

North Tyneside Locality Newsletter

Summer 2018

Welcome to our latest update, which aims to keep locality colleagues up to date with the progress of the four North Tyneside localities. Each newsletter will give updates on what's going on in the localities, plus a 'Who's Who' guide listing the staff you are most likely to have contact with across the Locality Teams, as well as sharing successes in supporting our most vulnerable families.

Updates

Goodbye Jill, Hello Lesley!

After five years at North Tyneside Council, **Jill Baker** (Assistant Director - Prevention and Early Help, Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding) has left us to move on to pastures new. Jill was the driver to the redevelopment of Early Help, and we thank her and wish her well in her new job!

Lesley Davies has taken over much of Jill's role, and her job title is Senior Manager - Prevention and Early Help, Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding.

New guidance

In early July we showcased two documents that have been designed to help those of you who work with children, young people and their families:

Roadmap – this will help you to identify the family's priorities, lead you through the processes needed to evidence the family's progress and where you can get support, which will ultimately help to inform service transformation.

Menu of Options – this contains lots of useful information about services that are available to help families.

These will be launched alongside the Early Help Assessment (EHA) sessions in September.

New North Tyneside Outcomes Plan

The Outcomes Plan has been revised and can be found on the Council website, under Early Help – Related Documents:

<https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/500/early-help>



The next newsletter will be out in late Autumn

Turn the page over for a few more updates.....

Did you know

- our DWP Employment Advisers hold Clinics at each Locality on a Thursday between 12.30pm and 2.30pm. They can offer advice and support on resolving your families' worklessness issues, and helping them to progress towards work.
- CAMHS are available after the Locality Meetings for any consultation / offer case advice.

Locality Managers updates

As Lesley Davies is now is Senior Manager - Prevention and Early Help, the Coast Locality is being managed by Bev Marrs. Bev will also continue to manage the North West Locality.

There's been a change at the Central Locality too – Nicki Garner is now the Ready for School Development Manager and will be responsible for overseeing the Riverside Ready for School setting, amongst other responsibilities.

Julie Connolly will now manage the Central Locality, as well as continuing to manage the South West.

Due to Lesley's move, we are currently recruiting for a Locality Manager.

Care & Connect – who are they and what they do

Care and Connect are a service based within the Locality teams and managed by the Early Help Manager who is based within the MASH.

Their remit is to deliver light touch, low level intervention to families who have not yet reached the threshold for an EHA. They work with families short term, for a **maximum** of 6 weeks and can offer advice, information and signposting. They aim to enable families to be more self-sufficient and do more for themselves, preventing them from needing longer term, statutory input. They can offer advice and support regarding money matters, housing evictions, advice around low level behavioural issues, advice/signposting to services/ community resources etc.

Whilst they can complete pieces of work as part of a TAF action plan, again this should be a one off, short term piece of work e.g. supporting a parent to attend an appointment. Whilst families, schools, health visitors etc. can contact Care and Connect direct for advice and support, their work is allocated via their manager so all requests should go to Toni Clark-Brown (toni.clark-brown@northtyneside.gov.uk) in the first instance.

Locality Meetings – facts and figures

Here's some information on the locality meetings held over March to June 2018

	Number of families discussed	Number of children under 5	Number of children 5-19	Total number of children
Central Locality	21	9	33	42
Coast Locality	13	3	17	20
North West Locality	19	3	36	39
South West Locality	25	8	38	46
Totals	78	23	124	147

Cases Review

Of the families presented at the meetings:-

61 cases were allocated a Lead Worker to carry out an Early Help Assessment - or to continue one – and support the families to make changes

15 cases were not allocated – more data gathering needed to be done, and cases brought back to the meetings at a later date if necessary

2 cases not discussed for other reasons (e.g. the family had moved out of the area)

Meeting Attendees

Schools that have children who are being discussed (including some out-of borough ones) are always invited to the meetings, as well as those schools that the children have recently transitioned from. These schools received a request to attend a specific meeting, **however this doesn't stop any school or agency from attending any Locality meeting** – we'd welcome your attendance and input at any Locality Meeting! If you'd like to attend a meeting just come along – see the 'Dates for your diary' section..

Dates for your diary – Locality meetings – all meetings start at 9.30am

Meeting date	Locality hosting meeting	Venue	Notes
03/09/2018	Coast	Waves Leisure Centre, Whitley Bay	
10/09/2018	South West	Chestnut / Oak Rm @ Howdon Children's Centre	
17/09/2018	Central	Kingfisher @ Riverside Children's Centre	
24/09/2018	North West	Room 1 @ Shiremoor Children's Centre	
01/10/2018	Coast	Waves Leisure Centre, Whitley Bay	
08/10/2018	South West	Chestnut / Oak Rm @ Howdon Children's Centre	
15/10/2018	Central	Kingfisher @ Riverside Children's Centre	
22/10/2018	North West	Room 1 @ Shiremoor Children's Centre	
29/10/2018	Coast	Waves Leisure Centre, Whitley Bay	Half Term Holiday
05/11/2018	South West	Chestnut / Oak Rm @ Howdon Children's Centre	
12/11/2018	Central	Kingfisher @ Riverside Children's Centre	
19/11/2018	North West	Room 1 @ Shiremoor Children's Centre	
26/11/2018	Coast	Waves Leisure Centre, Whitley Bay	
03/12/2018	South West	Chestnut / Oak Rm @ Howdon Children's Centre	
10/12/2018	Central	Kingfisher @ Riverside Children's Centre	
17/12/2018	North West	Room 1 @ Shiremoor Children's Centre	

Ofsted Focused Visit

In May, HMI carried out a **Focused Visit** of the **Front Door** arrangements for children, young people and families in North Tyneside. Focused Visits are part of the revised Framework of Inspection of Children's Services, launched in January 2018 by Ofsted.

The Focused Visit does not give any formal grading but the Council received a published letter with all feedback. The feedback received was incredibly positive, providing assurance that our work makes sure children and young people in North Tyneside are safe, with effective management oversight and decision making.

There were many areas of good and exemplary practice highlighted and our ambition for the very best for children, young people and families in North Tyneside has shone through.

The MASH was highlighted as a highly effective multi agency partnership with seamless links to and from the Social Work Assessment Team and Early Help services. **The work of all partners was acknowledged and described as a real strength.**

Our work with vulnerable groups such as domestic abuse, child sexual exploitation and young people homeless, was also identified as a real strength.

The Inspectors described our CYPL staff as highly motivated, conscientious and committed to safeguarding our children and young people.

Your good work was also recognised by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) when they carried out a 'spot check' of our Troubled Families work. Following a meeting they had with 2 Lead Workers, they said: *"we were very impressed with (the Lead Workers). The conversations that we had really brought to life the fantastic work they do with families, and left us in no doubt regarding the hard and dedicated work going on in North Tyneside to turn the lives around for your most complex families. They were all able to tell us about the family, the intervention they received and the outcomes, and we were more than satisfied that they had been worked with in a whole family way"*

We're pleased to announce that all EHAs spot checked were found to be satisfactory in terms of the Troubled Families work done – this included partner cases – well done to all!

Early Help Assessment Re-design

Approximately 50 staff from education, health and children's services, including Paediatricians, CAMHS and Health Visiting, attended the event on 4th May to consider how the EHA can be redesigned to reflect Signs of Safety. The feedback was very positive, people appreciated being able to have an input into what the revised EHA will look like and they were keen for Signs of Safety to be reflected because a lot of you are starting to embed Signs of Safety in practice so changing the form will help with this.

People liked the idea of the 3 columns ('what's going well'; 'what are we worried about'; 'what needs to happen') replacing the current boxes (harm/impact, complicating factors, existing safety etc.) We're sure you will all be pleased to hear that the 'Web' is going, and in line with Signs of Safety it will be replaced by a 0-10 scaling question instead. People also liked the idea of including a Danger Statement and a Safety Goal.

We hope that the final document will be shorter and clearer in terms of the language used to identify what the concerns are, and highlight some of the strengths for the family. We are currently busy redesigning it in line with your suggestions and hope to have it ready for use this soon.

Early Help Pathway

The EHA Pathway will be revised in line with the feedback received at the event on 4th May, to include the creation of the MASH and the role of the Early Help Manager, who acts as the 'Front Door' for Early Help cases. Also to reflect the changes to Care and Connect, who are now based within Locality Teams and whose work comes from the Early Help Manager.

Professionals felt that the graphics were misleading and encouraged people to ring the Front Door in the first instance so we will do our best to rectify this.

Please watch out for details of Early Help Briefings that will be starting week commencing 17th September.

Signs of Safety Group Supervisions

Supervision is a process that involves renewing and reflecting on practice.

Group supervisions are currently being used in Early Help to allow practitioners to share their experiences with others in similar circumstances, which aims to increase opportunities for new ideas and work through cases.

Signs of Safety Group Supervisions currently happen every two weeks across the Locality teams.

- Shiremoor Children's Centre
- Riverside Children's Centre
- Howden Children's Centre
- Whitley Bay Customer First Centre

Staff bring a stuck case for discussion (feel free to take one of your own) and collectively they use Signs of Safety to unpick it. It's a safe environment to learn because everyone is new to Signs of Safety and it gives the opportunity to practice writing Danger Statements, Safety Goals and Scaling questions in relation to a stuck case.

Currently, Early Help staff - including Family Partner's and Health Visitors, attend these.

If you'd like to attend *please contact the Locality Manager in advance of the session* either by email or by phone, to ensure the meeting has availability.

- Julie Connolly for South West (Howden Children's Centre - 0191 643 2229) and Central (Riverside Children's Centre - 0191 643 8899)
- Bev Marris for North West (Shiremoor Children's Centre - 0191 643 8966) and the Coast (Whitley Bay Customer First Centre – 0191 643 8804).

**Please let us know if you want to know more
about anything in the North Tyneside
0-19 world and we'll see what we can do!**

**We hope you found this newsletter interesting
– if you'd like to contribute any Localities
news please get in touch with a Locality
Manager, or email us at:**

SFHelp@northtyneside.gcsx.gov.uk



