

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE TASK GROUP HELD ON TUESDAY, 10TH MARCH, 2020

COUNCILLORS: Yasemin Brett (Chair), Mustafa Cetinkaya and Glynis Vince.
PRESENT

ABSENT Kate Anolue, Elaine Hayward, Stephanos Ioannou

OFFICERS: Anne Stoker Director of Children and Family Services
Angela Bent (Head of Service Practice Improvement & Partnerships, Children's Services),
Detective Sergeant Paul Crowther
PC Ferit Dogan
Elaine Huckell (Committee Secretary)

494. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Councillor Brett welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Councillors Elaine Hayward and Stephanos Ioannou and also from Rick Jewell Cabinet Member for Children's Services.

495. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

496. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 3 December 2019 were AGREED.

497. THE NEXUS PROJECT

In Mervin Cato's (Head of Behaviour Support Services) absence, Anne Stoker presented an update on the Nexus Project.

The following was highlighted:

- The Nexus Project is an umbrella name given to co-ordinate multiple projects to connect with young people, parents, schools the community sector, businesses and others to build positive relationships. Core funding for this comes from the council.
- The primary aim is to reduce exclusions and to try to head off youth violence. Mervin Cato works in the behavioural support team he goes into schools and works with faith groups, parents and others to promote the project. A Family Liaison officer provides additional family support, working with teachers and parents to ensure everyone is working together.

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- One of the aims of the project - to build positive relationships with others and as part of this, faith group members are trained to become 'Parent Champions'.
- 'Heard' – this is where there is a safe space arena to discuss issues which is hosted by a local celebrity. This has been popular with a local footballer and actors taking part. An event was held on 26 February.
- There are a number of mentoring schemes – 'Butterfly' is one of these which provides 1 to 1 coaching/ mentoring for girls with difficulties.
- 'Routes2Success' – BTEG (Black Training & Enterprise Group) provides a free resource to schools for children and young people from black and ethnic minorities to have trained role model mentors to provide workshops to young people.
- Mervin Cato was preparing data showing outcomes achieved from the projects undertaken.
- The Youth Mentoring project is a free mentoring resource for students in secondary schools that are at risk of exclusion – mentors meet with students on a regular basis.
- Another project – Spark2Life has seen 48 young people from two schools involved.
- 'Holler' is a project where inspirers visit schools and deliver assemblies or focus groups to share their story and inspire the next generation – Justin Cochrane is the founder (Head Coach England's U15 football team), the Borough Commander has also been involved.
- 'Platinum Performing Arts' uses arts to make a difference to young people providing a platform to tell their story. They have so far seen a total of 210 students from 5 schools.
- 'Joe Morris boxing club' – works with a number of schools. A new build - Ponders End Youth Club is likely to be completed by end of June 2020.
- CHiPS – Enfield Children & Young person Services (ECYPS) would be relaunching CHiPS – this project features a network of safe havens across Enfield where young and vulnerable people who are lost, at risk or feeling vulnerable are able to go to any CHiPS marked premises to ask for help and assistance. 200 businesses have signed up to this.
- Working in partnership with 'Pivotal Education' and 'Fearless' – training for members of staff on managing behaviour and de escalation of incidents.
- The presentation indicates the many NEXUS projects Enfield secondary schools are involved with. However, it would appear, some schools are not taking advantage of them.
- There has been a drop in the number of exclusions which was welcomed.

The following issues were raised

- It was asked if Parent Champions were linked to our existing parental engagement project– the Parent Engagement Panel. **Action:** Anne Stoker/Angela Bent will provide a response for inclusion in the minutes.
- Reference to the BTEG resource to have trained role model mentors, it was questioned how many trained role model mentors were in place.

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Anne Stoker thought many were volunteers. Mervin Cato would provide details on this for inclusion in the minutes. **Action:** Mervin Cato

- It was requested that the video for the CHiPS project could be included in the 'Vulnerability training' session for members to be held on 6 April 2020. **Action:** Anne Stoker/ Angela Bent would take this forward.
- For those schools not taking advantage of the NEXUS projects, it was suggested that the relevant School Governors be contacted and reminded of these opportunities available. **Action:** Mervin Cato
- It was noted that there would be funding for a further year for the 'troubled families' scheme.

498. WORK PROGRAMME

Expected changes to the Council's Constitution would probably involve the setting up of a new Committee/Panel to oversee the service. A chart showing work programmes covered for the years from 2015 to the current year was available at the meeting. It would be circulated by the Chair – Cllr Brett to the conservative and Labour Groups for their information. **Action:** Cllr Brett

499. EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

RESOLVED in accordance with the principles of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

500. POLICE UPDATE

Detective Sergeant Paul Crowther and PC Ferit Dogan gave an update and highlighted the following:

- As from January 2019 Enfield Police and Haringey Police have combined to become one unit.
- The aim is to safeguard children. Looking at possible cases of exploitation—by identifying perpetrators. Looking at trends and patterns in relation to issues such as 'county lines' and 'gang activity'
- PC Dogan said referrals would come to his team from professionals, health services, schools. He spoke about difficulties in providing evidence for cases to prove 'togetherness'.
- That gang activity mainly involved organised criminal networks.
- There are challenges around engagement with the child who is at risk of exploitation – DS Crowther said members of his team are young and this helps in connecting with them.
- A police operation that recently took place was over a 2- day period and included Transport police, there were 7 arrests and they engaged with 200 children. They also engaged with local people and businesses.

The following points were raised

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- A member thought training regarding 'County Lines' should place more emphasis on a young person's vulnerability to being blackmailed as a result of 'sexting'. this may encourage young people to contemplate this issue further.
- Cllr Vince suggested that at the next Fostering Panel Training on 13 November that DS Paul Crowther should be invited to come along to provide advice about 'County Lines'. DS Paul Crowther said he would be happy to attend. It was noted that social workers would also be present.

DS Paul Crowther and PC Ferit Dogan were thanked for attending this meeting and for the important work that they do.

The meeting ended at Time Not Specified.