

CHILDREN'S TRUST PARTNERSHIP BOARD - 20th January 2016



Present:

Cllr Jan Gavin	JG	Chair and Lead Councillor for Children's Services and Families, Reading Borough Council (RBC)
Becky Tyler	BT	CSE Coordinator, RBC
Esther Blake	EB	Partnership Manager, RBC
Fran Gosling-Thomas	FGT	LSCB Chair
Andy Fitton	AF	Head of Service, Early Help and Family Intervention, RBC
Ben Cross	BC	Development Worker, RCVYS
David Seward	DS	Berkshire Youth and RCVYS Representative
Austin McNamara	AMc	Interim Head of Education Services, RBC
Peter Dawson	PD	Interim Public Health Programme Manager, RBC
Jill Lake	JL	Executive Member, RCVYS
Sally Murray	AM	Head of Children's Commissioning Support, CSCSU
Dave Phillips	DP	Head of Prevention and Protection, RBFRS
Carrie-Anne Beach	CAB	Barnardo's
Ginny Garnett	GG	Head of Children and Families, BHFT
Grace Chebe	GC	CSE Worker, Barnardo's
Lesley McDonald	LMc	MENCAP
Cllr Jane Stanford-Beale	JSB	Reading Borough Council
Mariam Mackie	MM	
Anne-Marie Pearce	AMP	
Mike Edwards	ME	ABC to Read

Also in attendance:

Donna Gray	DG	Minute Taker
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Apologies:

Cllr Isobel Ballsdon	Reading Borough Council
Hannah Powell	
Tom Woolmer	Participation Co-ordinator, RBC

1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting on 14th October 2015 were confirmed as a correct record.

Reading Services Guide - JG advised that the Reading Services Guide will be in the induction for all new staff. JG requested agreement for this to be a standard practice for all agencies and advised that there is a wealth of information available for agencies to signpost families to.

JG is in discussion to make the services guide more user friendly. JL asked if the service guide could be looked at geographically and colour coded by area. JG confirmed that this will be included in her discussion with the web manager at RBC.

Employment and Learning - There has been a limited response from partners. AMc is now in post as Interim Head of Education and the substantive post holder will be at the next meeting.

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The agreed actions have not been progressed and a report will come back to a future meeting focusing on the NEET situation in Reading. AMc advised that it is expected that Reading will reach the 5% target as in November and December 2015 it was below 5%. The future target is more ambitious and set at 2.5%, which will include looking at those children with the highest need.

The final figure of NEET will be available on 1st Feb 2016. AMc will to pass figures on to PD once known. BC asked if the figure includes the unknown NEET. AMc advised that there is a separate target for these NEET which is 3.5% and this target is also likely to be met.

ACTION:

- AMc will to pass NEET figures on to PD once known.

2. YOUTH CABINET UPDATE

The youth cabinet have completed a survey with a little over 2000 responses; Tom Woolmer is pulling information together. JG requested that the survey comes to the next meeting for review. It was agreed for the survey report to be shared with members when it is available. FGT requested the survey report be shared with the LSCB.

ACTION:

- Youth Cabinet Survey to be sent out to Board Members once available - AF to follow up with Tom Woolmer.
- Youth Cabinet Survey to come to the next meeting for further discussion.
- Youth Cabinet Survey to be shared with Reading LSCB.

3. SUPPORTING FAMILIES WITH AN ADULT IN PRISON - AN UPDATE OF THE BARNADOS PROJECT AND OTHER RELEVANT PROJECTS

Supporting families with an adult in Prison project commenced in April 2015. Leaflets regarding the project were distributed to members. CAB advised that most referrals have come from education; mainly primary schools and at this time they have worked with around 11 families. Referrals have been low and families are not coming forward. CAB advised that the work takes place in Schools and they complete a life mapping process including work around regulating feelings. CAB advised that they work with young people for 8 weeks but it can go on for longer. Parents often take up the offer once the child has built up trust. Some schools have wanted to undertake this work on their own so they have been passed on information for them to do this.

Outcomes include - improved attendance, engagement with social workers (when they have not previously been trusted), 1 child chosen as a school councillor, provision of emotional support for parents, allowing the child to have a voice to say how they are feeling; the child is often forgotten and their feelings are often overlooked.

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PD asked if there was a report available to include in the JSNA. CAB advised she has some case studies available. Andy Fitton asked how many families that are affected by this; CAB advised that it is not known at the moment.

FGT asked for the project details so the LSCB can communicate this service via the LSCB website and newsletter etc.

CAB advised the project is a solution focused based life mapping process, not counselling. This project works with the family left in the community not in those in prison. There is no timeline that the work will go on for, every case is different.

JG asked if this service part of a triage process, does early help know about and refer in to the service. AF advised they would like to involve them in the process. AF and CAB have had discussions about bringing the service into the pathway. Andy advised that families don't readily say when someone has gone into prison and when Reading had a prison it was easier to access these families.

JG challenged AMc on how we could know through the education system who the families are and if school safeguarding officers are aware of the service. AMc advised it needs to be explored in more detail; Schools rely on families to provide information. Something more formalised would need to be set up so that it is initialised when sentencing takes place.

Designated Officers in Schools need to work with agencies via the LSCB as a key partner as there are other issues that schools need to look at such as CSE, FGM and this service. AF and AMc to look at how education can be involved in the Barnardo's and other available services outside of the meeting. This service could be part of the early help offer.

U Turn Service - This is a CSE Service offered by Barnardo's that started in July 2015. Referrals are being received and Barnardo's are working well with the young people who have been referred. Barnardo's have undertaken a workshop in John Madejski Academy and have realised this is a much needed service within Reading.

BT is looking in to preventative work in Reading. More schools have contacted Barnardo's who have asked for more workshops. Barnardo's liaise with Police and Social Care and families but more specifically with the young people; looking at a more holistic approach. There is good communication with School Nurses. CSE Champions from all agencies and teams meet monthly and 2 schools nurses sit on this group. The designated leads in schools do want to be more involved. Professionals now understand what CSE is.

The Barnardo's Project current caseload is 18-20 young people. Keep Safe work is undertaken with those at risk but they are also picking up higher risk cases that have been discussed at SEMRAC.

FGT advised that the service in Buckinghamshire is further ahead and asked if there are links between the different areas as there may be common areas that we can draw lessons from. CAB explained that Reading is a spoke from the Hampshire hub, but information is shared.

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SM asked how young people requiring specialist counselling are referred. BT explained that there are close links with No.5 and Trust House.

ACTION:

- AF and AMc to look at how education can be involved in the Barnardo's and other available services outside of the meeting.

4. RBC UPDATE ON CHILDREN'S SERVICES

AF provided an update on children's services and advised that a lot of work has been done about what is important in children's services. LEAP Vision is what is trying to be achieved with children and young people across Children's Social Care, Education and Early Help. Andy presented the new Children's Social Care Structure Charts that will be sent out with the minutes of today's meeting. Helen McMullen is returning as Interim Director of Children, Education and Early Help Services as of 1st February 2016.

Children's Service Delivery Model - AF advised that they are currently getting feedback from staff and think about how they supported in doing their work. There needs to be sustained improvement. A consultation is expected soon; an overview will be shared with partners and there will be 2 phases the consultation.

It was noted with concern that disabled children's team has moved in terms of management. AF advised that they are in the progress of transferring the disability team back into children's social care. Service will stay the same (0-25) but the line management will change. It is a management decision about how the council structures itself. There will be no difference to the service received.

FGT is aware that there is still some fragility in the frontline in relation to agency staff, caseload size and feels it is important that as a Children's Trust Board we acknowledge the direction of travel but acknowledge that we are still at the beginning of the journey of making it right for every child's journey.

JG advised that the administration thanks partner agencies for their support over the last few months and it is felt that considerable progress is being made and this needs to be sustained and continue.

ACTION:

- DG to send out the Structure Chart and 10 Key Messages with the minutes of today's meeting.

5. WORKSHOP

Refresh of the Early Help Strategy and its impact on Keeping Children Safe

AF explained purpose of the workshop and reminded attendees of the high level priorities in the out-going Early Help Strategy 2013-2016 which are still relevant today.

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Group was split into three groups to discuss two key themes:

- Delivery
 - Identify and respond
 - Successful and sustained transition and change
- Partnership
 - Plan and share
 - Communication and understanding

AF offered a second discussion as there just wasn't enough time to thoroughly explore the issues today.

Highlight feedback from the three groups:

Group 1:

- Opportunities for universal services - health provides a key identification of need (Midwifery and HV)
- Create culture for people to be able to ask for help without the fear of consequences (social care intervention) need open and transparent conversation with families
- Encouragement to explore community based approaches to support - is there a model we can use

Group 2:

- Getting front line workers together in a multi-agency context regularly. Networking between groups is vital.
- Link with adult services is key, particularly around mental health
- Effective information sharing

Group 3:

- Information sharing and working together and linking with families
- Thresholds document helping staff to refer appropriately - how do we ensure new staff are aware
- Communication and training - market place sessions
- Getting to the families who need help but don't want to accept it (especially from statutory partners)

Need more opportunities to have these discussions over the next couple of months - what are the key things we need to do to make the most difference. And ensure it is multi-agency as it isn't just an RBC responsibility.

JG asked that if partners would like to host a session that would be most welcome, and consider how partners can contribute.

FGT asked if the Children's Trust should own this document and whether this is the lead partnership. If so it should be badged as such.

Future items:

Invite HoS (Catherine P) to April to present short report in terms of journey of Children's social care.

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CYPP - review of 'what we will do in the first year of the CYPP'. All partners to review what they said - add columns to table - what progress have you made against activity, what has been the impact of the activity, does this action need to remain for another year or should it be changed? Opportunities to celebrate success and challenges.

ACTION:

- EB will send out template for completion.

6. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- Wednesday 13 April 2016 - Conwy Room, Avenue Centre
- Wednesday 13 July 2016 - Conwy Room, Avenue Centre
- Wednesday 12 October 2016 - Venue TBC

All 4 - 6pm