



Department  
for Education

# Improving cross sector support for children in complex situations with multiple needs

## Task and Finish Group

### Notes of meeting 3 July 2023

Held 12:00 – 14:00, virtually via MS Teams

#### Chair(s)

Sophie Langdale: Director, Childrens Social Care Reform, Department for Education

Prathiba Chitsabesan: National Clinical Director for Children and Young People's Mental Health, NHS England

#### Attendees

- Sophie Langdale – Department for Education
- Prathiba Chitsabesan – National Health Service England
- Emma Julian – Ministry of Justice
- Laura Thompson – Ministry of Justice
- Fiona Walshe – Department for Health and Social Care
- Kathy Smethurst – Department for Health and Social Care
- Julliette Cammaerts – Childrens Commissioner's Office
- Childrens Commissioner's Office Officials
- John Pearce – Association of Directors of Childrens Services
- Katy Block - Association of Directors of Childrens Services
- Sarah Jennings – Department for Education
- Department for Education officials
- NHS England officials

#### Introductions

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and facilitated introductions between attendees and briefly explained the key purpose this group was to come together across government and the wider system, and work collaboratively to understand the issues and devise solutions which will improve the outcomes for children and young people with these complex needs.

## **Agreeing the Terms of Reference**

The Chair introduced this agenda item and noted that the terms of reference would be published so it was important to get them right. The chair then invited comments and thoughts from the group.

Action: Members to agree final terms of reference by correspondence

## **Agreeing the Workplan**

The Chair then introduced this item and explained the importance of discussing and agreeing the draft workplan which was shared with members prior to the meeting. The chair explained it contained 4 or 5 workstreams, broken down into outputs, and already incorporated some of the comments raised by members previously around what we wanted to achieve. The chair then invited comments and thoughts from the group.

Following the discussion, the Chair thanked all for the helpful dialogue on this topic, and asked that any further suggestions on additions or amendments to the workplan are emailed to DfE /NHSE.

Action: Members to submit any additional thoughts or suggestions on the workplan to NHS England and DfE officials

## **Stakeholder Council**

The Chair introduced this item and explained that the Stakeholder Council will include representation from practitioners, providers and commissioners- and outside of this group we will continue to work with the children's commissioner's office to engage children and young people. The Stakeholder Council are a vital part of helping us deliver the work programme and plan, and will be producing meaningful products and outputs. The Chair then invited comments and thoughts from the group.

JC noted the importance of having real clarity on the on the actual purpose of the stakeholder council. It could be worth considering smaller sub groups and considering the possibility of completing some exercises via correspondence.

## **Conclusion**

The chair thanked all participants for their attendance and remarked on how excited we are to unlock better partnerships across this group as a result of this work.

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