

**Health Scrutiny Committee
28 August 2013**

**Briefing Note on the Infant Mortality Commissioners Working Group
for Newcastle under Lyme**

Background

The Infant Mortality Commissioners Working Group was established in order:

- To establish a Commissioners forum to address the issues of higher than average infant mortality rates in Newcastle under Lyme; and recommend a way forward to achieve the outcomes as specified in the NSCCG Integrated Strategy and Operating Plan;
- To understand and co-ordinate the range of interventions currently being commissioned;
- To understand and analyse how the wider determinants of health impact positively and negatively on maternal and infant health and to investigate opportunities for partnership working that can lead to improved outcomes;
- To advise the CCG Board re commissioning intentions.

Representation

The following organisations will be represented at the Working Group:

- Staffordshire County Council
- Newcastle Borough Council
- North Staffordshire CCG
- Newcastle North and Newcastle Central Localities

Reporting Relationships

The Working Group will report to the following:

- CCG Executive Committee and Board
- Newcastle Borough Council – Health Scrutiny
- Staffordshire County Council
- Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Board
- CCG Localities

Progress to date

Priorities for further work had previously been identified by the Group as:

- Foetal Growth Restriction Detection
- Safe Sleep Campaign
- Proactive Smoking Cessation

An initial mapping exercise was carried out in 2012 to identify the service provision across the area for all partners i.e. CCGs, PH, LA. Initiatives were identified that were evidenced to contribute to reducing infant mortality rates and prioritised through the CCG/PCT prioritisation process.

Next steps

At the Working Group in July 2013 it was acknowledged that there have been a number of changes in terms of re-structuring and transferring responsibility since the mapping exercise had been completed.

It was agreed to invite additional members to the group for future meetings and to re-visit the initial mapping work and update this with currently commissioned services.

It is then planned to use the updated mapping exercise to aid discussion at the next meeting and to identify services that could be taken through our prioritisation process to inform future commissioning intentions.

Further issues to consider

The Committee may want to consider the role our services play in assisting to address the issues – environmental health, planning, housing, as well as economic development and community safety, we need them to play a bigger part in how health (and complimentary) services are developed in the Borough.

Sarah Moore
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