

Children's, Families and Young Persons Housing Strategy Sub Group Meeting

6th January 2011 – Torbay Foyer

Minutes

Present: Shelley Brown (SB, Supporting People Service Development Officer), Julie Sharland (JS, Chair, Strategic Housing Manager), DP (Independent Futures), PM (Minutes, Torbay Council), BT (Housing Services, Torbay Council), HD (Children's Services), CC (Westcountry Housing), AW, SC & JK (Housing Options and Referral Hub, Torbay Council), NA (Family Mediation, Check Point), CT (Supporting People Team, Torbay Council), GR

Apologies: ND (Youth Offending Team), SA (Children's Services), CB (Children's Services)

No.	Action	Who
1	JS to contact AG (Children's Trust Manager and Performance Lead) to see if she can attend the Children's Trust Board to ensure health is covered	JS
2	SC and SB to look at the accommodation history of the 13 (18-24 year olds) who are currently in the Hostel.	SC/SB
3	Everyone to send in their definitions of Homeless /Roofless /Rough Sleepers etc to SB	ALL
4	AW to see if additional Data is available and if so send it to CT	AW
5	Ofsted Outcome Feedback JS to meet with SA and feedback what the group feel they need in terms of training etc	JS/SA
6	BT to send out homelessness strategy template and existing Strategy to the Group and invite all to event. All to complete Template and return it to BT.	BT/ALL
7	JS and Fran Mason (Supporting People Manager) to meet with Richard Williams (Children's Services) and raise the awareness of potential problems around homelessness if the Southwark Funding ends.	JS
8	HD to prepare a brief on Commissioning in Children's Services to be put on the Agenda for the next Meeting. To include groups SB could be invited to.	HD
9	Once Budgets are known SB to arrange an Extraordinary Meeting of this Group as applicable.	SB

No.	Item	Action
1.	Welcome and Introductions JS welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves. She thanked everyone for their partnership inputs during 2010 and that 2011 will be as interesting and challenging.	
2.	Matters Arising Last minutes to be amended to include apologies from NA and	

	<p>CC Minutes were then agreed as accurate.</p> <p>AP1 – Cleared.</p> <p>AP2 – SB met with AW they have had 20 referrals from Checkpoint they have all been appropriate referrals. One Social Worker has been allocated to deal with these referrals. The main problem is going to be where we go when the Emergency Accommodation is full. The Southwark Pathway Review is due in January 2011 probably need to involve Shelter with this.</p> <p>AP3 – Outstanding to be included with these minutes for information.</p> <p>AP4 – Cleared</p> <p>AP5 – SB now attends the Corporate Parenting Strategy Meeting on behalf of this Group</p> <p>AP6 – There has been a reshuffle of the Children’s Trust Board JS to contact AG to see if she can attend this Board to ensure that Health is covered.</p> <p>AP7 – Cleared</p> <p>AP8 – Main Agenda Item</p> <p>AP9 – The impact of the changes to Housing Benefit for Landlords, Tenancy Support and Deposit Schemes JS advised that the whole service is part of an ongoing Review.</p> <p>AP10 – Cleared it is now with IT services to develop the database.</p> <p>AP11 – JS sent the group dates and venues for Devon Home Choice Reviews. The results information not available at the moment.</p>	<p>AP1 JS</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Needs Data</p> <p>Data dashboards had been sent out ahead of the Meeting- the data included was up to September 2010. Some services had not been filling in the data returns correctly, as a result SB has been meeting with the services to help them complete the returns correctly.</p> <p>The Group needs to consider what services they need to commission; have we got the right amount of Accommodation Services also do we need more Floating Support?</p> <p>Concerns were expressed about the Leonard Stocks Centre as there are a considerable number of 18-24 year olds. Need to look at where we are going wrong in terms of homeless 18 – 24 year olds going to the Hostel. SC and SB to look at the 13 who are currently in the Hostel and see what their history is regarding previous accommodation.</p> <p>The data shows an increase in the numbers of Rough Sleepers but this could be due to how the information is being recorded. There are different definitions used in terms of what are Rough Sleepers. It was agreed that everyone would send their definitions of Homeless/Roofless/Rough Sleepers etc to SB as they could mean different things.</p> <p>Concerns were expressed that Disability needs are not being identified and this might be a future problem.</p>	<p>AP2 SC/SB</p> <p>AP3 ALL</p>

	<p>Teenage Pregnancy: A lot of 16/17 year old Young Parents are still living with their parents so not accessing supported accommodation. Do we need more Floating Support to work with Young Parents? CC advised that this could impact on the capacity of the Westcountry Housing SIFS (Social Inclusion Floating Support) Contract. The maximum target for move on is 9 months and it is quite difficult to do this with a Young Person in that timescale. The waiting list is quite high for this service.</p> <p>With the changes to Housing Benefit next year there could be serious financial implications and impact on need for services. NI 141 (indicator about vulnerable people achieving independent living); this sector has achieved 82% in the first two quarters for planned move on for young people. Agreed additional information to be included on dashboards as: service waiting list, mediation, Care to Community accommodation placements. AW to see if additional data is available and if so send it to CT.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Reports be tweaked and sent to other Children's Services Groups for their comments.</p>	<p>AP4 AW</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ofsted Outcome Feedback</p> <p>SA had sent out a list of actions which she felt applied to this Group.</p> <p>Objective 1 HD advised that she had recently attended a training session on Introduction to Child Protection which she had found really useful. It was felt that it would be good if this training was available to Housing; Providers and this Group. RK (Children's Services) is the lead for this. It was agreed that JS to meet with SA to feedback what the Group felt they could support with and discuss how we could join up. If there are problems with appropriate referrals being made could this feedback be given to this Group. It was felt that the Group needs to be aware of what training is available. Need to link in to access workforce development and safeguarding through RK. Objective 3 Communications issues had already been touched on in Objective 1 discussion. Objective 4 Problem is in understanding the role of evidence and training would help with this. Experience and Training on Safeguarding affects referrals.</p>	<p>AP5 JS/SA</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Homelessness Strategy</p> <p>JS explained that under the 2002 Act every Local Authority has to have a Homelessness Strategy and it advises what has to be included in the Strategy. A template has been produced which BT will send out with the existing strategy and invite people to the event being planned. Everyone to complete and return the template to BT and attend if possible. What are the new priorities for us to explore as we now have a lot more information on "Needs" which will feed into this strategy. We do not have a Homelessness Forum in Torbay but probably need this. What is missing around preventing homelessness?</p>	<p>AP6BT /ALL</p>

	<p>and his Finance team to see if they can help with this. At the moment they have six young people in Emergency Accommodation. The problem is trying to get section 17 money for young people but they are trying to work on this. Housing have been building better relationships with the Job Centres Advisors for Young People the problems are in getting the young people's Benefits into payment. SB advised that she is working on a 1-2-1 basis with a young person who has experienced receiving advice from Connexions and Housing. They intend to visit Connexions Office with a young person to check if the Housing Options information is out of date. May look to Torbay Voice to develop this.</p>	
<p>9</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Discussion took place about part B meetings which normally took place after the main meeting and only involved Commissioners. The Group felt that they have moved on from this and that there should be open discussions. It was felt that if there was a need for it an extraordinary meeting would be called. If anyone has any problems with this could they talk to JS or SB.</p> <p>It was agreed that the date for the next meeting would be Thursday 10th March 2011 – 13.00.</p>	