



## Report to CYPFS Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016

**Report of:** Director of Inclusion and Learning

**Subject:** Committee Briefing - Sheffield Parent Carer Forum, State of Sheffield Report & Family CAF and the Children's Social Care single assessment

**Author of Report:** Tim Bowman, Head of Inclusion and Targeted Services

**Summary:**

This briefing note requested by the committee provides an update on two issues:

1. The actions taken and responses to Sheffield Parent Carer Forum's (SPCF) State of Sheffield Report
2. The interface between the Family CAF and the Children's Social Care single assessment

The latest parent carer forum State of Sheffield report, published in Autumn 2014, outlines a number of areas its members have identified. The briefing outlines the discussions held between officers and parent carer forum representatives and the actions which have been mutually agreed.

In November's discussion with parent carer forum representatives it has been agreed that the revised approach to working with PCF will enable us to collectively identify, work together and take action on agreed areas of priority.

**Type of item:** The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	<b>X</b>
Other	

**The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:**

1. Consider and provide views on the actions taken and responses to the Parent Carer Forum's *State of Sheffield* report; and
  2. Consider and provide views on the Council's response to the concerns expressed by the Parent Carer Forum about the interface between the Family CAF and the Children's Social Care single assessment.
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**Background Papers:**

Parent Carer Forum's *State of Sheffield* report published in Autumn 2014.

**Category of Report:** OPEN

**Report of the Director of Inclusion and Learning:**

**Response to Parent Carer Forum's *State of Sheffield* Report and additional concerns about the children's social care single assessment**

**1. Introduction/Context**

- 1.1 In Autumn 2014, Sheffield Parent Carer Forum published their *State of Sheffield* report summarising a study of the views and experiences of parents of children and young people (aged 0-25 years) with disabilities and/or additional needs in Sheffield. Based on 320 responses, the report makes 47 recommendations across children and families services encompassing parental wellbeing, sleep, challenging behaviour, information and advice, education etc.
- 1.2 Parent Carer Forum have also raised concerns about the use of the children's social care single assessment for children who need a wider package of support to meet all their needs and those of their family.
- 1.3 Sheffield City Council has considered PCF's recommendations and their concerns about assessment. An action plan is being developed in response to the agreed areas of priority.

**2. Action and Response**

- 2.1 A number of PCF's recommendations are already being addressed through the implementation of the SEND Reforms. For example, recommendations around the local offer, SEND school funding and work with the Clinical Commissioning Group.
- 2.2 From January 2016, the SEND Reforms are being incorporated into a wider Inclusion Strategy that will transform the way services are provided for vulnerable children and young people and their families. The strategy encompasses all the areas highlighted by PCF's report.
- 2.3 In developing the strategy, we acknowledge the concerns expressed by PCF about the appropriateness of a Social Care Assessment where families are requesting additional packages of support to enable them to

meet all the need of their children, young people and wider family. We have agreed to look at a review of this process within the context of statutory guidance and explore a more beneficial assessment and consider the use of the Family Common Assessment Framework in these circumstances.

- 2.4 We continue to work with PCF to develop new ways of working together that take a much more collaborative approach to agreeing and addressing areas of priority. PCF have been key members of the SEND Co-Production Group since Autumn 2014; they are part of a Parents Group that has regular meetings with the Executive Director for Children, Young People and Families; and are represented on the Parents User Group that has been developing recommendations for the 0-25 SEND local offer.
- 2.5 In addition, key members of PCF meet on a monthly, informal basis with the SEND (now Inclusion) Programme Manager and the lead officer for parental engagement. This creates opportunity for PCF and the Council to discuss emerging matters of concern, progress and areas for action. Members of PCF have also been engaged in the review of SEND Transport and the review of Short Breaks. We will continue to develop and where necessary, formalise these collaborative arrangements.
- 2.6 At discussions with PCF in November 2015, we agreed to establish a working document for taking forward the recommendations in the *State of Sheffield* report. This “action plan” would inform and be informed by the Inclusion Strategy which would provide an overarching framework to ensure the recommendations inform policy and delivery across a range of areas. The plan would provide clear audit trails in terms of agreed actions and progress. This will enable PCF to audit progress against the recommendations when they refresh their *State of Sheffield* report in a couple of years.
- 2.7 The November meeting began this work by looking in more detail at four of the key areas in the *State of Sheffield* report:
- Cumulative Impact of disability: how use of EHC Plans, whole family assessment and improvements to the “single front door” process would help ensure that the impact on a family of caring for more than one disabled child was properly assessed;
  - High levels of isolation: how those involved with families have a role in preventing isolation alongside the potential for an increasing role for third sector organisations;
  - Impact of parental wellbeing: how the proposed changes to our parenting programmes has scope to give wider support to families in a more differentiated and flexible way; and

- Childcare: how we can build on the workforce work to date to help remove barriers to childcare for families with disabled children and how we can build this into our approach to commissioning childcare.

### **3 What does this mean for the people of Sheffield?**

- 3.1 Taking a collaborative, shared ownership approach to our Inclusion Strategy, including addressing the issues raised by the *State of Sheffield* report, will deliver a more coherent and joined up approach to supporting vulnerable children, young people and their families. This will lead to a positive experience of the system for families, it will deliver positive outcomes for children and young people, and ensure children and young people are prepared effectively for adulthood.

### **4. Recommendation**

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to note and offer views on the work we are doing with PCF to improve services for children, young people and their families.