

## CHILDREN'S TRUST PARTNERSHIP BOARD - 8 JULY 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
Sasha Green	Chair of Reading Youth Cabinet
Jill Lake	Executive Member, RCVYS
Kevin McDaniel	Head of Education Services, RBC
Sally Murray	Head of Children's Commissioning Support, CSCSU
Robin Rickard	Reading Area Commander, Thames Valley Police
David Seward	RCVYS

**Also in attendance:**

Nigel Denning	Service Manager for Partnerships and Edge of Care, RBC
Andy Fitton	Early Help Service Manager
Sally Poole	Committee Services, RBC

**Apologies:**

Cllr I Ballsdon	Reading Borough Council
Sylvia Chew	Director of Children, Education and Early Help Services
Raj Bharkhada	Interim Head of Children's Services

**1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and the following updates were discussed:

Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP)

Further to Minute 3, partners were asked to notify Esther Blake once the CYPP had been signed off by their own partnership boards/governing bodies.

Strengthening Partnership Working

Further to Minute 4, the lead officers for the workshops for the following two meetings were confirmed, as detailed below. It was agreed that each session should have clear links to the Children's Trust Board's priorities to ensure that the sessions were appropriately focussed and challenging.

Meeting date	Theme	Lead
14 Oct 2015	Learning and Employment (including SEND, NEETs and City Deal)	Kevin McDaniel
20 Jan 2016	Children Going Missing (including	Head of Children's Social

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	prevention, CSE and early help)	Care (tbc)
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### 2. YOUTH CABINET UPDATE

Sasha Green, Chair of the Youth Cabinet, reported that they were currently compiling responses from their PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) survey and that they would use the results to plan their work for the next year and report back to the next meeting. She added that they would be grateful for ideas and suggestions to help with the mental health project.

The Youth Cabinet had been invited to give a presentation to the Health & Wellbeing Board on their campaigns for this year.

#### AGREED:

- (1) That the work of the Youth Cabinet be commended;
- (2) That ideas, suggestions and the details of mental health projects be sent to Sasha to help to support this campaign.

### 3. EDUCATION STRATEGY PROPOSAL

Kevin McDaniel, Head of Education Services, RBC, presented the draft strategy, 'Reading First: Ambition, achievement and aspiration'. He explained that the purpose of this strategy was to raise educational standards, especially in primary schools, and to narrow the gap between the level of achievement in different schools.

He stated that their aim was that by 2018 every child in Reading would attend a school that was good or better and that for every group, children's achievement and progress would be in the top 25% of the country.

However, it was not possible for the Local Authority to achieve this in isolation. They could drive and support the strategy, but required schools to work together to become more effective. He added that the Strategy had support from secondary headteachers as they benefited from improved results at primary level and they were also, as academies, encouraged to collaborate. In addition, part of the strategy was to develop capacity and this would include support to enable governors to challenge their schools.

The Strategy Implementation Plan outlined the over-arching processes for operational delivery of the outcomes set out in the Strategy and these would be driven by the following groups/meetings:

- Reading First Partnership Board;
- School Monitoring Group;
- Targeted Task Clusters;

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- School Task Clusters.

Kevin explained that this was a 3-year programme that would start in Autumn 2015 and that it would be important to maintain an accelerated level of change to ensure that the ambitions were realised.

### AGREED:

- (1) That the Reading First Strategy be noted;
- (2) That partners contributed to the consultation, as appropriate.

## 4. TROUBLED FAMILIES ACTION/OUTCOME PLAN

Nigel Denning, Service Manager, RBC presented a copy of the Reading Troubled Families Programme Outcome Plan and an analysis report of Phase 1. He explained that they had achieved a 93% success rate in Phase 1 of the Troubled Families Programme and so had secured the funding to proceed to Phase 2.

In Phase 2 the target number of families to have been supported in Reading by 2020 was 1220, with an initial target to have successfully supported at least 207 families in 2015/16. To be eligible for the expanded programme, families had to meet at least two of the six criteria (set by Government) as follows:

- a) Families involved in anti-social behaviour and crime;
- b) Children who had not been attending school regularly;
- c) Children who needed help;
- d) Adults out of work or at risk of financial exclusion and young people at high risk of worklessness;
- e) Families affected by domestic violence and abuse;
- f) Parents and children with a range of health problems.

Nigel Denning explained that the Outcome Plan provided details of referral indicators, outcome measures and sources of information as success against the criteria had to be measurable in order to prove that the programme had been effective and had to be achieved by all members of the family.

The payment for success was approximately £800 per family and this money would be put into a Troubled Family Fund which would be used innovatively to help families in Reading.

**AGREED:** That Nigel Denning and Kirsty Mooney be thanked for their work in ensuring the success of the Troubled Families Programme thus far.

## 5. LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (LSP) PRIORITIES

Andy Fitton, Early Help Service Manager, RBC, reported on the Local Strategic Partnership workshop that had taken place on 4 June 2015, which had involved 30 senior leaders from public, private and voluntary sectors. The purpose of the

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workshop had been to review the range of issues facing Reading and to agree the strategic priorities for partnership working over the next 18-24 months.

The strategic priorities agreed were:

- a) Information sharing to enable joined-up frontline action;
- b) Pathways to employment for young people, care leavers and other vulnerable groups;
- c) Female Genital Mutilation - actions to minimise numbers subjected to FGM.

It was noted that the accountability for the prevention of FGM was with the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) but that they had a strategic role, so that the responsibility for protection, education and action was required at a partnership level but with a single action plan to prevent duplication.

It was also agreed that the Council and the health service, as large local employers, should be taking a lead on developing pathways to employment by offering work experience and apprenticeships.

### 6. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board noted agenda items for the next meeting as follows:

- Transition between Youth Offending Service and the Probation Service (Nigel Denning)
- City Deal update - to be included in the workshop session

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

- Offender Strategy - an update of the Barnados project and other relevant projects (Andy Fitton)
- Reading Services Guide (Kevin McDaniel to ask officers to produce a report)
- Nursery Provision - sufficiency review (Kevin McDaniel)
- Impact of Welfare Reforms

**AGREED:** That suggestions for the next sequence of meetings be sent to Esther Blake.

### 7. WORKSHOP - TRANSFORMING EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN READING

Sally Murray, Head of Children's Commissioning, NHS Berkshire West CCGs and Andy Fitton presented an overview of the report - 'Future in Mind - promoting, protecting and improving our children and young people's mental health and wellbeing' that had been published in March 2015 by the Government's Children and Young People's Mental Health Taskforce.

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Future in Mind provided a broad set of recommendations that, if implemented, would facilitate greater access and standards for Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and promote positive mental health and wellbeing for children and young people. There would also be greater system co-ordination and a significant improvement in meeting the needs of children and young people from vulnerable backgrounds.

The workshop would discuss the basis of a local Transformation Plan, which would also release additional Government funding, and develop a joint approach to meet the local challenge of increased expectation, rising demand and a system that families found hard to access. The Plan would also look at ways to promote resilience and strength based approaches (such as supporting families) and develop and expand the workforce so that everyone in contact with the children and young people (including teachers and the voluntary sector) were able to take responsibility for providing help and support.

A summary was also given of the responses to the emotional health and wellbeing questionnaire that had been circulated by the Youth Cabinet. There had been 25 responses from a range of organisations and there had been no overriding theme in respect of the type of mental health problems presented. However, it had become apparent that not many organisations were able to demonstrate that their service made a difference as they did not have measurable outcomes. It was agreed that excellent partnership working could only be achieved if everyone had consistent and measurable outcomes.

**AGREED:** That Sally Murray and Andy Fitton compile a summary of the outcomes from the individual working groups.

### 8. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- 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

All 4 - 6pm

## CHILDREN'S TRUST PARTNERSHIP BOARD - 14 OCTOBER 2015



### Present:

Councillor Jan Gavin (Chair)	Lead Councillor for Children's Services and Families, Reading Borough Council (RBC)
Sylvia Chew	Director of Children, Education and Early Help Services
Esther Blake	Partnership Manager, RBC
Penny Cooper	Head of Children and Families, BHFT
Ben Cross	Development Worker, RCVYS
Peter Dawson	Interim Public Health Programme Manager, RBC
Stan Gilmour	Reading Area Commander, Thames Valley Police
Jill Lake	Executive Member, RCVYS
Kevin McDaniel	Head of Education Services, RBC
Tom Woolmer	Participation Co-ordinator, RBC

### Also in attendance:

Sally Poole	Committee Services, RBC
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### Apologies:

Cllr I Ballsdon	Reading Borough Council
Cllr T Jones	Lead Councillor for Education and Schools, RBC
Sasha Green	Chair of Reading Youth Cabinet
Andy Fitton	Early Help Service Manager
Jonathan Hill-Brown	Children's Commissioning Lead, RBC
Fran Gosling-Thomas	LSCB Chair
Theresa Shortland	Head of Early Years, RBC

## 1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and further to Minute 7, Workshop on Transforming Emotional Health and Wellbeing Services for Children and Young People in Reading, a copy of the Update Status report on Comprehensive CAMHs was tabled. This was a joint report from Gabrielle Alford, Director of Joint Commissioning, Berkshire West CCGs and Andy Fitton, Acting Head of Early Help and Family Intervention, RBC to the Health and Wellbeing Board that provided an update on service development and improvement across the comprehensive CAMHs system.

It was also noted that Peter Dawson and Stan Gilmour had both been present at the last meeting, but that their attendance had not been recorded.

## 2. YOUTH CABINET UPDATE

In the absence of members of the Youth Cabinet, Tom Woolmer reported that they were currently reviewing the Mental Health Treaties that some schools had signed up to and were also producing exemplar PSHE lesson plans that they intended to present to schools.

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The Youth Cabinet annual event was scheduled for Thursday 26 November and would include 100 young people from schools across Reading. Children's Trust Board Partners were invited to attend, even if only for part of the day.

The election campaign for new Youth Cabinet members had commenced with information sent to schools to encourage young people to stand. It was suggested that the Council's Communication Team could also help promote this by issuing a Press Release.

Tom also reported on the Young Inspectors Project in which young people would carry out inspections of service areas and provide a view of the service from a young person's perspective. It was agreed that this would provide useful feedback for the services and could include other partners, such as health.

Young people in Reading would also be taking part in the Take Over Challenge on Friday 20 November 2015. This Challenge was an extension to Take Over Days as it was designed to encourage further engagement beyond one day.

### AGREED:

- (1) That the work of the Youth Cabinet be commended;
- (2) That the results of Young Inspections be reported to the next meeting.

### 3. READING SERVICES GUIDE

Kevin McDaniel, Head of Education Services, RBC, presented the Reading Services Guide. He explained that this had been launched in 2014 and provided information about a wide range of services in Reading under the following categories:

- Adult and Carers Support Services;
- Family Information Services;
- Reading Youth;
- NHS Choices
- Local Offer for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND);
- Community Directory and Venues.

The details about each service were provided and updated by the service providers, with the Council just hosting the database on their website. A statistical analysis of web hits showed a steady increase in use and a survey of services users showed a high level of satisfaction.

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He explained that they were currently running a pilot for school SENCOs to use the information under the SEND offer for pupil's Individual Education Plans.

The Board were asked for ideas as to other categories for inclusion and how the Reading Services Guide could be developed further. It was agreed that it was important that Council staff were aware of the Guide, especially social workers and staff in Children's Centres.

It was suggested that it would be useful to be able to search for local services so that people could find out what was in their neighbourhood and also to survey service providers to find out if inclusion in the Guide was effective and worthwhile.

**AGREED:** That a recommendation be made that information about the Reading Services Guide be included in induction for new staff.

### 4. CHILDCARE SERVICES

Kevin McDaniel outlined the offer for nursery provision for 2 year olds and tabled a flowchart that helped parents ascertain if their child was eligible for 15 hours a week of free early years education.

He explained that the Council had received a letter from the DfE to commend them on achieving an uptake from 65% of eligible families (which equated to 540 families). This compared to a national average of 63%, a South East average of 64% and a statistical neighbour average of 60%.

He also explained that this was a good increase from the previous year and that all eligible families that had requested places now had them and that the other 35% of families were either not aware that they were eligible or did not want to take up the offer. Staff at Children's Centres were working to contact these families to ascertain that they were aware of their eligibility.

The Council had created an additional 474 places for 2-year olds over the previous two years in early care settings, but it had not been possible to have these equally spread across the Borough due to the capacity of existing buildings.

Kevin stressed that there were also challenges for existing settings as the funding for 2-year olds was lower than that received for 3 and 4-year olds and the staff ratio requirement was higher for 2-year olds. The Council were currently reviewing the funding for 3 and 4-year olds as this came through the Schools Funding Formula, but the 2-year old funding came directly from the Government. There were further concerns about the financial viability of childcare settings if they had to provide a 30 hour offer if the hourly rate was not increased.

There had not yet been any guidance from the DfE with regard to the expectations for the 30 hour offer, which was due to be introduced from September 2017, and so it was not known whether there would be any additional funding or capital allocation, which would be required to increase the size of settings that were already at full capacity.



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Kevin also tabled a flow chart that outlined the process for the 2-year old integrated health check. He explained that there was a new duty to complete health checks for 2-year olds that had been introduced in September 2015. This had been welcomed as it gave an earlier opportunity for health and safeguarding issues to be picked up and referrals made as required.

Penny Cooper added that the uptake was around 70% and that her staff were adopting a flexible approach to accommodate the availability of parents, which included home visits and evening appointments.

**AGREED:** That the position be noted.

### 5. EMPLOYMENT AND LEARNING

Councillor Gavin introduced the Employment and Learning workshop by explaining that although the responsibility for education sat with the Council, the purpose of adding this as a priority to the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) was to enable members of the Children's Trust Board to contribute or to challenge performance.

Kevin McDaniel set out the background information for the discussion by giving a presentation on Education Performance in Reading. The main points were as follows:

- There had been a steady improvement in KS1 results, with reading and maths above the national average;
- The KS2 results were also improving with 57% (20 schools) achieving above the national average in 2015;
- The KS4 (GCSE) results were still to be verified from the academies, but were estimated at 59% achieving 5 or more GCSEs at A\*-C (including English and maths), which was lower than that achieved in 2014;
- There had been a 30% reduction in the number of fixed term exclusions between 2013/14 and 2014/15 which was attributed to challenging schools to use early intervention;
- There had been 13 students permanently excluded from academies in 2014/15 and half of these were from out of Borough schools;
- An Ofsted rating of Good or Outstanding had been achieved by 77.8% of all settings (including nurseries and special schools) against a national average of 82%. The figure excluding academies was 85%;
- Progress for students eligible for Pupil Premium had improved but not at a higher rate than other students and so the gap between non-deprived and deprived children had increased and was wider than the gap for deprived children nationally;

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- Although the statutory school age was still 5-16, there was now a requirement for young people to be in Education or Employment with Training up to the age of 18. Although there were no legal consequences for those who were not participating, the Council were judged on the Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) figures;
- The NEET figures had been 8.1% in 2014 and the goals were 5% for 2015/16 and 2.5% for 2016/17. The figures did fluctuate as 16 year olds dropped out of courses over the year. Project Elevate through City Deal were working to achieve these targets through improved co-operation with schools and increased opportunities with employers;
- There was now a requirement for 16 and 17 year olds without qualifications in English and maths to study these at college alongside any other courses. In the current year, this had resulted in an increase from 200 students to 1200 students now on these maths and English courses. The challenge for colleges was that they would not get any funding for the students unless they also completed their maths and English courses and some students were reluctant to do these.

The three questions for consideration by the Board were as follows:

**Q1** - There are key groups, especially those with Black heritage, living in poverty or with additional needs, that do less well than the rest of our community...

- How can we contribute beyond differentiated teaching in the class room?
- What specifically can you offer to help?

**Q2** - There are more young people aged 16+ in Reading who do not access Education, Employment or Training than anywhere else in the south-east...

- How can we support the reduction in this?
- What specifically can you offer to help (have you thought about Apprenticeships and Traineeships?)

**Q3** - There is a stubborn level of 'persistent absence' from schools in various communities across Reading...

- How can we contribute beyond the statutory legal processes?
- What specifically can you offer to help?

As there was insufficient time to discuss these questions at the meeting, it was proposed that partners email Kevin McDaniel and Esther Blake with their comments and responses. It was also suggested that it would be useful to do more research to ascertain specific reasons why individual young people in Reading were NEET and the reasons students cited for not attending school.

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### AGREED:

- (1) That responses to the questions be submitted to Kevin McDaniel and Esther Blake;
- (2) That research be conducted to ascertain further information with regard to specific NEET young people and persistent absentees from schools;
- (3) That a summary report be submitted to the next meeting in January 2016.

### 6. LSCB ANNUAL REPORT

Due to insufficient time at the meeting, the report would be circulated by email.

### 7. SAFEGUARDING THRESHOLDS AND REFERRAL PATHWAYS WORKSHOP

Councillor Gavin reported that a series of training sessions were being held on safeguarding thresholds and referral pathways, especially to the Early Help Service.

### 8. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board noted agenda items for the next meeting as follows:

- Keeping Children Safe - workshop session

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

- Transition between Youth Offending Service and the Probation Service (Nigel Denning)
- Supporting families with an adult in prison - an update of the Barnados project and other relevant projects (Andy Fitton)
- Impact of Welfare Reforms

### 9. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- 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

All 4 - 6pm

The meeting closed at 6pm.