

NYCC Partners in Practice (PiP) Programme Newsletter (Edition 2) March 2017

North Yorkshire's Children and Young People's Service was designated as a DfE Partner in Practice (one of eight Local Authorities nationally) in 2016. We will deliver innovation and strive to achieve an outstanding Ofsted rating. Significantly, this means the Local Authority will support and work 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 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>

As mentioned in our first newsletter we have welcomed Louise Hollick who has recently joined the authority as Group Manager to provide crucial extra service capacity as we develop our offer of input to other authorities. Louise has talked to the team about her hugely positive first few months at the Council:

"I joined North Yorkshire in January to provide additional capacity at group manager level and to provide backfill whilst the other GM's are away assisting our Partner authorities.



It has been a massive change for me to join the geographically largest local authority in England after working for one of the smallest, Jersey, in the Channel Islands. Of course the climate has been a change too – although I'm disappointed there's not been any snow yet!

The senior leadership team have welcomed and encouraged me and it is clear they are massively proud of their PiP status and the innovation projects underway. There is a positive and willing attitude and genuine enthusiasm for the work and the people within Children's Social Care.

I have spent time visiting all our area teams to meet staff and to see the work going on with my own eyes. I am impressed at the level of commitment staff gives to this Authority and it is a real strength that there is an experienced and stable workforce. Those secure foundations have enabled the development of quality practice. It has been great to see the signs of safety model used so comprehensively and confidently and I have also seen some robust team management and sound assessments. I had also had first-hand experience of a brilliant service provided by no Wrong Door

recently when they pulled out all the stops to provide a bespoke package for a vulnerable teenager at very short notice.

My project work is varied and will continue to be diverse according to the needs of the service. I am working on developing guidance and a pathway for disabled children, to ensure we meet the needs of these vulnerable children who don't necessarily fit the criteria for the specialist disabled children's service. I am looking at ways we can better support children living with family or friends under special guardianship orders. I am also assisting with the review and development of the Integrated Family Support Service. I look forward to contributing to the work of the PiP team and supporting the service in its continued strive for excellence!"

We are also in the process of recruiting more staff to provide additional capacity and we hope to hear from those in future editions of the newsletter.



Interest in our offer of best practice from other local authorities continues to grow – Walsall Council being the latest to request input into specific areas. The interaction being undertaken with local authorities continues to progress with scoping activity continuing with Durham and Middlesbrough. A positive meeting has been held with Hull and we are now looking to provide a formal offer of input to be undertaken against their requirements. A days visits from Cheshire East and North Tyneside has also been arranged where they are interested in hearing information regarding our Signs of Safety strategic approach / implementation, our Liquid Logic implementation and visiting our Front Door (our Multi Agency Assessment and Screening Team (MAST)).



Our NWD Extension projects continue to take shape with the main activity over the past month being recruitment to key posts. We have undertaken an extensive recruitment programme as part of the Care Leavers NWD Extension project with close to 200 applications being received for the posts advertised! We are hopeful that all posts will be appointed to in early April.

The recruitment of clinical psychologists through Tees, Esk and Wear Valley (TEWV) NHS Foundation Trust is progressing well with the first round of interviews taking place in early April. Likewise the recruitment of the additional Speech and Language Therapists, through Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust, is also progressing well and we hope to hear from these colleagues in future editions about their experiences of working in North Yorkshire.



Being one of the country's Partners in Practice we have been asked to work alongside the Centre for Social Work through the Tri-borough. What this means for us is that we have the opportunity to introduce systemic practice into all parts of our work through enabling our staff to attend a training programme run through the centre for Social Work which is supported by the DfE and Isabelle Trowler.

We have the opportunity to initially send 20 participants to undertake the Certificate in Systemic Social Work Practice with Children and Families, 8 participants to undertake the Diploma in Systemic Social Work Supervision and Management and 6 participants to undertake the Systemic Leadership Course.

The courses will be challenging, stimulating and worthwhile in developing our practice using evidence-based systemic ideas and practices. The Centre for Social Work is a new venture focused upon working collaboratively with the wider children's social care sector to improve all aspects of practice, supervision and leadership, in order to provide the very best service to children and families.

This is a really exciting opportunity for us all and one that is wholeheartedly endorsed from North Yorkshire but does of course requires significant commitment! Processes are currently in place to select who will be attending and a participant briefing session will be arranged for those attending.

Colleagues from the Department for Education (DfE) continue to attend the Programme's Strategic Board and have stated that North Yorkshire are "ahead of the game" in its PiP Programme implementation.

The Programme Team includes:



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