
Report to

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

23rd April, 2008

Report of

Councillor Chater

Title

Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – Sure Start - South East Partnership Board

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This reports sets out details of the work of Sure Start - South East Partnership Board over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the appointment should continue to be made to the organisation.
- 2.2 To request a report on the progress of new Governance arrangements for Surestart/Childrens Centres.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

- 3.1 Surestart SE was the first Surestart programme within in the City. Now 7 years on the programme is continuing to deliver much needed and quality services to children and their parents in Binley, Willenhall, Ernsford Grange and Stoke. Currently operating 2 designated Children's Centres, with a further to be added later this year in partnership with Gosford Park School, the programme currently has registered 801 of the 802 children under 5 years old within its area, with 988 parents also registered.
- 3.2 The Programmes local Governance is provided through a partnership Board consisting of parents and stakeholders from the statutory services as well as local community and voluntary groups. The Board is currently waiting for further guidance on future governance arrangements. (Attached is a case study from the project that is typical of some of the work of the project identifying good multi agency partnership working)

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

- 4.1 Provides assurance re progress of City Council's Children Policy at a local level, and assists in the development of local Partnering and Network opportunities.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

5.1 The City Council's representative on this Board is Councillor Chater. In the period from February 2007 to January 2008 inclusive a total of 10 meetings were held and Councillor Chater attended 8 of these meetings.

List of background papers

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Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper	Location
Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies	CH59

Deb's good news story.

NB Pseudonyms have been used to protect anonymity.

Emma came to see me when she was 27 weeks pregnant, she was accompanied by her partner James.

James' sister and niece had recommended she come to see me as I had looked after them during their pregnancies and they had regularly attended my Young Mums group.

Emma had a history of sexual abuse from a family member aged 8 years, she was procured into prostitution and hard drugs aged 12.

She had a baby at the age of 16 who was removed from her care at birth, she was in an abusive relationship with the father of her baby, who was also her pimp and he was physically violent and a blow to her head had resulted in severely impaired vision.

Given her history she was understandably very nervous about coming to see me and frightened she would also have this baby removed. She was of no fixed abode.

When I took a detailed history I discovered that she was still using drugs, but on finding herself pregnant had ceased using anything other than methadone that she was buying from dealers.

During history taking, Emma was agitated and frightened, her only contact with the medical profession and other organisations had thus far been negative experiences and I had to gain her trust and encourage her and her partner to work with us for the best possible outcome.

I made referrals to UHCW Maternity Unit, Willenhall Social Care, CDT, the Teenage Floating Support worker at Cyrennians and my colleague in the Children's Centre Carol Duckworth.

At our first strategy meeting we unanimously decided the baby should be subject to a Child Protection Plan.

Over the weeks Emma and James worked well with all agencies and started to believe and trust everyone. They attended parentcraft classes, cooking courses and first aid, James attended the Dads group even before the baby was born. They attended all appointments at the maternity unit, with me and at CDT.

Cyrennians managed to find them a newly refurbished 2-bedroom property away from the dealers who knew them. Carol and the Cyrennians worker were able to acquire funds for furniture and household essentials. Emma and James spent the money appropriately.

During the remainder of her pregnancy both remained clean of any other substances except their prescribed methadone.

Emma had a full term normal delivery and she began breastfeeding. Although both continued to smoke cigarettes they kept their home smoke free and were very aware of risk factors leading to cot death. They asked appropriate questions and willingly took advice on several matters. They attended all appointments for the baby.

The baby is now one year old and doing well. Emma and James are still clean of illegal substances and although they have moved out of our area, they continue to attend the Children's Centre near to them. They have grown in confidence and James is hoping to begin a basic skills course and develop his art skills in order that he can find employment.

Emma now trusts health and social care professionals and understands they are there not only to help to keep the family together but also to make them a happy healthy unit, giving the child the opportunity to achieve his full potential.