



Department
for Education

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

Task and Finish Group

Notes of meeting 12 September 2023

Held 16:00 – 17:30, virtually via MS Teams

Chair

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

Sarah Jennings: Deputy Director, Looked After Children Division, Department for Education

Attendees

- Sophie Langdale – Department for Education
- Prathiba Chitsabesan – National Health Service England
- Alan Webster – Ministry of Justice
- Laura Thompson – Ministry of Justice
- Kathy Smethurst – Department for Health and Social Care
- Julliette Cammaerts – Childrens Commissioner's Office
- Harriet Waldegrave – Children Commissioner's Office
- Childrens Commissioner's Office Officials
- Katy Block - Association of Directors of Childrens Services
- Sarah Jennings – Department for Education
- Lisa Harker – Nuffield Family Justice Observatory
- Department for Education officials
- NHS England officials

Introductions

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance, facilitated introductions between attendees and briefly outlined the meeting agenda.

Update on the Workplan

The chair recapped the objectives of the task and finish group and the ambition for the jointly lead programme to use an integrated approach to provide care in the least restrictive environment.

The outputs have been developed into three research commissions to look at the Evidence Base, User Journey, and the Voice of the Child. The chair invited comments from the group.

The Office of the Childrens Commissioner expanded on the work they have proposed around the Child's Voice and requested that the group consider any areas they would like OCC to include.

Update on Stakeholder Council

An update was given about the previously held Stakeholder Council which took place on 20th July. The subgroup strands were outlined and discussed. The issue of considering pilots within the current context of regulation and legislation was raised. Chairs acknowledged that we would need to operate in a way which would test options within the current confines.

The next steps of the Stakeholder Council were outlined in terms of the subgroups which will drill into some of the challenges by exploring case studies, looking at care models and workforce. At the next Stakeholder Council meeting, TFG views will be provided on the direction of travel.

Core Principles – Nuffield Family Observatory

Lisa Harker presented the 5 Principles of Care - [Principles of Care.pdf](#)

Conclusion

The chair thanked everybody for their attendance and contributions before concluding the meeting.