

Report for NEL Health and Well Being Board – November 2024.

The work programmes of the three sub-boards of the NEL Children, Young People & Families (CYPF) Strategic Partnership Board.

1.0 Introduction.

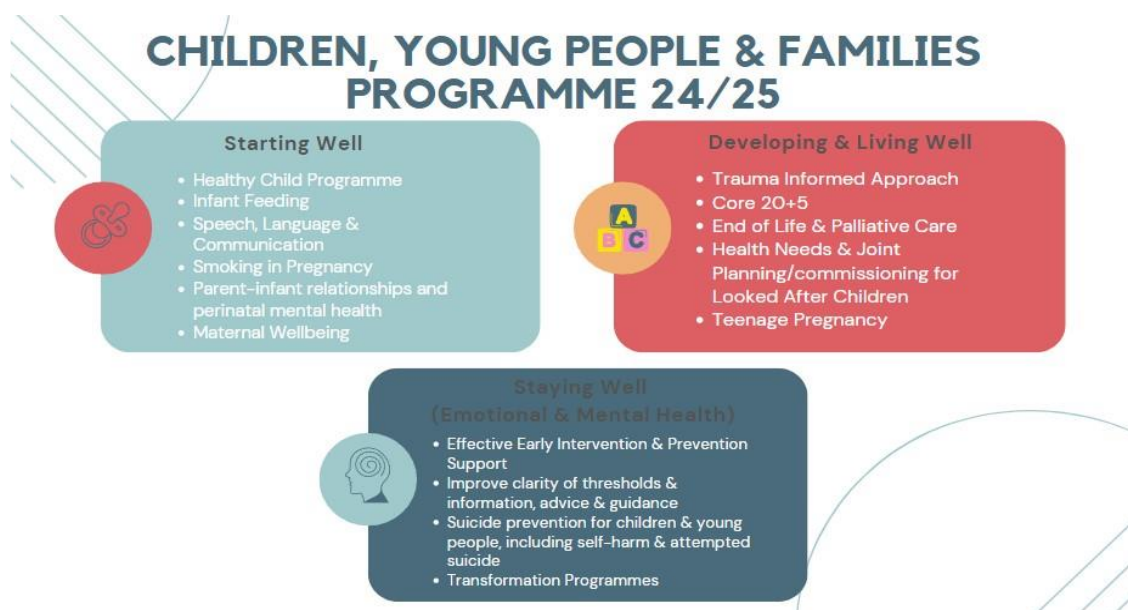
The NEL Children Young People & Families (CYPF) Strategic Partnership Board is a non-statutory strategic partnership board which has met bi-monthly since May 2023. The board reports into the NEL Health & Well Being Board (HWBB), the NEL Health & Care Partnership (HCP), and shares the work it is doing with the ICB's strategic board for CYP.

It focuses on key, wide-reaching strategic issues that improve outcomes for children, young people, and families in NEL; these issues are set out in the CYPF Strategic Partnership Board strategy 2023-2025 and are addressed through the work of the board and three sub-boards.

Three sub-boards lead on a variety of focused work programmes, whilst the strategic board takes a wider view of outcomes for CYPF. The board recently moved from having 4 sub-boards to 3 sub-boards because the SEND Board has become a stand-alone board reporting directly into the HWBB because of the significance of its agenda. The SEND Board will continue to share information and progress with the CYPF Strategic Partnership Board.

2.0 Discussion.

The three sub-boards each have a focused agenda. Two boards have programmes across the life course and key ages of CYP, and one has a focus specifically on mental health. The 3 sub-boards and their programmes are set out below:



The Starting Well sub-board aims to “ensure that all children in North East Lincolnshire get the best possible start in life and that their early development is optimised, setting the foundation for them to reach their full potential”.

The Developing & Living Well sub-board focuses on school age children and those preparing to move into adulthood. It aims to develop a think family approach which considers CYP alongside parents and caregivers.

The Staying Well (Emotional & Mental Health) sub-board aims to “ensure actions are taken to implement and improve the mental health and wellbeing of our children and young people, being responsible for developing and overseeing the implementation of NEL children’s emotional wellbeing and mental health plan, from primary prevention through to crisis support”.

Specific objectives for all three sub-boards are set out in their terms of reference (ToR).

Some of the programmes of work are 1 year and some are 2-year programmes. Some programmes have a broader impact than others, for example the Trauma programme aims to “create a trauma informed NEL” and will impact all age service users and staff, compared to the PAIRS (Parent-Infant Relationships) programme which focuses very specifically on new parents. However, all programmes from across the three sub-boards are significant agendas for CYPF in NEL, and have been highlighted as an area for transformation, or an area where we know from our local intelligence that there is work to do across the partnership.

Two of the sub-boards – Starting Well sub-board and Staying Well (Emotional & Mental Health) sub-board – were in place prior to the creation of the CYPF Strategic Partnership Board in 2023, but neither reported into a board other than internal reporting. To create new challenge into those 2 sub-boards, the 2 Chairs swapped the sub-board that they Chair. This has meant that the senior officer responsible for leading the programmes within those 2 sub-boards are no longer the Chair of the sub-board, albeit they are a sub-board member.

The other sub-board - Developing & Living Well sub-board – was newly created as part of the CYPF Strategic Partnership Board to deliver elements of the strategy in respect of school-age CYP mostly. It has been able to build its momentum and the programmes it leads are mostly new programmes, most of which are significantly complex, challenging and large-scale agendas like teenage pregnancy; the size of some of them will test our capacity to deliver and will need partner contributions to be successful.

The Starting Well sub-board has several programmes which, given their focus is the early years of a child’s life, are focused on prevention and early intervention. Some of these programmes are statutory functions, for example the national Healthy Child

Programme, however this sub-board is also focusing on how it can develop a pro-active and targeted approach to some of the key outcome areas for children e.g. speech and language, parent-infant relationships. Work also includes a review of the role of Health Visiting, specifically looking at how the service can have the most impact in NEL. This work will be critical to the prevention and early intervention support for families in need.

The Staying Well (Emotional & Mental Health) sub-board delivers work programmes that focus across the spectrum of need including building mental resilience in CYP, supporting those waiting for a mental health service, as well as focusing on CYP at risk of suicide, those with eating disorders and a programme reviewing services provided to care experienced children and young people. All of these programmes are critical in helping us in NEL address needs of our CYPF population.

There is more to do in some programmes with regards to measuring impact and demonstrating improved outcomes. Progress in respect of these programmes is slow and they need to be supported and challenged to move them forward. Some of this is because the programme is newly developed and some because they are now required to share their progress which they haven't been asked to do before. The 3 sub-boards report progress to the CYPF Strategic Partnership Board through structured reporting twice a year and provide updates by exception to the meetings in-between. Being able to show impact is a key objective for all 3 of the sub-boards and the HCP Programme Directors/Manager are working closely to improve this and to help the boards flourish.

The sub-board Chairs aim to meet quarterly with the Chair of the CYPF Strategic Partnership Board plus the HCP Programme Directors and Manager, to progress the arrangements in place, to address any gaps or issues, to share progress made and support each other. These meetings will be important as the CYPF Strategic Partnership Board continues to grow as a key strategic CYPF board in NEL place.

3.0 Conclusion.

Statutory partners across NEL are currently working closely to review the governance around all the CYP statutory and non-statutory boards to ensure that decision making is joined up and transparent, and to ensure that boards are in a position to share learning and influence planning and transformation. The CYPF Strategic Partnership Board is a part of this and has a key role to play in joining up programmes of work, creating programmes in response to identified need or issues and forging working relationships across the partnership. It is the only CYPF board in NEL which has such a wide scope across non-statutory functions, and which continues to build up relationships and join up working on a non-statutory footing.

The work of the three sub-boards is broad and successfully brings partners together to unite around specific programmes. The challenges within those programmes are significant and need to be understood, monitored and addressed through robust challenge and support. Achieving positive impact in these programmes can affect not only the CYP, but also the adults, including in their parent role, and could create positive change in families; helping to support CYPF much earlier before issues become embedded and prior to the need for statutory services.

In addition, a review of all strategies and delivery plans in respect of CYPF is currently taking place to be able to align and combine them into 1 over-arching strategy. This does not mean that existing strategies will be lost; it will ensure our strategic direction is strong and joined up.

In NEL we are working in an arena that is changing and evolving, and where changes in senior leadership have impacted positively and is creating a stronger system; albeit this creates waves which all system partners need to navigate together and support each other. In this context building up relations and the partnership is vitally important and the work across the CYPF Strategic Partnership Board makes a strong contribution to the journey we are on.

Jan Haxby, Chair of CYPF Strategic Partnership Board.

November 2024.