

POST JAR ACTION PLANNING MONITORING GROUP

Tuesday 20 March 2007

2:00pm – 4:00pm

Knighthayes Room, Larkbeare House, Exeter

In attendance: Debbie Pritchard, Kevin Peers, Deborah Booth, Shona Meek

Apologies: Liam McGrath, Colin Mackenzie, Piers Tetley, Chris Roberts, Martin Spragg, Ian Tearle, Miles Hapgood

1. **Recommendation 1:**

Kevin circulated the updated monitoring sheets for all his recommendations. Some of the outcome measures included on request by David Derbyshire on behalf of the External Support Group and originally entered have debatable value. For example an increase in the Child Protection conferences may not mean increased benefit children and young people. Have limited use. The most useful indicators are:

- increase in the percentage of initial referrals completed within seven working days. The target is 58% by 31/3/07. The actual for last twelve months is 41.5% and the target will not be reached but the figure for February only was 59.4% which is an encouraging sign.
- The increase in the number of core assessments completed within 35 working days. The target is 70% by March 2007. The actual was 58.5%. In February, it was 84.5% giving an overall the figure of 64%. Reaching the target will be challenging but the matters are moving in the right direction.

Kevin highlighted that the Job Evaluation impact on social care has had a big impact on the appointment of experienced social workers.

2. **Recommendation 2**

Complete

3. **Recommendation 3**

Action: 3b "Develop multi agency agreement on a standard letter..." This has slipped, possibly to April.

Outcomes measures have no previous data to form a baseline. This will be tested by the process of file audit. **Action: Kevin Peers**

4. **Recommendation 4**

All on track. It was agreed that the outcomes measures listed were actually actions which were operating. Kevin will alert the group to any issues.

5. **Recommendation 5**

All outcome measures for recommendation 5 should show as ☺. The new file structure is the only one not done, but that is not due yet. **Action: Kevin to discuss with Emily putting in the ☺ and the numbering for all the outcome measures.**

6. **Recommendation 6**

6f "reinvestment of resources committed to previous advocacy service contract..." The vast majority of tenders are in. Will be on target, by the end of April. Brian Grady is the officer responsible for this.

Outcome Measures 1 and 2 of Recommendation 6 should not be showing as David Derbyshire. **Action: Kevin to update template.**

A workshop will be held on 1 May to relaunch the standard file. The files are being audited and the new file structure will be in place and compliance will be ensured.

7. **Recommendation 7**

7h – "Foster Carers will be re-issued with guidance about statutory visits..." This will now go out at Easter.

Economies of expertise will be achieved through the re-alignment of the service to function basis as is common elsewhere. Kevin is confident of meeting the target for all children in care to be allocated to a social worker 31/1/07 although this could have implications for children in need.

8. **Recommendation 8**

8b is in the red due to resources. Miles sent a report to the meeting stating that: "I've not yet secured any additional funding for paediatric therapies for 07/08, although the issue is now high profile within the PCT and we may yet secure something. This is high risk and should be red". **Action: DAP will need to report on this.**

For Recommendation 8 and 11, there is no routine collection of data for the outcomes and there is anxiety around capacity. **Action: John Shaw and Miles Hapgood to address**

9. **Recommendation 9**

No update available

10. **Recommendation 10**

Kevin reported all on track.

11. **Recommendation 11**

This was originally 'red'. Miles sent a statement to the meeting: "I note that CAMHS funding has been identified as high risk. I suggest this is now amber. Most of the financial negotiations re. the transfer of CAMH services to the PCT are now concluded and the outcome looks OK. I have a major budget meeting on Thursday this week to pull together the 07/08 CAMHS budgets and I can confirm the position for the April meeting".

12. **Recommendation 12**

12d should be amber, rather than red.

13. **Recommendations, 13, 16 and 19**

The group agreed that all of these recommendations should be completely rewritten in light of the new supplementary guidance. Anxieties re. the Children's Trust remain.

Action: Liam

14. **Recommendation 14**

Recommendation 14 all on track.

15. **Recommendation 15**

15d – review of data. Implemented but is an ongoing issue. Standard guidelines will be completed. Kevin and Debbie Ford are working on this.

Lack of clarity around 15g.

16. **Recommendation 17**

Deborah is working on the data which is nearly ready to be dropped into the template. There is now capacity in dcs for the programme team. A cultural and behavioural shift is being made through detailed chasing on exam entries. Concerns are regarding the IROs and their responsibility for this for future years. There has been good progress on the project team work. For the first time ever, we can account for every child in care.

A lot of excellent work has also been carried out in regard to attendance. A separate action plan has been drawn up, care managers have been involved, and chasing up of foster parents has been carried out.

Health checks are being chased.

Action: Deborah to submit the data by the next meeting.

In terms of the APA, this is a significant area of work.

17. **Recommendation 18**

DAP has spoken to Pat Clewer. By and large, we are back on track with recommendation 18. It was agreed to change the dates as proposed.

2. **High Risk Areas Identified**

Kevin discussed the affects of job evaluation on social care workers. We do, however, anticipate steps to help this situation:

- i. Appeals taking place in April
- ii. Re-alignment of social care
- iii. Review of social work

There are also risk areas in Exeter of staff sickness. The allocation of cases and completion of files is being worked on and will be ready in time for the APA. Consistency is being implemented across the county on the threshold. At this stage it will not be lowered because of capacity.

3. **Interface with review of Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP), Annual Performance Assessment (APA) and, refresh of CYPP**

The draft indicative timetable for the CYPP/APA was circulated. We are expecting guidance very shortly. A workshop will be held on 1 May at the Ockment Centre for 120 staff and there will be a presentation on the work of the APA.

DAP reported that the original idea was for the JAR to be subsumed into the refreshed CYPP but the new timescales changed the relationship. New areas are arising out of the monitoring and Anne has suggested that the group pick up these developing areas such as safeguarding across the services. The current attendance would not encourage further responsibilities. Kevin suggested that we become the APA implementation group (post JAR Monitoring group).
Action: DAP to form proposals to CYPS SLG and report to DCC CMB

Dates of Future Meetings:

4 April 2007 10:00am - 12:00noon, Committee Suite at County Hall, Exeter (*Virtual Meeting*)
25 April 2007 2:00pm – 4:00pm, Committee Suite at County Hall, Exeter