

CHILDREN'S TRUST PARTNERSHIP BOARD - 8 APRIL 2014



Present:

Councillor Jan Gavin (Chair)	Lead Councillor for Children's Services and Families, Reading Borough Council
Stephen Barber	Chair, LSCB
Esther Blake	Partnership Manager, Reading Borough Council
Penny Cooper	Head of Children and Families, BHFT
Ben Cross	Development Worker, RCVYS
Ellie Emberson	Reading Member of Youth Parliament
Jonathan Hill-Brown	Children's Commissioning Lead, Reading Borough Council
Sarah Holland	Senior Probation Officer, Thames Valley Probation
David Langridge	Chair of Reading Youth Cabinet
Kevin McDaniel	Head of Education Services, Reading Borough Council
Sally Murray	Head of Children's Commissioning Support, CSCSU
Beth Sercombe	Deputy Member of Youth Parliament
David Seward	BACYP
Mark Spencer	Detective Chief Inspector, Reading Police
Tom Woolmer	Participation Co-ordinator, Reading Borough Council

Also in attendance:

Sally Poole	Committee Services, Reading Borough Council
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Apologies:

Councillor Ballsdon	Reading Borough Council
Gerry Crawford	Berkshire Healthcare NHS

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2014 were confirmed as a correct record.

2. YOUTH CABINET UPDATE

Ellie Emberson, Member of Youth Parliament for Reading, Beth Sercombe, Deputy Member of Youth Parliament and David Langridge, Chair of Reading Youth Cabinet, reported on the Reading Youth Cabinet's campaigns for 2014/15, which were as follows:

- Mental Health - to standardise the level of education surrounding mental health in schools in Reading;
- Child Abuse - to develop the understanding of existing services;
- Your Future, Your Way - to improve pathways for young people to access advice regarding future education and work.

They also planned to deliver an annual event in October or November, to develop a directory of supporters for the Youth Cabinet, to produce a monthly newsletter and to develop links with the UK Youth Parliament.

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The UK Youth Parliament's national campaigns were Votes at 16 and Curriculum for Life, both of which would be adopted by the Reading Youth Cabinet. Votes at 16 had also received support by Councillors through a motion passed at the Council meeting on 25 March 2014.

AGREED:

- (1) That the work of the Youth Cabinet be commended;
- (2) That all suggestions and offers of assistance from members of the Board be sent to the Youth Cabinet via the Communications Officer (email- rycpress@gmail.com).

3. PROTOCOL AGREEMENT WITH HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD AND THE LSCB

Esther Blake, Partnership Manager, Reading Borough Council presented a copy of the Protocol Agreement that set out the expectations of the relationship and working arrangements between Reading Local Safeguarding Children Board (RSCB), Reading Health and Wellbeing Board (H&WB) and Reading Children's Trust (RCT).

The report outlined the statutory framework, current role and the responsibilities for all three Boards and the shared principles for consideration within a working protocol. The shared principles were detailed as follows:

- The Boards would work together to minimise the duplication of reports and actions and to ensure that there were no unhelpful strategic or operational gaps in policies, protocols, services or practice;
- The Boards would share a commitment to a strategic approach to understanding needs that included analysis of data and effective engagement with practitioners and service users;
- The Partnerships were committed to developing a joined up approach to understanding the effectiveness of current services and identifying priorities for change;
- All three Boards would work together to provide constructive challenge to Partners and to each other.

The report proposed that the Protocol should also be agreed at the full Board meetings of the RSCB and the H&WB and that it should be subject to an annual review.

AGREED: That the protocol between the Children's Trust, the Health & Wellbeing Board and the Reading Safeguarding Children Board be agreed.

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4. WORKSHOP TO IDENTIFY THE PRIORITIES FOR THE CHILDREN'S TRUST

Councillor Gavin explained that the aim of the workshop was to identify the priorities for the Children's Trust for the next three years, which would be used to write a new Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) based on outcome aims and impact rather than on activity.

Sarah Holland stated that the current priorities for the Children's Trust were:

- Keeping Children safe
- Intervening early
- Learning and ambition

The Board agreed that these areas still effectively captured the priorities for the Children's Trust but that the exact wording required updating and the outcomes refined to ensure that they were still measurable with the limited resources of the Board.

The priorities for the following organisations and strategies were taken into consideration to help to inform the discussion:

- Reading Borough Council Corporate Priorities 2014
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013
- A Shared Goal - shaping a good education for every young person in Reading
- Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) priorities for 2014
- Reading LSCB priorities 2013-2016
- Community Safety Partnership priorities 2013-2016
- Reading Early Help Strategy 2013-2016
- NSPCC
- Barnados

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) brought together data and statistics on the health needs of the local population from a number of sources and was a useful tool to inform the priorities of the Children's Trust.

The JSNA showed that the population in Reading had increased due to international migration and with more births than deaths. The population was more ethnically diverse than the national average.

Approximately 25% of reception year and approximately 35% of year six children in Reading were classified as overweight or obese. Both age groups were greater than the South East Region averages (and national average for reception year) but comparable to the averages of Local Authorities with similar levels of deprivation to Reading.

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Teenage pregnancy rates were at their lowest level for over 20 years, but young people continued to report that they did not know what services were available and how to access them. Support was required for the delivery of Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) in schools and a co-ordinated SRE training programme for the young people's work force.

The percentage of 16 to 18 year olds living in Reading who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) had been 7.4% in May 2013, which was at its lowest level since the new statistical measure was introduced in April 2011. A revised NEET strategy would be developed as part of the City Deal Strategy with a focus on labour market interventions to simplify pathways and systems and thus deliver better outcomes.

In 2012/13 there had been 762 referrals received by the local mental health trust, of which 586 had been passed on to Reading CAMHS (Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service) tier 3 and 4 services. The majority (66%) of these referrals came from primary health care and 22% of referrals were waiting over 18 weeks for a first appointment, although 9% of cases did not attend their appointment. In 2013/14 the number of 5 to 19 year olds in treatment with mental health disorders in Berkshire had increased by 17.5% to 4,214.

The 5 to 19 year old group made up 6% of the population within Reading but accounted for 29% of all casualties involved in killed or seriously injured collisions (KSI) within the three year period (2010-2012), which was higher in Reading than in neighbouring local authorities. The Council had offered a cycle training programme in partnership with the national cycling charity, CTC, but some schools had not supported the offer or encouraged participation.

Overall, the report concluded that the three key areas of inequality continued to be:

- Pupils eligible for free school meals;
- Those from underperforming ethnic groups;
- Those with special educational needs.

Following group discussions, the following priorities and outcomes for the Children's Trust were suggested:

1. Keeping Children Safe
 - Protect and look after ALL children and young people and in particular those that need our care:
 - Protection from others - in particular domestic abuse, sexual exploitation, on-line abuse and cultural abuse;
 - Protection from themselves - self-inflicted abuse.
2. Having the Best Start in Life and Throughout
 - To ensure that children and young people were empowered and informed to make positive life choices;
 - To build emotional wellbeing and improve health;

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- Having a positive experience of services.

3. Learning and Employment

- All children and young people have a fair (equal) chance to achieve and have access to information to make informed decisions about their future, regardless of heritage, income or disability.

The Group also agreed that the issue of poverty in Reading should be included in the overall vision as it encompassed all of the above priorities.

AGREED:

- (1) That the three priorities for the Children's Trust Board would be Keeping children safe, Having the best start in life and throughout, and Learning and Employment (final wording to be agreed);
- (2) That the draft priorities be refined by Esther Blake and circulated to the Board members for final agreement;
- (3) That all partners contribute to the Action Plan to ensure that their organisations were full engaged with working collaboratively to achieve these priorities.

5. EARLY HELP STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

The Early Help Strategy had previously been presented to the Board (minute 5 of the meeting of 17 July 2013 refers). As a result of the consultation with stakeholders, the Early Help Strategy Action Plan had been developed. This Action Plan outlined the main objectives to support the Strategy, the actions required to meet these objectives and those responsible for implementing the actions.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

6. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board noted agenda items for future meetings as follows:

- SEN Action Plan
- Development of the CYPP.

Date and Time of Future meetings

- Wednesday 23 July 2014 (4 - 6pm), Tilehurst Suite B, The Avenue Centre

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(The meeting started at 2.00pm and finished at 4.00pm).