



Children, Young People and Families Citywide Forum Steering Group meeting

Agenda - Friday 19th January 2018, 9.30 to 12.30 – Albany Centre, Glasgow

Present: Aileen McCusker (Children 1st), Greg Gallagher (Stepdown), Eddie Kane (Barnardo's), Liz Reid (Action for Children), Colette Boyle (Home-Start Glasgow South), Gillian Leslie (Home-Start Glasgow South), Isabel Lawson (Stepping Stones for Families), Eliza Scoffield (Early Years Scotland), Louise Hamilton (Quarriers), Gemma Barnett (Aberlour), Michelle King (Rosemount), Millie McLachlan (SCMA), Jackie Tolland (Parent Network Scotland), Carla Fyfe (A&M). Mike Burns (Head of Strategy & Operations, Children's Services, GCHSCP), Pat Togher (Head of Children's Services NE, GCHSCP), Karen Dyball (Head of Children's Services NW, GCHSCP), Gary Dover (Head of Planning & Strategy Children and Families, GCHSCP).

In attendance: Suzie Scott (GCVS), Lisa Wright (GCVS)

Apologies: Julie Richardson (Children 1st), Maxine Hawthorn (Aberlour), Audrey Anderson (Early Years Scotland), Melodie Crumlin (PEEK), Isabel Dunsmuir (DRC Generations), Lee Anthony (OPFS), Julie Dynes (NSPCC), Sharon Colvin (3D Drumchapel), Linda Pople (OPFS), Biba-Lee Devine (Stepping Stones for Families).

1. Pre-meeting – feedback from initial meeting

Citywide Forum steering group members met before the start of the meeting to get feedback from Eddie, Michelle and Greg re their first meeting with Mike Burns and his team. Eddie explained to the group that GCHSCP aren't as far forward with the transformational change (TC) programme as we had anticipated. Michelle said that there had been an understanding that at this stage there would be a framework for the tendering process – yet it seems unlikely that this will be made this year.

Eddie highlighted the benefits of having discussion with GCHSCP at this earlier stage and the importance of getting involved early. The group agreed that it is positive that the Citywide Forum is able to be involved at this beginning stage in the process.

2. Citywide Forum presentation

Mike Burns, Pat Togher, Karen Dyball and Gary Dover were present at the meeting to discuss their transformational change programme.

a) Citywide Forum aims

Eddie gave a short presentation on the aims and outcomes and achievements so far of the Citywide Forum. Eddie highlighted how a central aim of the Citywide Forum is to increase representation on key GCHSCP groups to ensure a wider variety of representatives from several third sector organisations. This has been achieved to a certain extent and the Forum are keen to keep this up.

In discussing GCHSCP Groups, Liz said she felt it was really worthwhile being part of the Neglect group as they had devised guidance template on Maintaining a Chronology of Significant Events for a Child or Young Person.

This led to a discussion of current relationships between agencies in Glasgow. Gary Dover asked what the relationship with e.g. Education and Glasgow Life are like, as they (GCHSCP) don't see this but recognise the importance in multi-disciplinary input. Eddie and Suzie explained that we have made some connections with Education through Citywide Forum/Everyone's Children networking events but that we are keen to develop these.

b) Third Sector Summit feedback

The presentation included feedback from the Third Sector Summit, outlining the ways in which third sector networks/forums can offer real, innovative and flexible solutions to many of the problems that GCC/GCHSCP face. Mike welcomed the comments and highlighted that this is something he is keen to build on.

Eddie discussed the importance of making sure networks work to their full potential – it can be hard at times when Glasgow is so big and there are so many networks/meetings happening at once. It is important we take time to fully get this process right and decide how we are feeding in/relating to one another.

Mike explained that GCHSCP are currently working around streamlining meeting structures so that links are clearly defined and tie into the transformational change programme and Children's Services Plan. The meetings will be streamlined through the themes of: Child Protection, Care Experienced Young People, Raising Attainment & Achievement, Family Support & Prevention, Mental Health & Wellbeing.

3. GCHSCP Update – Transformational Change

a) Third sector contribution

To begin discussions around TC, Eddie highlighted the expertise that exist across the third sector, and how the Citywide Forum specifically recognise that the third sector have a contribution to make in relation to the shape and design of services:

- Early Intervention/Family Support
- Intensive Family Support
- Acute Services

Mike explained that to move forward with this GCHSCP need a scale of how many organisations, service users, staff etc. existing across the third sector that would have the potential to contribute.

b) GCHSCP Presentation

Pat Togher explained the reflection/evaluation process they had been through following GCHSCP audit of their total £166m spend which showed GCHSCP were spending £94.9m on care. Pat described how they looked externally for examples of good practice – from Leeds, Northern Ireland, Manchester and the Nuffield Study. Conclusions from this were to have a more practical, pragmatic approach with families in the centre and to ‘re-engineer and rebalance our communities and our system’ shifting from residential care (often outside the child/young person’s community) to family support services in the community.

Pat discussed progress GCHSCP have already made, in reducing the number of children on the child protection register and in looked after accommodation.

Discussion then opened up to the wider group. Michelle welcomed the change from residential care to family support, recognising it as positive. Michelle and others discussed how the referrals that the third sector receive have much higher levels of risk – those who met thresholds last year no longer do. Karen stressed the importance of recognising that Glasgow have significantly higher numbers of children in care/on the register compared to comparatively similar cities across the rest of the UK, therefore thresholds had to be changed.

Liz began a discussion around the importance in recognising that many families often need low level support for a long period of time on and off and that family support is not time limited. Karen and Mike agreed highlighting that families often need help with a variety of issues, Mike stated that often all families need is some financial help – they need the scaffolding to parent their children.

c) Family Support framework

Gary described to the group their vision for the family support framework and how GCHSCP are keen to use collective experience in taking this work forward – particularly the third sector. Gary stated that GCHSCP need to work together with the third sector to effectively call in support for specific family support areas.

This led to a discussion around family support. Isobel highlighted that for early intervention/prevention approaches to work investment needs to go into the community environment that families are in – we must make the actual places in communities the best place to grow up. Yet often local community centres cannot open at weekends/evening due to high fees from Glasgow Life. Mike agreed, recognising the structural issues that exist around poverty.

Mike re-emphasised the importance of changing what money is being spent on for children and young people and where it is being spent – e.g. 6 in 10 children in care are outside of Glasgow – money needs to be spent wisely.

Suzie highlighted how current family support services provided by the third sector are funded from e.g. Big Lottery and not the Council, meaning services are funded for short periods (short term contracts for staff, poor salaries). If money was properly invested in the third sector the sector would be more stable and would prevent the current postcode patchwork that exists in services.

Mike stated that to take this forward GCHSCP need to know where all the third sector projects are.

This led to a discussion around GCHSCP trying to influence education around spending of e.g. PEF money and the importance of working with Education around this. Citywide Forum members discussed the importance/difference that can be made when school head teachers actively involve the local community in their work. Schools and third sector organisations should be working together to tackle child poverty and the attainment gap.

Mike explained that his team have given the same presentation to Education in an effort to engage head teachers to work with them.

Citywide Forum members asked GCHSCP representatives whether there are timescales for carrying this shift to family support. Gary stated that it has taken a lot of time to make the case for changing funding allocation – likely next 4 or 5 years to be completely carried out. Mike stated that they are aiming for the family support framework to be finished by August/September 2018 and tendering to begin after this.

Gary/Suzie explained to the group that they had begun discussions around mapping third sector family support services that already exist. Suzie and Lisa explained that they will be collecting data on family support services and will be circulating this with the Citywide Forum for assistance.

d) Children's Services groups

Mike emphasised again how GCHSCP groups will be streamlined into the 6 themes – we must get third sector representation on each of the groups. This way we can get into deeper discussions around family support services and co-produce services through the groups.

4. Concluding remarks

There was agreement that the change to shifting the balance to family support services in the community/third sector is a positive one. It was agreed that discussions from the meeting need to be taken forward and that the practicalities around **how** GCHSCP work with the third sector (and vice versa) to effectively carry this out need to be decided and made clear.

