**Halton Children and Young People’s**

**Voluntary Sector Forum (CYPVSF)**

Minutes 29th April 2015

Halton Play Council, Runcorn

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

**In Attendance:**

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| **In Attendance:**Rachel Doyle - HBCPauline Ruth – Healthwatch HaltonKy Watson – Nightstop CommunitiesJoyce Reilly – HPC (Toy Library)Claire Lomax – HPC ServicesJackie Burke – Education (CSE)Colin Hughes – CSE TeamDonna Wells – Young AddactionOli Gommersall – Wellbeing Enterprises CICClaire - Power in PartnershipAndrea Tait – Health Improvement TeamAlison Gleave – Volunteer Centre – Halton & St Helens VCA | **Apologies:**Chris Sweeting - Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington Youth Offending ServiceMal Hampson – Halton Speak OutCarla Boden – CRIK Tongue – Halton Sports Partnership and Halton Table tennis |

NB: Actions are highlighted in **bold**.

1. **Previous minutes and matters arising**

The minutes from the last meeting agreed as accurate.

1. **CSE Team Update**

Colin and Jackie attended to introduce themselves and the new CSE Team in Halton. The CSE Team has been up and running for 8 weeks now and their aim is to help the Local Authority scrutinise CSE referrals and offer support to parents/carers and professionals.

The Team is multi agency and includes workers from Catch 22, Health, Police, Missing From Home Team, Addaction and HBC Social Work Team. The Team does not hold a caseload; it is there in an advisory capacity.

The Team will be able to help and support agencies complete the screening tool that is being used. This tool is also being utilised Pan Cheshire, this ensures consistency around how the Local Authority help young people moving around from borough to borough.

The Multi- Agency Team meets together on a Monday and shares/compares all of the information held on each agency’s database. There are currently 28 children identified as being at risk, this is updated weekly.

The team members go out to high schools to offer support in completing the screening tool, there are 3 gradings low, medium and high. Referrals go through to the CART Team and are logged. Professionals complete the screening tool and the level of risk is identified. If the risk is measured at medium and high it goes into the CSE Team who scrutinise the referral. A risk management meeting takes place looking at what the risks are, what we can put in place, what’s the best plan – any police intelligence, associates, missing from home information is included. The risk management plan is loaded automatically into CIN level or if the risk is higher to Child Protection.

It is important that any intelligence and stories of risk taking behaviour are acknowledged and that staff have the confidence and skills to speak to the young person and ask and obtain the correct information.

Agencies were advised to follow their own organisations’ safeguarding protocols initially and they can always contact the EDT for out of hours concerns that need immediate attention.

It was queried whether there is a system for logging CSE information to help build patterns and trends. There is no capacity for this facility at the moment however all ports of call for witnessing concerns around CSE is to ring 101, as there is an active Police Officer on the team so that information would always be fed into the Monday morning meeting. It was suggested that a trained volunteer could take on the role of gathering intelligence.

Training is being delivered on 27th May 2015 – details attached to these minutes. The protocol and screening tool (attached to minutes) are available on the Halton Borough Council website under the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

1. **Workforce Strategy – Information Request – John Gallagher**

The new Integrated Workforce Strategy for Halton Children’s Trust has been launched to meet the needs of our workforce until 2017.

This data is being collected for the following reasons:

* Specifically linked to one of the Children`s Trust Integrated Workforce Strategy (2014-17) Strategic Objectives: ‘Workforce Planning & Forecasting’
* Will help us to ensure that we have, across the Children`s Trust, the right people, with the right skills and knowledge in the right place at the right time
* To establish certain trends, for example for recruitment and retention purposes
* The use of workforce information for Ofsted and other external inspection purposes
* To help plan future training needs

We currently don’t know the size of our children’s workforce so need to gather some data around people who work or volunteer with children and families and/or are responsible for their outcomes all of the time. John will be forwarding the proforma for completion to all organisations/voluntary organisations/schools within Halton. It will also be sent out with these minutes and please see the link to the website as below.

<http://www.haltonchildrenstrust.co.uk/index.php/workforce-development>

Alison Gleave agreed to publish the proforma and link on the Halton and St Helens VCA website also.

John has requested that organisations return the completed and returned by the end of May 2015.

1. **Feedback from Boards**

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| **Meetings** | **Organiser/ contact**  | **VSF Representative** |
| **Halton Safeguarding Exec  Board**No Update | Tracey Holyhead Tracey.Holyhead@halton.gov.uk |  Michelle Forder Michelle.Forder@halton.gov.uk |
| **Halton Safeguarding Board**No Update  | Tracey Holyhead Tracey.Holyhead@halton.gov.uk |  Sam Dutton Sam.Dutton@catch-22.org.ukDonna Wells d.wells@addaction.org.uk  |
| **Halton Children’s Trust**No Update.  | Tracy Ryan Tracy.Ryan@halton.gov.uk |  |
| **Children’s Trust Executive Group** No update | Tracy Ryan Tracy.Ryan@halton.gov.uk | Michelle Forder Michelle.Forder@halton.gov.uk |
| **Early Help and Support /Closing The gap**No Update | Tracy Ryan Tracy.Ryan@halton.gov.uk | **VACANCY** |
| **NEET Strategic group** No Update | Claire Gurney Claire.Gurney@halton.gov.ukPaula Edwards Paula.Edwards@halton.gov.uk | Alison Gleave agleave@haltonva.org.uk |
| **Youth Opportunities** No Update | Christine Dooley Christine.Dooley@halton.gov.uk |  |
| **Workforce development Date:** No Update | John Gallagher John.Gallagher@halton.gov.uk | Michelle Forder Michelle.Forder@halton.gov.uk Norma to cover Jan 2015 – August 2015 |
| **Anti-Bulling Group /Esaftey**No Update | Susan Paine Susan.Paine@halton.gov.uk |  Ian Pye ian@makoeducation.co.uk |
| **Child and Family Poverty group**No Update | Debbie Houghton Debbie.Houghton@halton.gov.uk |  |
| **Commissioning Partnership**No Update | Tracy Ryan Tracy.Ryan@halton.gov.uk | Michelle Forder Michelle.Forder@halton.gov.uk |
| **Placement provider forum**No feedback available | Sam Murtagh Sam.Murtagh@halton.gov.uk | Ross McCooey to investigate if Core assets already attend and if they could be the VSF rep |

1. **AOB**

Power In Partnership is a social enterprise not for profit company established in May 2011 dedicated to providing support and new skills to the communities of Halton. Attention is currently focused on 16 - 23 year olds who lack qualifications and skills. Power in Partnership is currently working with a NEET cohort, they started with about 3 young people and now have about 200. They cover a variety of areas within the Borough with young people who don’t go to college or are at risk of dropping out. PIP has an open door policy and receives a large number of self-referrals.

Halton & St Helens VCA – currently working on a project to work with people in hospital, this is filling a gap between Health and Social Care; it enables people to have visitors to talk to. The first training with 12 volunteers has taken place just waiting for Health. There is lots going on during volunteers’ week but there are still some spaces on the quiz teams and murder mystery supper. Also some promotional slots still available at Runcorn and Widnes Markets.

Wellbeing Enterprises has a grant from BBC Children in Need to help plug a gap where young people are on CAMHS waiting lists. The organisation sees the young people at the Thorn Rd Clinic to see if they would like to attend any courses. There are art/music creative courses to attend. There are currently 6 referrals, however one young person did not wish to engage. This is a new service and there is an opportunity for a lot more young people to be fed into the service. Oli is meeting with Emma in the CSE Team. It is a flexible and changing service which will adapt to the need of the Young People.

Halton Play Council – the play scheme was delivered over Easter and it is a busy time to prepare and recruit for summer. It is relatively easy to recruit Play Workers but finding it more problematic to recruit Play Workers with a specialism. HPC are sending flyers out to schools and are hoping to attract and target Teaching Assistants. Al information is published on the website and included in the newsletter. HPC wanted to remind everyone that their venue can be hired out for a small fee.

Halton Play Council – Toy Library – attendance has increased and they have their regular cohort of attendees. More referrals are coming in from the Child Development Team. There are lots of sensory resources that can be accessed. Pictures of the equipment are on the HPC Facebook page.

Young Addaction has been awarded the new youth provision and it goes live from June 2015. The new service is 75% targeted and 25% universal – the budget reduction represents the drop in universal services. They are currently going through TUPE proceedings, there may be some redundancies but as they hold other contracts they are hoping to be able to offer up to 70 hours sessional work. It is still uncertain what the universal service will look like and Young Addaction staff are due to meet with commissioners to discuss.

All staff are now fully trained around Legal Highs and can do sessions with yp. Young Addaction staff are working closely with Helena Mason from the Licensing Team ensuring shops that sell Legal Highs inappropriately, shut down. It was reported that 67 canisters of nitrous oxide were collected from the park during one evening.

The Amy Winehouse Foundation was set up by Amy’s parents and was awarded £5 Million grant lottery. 10 locations were chosen with Halton being one of them. This pays for additional staff who deliver to 5 high schools to a set of milestone criteria. They deliver life stories, workshops and work with yp who have been identified as being at risk. The yp use an app designed by a Harvard professor, they log into the app prior to the workshops then complete the app with their outcomes. Then the sessions are re-delivered 30 days later. The 1st year’s data from this will come through in June 2015. It was agreed that Young Addaction would feed in some statistics to Pauline Ruth who would feedback to National Healthwatch.

Nightstop communities Northwest is a unique non-for profit service based in Halton providing emergency accommodation to 16-25 year olds of low risk & low support needs as well as providing support services including: anger management, counselling and mediation which are all available to people in the community aged 15+. Accommodation services are available to young people aged 16-25 who need access to free, safe and secure emergency accommodation with a volunteer host for up to 6 weeks or until suitable accommodation is found. All volunteer hosts will have access to ongoing training and receive over £100 per week to cover out of pocket expenses in return for providing a room with washing/laundry facilities and an evening meal.

Health Improvement Team HBC - offers a wide range of services to help improve health and wellbeing, including support to quit smoking, lose weight and get fit and healthy. Their services are open to all residents across Halton and St Helens. It has been observed that there has been a rise in early years’ weight increases. They are seeing babies overweight by 2 and obese by the age of 5 mainly due to overfeeding/lack of activity. Andrea was looking for any ideas on how to engage that cohort of Early Years. The HPC Toy Library is already linked into the weighing clinic. There was some discussion around the wording of the letters that go out to parents – the letter has to be written in a certain format to fall in with national guidance. Training has been offered to School Nurses and they are working with the Vikings with a fun programme around portion sizes, fats etc.

Healthwatch Halton – At a local level, local Healthwatch will work to help people get the best out of the health and social care services in their area; whether it’s improving them today or helping to shape them for tomorrow. Local Healthwatch is all about local voices being able to influence the delivery and design of their services – not just people for who use them, but for anyone who might need them in the future. Pauline is trying to obtain information to feedback into Healthwatch, what’s happening locally, what exactly are people’s issues on the ground.

It is necessary for the VCF forum to elect a new chair. Rachel to look at the terms of reference and send out to the group – It was agreed that attendance on the Boards will also need to be re-visited.

**Date of next meeting:**

**Thursday 28th May 2015 – Box 9, Halton Stadium, Widnes**

**10-12**