

CHILDREN'S TRUST PARTNERSHIP BOARD - 1 APRIL 2015



Present:

Councillor Jan Gavin (Chair)	Lead Councillor for Children's Services and Families, Reading Borough Council (RBC)
Cllr Jane Stanford-Beale	Reading Borough Council
Esther Blake	Partnership Manager, RBC
Ben Cross	Development Worker, RCVYS
Peter Dawson	Interim Public Health Programme Manager, RBC
Fran Gosling-Thomas	LSCB Chair
Sasha Green	Chair of Reading Youth Cabinet
Jill Lake	Executive Member, RCVYS
Kevin McDaniel	Head of Education Services, RBC
Helen McMullen	Interim Corporate Director of Children, Education & Early Help Services, RBC
Sally Murray	Head of Children's Commissioning Support, CSCSU
Dave Phillips	Head of Prevention and Protection, RBFPS
Robin Rickard	Reading Area Commander, Thames Valley Police
Adrian Rodriguez	Reading Member of Youth Parliament
David Seward	RCVYS
Sarah Tapliss	Strategy/ Service Development Officer, RBC

Also in attendance:

Sally Poole Committee Services, RBC

Apologies:

Cllr I Ballsdon Reading Borough Council

1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2015 were confirmed as a correct record.

2. YOUTH CABINET UPDATE

Adrian Rodriguez, the new Member of Youth Parliament for Reading, reported that Reading Youth Cabinet have chosen Mental Health and Improving PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) as their two campaigns for this year. This mirrors the UK Youth Parliament mental health campaign to promote improvements in the education of mental health with a focus on increasing the knowledge and understanding of mental health and ensuring more awareness of the services that were available for young people to access.

Sasha Green, the new Chair of the Youth Cabinet, added that their focus would be on stress, anxiety and depression. She stated that their last survey on mental health had indicated that more than 50% of young people could not identify symptoms of mental health and did not know where to access services and that 75% of those surveyed would have liked to receive more information. The Youth Cabinet were intending to conduct surveys in June 2015, December 2015 and June

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2016 in order to ascertain the current situation and then to measure the effectiveness of their campaign.

In the ensuing discussion, there were suggestions of sources of help and advice as well as examples of good practice from partner and other organisations. It was proposed that these be sent direct to Adrian and Sasha via email.

AGREED:

- (1) That the work of Adrian Rodriguez, Sasha Green and the Youth Cabinet be commended;
- (2) That Esther Blake circulate the email contact details for Adrian and Sasha;
- (3) That ideas, suggestions and the details of mental health projects be sent to Adrian and Sasha to help to support this campaign.

3. CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN (CYPP) 2015-2018

Councillor Gavin explained that it had been agreed at the Board meeting of 21 January 2015 (Minute 3 refers) that a small working group be appointed to work on the key tasks and areas of concern under each priority of the CYPP and a copy of the completed Plan had been circulated with the agenda. She reminded partners that the CYPP needed to represent the shared vision of how to make progress on the priorities for children and young people in Reading and also the shared commitment of the members of the Children's Trust Board to deliver on these priorities and with a joint accountability so that partners could be held to account if necessary. This accountability meant that the priorities all needed to be measurable so that it was evident from the reported outcomes that these activities were making a difference and that progress was being made.

Partners were asked to populate the section on pages 6 and 7 of the CYPP with relevant links to policies, strategies or action plans from their own organisations and to add examples of current activity under each of the priorities on pages 8 to 11, so that the document reflected the partnership nature of the CYPP.

AGREED:

- (1) That the Working Group be thanked for their work thus far on the CYPP;
- (2) That Esther Blake make amendments to the CYPP, as discussed;
- (3) That partners add references and links to any relevant policies, strategies or action plans from their organisations and examples of relevant current activities, within two weeks, if possible.

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4. STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Helen McMullen, Interim Corporate Director of Children, Education and Early Help Services, RBC, explained that Children's Trust Boards could only be effective if partners were held accountable for their work in relation to priorities in the CYPP. Therefore the role of the Children's Trust Board was to receive and acknowledge reports of work carried out by partners and to provide professional challenge and support as well as recognition and praise. This was not just information sharing but the opportunity to provide a clear picture of how the partners were working together, to increase the knowledge of the work of other agencies within the same priorities and to be able to demonstrate outcomes and impact.

It was agreed that future meetings of the Children's Trust Board should focus on a specific priority from the CYPP. A lead agency would be nominated for each meeting and a key line of enquiry or questions would be identified to ensure a focus on specific outcomes that demonstrated what difference had been made against the priorities and in narrowing the gaps in Reading. The Youth Cabinet's contribution would be to prepare a response from young people as to the effectiveness of the services being offered within the priority identified for the meeting.

The themes for the next three meetings were agreed as follows:

Meeting date	Theme	Lead
8 July 2015	Mental health and wellbeing	Sally Murray (with Andy Fitton, RBC)
14 Oct 2015	Learning and Employment (including SEND and NEETs)	tbc
20 Jan 2016	Children Going Missing (including prevention, CSE and early help)	tbc

However, it was agreed that it was also important to ensure that there was no duplication of the work already being carried out by other partner organisations as it was not the intention to increase the workload by introducing unnecessary reporting. A report template would be circulated to ensure that the preparation of the report was not too onerous and that the meetings were focused on what each partner or agency had achieved and were not just reporting on strategies.

AGREED:

- (1) That Esther Blake circulate a report template;
- (2) That future meetings be themed to focus on progress made against the priorities in the CYPP.

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5. INFORMATION ITEMS

It was agreed that there was value in circulating information items to widen the understanding of all partners, but that there would not be time within future meetings for detailed discussion or presentations on these items.

AGREED: That information items be circulated as required.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Sarah Tapliss, Strategy/Service Development Officer, informed the Board that the Domestic Abuse Strategy had been published for consultation.

7. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board noted possible agenda items for future meetings as follows:

- Changes to the Probation Service
- Offender Strategy
- Review of local CAMHS services
- Reading Services Guide
- City Deal update

Dates of Future meetings (4 - 6pm)

- Wednesday 8 July 2015 - Conwy Room, Avenue Centre
- Wednesday 14 October 2015 - Avenue Room, Avenue Centre
- Wednesday 20 January 2016 - Avenue Room, Avenue Centre
- Wednesday 13 April 2016 - venue tbc
- Wednesday 13 July 2016 - venue tbc
- Wednesday 12 October 2016 - venue tbc

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