

CHILDREN'S TRUST PARTNERSHIP BOARD - 17 JULY 2013



Present:

Ellie Emberson (Chair)	Reading Youth Cabinet - Chair
Councillor Jan Gavin	Lead Councillor for Education and Children's Services, Reading Borough Council
Councillor O'Connell	Reading Borough Council
Daniel Carey	Reading member of Youth Parliament
Fiona Slevin-Brown	BHFT
Ben Cross	RCVYS
Sally Murray	NHS Berkshire West
Bridget England	NHS Berkshire
Avril Wilson	Director of Education, Social Services and Housing, Reading Borough Council
Kevin McDaniel	Head of Education and Commissioning, Reading Borough Council
Sarah Gee	Head of Housing, Neighbourhoods and Community Services, Reading Borough Council
Michael Beakhouse	Commissioning Officer, Reading Borough Council
Chris Wells	Volunteer Coordinator, Youth Engagement Service, Reading Borough Council
Tom Woolmer	Participation Coordinator, SYT, Reading Borough Council
Jana Hunter	SE Representative at UK Youth Cabinet
Aisha Lama	Reading Youth Cabinet - Secretary
Esther Blake	Partnership Manager, Reading Borough Council

Also in attendance:

Sally Poole	Committee Services, Reading Borough Council
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Apologies:

Councillor Ballsdon	Reading Borough Council
Sarah Holland	Senior Probation Officer
Bob Harrison	Adviza
Councillor Vickers	Reading Borough Council
Stuart Greenfield	Thames Valley Police
Steven Barber	Local Safeguarding Children Board - Chair

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2013 were confirmed as a correct record.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 3 - Fulfilling Lives Bid

Avril Wilson reported that the initial Fulfilling Lives bid had been successful and that the Council's bid was now through to the second round. The final shortlist would be announced in September 2013.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

Minute 7 - Sexual Health Meeting Feedback

Schools within the Borough had been asked to respond to a survey by the end of July 2013 to ascertain the current position with regard to both sexual and mental health services. The questions on mental health had been added following a request from the Youth Council.

AGREED: That a summary report on the feedback received in relation to the survey on sexual and mental health be submitted to a future meeting.

3. YOUTH CABINET SESSION

Members of the Youth Council led two workshops:

Your future, your way

The workshop was based on the Youth Council campaign for improved careers advice that focused on increasing the choices offered to pupils and to enhance career opportunities. A survey of careers advice offered by schools was currently being undertaken as this varied significantly across schools in Berkshire. Concern was also expressed about work experience, as this was no longer offered by all schools due to insurance and other costs.

Mental Health

The workshop focussed on the stigma and stereotypes associated with mental health and young people. The Youth Council was leading a campaign to standardise mental health education in Reading, starting with a target to engage at least three schools in the next year.

AGREED: That the members of the Youth Council be thanked for bringing the issues of careers advice and young people's mental health to the attention of the Board for consideration as they were important areas of concern to young people.

4. WORK SHADOWING

Esther Blake, Partnership Manager, Reading Borough Council explained that the opportunity for work shadowing had been piloted between Trust Board members in 2012 and sought the views of the Board as to whether this should now be opened up to the wider workforce. It was agreed that the benefits of obtaining a better understanding of colleagues' roles was clear, but that it was difficult to ascertain how this could be organised to ensure a good use of everyone's time.

Kevin McDaniel suggested that there might be merit in revisiting work shadowing when the relationship with the Health and Wellbeing Board had been clarified.

It was acknowledged that spending days with others did not always provide an insight into their role, as many were spent in meetings, and it could be just as effective for people to provide a short summary of their profile, a list of responsibilities (as job titles were not always descriptive) and to outline challenges and barriers.

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Following on from the careers workshop, it was agreed that this could also provide an opportunity to provide young people with more information about the careers of Board members and a list of those who were willing to spend time talking to young people about their roles, either on the telephone or by attending career fairs.

AGREED:

- (1) That the position be noted;
- (2) That a more detailed proposal on work shadowing and other alternative methods to provide Children Trust partners with an understanding of their various roles being carried out by colleagues within the Partnership be submitted to the next meeting by Esther Blake.

5. EARLY HELP STRATEGY

Sarah Gee, Head of Housing, Neighbourhood and Community Services, Reading Borough Council, submitted a draft copy of Reading's Early Help Strategy 2013 to 2016 and was seeking partnership endorsement as part of the consultation process.

The report explained that 'Early Help' meant intervening early and as soon as possible to tackle problems emerging for children, young people and their families. Intervention might occur pre-birth and at any stage in a child's or young person's life. The term 'early help' broadly referred to the range of services below the threshold of Children's Social Care or very specialist interventions.

The authority currently had an Early Years Strategy with a focus on children aged nought to five years of age; the new Early Help Strategy would cover the provision of early intervention and prevention services for children and young people all ages. Effective early help relied upon agencies working together to identify the needs of families and to provide targeted services to improve outcomes for children. The Strategy therefore aimed to be multi-agency, covering aligned work between the Council, other statutory services and the voluntary sector to provide early help.

The Strategy had been structured around five priority areas, which reflected the Ofsted inspection framework. Each section set out the authority's current early help offer, identified the key actions to take forward further improvements and the outcome measures that would be used to monitor progress. The Strategy had been informed by the analysis of demographic, needs and performance data, national best practice and feedback from stakeholders.

The vision for the Borough was of 'no child left behind and no parent unsupported'. Children could achieve their potential and families realise their ambitions for themselves and their children, regardless of their background. The Strategy set out how the Council aimed to strengthen integration, joint working and consistency across services to ensure that needs were identified

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and children, young people and their families were supported at the earliest possible stage, improving outcomes and reducing costs.

A range of stakeholders across relevant services, including health and the voluntary sector, had been involved in shaping the first draft of the Strategy. There would now be wider consultation to test out the priorities and actions identified. This would be done by a variety of methods to ensure contributions from a range of stakeholders and would be completed by September 2013. Responses to the consultation would be used to inform a final version of the Early Help Strategy, to be completed in November 2013.

Sarah Gee's key questions for the Children's Trust Board were as follows:

1. Were the priorities right?
2. What was missing?
3. What could the partnership do to deliver on the strategy objectives?
4. What could individual agencies do to improve services and deliver on the strategy objectives?
5. What could individual members do to improve their services?

She encouraged all Board members to submit their comments and suggestions via the website or by email. There would also be focus groups and workshops set up over the next two months, some of which would be held in locality events to ensure that the consultation encompassed the views of the service users.

AGREED:

- (1) That the draft Early Help Strategy be endorsed;
- (2) That the draft of the summarised strategy leaflet be circulated to all Board members;
- (3) That Board members be encouraged to contribute to the consultation to ensure views of all partners were included.

6. OFSTED INSPECTION IMPROVEMENT ACTION PLAN

Avril Wilson, Director of Education, Social Care and Housing, Reading Borough Council submitted a report on the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) unannounced inspection on the arrangements for the protection of children that had taken place in March 2013. A copy of the Ofsted Inspection Summary Report for Children and Young People and the Ofsted Action Plan were attached to the report.

The report explained that the inspection team had focused on key aspects of a child's journey through child protection and early help system and how well multi-agency arrangements for identifying children and provision of early help services in protecting children worked. An overall grading of adequate had been

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reported, the three sub judgements had also been given an adequate finding and inspectors had clearly indicated that they had seen improvements in the previous year. The judgement had to be seen in the context of another rise in the 'bar' in relation to the standards for service to be judged as 'good' and the context of recent overall Ofsted judgements.

The inspection had found that progress had been made in a number of key areas, such as securing a stable workforce, developing early help services and that Councillors and staff all showed ambition for the Council in securing and maintaining high quality services. The inspectors noted that parents felt they were listened to and respected, that children and young people received timely and robust responses to their needs for protection and referrals were responded to promptly. In their verbal feedback the inspectors had noted that the authority was in the upper most quartile of the adequate grade and that with a concerted drive in the next year it would reach a rating of "good".

The report stated that there was no room for complacency and the service was clear that there remained some variability in provision and key challenges that it needed to address to continue to drive performance. Ofsted did note that they did not highlight anything that the service was not already aware of and that the right plans were in place to address the need to improve.

Ofsted had recommended areas for improvement and ten actions had been identified. These had been put into an action plan with allocated actions and owners to drive forward their completion.

AGREED: That the Ofsted report and improvement action plan be noted.

7. CYPP ANNUAL REVIEW

Esther Blake, Partnership Manager, Reading Borough Council, presented highlights from the draft annual review of 2012/13. There were 41 specific targets on the Children's and Young People's Plan and she provided statistics to show progress on each of these targets. As at 3 July 2013, 49% of targets had been exceeded, 24% were close to being met and 22% had not yet been achieved. 5% of targets could not be rated.

To compile the report she had met with officers and service providers within the partnership and discussed specific targets to ensure that explanations and commentary could be provided, that successes and best practice could be noted and, where relevant, explanatory remarks as to why targets had not yet been met.

She gave some examples of excellent partnership working and stressed the importance of sustaining partnerships to continue to work effectively. The Board agreed that the challenges for all partners were budgets, the impact of welfare reform on children and families and the difficulties of engaging with schools now that they were self commissioning.

AGREED: That the draft CYPP Annual Review and the progress against the 41 specific targets set out in the Plan be noted.

8. READING BOROUGH COUNCIL RESTRUCTURE

Kevin McDaniel, Head of Education and Commissioning Services, Reading Borough Council, submitted the consultation document on the proposals to reshape the Council. The document explained that significant reductions in the grant received from Government together with increasing demand for some services meant that the Council had to find savings of over £40million over the next three years. The Council had already restructured itself, reduced staff numbers by 500 and saved over £58.2 million over the last five years and so further savings required a more fundamental review of the Council's operating model and structure.

In order to achieve this, it was proposed to move to a decentralised and flatter structure with a reduction in the numbers and layers of management with more services delivered via the customer services centre.

The Council would comprise of Corporate Support Services and two service directorates:

- Education, Adults' and Children's Services;
- Environment and Neighbourhood Services.

The proposals also placed a strong emphasis on neighbourhood working, whereby teams across all departments would operate in dedicated 'patches' and co-ordinate the services being delivered between them.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

9. AUTUMN WORKSHOP

The Autumn Workshop on 1 October 2013 would be run with the Local Strategic Partnership and focus on Child Poverty.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Board members were invited to attend a Partnership Strategy development workshop on obesity on 24 September 2013.

AGREED: That Esther Blake circulate details of the Partnership Strategy development workshop.

11. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board noted agenda items for future meetings as follows:

- Innovations work update;
- Family Hubs and review of Children's Centres;
- Academic Results;
- School Places update;
- Future of Children's Trust and Health & Wellbeing Board;
- Violence prevention in Reading - update on progress

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- Outcomes of sexual health survey.

12. DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS

AGREED: That the Board meeting dates for 2013-14 be noted as follows:

- Tuesday 1 October 2013 (9.30 am - 1.00 pm, joint workshop with Local Strategic Partnership)
- Wednesday 27 November 2013 (4 - 6pm)
- Wednesday 29 January 2014 (4 - 6pm)
- March 2014 - Spring workshop, date tbc
- Wednesday 21 May 2014 (4 - 6pm)
- Wednesday 23 July 2014 (4 - 6pm)

(The meeting started at 4.00pm and finished at 6.10 pm).