



Department
for Education

Children with Complex Trauma Task and Finish Group

Update note of meeting on 30th July 2024

Held 10:00 - 11:00, virtually via MS Teams

Chair

Ailsa Swarbrick, Deputy Director, Children Young People and Perinatal, NHS England

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

Attendees

The meeting was attended by representatives from:

- the Department for Education
- NHS England
- the Department of Health and Social Care
- the Ministry of Justice
- the Childrens Commissioner's Office
- the Association of Directors of Childrens Services
- the Youth Custody Service

Introduction

Due to the nature of this meeting being held shortly after the conclusion of the General Election, we will not be producing minutes but instead, a short update note.

Summary

This meeting was held shortly after the General Election and subsequent appointment of this government. As a result of this, the ministerial departments who hold membership of the Task and Finish Group (TFG) had not yet agreed with ministers which programmes of work would be continuing. As such, this meeting was used as an opportunity to provide an update and summary of the TFG's work to date, and no decisions were made.

Updates

Officials from the Department for Education reflected on key themes that had emerged from discussions with the sector on how the existing Children's Home Regulations can be implemented in provision designed specifically for this cohort of children.

Officials from NHS England discussed how the Peer Collaboratives- a group which brings together local authorities and integrated care boards to co-design, test and learn from each other- engaged in their first meeting. At this meeting the group discussed shared principles, ways of working, shared goals, and the importance of joint buy-in.

Department for Education officials discussed the findings of a recently conducted 'lessons learned' exercise designed to help officials better understand how to factor need/ demand into the evaluation process when assessing bids for capital funding, and how to encourage bids which include strong partnership working between local authorities and health partners. This learning will be applied when officials are developing the bidding criteria for any future capital investment rounds, including those aimed at expanding provision for children in complex situations with challenging behaviour.

Moving forward

Subject to further ministerial agreement on continued work, we will be holding a further meeting in December. This meeting will be an opportunity to reopen discussions on our future plans in this space.