

Minutes of Children's Strategic Partnership Board

Held via Microsoft Teams

Monday 04 October 2021

1230hrs-1430hrs

Attendees
Department /Organisation
<p>Minister for Children and Education, Chair Assistant Minister Children and Education Assistant Minister Children and Education and Health and Social Services Minister for Health Head of Policy, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance Head of CYPES Informatics Group Director of Integrated Services and Commissioning Group Director of Policy Community and Constitutional Affairs Director of Safeguarding Head of Communications CYPES Head of Policy, Community and Constitutional Affairs Head of Early Years Chief Inspector, States of Jersey Police Head of Commissioning and Service Redesign, Health and Social Services Business Change Director, Information Services Representative for Jersey Child Care Trust Representative Brighter Futures Representative for Family Nursing and Home Care CEO Family Nursing and Home Care Private Secretary to the Minister for Children and Education Research and Administration Officer taking minutes</p>
Apologies
<p>Director General of Health Children's Commissioner Chief Probation Officer Director General of CYPES Representative of Children, Education and Home Affairs Panel Group Director of Education</p>

	Item
1	<p>Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>The Minister for Children and Education welcomed everyone and noted that the last meeting of the Board was 29th April 2021.</p>

	<p>The apologies were noted.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>Review of Minutes and Actions</p> <p>The Minister for Children and Education noted one action regarding children’s dental health. The Minister highlighted that this was in the Government Plan, with additional investment in 2022 in relation to the Covid-19 recovery. The Minister was very keen to proceed with this additional investment due to the delays in dentistry during Covid-19. The Minister expressed that he wanted to proceed with plans this year, as 2022 represented further delay. The Minister had written to Treasury but was struggling to receive a response regarding funding in 2021.</p> <p>The Head of Policy Community and Constitutional Affairs noted that in the Child Neglect Strategy dental care was an obvious area of neglect. She was keen to add to the pressure regarding this important issue. The Minister for Children and Education agreed that this was a serious issue that needed to be progressed as soon as possible. However, he expressed frustration with Treasury that the money was not forthcoming promptly in 2021.</p> <p>The Minister for Health highlighted that there would need to be contractual discussions with private practitioners for children’s dental check-ups. There was not a contract in place yet and negotiating this would take some time. The Minister highlighted that the money was available for January 2022 and it was important to be ready for then. The Minister for Children and Education agreed that a private contract would help reduce the waiting lists. He highlighted that he would have further discussions with the Treasury Minister on the matter.</p> <p>The Minutes and actions of the meeting of 29th April 2021 were approved.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Key Insights into Children’s Plan Outcome Area’s:</p> <p>The Head of Policy, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance outlined the three outcome areas to be discussed, particularly highlighting the importance of listening to the voice of the child.</p> <p>Learn and Achieve</p> <p>The Head of Policy, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance focussed on language and communication in early years. He presented two case studies of children’s experiences during Covid-19. He highlighted the disruptions to attendance at school and nursery. There had been lots of changes to accommodate Covid-19 guidance and to ensure safety. However, this had resulted in less emphasis being placed on developmental goals. There had also been an impact to therapeutic services for children with Special Educational Needs.</p>

The Head of CYPES Informatics outlined the wider statistical outcomes of Covid-19 in this area. The Speech and Language Early Years caseloads had increased by 13%. Progress had decreased with communication and language as a whole and there was an overall decline in communication and language skills. The maximum waiting time for initial Speech and Language assessment had increased from 12 weeks before Covid-19 to 28 weeks afterwards. The Mesh team had also been successfully visiting families that had been identified for poor outcomes.

The Minister for Children and Education enquired about the Every Child Our Future Reading Scheme. The Head of Early Years noted the importance of working collaboratively in partnership with Every Child Our Future. It was important to target Every Child Our Future towards children who need it most.

The Group Director of Integrated Services and Commissioning noted that Speech and Language Therapy had been under pressure for some time. CYPES and HCS noted that there was a business case to look at additional therapy services. It was a growing problem that Covid-19 brought starkly into focus. It was important to look at how these services were joined up with pre-schools. The Children's Speech and Language Therapy was in the next Government Plan.

Reflecting upon achievements the Head of Policy, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance noted that it was positive that Mesh continued to deliver and support families with additional needs throughout the pandemic.

The Representative for the Jersey Child Care Trust highlighted the achievements of funding additional nursery hours with charity money.

The Head of Early Years noted that it was important to focus on expanding programmes which had worked well. A Covid Recovery Bid had been made, which if successful would lead to a re-engagement piece. The Head of Early Years also felt that it was an achievement that wellbeing had been the centre and focus throughout the pandemic. Children's wellbeing at reception was 86%.

The Minister for Children and Education noted that it was important to get waiting times down for Speech and Language Therapy. There should be more focus on early learning goals. It was important to get pupils on the right learning profile, so that they could get the support they needed.

The Representative for Family Nursing and Home Care noted that it was important to be committed to outcomes. She highlighted that it was important to think about what actions were taken at critical times. There should be a focus on achievements in line with age and expectation, such

as achievements at the end of reception. The data could be developed to produce a scorecard for this outcome, including Speech and Language cases by age. The Representative enquired whether resources could be focussed on a universal level or just a targeted level.

The Representative for the Jersey Child Care Trust noted that there were not sufficient resources to target support at a universal level and support would be targeted with a poverty and additional needs focus. There were 80 children supported by the funding programme, and the Jersey Child Care Trust was observing a great number of requests and a greater severity of need. Children also needed a greater number of hours support. The Representative highlighted that in Jersey people with under five-years residency were under the radar for financial support. There might be a number of newcomers with poverty need indicators who had not been identified. The Minister for Children and Education suggested using pupil premium in schools as an indicator. The Head of Policy, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance enquired if pupil premium included pre-school and nursery. The Head of Early Years confirmed that there was no version of an early-years premium. It would be explored how Pupil Premium could be extended to Nurseries. With regards to data the poverty indicator for children required reviewing.

The Minister for Children and Education enquired about the actions coming out of this discussion. He stressed the importance of clear metrics to guide policy and service. The Head of Early Years highlighted the work progressing social recovery with the Best Start Partnership. She highlighted the importance of integrating conversations with health professionals and education professionals. The Minister for Children and Education noted the need to identify an action plan post Early Years Policy Board Report Recommendations.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

The Head of Policy, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance spoke about a mental health services case study taken from the report Life on the Rock from the Children's Commissioner. The case was of an 18-year-old, who had support for mental health needs. The Head of Policy, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance also highlighted some statistics from the report. As children got older they were more likely to keep worries to themselves and 11% of young people said they would talk to a school counsellor. He highlighted that only about 50% of children knew where to go for mental health support. The topic of mental health and wellbeing was especially important during the pandemic.

The Head of CYPES Informatics outlined the growth in the CAMHS caseload over the last two years. There were now 919 cases, up from 605 in January 2019. There had been a spike in demand for mental health support, increased complexity of cases and increased cases of self-harm.

The were 626 registrations with Kooth since November 2020 and around 79 active users per month. Mind Jersey had been commissioned to support young people awaiting CAMHS, of these 17 interventions 5 young people no longer required CAMHS support. Further to this, 371 young people accessed YES counselling sessions in 2020.

The Head of Policy, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance wished to highlight key achievements including the work with partners like Mind. The Group Director of Integrated Services and Commissioning highlighted the achievement of getting a business case through the Government Plan, with a significant chunk of investment in January 2022 to help support with the impact of the pandemic. There was also a now a permanent Duty Team in place for CAMHS, which had a positive impact. There was also a CAMHS worker located in the Children and Families Hub. The CAMHS Team were starting to observe the benefits of these early interventions. However, it was also necessary to split out neuro development cases from CAMHS's overall case load. The most positive achievement was winning a UK national award for design and delivery. It was noted that after negative coverage winning a national award was a fantastic achievement.

The Minister for Children and Education questioned the board on areas for development. He noted that some children were now being bullied 24/7 on social media and questioned whether services should have longer opening times.

The Head of Policy, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance stressed the importance of early help. There was potential to work with and grow co-ordinated partnerships. He noted that children were using the Youth Service, who were a crucial partner. He noted the need to strengthen and develop the mental health early help service offer. The Representative Family Nursing and Home Care agreed with the Head of Policy, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance.

The Group Director of Integrated Services and Commissioning noted the recent discussions of the Youth Assembly regarding children in mental health in-patient facilities. She noted that whilst the numbers were too small for a specific children's unit, facilities needed to be better in Robin Ward and Orchard House. There were also some children who needed off-island placements for specialist help. The facilities at the new hospital would improve this offer in the future.

Director of Safeguarding highlighted mental health work in schools. It was important to ensure that there was sufficient support in schools. He noted a pilot of Social Workers being attached to a secondary school. This would mean that Social Workers could assess the children in their case load whilst in school, which would help inform care planning. The Social Workers could work closely with the school leadership teams. The Head of Commissioning and Service Redesign, Health and Social Services

	<p>noted that this fed into a piece of work aimed at creating individual school action plans for mental health and mental health training in schools. The Representative Family Nursing and Home Care highlighted school nurses with backgrounds in mental health.</p> <p>The Head of Policy, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance noted from a policy perspective there was a new draft Children and Young People’s Law. There was also an action point to publish the Children and Young People Mental Health Wellbeing Strategy.</p> <p>The Head of Commissioning and Service Redesign, Health and Social Services also highlighted the Governance issue of embedding the mental health strategy. There was a new Strategic Advisory Panel connected to the Health and Wellbeing Outcome Delivery Forum, who would provide guidance through lived experience.</p> <p>Domestic Abuse in Families with Children</p> <p>The Head of Policy, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance highlighted some case studies from an Irish report regarding domestic abuse. These cases reflected cases occurring in Jersey and other jurisdictions. It was important that children felt safe. The case studies highlighted the enormity of living through traumatic events, such as domestic abuse and adverse childhood experiences. This was a significant area of work in the Children’s Plan.</p> <p>The Head of CYPES Informatics highlighted some of the statistics relating to domestic abuse. There had been a decrease in reported domestic crimes and domestic incidents. There had also been a significant decrease in contacts with MASH/ Children and Families Hub where Domestic Abuse was identified as a concern. However, Jersey Domestic Abuse Support saw an increase in referrals, which gave a better idea of the scale of incidents. It was concerning that services were not made aware of domestic abuse incidents involving children.</p> <p>The Minister for Children and Education noted that the drop in domestic abuse incidents reported was worrying. He was concerned the incidents were not being reported. He noted the importance of the new Domestic Abuse Law coming in.</p>
	<p>New Island Domestic Abuse strategy</p> <p>The States of Jersey Police Chief Inspector provided a Strategy Update on Domestic Abuse. She noted as of September 2021 there was a Domestic Abuse MASH, where all domestic abuse referrals concerning children were reviewed by agencies. There had been 29 cases discussed and it was valuable for sharing information and identifying risks to children. The families’ needs were discussed, looking at safety in the round. These won’t</p>

necessarily lead to Child Protection referrals but would secure help where children were exposed to domestic abuse.

The States of Jersey Police Chief Inspector noted that the new Domestic Abuse Strategy and Law was forthcoming in 2022. It looked at protecting children, but also child to parent abuse. There was also the work of the Domestic Homicide Review to highlight. The Domestic Abuse Strategy was three tiered. Firstly, changing attitudes to domestic abuse in public and professions. This was raising awareness of coercive controlling behaviour, early intervention, violence against women and girls and a healthy relationships programme. The second was a prevention and early intervention component. Thirdly, there was to be further work supporting victims and pursuing perpetrators. In Jersey there were not the same legislative tools available as in the UK, such as Domestic Prevention Orders. There was also potentially going to be a Domestic Abuse Register. Victim services would also be strengthened.

The Director of Safeguarding noted that there was a lot of work in this area. The Head of Policy, Community and Constitutional Affairs highlighted challenging peer on peer abuse and normalised behaviours, such as misogyny and sexual harassment. The Minister for Children and Education highlighted that witnessing domestic at home abuse might normalise such behaviours. The Head of Policy, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance highlighted the importance of health visiting to identify domestic abuse.

The Minister for Children and Education, referring to the Youth Assembly, made a commitment to talk to the Curriculum Council about broadening the PSHE curriculum. The curriculum needed to cover more issues related to healthy relationships and domestic abuse. The Director of Safeguarding noted that the Youth Service was doing some work in this with schools regarding healthy relationships.

The Representative Family Nursing and Home Care noted the role of health visitors. It was standard practice for all health visitors to ask questions of the client around risk. There were important non-verbal indicators that could be observed, and support was given to the family.

The Minister for Children and Education noted the importance of accommodation for victims of domestic abuse with children. A paper would be taken to HAWAG for the agreement of temporary licences for victims of domestic abuse. The Director of Safeguarding noted the importance of Child Protection Housing Licences for those unable to leave the family home. There were also additional barriers, such as benefits and finance, which might prevent victims leaving abusers.

The Head of Policy, Community and Constitutional Affairs highlighted the issue of high levels of mental health problems in males, who were not

	<p>accessing mental health service. This included substance misuse and early traumas witnessing domestic abuse themselves. There was a need to have a breakdown of the statistics for domestic abuse referrals to Family Hub by organisation.</p> <p>The States of Jersey Police Chief Inspector highlighted the Domestic Homicide Review and the importance of prevention and early intervention. Professionals needed to know the right referral pathways. The Director of Safeguarding noted some overlap in work with Safeguarding Partnership Board. It would be helpful to invite the States of Jersey Police Chief Inspector to future meetings and look at reducing or merging areas of overlap.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>The Representative for Jersey Child Care Trust highlighted the potential risks of individual taxation. If a partner was the only earner in the family, they will receive the full tax allowance. This will remove choice for families to have one person remaining in the family home. This might particularly effect women who might not be the main wage earners. There was a potential children’s rights issue. The Minister for Children and Education agreed to discuss this issue with the Minister for Treasury and Resources.</p> <p>The Group Director of Integrated Services and Commissioning also highlighted the slides of the Head of Commissioning and Service Redesign, Health and Social Services which had been circulated to the Board.</p>
	<p>Actions</p> <p>Discussion with the Minister for Treasury and Resources regarding funds for children’s dental care. Minister for Children and Education.</p> <p>Language and Communication in Early Years</p> <p>Targeting ECOF toward children who need it most. Head of Early Years.</p> <p>Explore how Pupil Premium could be extended to Nurseries. Head of Early Years.</p> <p>Progress Social Recovery. Best Start Partnership.</p> <p>Identify an action plan post Early Years Policy Board Report Recommendations. Best Start Partnership.</p> <p>Mental Health and Wellbeing</p>

Publish Children and Young People Mental Health Wellbeing Strategy. Head of Policy, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance.

Strengthen and develop mental health early help service offer. Head of Policy, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance.

Pilot Social Workers attached to a secondary school. Director of Safeguarding.

Split out neuro development cases from CAMHS over all cases. Head of CYPES Informatics.

Domestic Abuse in Families

Implement Domestic Abuse Strategy.

Respond to Domestic Abuse Consultation.

Talk to the Curriculum Council about broadening the PSHE curriculum to include health relationships. Minister for Education.

Go to HAWAG with Child Protection Housing Licences. Minister for Children and Education.

Invite the States of Jersey Police Chief Inspector to future meetings and look at reducing or merging areas of overlap. Administrative staff and Director for Safeguarding.

Breakdown of DA referrals to Family Hub by organisation. Head of CYPES Informatics.

Discuss potential Children's Rights issues with Independent Taxation with the Minister for Treasury and Resources. Minister for Children and Education.