

NYCC Partners in Practice (PiP) Programme Newsletter**(Edition 7) December 2017**

North Yorkshire's Children and Young People's Service was designated as a DfE Partner in Practice (one of seven Local Authorities nationally) in 2016. Through this we will deliver innovation and work towards our ambition to be outstanding. We are also supporting and working alongside other authorities to share best practice and, as a result, develop more sustainable high performance in children's social care across the country.

North Yorkshire's offer to other authorities includes best practice advice and support in a range of areas; from undertaking a whole system diagnostic / tailored review, to providing more specialised reviews and information on our Front Door (our Multi Agency Assessment and Screening Team (MAST)), Looked after Children (LAC) reductions, Strategic Planning Framework and/or Financial Modelling.

A full list of all the areas within the North Yorkshire offer with detailed information can be found at the following website <http://cyps.northyorks.gov.uk>

If you are interested in reading about the other Partners in Practice please visit the Spring Consortium website <http://springconsortium.com/partners-in-practice/> where there is further information on the programmes of work that the other local authorities have developed to drive continuous innovation and improvement.



There is no let-up in our work with other local authorities over the festive period and this continues to have a really positive effect on those that we are working with. Over the past couple of months we have undertaken a further Strategic Planning diagnostic with Hull City Council; the MAST team have been visited by both Durham County Council and Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council; the fostering service have been visited by Durham County Council; and, we have been to Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council to talk through the 'No Wrong Door' project, its implementation, key successes and how we are now extending this to young people with social, emotional and mental health issues.

The feedback that we have received from our input has been incredibly positive and the fact that many colleagues are asking for further visits and to bring others from within their organisations proves what an impact we are making.

Some examples of the feedback received:

"... we were again very pleased with the structure and approach... this invited an honest conversation ... the team were balanced and took time to understand the 'Hull context' which is so important in any of these conversations..." (Following the Hull Strategic Planning Diagnostic).

"It was really useful and gave us a lot of food for thought." (Following the Redcar and Cleveland visit to MAST).

"... It was such a useful day for us all. We were left feeling very enthused and are now looking at what we can take from it to progress for ourselves." (Following the Redcar & Cleveland NWD visit).

We are very pleased with the process that we have developed for undertaking diagnostics and this will be again used for the Strategic Planning diagnostic we have planned with Walsall Council in the New Year. At the diagnostics NYCC Senior Managers spend two days assessing the authority's strengths, areas for development and next steps (recommendations). The work provides advice on how the ambitions of Council could potentially be achieved and provides an objective appraisal of current arrangements, on what further work could potentially be undertaken and what support from us or others may be required. In doing so we anticipate making a real contribution to these local authorities in delivering on their objectives and aspirations and in achieving longer term outcomes. Learning from the early diagnostics we are now ensuring the senior managers undertaking the diagnostic are fully supported through the process with those that can assist with the analysis and performance review. Iain Pick, who has joined the programme as a performance analyst, attends the diagnostics and helps to provide this analysis role as well as undertaking a review of the authority's performance prior to undertaking the diagnostic for review which provides the team with excellent context setting.

Interest in our offer of best practice from other local authorities continues to grow – we now have a fully developed offer with Newcastle City Council regarding providing support and hope to soon have this signed off. Whilst several phase one agreements are now coming to a conclusion, authorities are keen to develop an on-going relationship where we can support those authorities to support successful change implementation.



A substantial part of the programme is committed to improving how we view information. The programmes 'Single View of the Child (SVOC)' project aims to provide the ability to have a single view of a child's activity regardless of whom and where that activity occurs, or is captured, thus enabling us to understand and have a holistic view AROUND the child that might better inform the child's circumstance, i.e. family information. We will do this by ensuring we have a robust technology solution which links seamlessly between our own IT systems (i.e. early help, social care, SEND and adult services databases) thus enabling us to harvest and accept relevant data submissions from partner organisations, join this intelligence together and create a data store in a central place thus ensuring there is a single view of the child. Many colleagues within the children and families service have been involved in looking at what a system could potentially provide and the benefits that would be achieved.

To enable us to do this we have explored the art of the possible, from what our current systems could potentially offer to the far out reaches of public service re-design and what 'appification' in public services could potentially achieve. Following this we have pinned down the need for a Master Data Management system and are currently discussing this further with leading suppliers in the market, through a number of discovery days, to look to find a suitable solution.

This is an extremely exciting area of work and one that we look forward to explaining in more detail as this develops.



Our NWD Extension projects continue to move forward at pace. As mentioned previously we have recruited to the majority of posts and are working on these roles becoming immersed within the services and in delivering the new 'No Wrong Door' methodology.

The Leaving Care NWD Extension newly named 'The Opportunities Team', were part of a full service away day earlier in the year where the newly formed team were brought together with the current team. A large focus of the day was on the new work and the integration of the new roles into service

delivery. Staff feedback following the day was that they had a far clearer understanding of the linkages within their work to the new roles and referrals to the new team have increased since then.

The Opportunity Brokers have so far sourced over 100 opportunities for care leavers, not only education and employment opportunities, but opportunities such as securing tickets for trips to the theatre to help build self-esteem. The Opportunity and Accommodation Manager has also been working with Lloyds Banking Group to develop an offer for Care Leavers and we are now working on a programme called "Care to Work" which includes branch visit days, head office visit days, workshops and entry pathways in to working for Lloyds. The opportunities that are being sourced are truly amazing for our young people and the way in which our young people are responding is showing great success.



Being one of the country's Partners in Practice we are working alongside the Centre for Social Work, through the Tri-borough, to introduce systemic practice into all parts of our work. This is being enabled through our staff attending a training programme run through the centre for Social Work which is supported by the DfE and Isabelle Trowler.

We have had the opportunity to initially send 20 participants to undertake the Certificate in Systemic Social Work Practice with Children and Families, 9 participants to undertake the Diploma in Systemic Social Work Supervision and Management and 7 participants to undertake the Systemic Leadership Course. As the courses all enter their later stages evaluation activities will be undertaken and thought given to how the approach and training will be rolled out to the entire workforce (an objective of the programme). There will be more information on this as this becomes clearer.



Merry Christmas - from the PiP Programme Team.



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