

Appendix F

Scrutiny inquiry into clusters - Session 2 – 12 December 2013

Sharing best practice within and across clusters

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Background

There are various ways in which best practice is shared between Clusters. Much of this takes place at the local level and is supported by relationships forged between staff working across areas and the positive conversations and learning arising out of these.

Specific examples of best practice sharing will be provided in the presentation to the Scrutiny Inquiry on 12 12 13 by TSLs based in the three areas. Further opportunities for the Scrutiny Board to understand how best practice is shared and how improved outcomes are achieved at a local level will also be provided through the third session of the inquiry in January which will focus on a 'deep dive' exercise in two clusters.

Current arrangements

Best practice sharing is also supported through the cluster meeting structure as outlined below:

Cluster chairs – one meeting per area per term. Focus on sharing latest developments and best practice as well as information sharing

Cluster chairs/cluster managers/elected members/local authority partners/TSLs – one meeting per area per term. Focus on sharing information about what's going well, problem solving and cross boundary issues

Cluster support group – meeting involving children's services staff involved at a strategic level with clusters to share information, discuss policy issues and cluster development

TSL meetings – take place in each area every half term to look at targeted service work and families first

Cluster manager/TSL meetings - take place every other month to look at performance data and service development. Recent examples include improvements to housing safeguarding arrangements, linking the work of the probation service to the cluster, elective home education.

Cluster multi agency guidance and support – meets on average every three weeks. Professionals from local services meet to ensure that every family assessed as needing support or requesting support, are considered, using agreed principles, to ensure eligible families receive preventative, well coordinated and targeted support.

Cluster partnership meetings – take place termly and are the main business meetings for all partner agencies within the cluster

Review and support sub – group of School Forum – recently established to take an overview of expenditure of School Forum funding by clusters and support clusters to make most effective use of the funding they receive. This group will meet a minimum of twice a year but more frequently in the first instance.

Please note that some of these arrangements are currently being refreshed to maximise effective working practices across and between all clusters.

These meetings are supported by a wide range of supporting performance and comparison data (provided with the agenda).

Future arrangements

Sharing of best practice is seen as a priority. To this end a **cluster market place event** is being planned for the new year. This will provide an opportunity for all clusters and key partners to show case their work and share best practice.

In the longer term the Children's Performance Service is investigating the potential to develop an extranet Sharepoint site which will facilitate data and information storage and sharing across all clusters. An initial paper outlining the proposals has been to the October round of cluster chairs meetings and was well received. The development phase of this will commence in the new year.