

Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee

21 March 2016

Present: Councillor M Madden (Chair)
Councillors K Bolger, K Clark, C Davis, M A Green,
G Madden, P Oliver and M Thirlaway.

Mrs M Ord	Parent Governor Representative
Mrs J Little	Parent Governor Representative
Mr G O'Hanlon	Church Representative
Rev. M Vine	Church Representative

CES47/03/16 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Munby.

CES48/03/16 Substitute Members

There were no substitute members reported.

CES49/03/16 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made or dispensations reported.

CES50/03/16 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 February 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

CES51/03/16 Troubled Families Programme

At the 16 March 2015 meeting the sub-committee had agreed to monitor the second Troubled Families (TF) programme 2015-2025 by receiving a report at least annually on its progress and development during its lifetime. The sub-committee had agreed to six-monthly updates and the Senior Manager of Prevention, Early Intervention and Support Services attended the meeting to provide an update on the work undertaken since the October 2015 meeting (previous minutes CES24/10/15). The sub-committee was reminded that whilst the national programme was the TF Programme the authority referred to it as Supporting Families.

The target in the second phase was to work with 1480 families, 720 had been identified with 328 of those having a named worker and a plan agreed with, and by the whole family, in place. Ten different partner organisations were now working as Family Partners in a whole family approach and received training, support and access to other Family Partners to help embed the principle into their practice and their organisations. Each of the department/organisations working in this way were represented on the TF Operational or

Strategic Group to ensure that managers understood the role.

The authority had submitted its first claim within the second phase of the TF Programme for ten families which had made 'significant and sustained' progress supported by evidence of clear outcomes and validated by internal audit. It was acknowledged that it was a small number, (the team had initially identified forty seven but they had not all passed internal audit's check) but this was expected so early in the programme, reflected the position nationally and had been a useful exercise for when the next claim was made regarding the wording of some of the criteria.

A pilot IT system had been created to provide a more efficient and effective method of collating the data relating to the families on the TF Programme and the associated indicators (28 in total) which meant monitoring the progress of each family member was quicker and reduced the risk of human error leading to an indicator being missed. The system could also be used to identify other families who may benefit from or require intervention.

Professional conversations have been established which brought together all the agencies working with a family, whether in the TF Programme or not, to share information without the family being present; this enabled issues to be identified and support offered at an early opportunity. Ms Baker gave an example of a family which had suddenly withdrawn from services due to a change in their circumstances which the parent thought would mean the children would be taken into care; this was not the case and the professional conversation enabled the issue to be identified, the correct support to be offered and for them to continue living as a family.

The 'one worker, one plan, one family' principle of the TF programme had been recognised as having a significant and positive impact on outcomes for children and families since 2013 and had been adopted as part of the local authority's 0-19 Review which proposed the development of four integrated locality teams who would work with the whole family with specialist support when required. The redesign of services for all families with children and young people would, by helping families address all their issues, lead to: improved school attendance; a reduction in anti-social behaviour and crime; a reduction in domestic violence incidents; improved health and wellbeing; a reduction in worklessness and financial exclusion; improved interventions for children needing help; and more children enabled to live safely at home.

Clarification was sought on the length of time Family Partners could work with the family; what training was provided; how the claiming/funding process worked; how the voluntary and community sector was engaged; and what monitoring took place of families who were no longer part of the TF programme to ensure they did not fall back into old routines.

It was explained that the TF programme was a 'payment by results' (PBR) programme which meant the local authority received the funding once the family was 'turned around' and the presenting issues had reduced or no longer existed, there was no set time limit however the programme finished in 2020 with no renewal likely and the local authority had already begun to consider how the programme could be funded post 2020. This was another reason why the whole family approach needed to become business as usual for the authority. The value of the community sector and the importance of families feeling linked to their neighbourhood during the programme and afterwards was accepted and these organisations were being utilised and supported where possible to assist the TF Programme.

Officers agreed to take forward the suggestion of providing a notification system for bereavements within families to ensure that the information was shared with the correct agencies and appropriate support offered at an appropriate time and in the appropriate way to try and prevent families which were managing becoming a family which required intensive support.

Concern was expressed by a number of committee members when it was explained to them the limited role the local authority could have in the provision of home education or the information it could request relating to the curriculum or standards of those being home educated.

It was **agreed** (1) to note the information provided on the Troubled Families Programme 2015-2020;

(2) a process for notifying relevant partners/organisations when a death has occurred in a family to enable appropriate support to be offered be examined; and

(3) Home Schooling in the borough be put forward as a topic for in-depth review by the sub-committee for the 2016-17 municipal year.

CES52/03/16 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 the sub-committee monitored the effectiveness of the support and challenge programme by the SIS to ensure comparable progress was being made (minute OV43/03/15) and the sub-committee received its first report in November 2015 (previous minute CES31/11/15).

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.

Since the last update there had been no new assessments but the attainment figures, whilst unchanged, had now been validated by the DfE. The sub-committee was reminded of the changes to how primary schools assessments were measured this year and the impact this would have on the ability to compare this year's attainment against last year.

All schools had now identified a Pupil Premium lead and in the autumn and spring term there had been three well-attended pupil premium networks held: an all phase network; a secondary specific network; and a primary specific network. The networks had proven to be a platform for further good practice-sharing between schools which, as Churchill Community College had been named a Pupil Premium Champion School and Burradon Primary School had received the Pupil Premium Winner 2016 Local Award in the key stage 2 category, was of award winning standard.

The School Improvement Team continued to focus particularly on improving the progress of disadvantaged pupils in maths and detail was provided on the number of maths interventions and strategies being deployed in schools. Impact data for all these intervention programmes would be available in July 2016 but individual pupil tracking data

indicated that it was making a positive difference on the progress of disadvantaged pupils in maths.

The School Improvement Officer for Inclusion was working alongside local head teachers and leaders to develop a North Tyneside Pupil Premium Quality Standard Review. This would enable schools to commission a detailed review of the impact of their Pupil Premium provision for disadvantaged pupils.

Clarification was sought on how the skills required to deliver the interventions were cascaded through schools; how teaching assistants were used by schools; and that all phrases of education were included in the development of the Pupil Premium Quality Standard Review. The sub-committee was assured that SIS's role was to ensure the staff could deliver the interventions to improve outcomes and that schools were very good as focussing their teaching assistants where they would have most impact. All schools would be able to use the Pupil Premium Quality Standard Review and all phrases of education would be included in its development.

It was **agreed** (1) to note the information provided on the attainment and progress of disadvantaged pupils; and

(2) that the report in future contains more qualitative information and feedback from the children, young people and teachers regarding the impact of the interventions and strategies.

CES53/03/16 Child Sexual Exploitation update

The Senior Manager for Safeguarding and Placement Services attended the meeting to provide the sub-committee with its regular update on the work being undertaken to tackle child sexual exploitation (CSE) in North Tyneside.

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.

Currently 20 young people were identified as being at risk of child sexual exploitation. A practitioner toolbox had been developed providing tools and interventions for social workers engaged in direct work with young people and an audit of care plans for young people at risk of CSE identified the needs for specific work for each young person. If the young person's risk was not reducing there was now a process in place to escalate the case. A safeguarding action plan and safeguarding agreement had also been developed for parents and carers with a view to pinpointing key areas of risk and strategies to manage such risk.

SCARPA (a collaborative project in Newcastle from The Children's Society, Barnardo's and Save The Children) was the predominant service accessed currently for young people and provided support and intervention in respect of healthy and safe relationship and the issues of CSE. SCARPA ran advice surgeries and workshops on a fortnightly basis with social care staff on engaging young people who were at risk, internet safety and responses to going missing. There was capacity within this work to engage young people from the age of 10 into adulthood; this was of significant benefit and value with regard to transition work into adulthood. Work was undertaken on a one to one basis and SCARPA had recently begun some group sessions with local education providers.

The CSE checkpoint group has concluded its work. The final self assessment report was being completed and the actions identified were either being addressed at individual

service level or, for the majority, being included in the Local Safeguarding Children Board's multi-agency sexual exploitation action plan. North Tyneside continued to work as part of Operation Sanctuary and Bright Futures young women's project work within Operation Sanctuary were attending schools providing support and education in relation to a range of vulnerabilities. The sexual exploitation joint sub group of the safeguarding boards for adults and children and the Safer North Tyneside Partnership had been established and would drive the multi-agency sexual exploitation action plan.

In relation to the recommendations of the Child Sexual Exploitation Sub Group a revised taxi licensing policy was being prepared for public consultation which would ask whether mandatory CSE/safeguarding training for licensed drivers should be introduced and whether mandatory CCTV within taxis should be introduced. Over 900 of the 1,300 drivers licensed within the borough had attended training which demonstrated that members of the trade were engaged in the issue and also raised awareness. Training for personal licence holders would be discussed at Licensing Committee on 7 April 2015. Members would receive training on CSE as part of induction for new members and in future as part of the ongoing training programme. In relation to the communications strategy an audit had been undertaken of what was currently available to raise awareness of CSE and any gaps identified. A young people's group had been consulted on poster design and suggestions shared with the intention of launching in the campaign in March. Also, Changing Lives had been able to find accommodation in Whitley Bay.

Members sought clarification on the number of children at risk who were also looked after children; what other intervention strategies could be used to protect children; and what the training for members entailed.

It was **agreed** (1) to note the updated information on the work being undertaken to raise awareness of, and protect children from, sexual exploitation and the implementation of the recommendations from the sub-committee's Child Sexual Exploitation Sub Group; and (2) that the proposed content and scope of the training to be offered to Members be shared with the members of the Child Sexual Exploitation Sub Group for their feedback.

CES54/03/16 Chair's Announcement

As it was the last meeting of the municipal year, the Chair thanked all Members for their attendance and work during the year and the officers for their support.