

**Minutes of a meeting of the Children and Young People Partnership
Held on 23rd November 2006 at 2pm at the
Professional Development Centre, Kilhams Way, Kings Lynn**

Present:

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| David Lennard Jones (Chair) | - | Area Director, Children's Services |
| Lynda Niles | - | Tier 3, CAMHS |
| Peter Stewart | - | College of West Anglia |
| Carol Comer | - | Connexions |
| Sandra Summerfield | - | Children's Services |
| Jackie Hargreaves | - | Western Area Forum for Voluntary Organisations |
| Derek Wilkins | - | Norfolk Youth Offending Team |
| Susan Saxby | - | Partnership Officer, Children's Services |
| Peter Morris | - | Partnership Officer, West Norfolk VCA |
| Pat George | - | St Michael's Primary School |
| Vicky Etheridge | - | Neighbourhood Manager |
| Debby McCarthy | - | Alderman Jackson School |
| Sue Jorgensen-Moore | - | Childrens Services |

Supported by:

- | | | |
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| Ian Burbidge | - | Borough Council of Kings Lynn & West Norfolk |
| Laura Beveridge | - | West Norfolk Partnership |
| Sarah Dennis | - | West Norfolk Partnership |

Apologies for absence were received from:

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| Diane Thurston | - | Western Area, Norfolk Primary Care Trust |
| Terry Cuss | - | Norfolk Constabulary- Western Area |

		Action
1	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were as noted above.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 20th October 2006</p> <p>The Chair had not been able to contact all possible representatives for the group but would be meeting Freebridge representatives in the near future. The Chair asked those present to put forward any other suitable</p>	

	<p>nominations for the Partnership.</p> <p>The Chair had held a separate meeting to discuss outcomes and priorities and these would be covered later in the agenda.</p> <p>Sandra Summerfield, Derek Wilkins and Jackie Hargreaves had recently met to identify the most vulnerable people in West Norfolk and had drawn up a proposal for multi agency working for the most vulnerable. They intended to target an area within Kings Lynn and no more than three to six per group. Sandra tabled a paper outlining the Every Child Matters hypothesis which identified the process of ensuring a multi agency approach to the most vulnerable children. The key issue would be for all agencies to identify their most vulnerable children and to be flexible with how they allocated thresholds and criteria.</p> <p>Peter Stewart considered this a good approach but questioned whether the focus should be in North Lynn as the paper suggested or one urban and one rural community. The Chair asked for opinions and highlighted the need to ensure that any sample must help identify needs and issues, and to apply principles and learn from them.</p> <p>In response to a question from Susan Saxby regarding agency leads, Sandra Summerfield responded by suggesting the team of herself, Derek Wilkins and Jackie Hargreaves could act as the lead and report back to the Children and Young People Partnership.</p> <p>It was AGREED that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A project to be constructed around identifying vulnerable children as outlined in the proposal 2) All organisations present to commit to this project 3) The sub group to report back to the Children and Young People Partnership at each meeting. <p>In response to a question from Vicky Etheridge regarding user data, Sandra Summerfield confirmed that families would complete a questionnaire before the service began and then after the process was completed.</p>	SS/DW/JH
3	<p>Update on Discussion on Priorities</p> <p>A sub group of the Children and Young People Partnership had met and discounted any priorities initially listed that were considered to be part of any agency's 'day job'. This had left a list of activities and outcomes that would benefit from the 'added value' of partnership working.</p> <p>The Chair asked the group to consider if there were any priorities they thought should not be on the list because they were another agency's core responsibility or any priorities that were not on the list that should be. Once the list was complete, four priorities would need to be identified as the most important, and two would be discussed today with the other two to be discussed at the Forum on 7th December. The two to be discussed at the</p>	

Forum should be more suited to a more diverse group.

The Chair gave the group a few minutes to discuss the list. The following were considered by one group to be the responsibility of individual agencies and therefore not for this Partnership to discuss:

- Attendance at school has increased
- The extended schools programme is clear and is being implemented
- 'Children and their families are well housed'

However, it was considered that housing issues could be included and a multi agency approach applied in order to achieve results. The Chair highlighted the importance of attendance being more than exclusion and that the West had a particularly high rate of exclusions compared to other comparable districts.

Peter Stewart requested clarification regarding some of the economic development priorities. He noted there should be a genuine choice between full time education and employment.

Vicky Etheridge explained that the priority for 'crime and disorder has reduced' would be better suited to other partnerships rather than Children and Young People. She also noted that young people were often the victims of crime as opposed to perpetrators. The priority entitled 'there are adult education opportunities' should be re-worded to state 'attitude to learning has improved', as per the 'Enjoy and Achieve' priorities and would be better suited to the Learning and Skills Partnership. It was also considered that under 'Healthy' priorities there should be something around mental health. Under 'Safe' there should be a priority around domestic violence.

Susan Saxby noted that 'debt and benefit advice' may be more suited to another partnership as this was particularly specialised.

Seven priorities were chosen initially;

Enjoy and Achieve

- 1) Exclusions from school have been prevented through early intervention and alternative education provision
- 2) Individuals do not use anti social and disrespectful behaviour

Safe

- 3) Schools feel safe
- 4) Parents and carers feel supported by all agencies including adult mental health and health services

Participation

- 5) A youth forum is in operation and young people feel they are properly involved in decision making in the West.

Economic Development

- 6) There should be a choice between full time education and job related

	<p>training</p> <p>7) There should be an effective curriculum at the appropriate level to stop exclusions at primary and secondary level.</p> <p>It was AGREED that: The following four issues be proposed as the first areas for initial discussion for the Children and Young People Partnership:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A Youth Forum is in operation and young people feel they are properly involved in decision making in the West –to be discussed at the Forum 2) Exclusions from school have been prevented through early intervention and alternative education provision 3) Parents and carers feel supported by all agencies including adult mental health and health services – to be discussed at the Forum 4) There should be an effective curriculum at the appropriate level to stop exclusions at primary and secondary level. 	
<p>4</p>	<p>Turning the Curve Methodology</p> <p>Ian Burbidge introduced this item by explaining the methodology behind ‘turning the curve’. This involved looking at where we are now, and where we want to be and then working back to interventions to achieve the desired outcome. In relation to the priority regarding exclusions, an outcome may be that all young people enjoy school so there are no exclusions.</p> <p>The Chair explained that in the first half of 2005, there were 25 young people permanently excluded from primary and secondary schools and 1700 days lost by fixed term exclusions. In the first half of 2006 the number of exclusions was 46 and fixed term exclusions were continuing to rise.</p> <p>With turning the curve methodology there should be the following process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the baseline and where the trend is headed • Look at the story behind the baseline and what is driving the trend including current interventions and further data needs • Identify key partners • Look at best ideas – joining up, new ideas, no or low cost ideas and any off the wall ideas. <p>The group split into two groups to each take the outcome of children enjoying school so that there were no exclusions and, using the above methodology came up with the following:</p> <p><u>Baseline</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent and fixed term exclusions are rising. <p><u>Story behind the baseline</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to achieve results • Punishment culture 	

- Lack of social skills
- Mental health issues
- Parents and child's behaviour
- Variances between school requirements and parents expectations
- Schools focus on statistics
- Government and agency processes
- How school resources are deployed
- Negative attitudes from schools and the press

Current Interventions

- Special needs support in schools
- Current interventions introduced too late and not linked to family or home life
- Individual schools actions – self funded
- Managed moves

Further Data Needs

- Data should be accessible
- Audit of children excluded
- Better understanding of process
- Number of excluded pupils who commit offences
- Caring responsibilities and family circumstances

Key Partners Missing

- Specialists in the field
- Youth Forum
- School councils
- Head teachers

Joining up Ideas

- Need to share good practice
- Teacher training
- Inclusion service
- Parent and carer governors

New Ideas

- Child centred activity around their identified area of excellence
- Rewarding schools that work with challenging pupils
- Reward pupils for appropriate behaviour
- Out of school learning
- Changing curriculum

No Cost / Low Cost Ideas

- Use facilities that already exist

Off the Wall Ideas

- Alternative to schools for high risk end – ie Discovery Centre locally
- Sleep after lunch

Lynda Niles left the meeting at 3.30pm

<p>5</p>	<p>Network Analysis</p> <p>Jeremy Hawkins addressed the group and introduced the concept of virtual network analysis. He circulated a paper which outlined what virtual analysis could do, for example identifying networks of trust and key advisors within and between organisations. It would help improve partnership working and break down barriers preventing effective collaborative working. A population sample would be identified and asked a few simple questions. The answers are then mapped. For one of the Children and Young People's priorities for example, it could help identify the agencies that parents and carers rely on.</p> <p>Derek Wilkins left the meeting at 4.00pm.</p> <p>Peter Stewart noted that some links would be weaker than others. We could try and create virtual networks and not just highlight existing ones. There could be lots of information 'below the radar' in the voluntary and community sector.</p> <p>Findings need to be presented in a non-contentious way. Jackie Hargreaves noted that the analysis could show what happened at the practice level. It would be important to include everyone not just those we were already aware of. Peter Morris explained that virtual networks would be discussed at the voluntary sector forum on 29th November.</p> <p>Jeremy Hawkins explained that it was important to identify a theme or area, then determine the survey population and ensure this survey population is correct. The list would then be published on a website and those surveyed would answer certain questions about people they networked with and how often.</p> <p>In response to a question from Peter Stewart regarding the broadness of the theme, Jeremy explained that it would be best to start on a broad theme, but that it should be meaningful. Themes could be based on the 4 key areas already identified.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Jeremy for his presentation.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>Dates of Future Meetings</p> <p>The next meeting will be held in January 2007. Date and venue to be advised.</p>	<p>SD</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Sandra Summerfield tabled two papers – the Common Assessment Framework and Information Sharing and Training the Trainer. The Common Assessment Framework would affect all agencies working with children and set out to achieve inter agency working and would involve a</p>	

	<p>common assessment form.</p> <p>The Training the Trainer paper outlined the importance of ensuring staff involved in the common assessment framework were trained and fully engaged in the process. Training places were available on 18th and 19th December. (Contact Sandra Summerfield).</p>	
	<p>The meeting finished at 4.45pm.</p>	