) Annual Report 2014/15 from the Independent Chair, Richard Burrows.

The report provided an account of what the Board and its members had achieved during the year, including an assessment of the impact of these efforts and the overall position of joint working arrangements to safeguard children and young people in North Tyneside. The report was organised into two sections, with the first considering the context and role of the Safeguarding Children Board and gave a view on the overall position regarding the effectiveness of joint working arrangements to protect children and young people in North Tyneside. The second section examined how the Board fulfilled its statutory responsibilities and formed a view as to how effective this had been. An Executive Summary would be published at a later date to illustrate the actions the Board had agreed to take in response and amendments made to the current priorities and business plan.

For the review of 2014/15 the Annual report included sections on policies, procedures and protocols; working together standards; performance management; training; use of learning

to improve practice; safer recruitment and allegations management; private fostering; and partnership working. The final section was the summary and sufficiency question which looked at the report as a whole and commented on the joint working arrangements to protect children and the effectiveness of the Board.

Mr Burrows stated that the partnership culture was strong within the Board with commitment to joint working; however all parties were under pressure to produce efficiencies and with the protection of children under the spotlight the pressure being felt across all organisations was considerable. An important step forward was the extension of the Section 11 Audit to schools and there were eight standards organisations had to meet to ensure they were meeting their safeguarding responsibilities. The Section 11 Audit was a three-year rolling programme and derived from section 11 of the Children Act 2004 which placed a duty on a range of organisations to ensure their functions were discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, the Section 11 Audit was the check that this was taking place). This work would give the Board a strong evidence base on which to build future development.

Members asked questions regarding attendance at meetings and the impact the expected funding cuts would have on the work of the Board. It was explained that the Board was preparing in a number of ways, including focussing on what was required and accurately identifying what could be done with the resources available and be clearer in managing and identifying risks. The membership of the Board had been clarified over the year and some of the organisations listed in the report were no longer part of the Board and had therefore stopped attending the meetings. The Council had five places on the board, including housing, and discussions were taking place as to how best to allocate those places and whether other services needed to be represented.

The Chair thanked Mr Burrows for his attendance and invited him to stay for the rest of the meeting if he wished.

It was **agreed** to note the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2014/15.

CES31/11/15 Attainment and Progress of Disadvantaged Pupils

The sub-committee received a report from the School Improvement Service (SIS) on the work undertaken to ensure pupils classified as disadvantaged made comparable progress to those not classified as disadvantaged. The Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee had requested at its 30 March 2015 meeting that this sub-committee monitor the effectiveness of the support and challenge programme by the SIS to ensure comparable progress was being made (minute OV43/03/15).

The sub-committee was informed that disadvantaged pupils were defined as those who had been eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) in the last six years, or had been adopted or were looked after; they also formed the majority of those eligible for Pupil Premium funding. Schools had autonomy on how they spent their Pupil Premium money to improve the performance of eligible pupils and each year schools must publish how they had spent the money to improve the attainment and progress of disadvantaged pupils.

The report detailed the number of pupils in the disadvantaged cohort; examples of how both primary and secondary schools had used their Pupil Premium funding; the level of progress all students should reach at the end of different Key Stages; the comparison

between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils; the strategies employed by the SIS to improve attainment and progress; and their future plans.

At the end of Key Stage Two, children were expected to have attained Level 4 or above in reading, writing and maths. In 2013 the gap within North Tyneside between disadvantaged and other pupils was -15%, in 2014 this had dropped to -20% and it had decreased to -17% in 2015, although still a worse performance than 2013. The same pattern was reflected in the national figures. Over the same years, expected progress between Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2 in reading, writing and maths followed the same pattern although in much smaller numbers with the difference being 1% to 3% or 3% to 5%, except the gap in maths which rose to 5% in 2014 and remained at that level in 2015. At Key Stage 4 pupils were expected to attain 5 A*-C, including English and maths. In 2013 the gap within North Tyneside was -25%, increasing to -26% in 2014 and again to -29% in 2015.

In 2013 the disadvantaged progress gaps within North Tyneside were in-line with the national gaps. In 2014 the Council's English gap improved significantly while the national gap showed small improvement, however the apparent North Tyneside improvement is believed to be a result of declining performance in the non-disadvantaged group. In 2014 the Council's maths progress gap increased by 2% resulting in performance 1% below (worse than) the national gap. 2015 national gap data was not yet available, but the North Tyneside English progress gap was again in-line with the latest national gap, possibly 1% better and the Council maths progress gap was the same as last year, 1% worse than the latest national gap.

Whilst the reduction was welcomed it was acknowledged that more progress was needed. A good network with school leads had been established and as some schools had narrower gaps they were trying to share best practice. The strategies employed by the SIS included: targeted support and challenge from the School Development Partner; asking all schools to identify a Pupil Premium lead; and establishing a Pupil Premium network to facilitate the sharing of best practice.

In 2015-16, the School Improvement Team would continue to focus on raising the attainment and progress of disadvantaged pupils and improving the progress of disadvantaged pupils in maths. In addition to the introduction of new maths interventions, the primary team had held training sessions specifically targeting disadvantaged pupils within each year group throughout the autumn term and School Development Partner meetings would have a stronger focus on outcomes for disadvantaged pupils.

Members questioned how the disadvantaged cohort was calculated, was it from those entitled to FSM or those who claimed FSM; whether any criticism had been received regarding how the Pupil Premium money had been spent; what non-academic support activities were provided; the input from the pupils' teachers regarding the type of additional support; what scrutiny of the work undertaken there was; and the new OFSTED regime which monitored progress as well as attainment.

It was explained that the numbers in the cohort were those who actually claimed and all schools were mindful of the need to ensure that those who qualified for FSM claimed as it was a national funding formula and was available for every child who met the criteria and the money went straight to the school. No criticism of how the Pupil Premium money had been spent had been received as a nationally approved programme for English and maths was used and all schools were encouraged to use the Education Endowment Foundation toolkit which covered 34 topics, each summarised in terms of their average impact on attainment, the strength of the evidence supporting them and their cost. Evidencing the

progress was important, for example free school breakfasts could be bought with Pupil Premium money as it had a positive impact on attendance and social and emotional development work could also be undertaken if there was evidence that it was making a difference in other ways. Senior leaders in schools meet with teachers and go through each child and track their interventions to see what progress was being made and had the opportunity to influence strategy; the School Development partner's role was to challenge leaders to make sure the correct strategies were in place. The process which had served the team well was to arrange a meeting, chaired by the Chief Adviser to Schools or the Senior School Improvement Officer, with the Chair and sometimes the Vice Chair of Governors, the school improvement officers and officers from finance, human resources and the governors' team and agree an Action Plan, which was then monitored on a monthly basis. The very best schools would identify any child who was failing to thrive regardless of whether they were categorised as disadvantaged and provide the necessary support; there was also term and annual reports on the progress of the disadvantaged cohort.

It was **agreed** to note the information provided on the attainment and progress of disadvantaged pupils.

CES32/11/15 Child Sexual Exploitation Update

At its 16 March 2015 meeting, the sub-committee had received an introductory report on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) from the manager of Safeguarding and Placement Services which included information on recent national high profile cases; an explanation of what child sexual exploitation was and who was at risk of CSE; the situation in North Tyneside; and the priorities of the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board (NTSCB). The sub-committee agreed that in addition to establishing a sub group to examine the issues surrounding CSE, regular reports updating the sub-committee on the work being undertaken in this area would also be provided (previous minute CES40/03/15).

The Senior Manager for Safeguarding and Placement Services attended the meeting to provide the sub-committee with an update report since the last report in July 2015. The report detailed what was being done in relation to individual cases; what work was being undertaken across the council; and what work had been undertaken with partners, including the police and the NTSCB.

The Missing, Sexually Exploited and Trafficked (MSET) Panel was well embedded, with regular meetings and good attendance. It also now included a representative from Operation Sanctuary and community policing and there was good communication with the Chair of the Vulnerable Adults Sub Group of the NTSCB. The social worker was now seconded to Project Sanctuary and court proceedings had recently begun on one case as a consequence of the work with Operation Sanctuary.

All service areas were completing self-assessments for the CSE Contact Group and an Action Plan would be produced before the end of the year; awareness training sessions continued which now included licensed taxi drivers and operators within the borough; and the licensing service had undertaken a self-assessment against the particular criticisms of the licensing regime at Rotherham Council made in the Casey Review into governance at Rotherham Council.

The Sub-committee was also informed that discussions were taking place between the NTSCB, the Safeguarding Adults Board and the Community Safety Partnership on creating an integrated sub group on sexual exploitation reporting to all three boards as each of the

Boards' work on the subject overlapped.

Part of the training provided to Members included the viewing of a DVD 'the Sick Party' which demonstrated how sexual exploitation can begin. The DVD was quite powerful and it had been noted by the officers involved in the training that some Members had been sharing the link to the video on social media. Whilst efforts to raise awareness was welcomed, the context of what people were about to view should be explained and it was a good opportunity to provide contact details for the Front Door service. It was suggested that Members should include a message to accompany the link so no-one viewed it unprepared and proposed the following:

The Sick Party film raises awareness of sexual exploitation, including the grooming process and abusive relationships. It is useful to stimulate discussion between young people and those well placed to offer support. If you have a concern about sexual exploitation contact the Front Door on 0345 2000109 or the police.



Not suitable for under 12yrs. The film contains scenes with adult theme, violence and abuse language.

The sub-committee agreed that all group leaders should be requested to ask their Members to add this message to any social media posts relating to CSE.

Members sought clarification on the extent of the training for taxi drivers and operators and what could be done for drivers who operated in the borough but did not have a North Tyneside licence; what training was provided for bus drivers or metro staff relating to vulnerable young people; what work was done with pubs and clubs and what would be done with the 'hot spot' (where young people congregate) intelligence. Members also sought assurance that young men and boys were not forgotten in all the strategies/support available because they were more difficult to identify.

The sub-committee was informed that the training for taxi drivers had been very well attended and would be continuing; public transport providers had not been included but the point was valid and it would be something that the North East Combined Authority might want to examine due to the cross boundary nature of public transport. Licensing officers had a regional forum for information sharing and regional collaboration; drivers' operating across council boundaries was a key part of the forum. It was also an item on the agenda for the meeting of the six regional local safeguarding children board's with Northumbria Police in December to ensure a consistent approach. Public transport providers could be included in the Section 11 Audit undertaken by the NTSCB and the Chair of the NTSCB agreed to take this back to his Board (Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on a range of organisations to ensure their functions were discharged with regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, the Section 11 Audit is the check that this was taking place).

Members also provided feedback on the training they had received and that an *aide memoir* on a card the size of a bank card would be helpful for when they were out and about. The Senior Manager for Safeguarding and Placement Services agreed to reflect on the feedback and look into the provision of a card which would be easy to carry around.

It was **agreed** (1) to note the updated information on the work being undertaken to raise awareness of, and protect children from, sexual exploitation; (2) that all Group Leaders on the Council be requested to ask their members to add the message set out above to social media posts when sharing the Sick Party DVD; and

(3) the awareness of child sexual exploitation amongst public transport staff and how they could assist various agencies in their work to prevent child sexual exploitation to be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the North East Combined Authority as a potential topic for investigation due to the cross boundary operations of public transport in the region.

CES33/11/15 Child Sexual Exploitation Sub Group Report

The Sub-committee received a report from the Child Sexual Exploitation Sub Group which had been established to ensure the processes and initiatives undertaken by the authority and its partner organisations to tackle the issues around child sexual exploitation (CSE) were appropriate and effective and to raise the awareness of the issues more broadly within the authority and the community as a whole. The objective was to satisfy Members that there was a pro-active approach to tackling CSE in North Tyneside and increase awareness of Members, officers and the public in general of the issues and the warning signs in relation to CSE.

Members of the Sub Group had held a series of evidence gathering meetings with representatives from the local authority, the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board and organisations working with young people in the borough.

The Sub Group was conscious throughout its work that most of the initiatives and procedures discussed had been reactive rather than proactive and whilst it was acknowledged that the reassurance checks undertaken have not suggested that CSE was not taken seriously within the borough or that there were individual or pockets of cases that had not been investigated, it was a chastening reminder of the need to be constantly vigilant in all areas of safeguarding.

As a result of the study the Sub Group had identified eleven recommendations, which were:

1. The North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report be added to the annual work programme of the Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee, with the Independent Chair of the Board invited to attend the meeting where it would be discussed. Once submitted to the Sub-committee the report, and the minute of the discussion, be circulated to all Members of the Council for their information.
2. Cabinet requests the Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding ensures that local authority officers are enabled to attend the meetings of the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board's Sub Groups to ensure a consistent membership and clear reporting lines.
3. Cabinet requests the Chief Executive to require all service areas to appoint a Safeguarding Champion who will participate in the completion of the Section 11 Audit from the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board to ensure that all services have recognised that they must have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
4. Cabinet requests the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board invites the Chair of the Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee or a designated member of the Sub-committee to attend its meetings as an observer.

5. Cabinet requests the Head of Law and Governance undertakes the necessary steps to propose to Full Council an amendment to the Constitution to ensure that child sexual exploitation training is provided to all Members at the same frequency as to officers and that attendance is mandatory and includes information on:
 - what the situation in the borough is
 - what the warning signs are
 - what to do if you suspect something
 - what to do if someone comes to you with a disclosure or a suspicion.
6. Cabinet requests the Standards Committee reviews the current Members and Co-opted Members Code of Conduct and considers including a provision that Members must report any suspicion of sexual exploitation or intelligence received on any safeguarding issues to the authority's Front Door Service and that failure to do so would be considered a breach of the Code of Conduct.
7. Cabinet requests the Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding to provide a quarterly update, including any information from the police service, on the situation in North Tyneside regarding child sexual exploitation in the Members Newsletter.
8. Cabinet requests the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development and the Head of Corporate Strategy develop a communication strategy for the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board's CSE Training Strategy to ensure all Members, officers and other interested groups both inside and outside the authority are aware of the training opportunities available and what is expected of them with regard to attendance and keeping up to date.
9. Cabinet considers amending the process of applying for a private hire or a hackney carriage license and a personal licence issued under the Licensing Act 2003 to require the applicant to have undergone child sexual exploitation training prior to issue.
10. Cabinet requests the Head of Corporate Strategy develop a communications strategy on child sexual exploitation (CSE) through the authority's own publications (Our North Tyneside and Teamwork) to dispel some of the myths surrounding CSE and signposting people who are suffering or may suspect CSE is taking place to appropriate support and information. The strategy to include the production of posters to inform people of the warning signs and what to do if they are concerned for display in all Council buildings and offered to bed and breakfasts, hotels, takeaways and taxi offices.
11. Cabinet requests the Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure, the Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding and the Head of Commissioning and Investment work with Changing Lives to consider whether there is a suitable venue in Whitley Bay to be made available for use by Changing Lives and their associated partners/programmes as a drop-in centre for young people who may be experiencing exploitation and/or abuse.

The recommendations, if accepted, would assist the local authority, partners and the public improve their awareness of CSE and enable them to identify and support victims in the most effective and comprehensive way.

It was **agreed** that the report of the Child Sexual Exploitation Sub Group be endorsed and referred to Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee with a request that the

report be submitted to Cabinet at its meeting on 14 December 2015 for its consideration.

CES34/11/15 Establishment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Sub Group

The sub-committee received a report and an initial scoping document for the establishment of a sub group to scrutinise current services available for children diagnosed with ADHD, across both social care and health and to make recommendations on how the current provision could be improved.

At the meeting held on 16 February 2015, the sub-committee considered a report produced by the authority's Disability and Additional Needs Service which gave an update on ADHD, detailed the recommendations of the clinical guidelines produced by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) and provided some local context and information with regards to provision in North Tyneside. Also in attendance at the meeting were representatives from Healthwatch and the Parents' Support Group who presented a briefing note which summarised the context of their request for the issue to be considered and highlighted questions which they considered remained unanswered. At the end of the discussion the sub-committee agreed to establish a sub group in the 2015/16 municipal year to examine the support provided for children with ADHD and their families (previous minute CES33/02/14). As the sub-committee had completed its in-depth work on Child Sexual Exploitation, it was now in a position to begin work on the ADHD sub group in January 2016.

An initial scope had been drafted and key questions to be answered included:

1. Is there a clear picture of the pathway children with ADHD, and their families, are expected to take through the Health, Social Care and Education systems?
 - a) Do we know how well these systems are working together on the ground?
 - b) Anticipating that the Care Act will significantly increase the Local Authority's obligation, how clearly is information provided to families about what help is available?
2. Why is there still no multi-agency group in North Tyneside (recommended by NICE in 2008), and can one be set up in 2015?
3. Are the existing tools and processes delivering for children and young people with ADHD?
4. Does the Local Authority have enough information about either prevalence or outcomes to be able to budget and provide for local need?

The subject supported the Our People theme in the Our North Tyneside Plan, in particular B - Be supported to achieve their full potential, especially our children and young people.

As the topic also fell within the remit of the Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Sub-Committee it was intended to open the membership of the sub group to both sub-committees and to those Members no longer appointed to either committee but who had expressed an interest in joining the sub group when the original decision to add the topic to the work programme had been made. If there was not enough volunteers from the two

sub-committees, the invitation would be widened to all non-executive members.

Kath Robinson from the authority's Disability and Additional Needs Service (DANS) explained that the Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Sub-committee's Respite Provision Sub Group had met with a group of parents of children with ADHD as part of their work and suggested that to avoid repetition the ADHD sub group should focus on the experience of and services for the child within North Tyneside. Ms Robinson also stated that she had spoken to parents recently about the sub group and they were keen that the work focused on the provision of support for the development of young people in health and education and what programmes were available to help the young people to help themselves. It was also commented by a member of the sub-committee that schools and teachers should be included in the proposed witnesses list.

It was **agreed** (1) to establish a sub group to scrutinise current services available for those diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), across both social care and health and make recommendations on how the current provision could be improved. The sub group would begin its work in January 2016;

(2) that members of both the Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee and the Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Sub-committee and Councillor M Huscroft be invited to volunteer for the sub group; and

(3) that a revised remit taking into account the work of the Respite Provision Sub Group be submitted to the first meeting of the ADHD Sub Group for approval.