

CHILDREN'S TRUST PARTNERSHIP BOARD - 23 JULY 2014



Present:

Councillor Jan Gavin (Chair)	Lead Councillor for Children's Services and Families, Reading Borough Council (RBC)
Esther Blake	Partnership Manager, RBC
Ben Cross	Development Worker, RCVYS
Ellie Emberson	Reading Member of Youth Parliament
Jonathan Hill-Brown	Children's Commissioning Lead, RBC
Andy Kimber	Public Health Programme Manager, RBC
Jill Lake	RCVYS
Vicki Lawson	Interim Head of Children's Services, RBC
Kevin McDaniel	Head of Education Services, RBC
Sally Murray	Head of Children's Commissioning Support, CSCSU
Mark Spencer	Crime Manager, Reading Police
David Seward	RCVYS
Chris Stevens	SEN Service Manager, RBC
Avril Wilson	Director of Education, Adult & Children's Services, RBC

Also in attendance:

Sally Poole	Committee Services, RBC
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Apologies:

Penny Cooper	Head of Children and Families, BHFT
Gerry Crawford	Berkshire Healthcare NHS
Sarah Holland	Senior Probation Officer, Thames Valley Probation
Cheryl Pennington	Assistant Principal, Reading College
Robin Rickard	Reading Area Commander, Thames Valley Police
Suzanne Westhead	Head of Adult Care, RBC

1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2014 were confirmed as a correct record.

Further to Minute 3, it was reported that the Protocol Agreement had been commended by the Health and Wellbeing Board as an example of good practice.

AGREED: That appreciation for the work carried out by Esther Blake on the Protocol Agreement be recorded.

2. YOUTH CABINET UPDATE

Ellie Emberson, Member of Youth Parliament for Reading, reported on the progress with Reading Youth Cabinet's campaigns for 2014/15, as follows:

- Mental Health -The Youth Cabinet had been working with CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) and No. 5 (Youth Counselling & Information), had set up a focus group and had got three schools to sign up to the Treaty for Health, which they were now launching in Wokingham schools;

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- Child Abuse - a survey was to be carried out;
- Your Future, Your Way - this was linked with the national UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) campaign, Curriculum for Life.

The UKYP Votes at 16 campaign was continuing to gain momentum. It had received support by Councillors through a motion passed at the Council meeting on 25 March 2014 and Ellie had been on Radio Berkshire and in a televised Youth Select Committee debate at the Houses of Parliament. There had been some opposition to the Votes at 16 campaign and so a questionnaire had been developed to try to understand why young people did not want to vote. This would be linked with attempting to engage schools in providing more political education.

Councillor Gavin added that she was recruiting Councillors from all parties to go into schools and youth clubs to raise the profile of local government and to talk about the process of politics, as they were concerned that many young people would never engage with the habit of regular voting.

AGREED: That the work of Ellie Emberson and the Youth Cabinet be commended.

3. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES BILL

Kevin McDaniel, Head of Education Services, RBC and Chris Stevens, SEN Service Manager, RBC, presented an update on changes to SEN Provision from 2014 to 2016 that were required under the Children and Families Act 2014.

The report submitted by the Director of Education, Adult and Children's Services to the Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Education Committee (ACE) on 24 April 2014 outlined the strategic approach to providing education support for children with additional needs.

The report stated that the Children and Families Act required national changes which were due to start from September 2014 and would take up to three years to implement. The Department for Education had provided a grant allocation of £250,000 to support the process of transition.

The main changes to be implemented between 1 September 2014 and September 2017 were as follows:

- a) Education, health and care (EHC) plans would replace the current Statements of Special Educational Need (SEN) and offer a single integrated plan from birth to 25;
- b) Families of children and young people with an approved EHC plan would have the legal right to request their personal budget with which they could directly buy the support identified in the plan;
- c) Joint commissioning between Local Authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) would be required for services for disabled children and young people and those with SEN;
- d) The 'Local Offer' had to be published and to be accessible from 1 September 2014 so that parents knew exactly what was available including

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details of early years, schools and college provision, social care services, health services, how to access specialist support and the special and specialist school provision available;

- e) Joint assessment procedures had to be established across professional groups. This was a development issue with the expectation that professionals agreed a format for carrying out outcome focused assessments that were based on the aspirations of a family and their child.

The report submitted to ACE Committee on 7 July 2014 outlined the progress to date against each of changes detailed above and had the draft Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Action Plan attached at Appendix 1.

Attached to the report at Appendix 2 was the leaflet that had been sent to all parents who had a child with a Statement of Special Educational Needs and to all schools and preschool settings. The priority areas outlined in the report submitted to ACE on 24 April 2014 formed the basis of the SEND Action Plan and had been updated following consultation:

- Priority 1: Every child, including those with SEND in Reading should have their needs met, in Reading if possible, but the priority was to ensure that each child's needs were met.
- Priority 2: Develop provision within Reading or in partnership with our neighbouring Local Authorities which reduced reliance on the most expensive and remote options;
- Priority 3: Work with families to enable them to champion better outcomes for their children;
- Priority 4: Work with schools and other services to provide resources (this included financial) in order that all children, including those with SEND, were given the opportunity to reach their full potential. This included the development of their academic, social, emotional and communication skills.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

4. REVIEW OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN

Esther Blake, Partnership Manager, Reading Borough Council submitted an updated quarterly performance report for the 2011/14 Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). The report showed that of the 39 specific targets within the CYPP, 36% could not be rated or updated as the data was either not available or not quantifiable. Of the remaining 64%, 20% had been RAG rated Red, 8% as Amber and 36% Green. Esther Blake explained the difficulty in obtaining timely data and felt that this should be considered when determining measurable priorities for the new CYPP.

One area of concern was the relatively high number of permanent and fixed term exclusions. Kevin McDaniel explained that the local authority did monitor this and had suggested that some schools revised their behaviour policies to reduce the use of exclusion as a sanction. As all the secondary schools in the Borough were academies, and a free school, the local authority had limited jurisdiction

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over them, but would report concerns to the Department for Education if schools were not responsive.

The primary schools had now signed up to a Fair Access Protocol which had been running successfully with the secondary schools. This meant that the schools collaborated with managed moves for students at risk of exclusion with minimal intervention from the local authority.

Gill Dunlop had been appointed to a new post of Virtual School Headteacher for the Edge of Education and her role would be to challenge schools and to champion students who had been excluded or who were on reduced timetables.

Esther Blake reported that there had been an increase in the uptake of apprenticeships, but concern was expressed about the disparity between the subjects taken and the job opportunities available and that despite the high number of finance and technical companies in the area, there were very few companies that took apprentices.

AGREED:

- (1) That Esther Blake be thanked for the collation of data for the CYPP;
- (2) That a representative from City Deal be invited to a future meeting to talk about apprenticeships in Reading and a potential link with the Children's Trust Board.

5. PRIORITIES FOR THE NEW CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN

Vicki Lawson, Interim Head of Children's Services, proposed a new model for the formulation of the CYPP data that would be based on exception reporting and so focussing on areas that were not performing in line with expected targets. She explained that the Protocol Agreement between the Children's Trust Board, the Heath & Wellbeing Board and the Local Safeguarding Children Board should enable a more effective way of working that eliminated duplication and had clarity of meeting purpose.

It was suggested that the Children's Trust Board should focus on less priorities and to select those where they could make a difference, be able to measure impact and to strategically hold other partnership bodies or the Council to account if it was felt necessary.

It was agreed that the most effective way of working up the CYPP priorities and the impact measures would be to hold a workshop on each of the three priority areas agreed at the previous meeting ('Keeping children safe', 'Having the best start in life and throughout' and 'Learning & Enjoyment') and ascertaining which were already being managed well by others, how and when results were measured and reported and what impact they had. There could then be a subsequent workshop next year for children and young people to reflect on the selected priorities and determine if the impact was tangible and felt. This would ensure that priorities would always be intuitive and forward looking and allow the

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Children's Trust Board to be a strong influencer by working collectively and collaboratively with other partners.

Concern was expressed with regard to the responsibility of members of the Children's Trust Board for the first priority, 'Keeping children safe', but it was stressed that this was an aspirational statement rather than a reflection of the obligations of the Board, which was not a legal entity. Following feedback from the voluntary sector, some changes to the wording of other priorities was also proposed to encourage children and young people to make a contribution to society and also to include the role of families in developing resilient children.

AGREED:

- (1) That a list of relevant bodies with role description be circulated;
- (2) That V Lawson submit a report outlining the proposals for the development of the CYPP.

6. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board noted agenda items for future meetings as follows:

- Development of the CYPP
- Changes to the Probation Service
- Offender Strategy
- Turnaround Families
- CAMHS review action plan
- Reading MASH
- City Deal / Apprenticeships

Date of Future meetings (4 - 6pm)

- Wednesday 22 October 2014
- Wednesday 21 January 2015
- Wednesday 1 April 2015
- Wednesday 8 July 2015

(The meeting started at 4.00pm and finished at 5.56pm).