

Integrated Care Partnership Briefing

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Partnership
(ICP) Meeting

December 2023



Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care System

This briefing aims to keep partners informed of the discussions at the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) meeting.

Growing Well: Ages 6 – 18 years.

Dr Paul Edmondson-Jones, Chief Medical Officer and Deputy Chief Executive from Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board (ICB) presented the 'Growing Well: Ages 6 – 18 years' slides on behalf of Stephen Gunther, Director of Public Health at Stoke-on-Trent City Council.

In summary:

- Statistics within Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent show that approximately 20% of children under 16 in Staffordshire and 36% in Stoke-on-Trent under 16 are living in relative poverty.
- Key themes in the Public Health Outcomes Measures for School Age CYP for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent include:
 - Increasing impact of poverty on CYP who live in relative or absolute low income
 - Increasing numbers of school age children living with excess weight and obesity
 - Higher rates of conception during adolescence
 - Inequalities in school age immunisation coverage (flu, HPV and MenACWY)
 - Evidence of population mental health and wellbeing declining with increasing prevalence of conditions and demand for CAMHS
 - Inequalities in absenteeism and poorer educational attainment at GCSE
 - Poor oral and dental health outcomes
- Distribution of these measures in our children and young people across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent is not even and we see some communities experience greater deprivation and subsequent poor health and wellbeing outcomes.
- The Family prevention and Early help offer has been significantly disinvested from 2010 onwards. Levels of key partner funding in prevention and Early help services for CYP is also very limited.
- The predominant cause of children coming into care (peak is at 0-2 and 11-14) is neglect but underlying and wider causes include:
 - Poor maternal mental health
 - Parental learning disabilities/difficulties
 - Domestic violence
 - Drug and alcohol abuse
 - Physical and sexual abuse
 - Repeat pregnancies/child into care

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- Severe adolescent behavioural and mental health issues

- Statistics from 2016/17 to 2023 demonstrate a 69% increase in children in care. The total net cost of children in care for 2016/17 was £24.3 million and this has increased by 134% to £56.6 million. The investment in children's social care over a 10-year period has gone up by 91.4%.

- The family support offer in Stoke-on-Trent is currently looking at what can be done via the following channels (individually and collectively) to support children and young people (CYP) into the transition of adulthood and completing their training and education:
 - Leisure Services
 - Libraries
 - Housing
 - Primary and Community Healthcare
 - Drug and Alcohol Services
 - Domestic Violence / Criminal Justice
 - Enhanced Financial and Practical Advice/Support
 - Family Learning and Employment Support
 - Youth Offer
 - Adult Services
 - Schools and Colleges

- Target outcomes that contribute to children going into care and causing the health and social issues in this age group need to be addressed. These include:
 - Reduced number of children requiring statutory intervention
 - Reduced children in care
 - Reduced infant mortality
 - Improved early development scores
 - Improved school attendance
 - Reduced school exclusions
 - Reduced first time youth offenders
 - Improved CYP mental health recovery rates
 - Reduced rates of domestic violence
 - Reduced adolescent self-harm
 - Improved child dental health.
 - Improved physical activity levels

On behalf of Stoke-on-Trent City Council Paul shared slides on examples of what is currently being done to address the issues above:

- In dental health the City Council is working with NHS England on oral health to promote supervised toothbrushing programmes with 15 settings and approximately 700 children participating so far. This is because Stoke-on-Trent experiences poor dental health with

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33.6% of children having one or more missing, decayed or filled teeth, the highest rate in the West Midlands.

- There is cost of living support and advice being promoted through events and online to ensure people are accessing the help they need this winter and beyond as child poverty is associated with poor health and life chances in adulthood.
- An additional £8.6 million is being spent over 3 years on strengthening the local drug and alcohol treatment system to reduce the harm caused by substance misuse, including dedicated support for young people and families and supporting people in to work.
- A recent initiative was launched to address damp and mould in people's homes not just in Council housing but all types and tenures of property with a 'find it' 'fix it' approach taken.
- Maximising the City Councils commissioned services including working in partnership with 0-19 service to identify service improvement and opportunities for further integration and work with our mental health support services, Stay Well, to implement additional triaging resource and reviewing options to maximise support available for children and young people.

Paul then shared the next steps and what remains to be a challenge:

- A preconception awareness campaign targeting both women and girls to promote key health messages and the support available to improve health and wellbeing before conception, as part of the infant mortality action plan.
- Relaunching an evidence based smoking prevention programme for young people, INTENT (previously called ASSIST) which will include vaping for the first time and will be delivered to schools by the local PSHE coordinator on behalf of the council.
- 'In need' families and households are highly likely to present with multiple needs and inequalities, including substance misuse, poor physical and mental health and domestic abuse, therefore to have maximum impact it is important these needs, where possible, are addressed together.
- Large numbers of children are coming into care in the city with peaks at ages 0-2 and 11-14 years old. The new family support offer is seeking to build family and community resilience, but won't be a 'quick fix'.
- Disinvestment in prevention, early intervention and support services over many years has resulted in more young people and families reaching crisis before accessing help.

Deep Dive: Growing Well: Ages 6 – 18 years

Following the presentation, the group were asked to consider two questions:

1. How can each of you and your organisations make a significant positive impact on children's development (6-18 years)?
2. How do we achieve this partnership?

The feedback from the group included:

- The importance of ensuring we get the right jobs and growth to bring people out of the poverty bracket. We need to work together with local authorities, DWP and employers etc to do this.
- The need for a local skills initiative as the national initiatives often don't meet the local needs.

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- The need for local and frontline level discussions.
- To encourage social prescribing and sharing of information around a family.
- Mental and emotional health support in schools to parents and empowering adolescents to take control over their own health and well-being.
- The importance of investment in prevention.
- The importance of understanding a child's personal circumstances and how that can influence their mental health, education or health and well-being.
- The need for a better connection with the voluntary sector – funded and non-funded.
- Encouraging local students to engage with local communities to both support local people and help students develop a cultural understanding of the environment they might be providing support for going forward.
- Promoting partnership working to make it easier to raise concerns, and for these concerns to be picked up by the right people.
- The need to be proactive instead of reactive and how we make the journey to preventative focused services.
- Promoting the importance of self-care
- The need for innovation e.g artificial intelligence. How do we utilise the next generations increased use of technology.
- The importance of creating structure and focus in young people's lives and enabling the journey to success by making sure we utilise our resources in the best way we can - including utilisation of data.
- The need for a refresh of the Joint Forward Plan.
- The importance of bespoke, effective and localised one to one engagement. We need to be talking to young people and engaging with young people in a far more sophisticated way on their level.

Date and time of next meeting: Monday 4 March 2024, 3.00pm – 5.00 pm, via MS Teams.