

CHILDREN'S TRUST PARTNERSHIP BOARD - 13th April 2016



Present:

Cllr Jan Gavin	JG	Chair and Lead Councillor for Children's Services and Families, Reading Borough Council (RBC)
Helen McMullen	HMc	Director of Children, Education and Early Help Services
Gerry Crawford	GC	Regional Director, BHFT
Gary Campbell	GCa	Interim Service Manager for Reviewing and Quality Assurance
Catherine Parry	CP	Interim Head of Children's Safeguarding
Stan Gilmour	ST	Local Area Commander, Thames Valley Police
Tom Woolmer	TW	Participation Co-ordinator, RBC
Andy Fitton	AF	Head of Service, Early Help and Family Intervention, RBC
Ben Cross	BC	Development Worker, RCVYS
Nikki Bennett	NB	Interim LSCB Development Manager
Dave Seward	DS	Berkshire Youth and RCVYS Representative
Peter Dawson	PD	Interim Public Health Programme Manager, RBC
Jill Lake	GL	Executive Member, RCVYS
Sally Murray	SM	Head of Children's Commissioning Support, CSCSU
Richard Blackmore	RB	Head of Education Services, RBC
Esther Blake	EB	Partnership Manager, RBC

Also in attendance:

Donna Gray	DG	Minute Taker
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Apologies:

Fran Gosling-Thomas	FGT	LSCB Chair
Members of the Youth Cabinet		
Hannah Powell	HP	Senior Probation Officer, Thames Valley CRC
Cllr Jane Stanford-Beale	JSB	Reading Borough Council
Cllr Isobel Ballsdon	IB	Reading Borough Council

1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting on 20th January 2016 were confirmed as a correct record.

Election Survey Results - TW will send to the Children's Trust Board Members.

AF will follow up the Barnardo's presentation with Richard Blackmore. JG asked for this to be added to the agenda of next meeting for update. AF will facilitate discussions between meetings.

The Structure Charts presented by AF were sent with an updated chart to be sent in due course. Significant changes will be in those roles under Service Manager level when the recent consultation is implemented.

2. YOUTH CABINET UPDATE

Members of the Youth Cabinet were unable to attend today's meeting. JG requested the item be deferred as a substantive item at the next meeting. It will be agreed at a later date what the Youth Cabinet will discuss.

TW presented an audio recording from the Youth Cabinet (recorded at the most recent Youth Cabinet meeting) about their focus for the next year.

Campaigns

Mental Health - The Youth Cabinet want to create a database of available services and for it to be tailored for Young People. They want to assess provisions for Young People in Reading to further identify local issues.

There have been issues regarding waiting lists for CAMHS services and the Youth Cabinet want to ensure that Young People have timely appointments and treatment when needed.

Anti-Discrimination - The Youth Cabinet want to tackle this campaign through awareness and education. They are going to develop a social media package to help Young People. The Youth Cabinet are creating an Instagram page to show Young People what racism is and how to tackle it. A You Tube channel will also be developed. The Youth Cabinet consider a good outcome to be getting get 1000 followers via social media.

Self Expression - The Youth Cabinet's aim is to raise awareness regarding the LGBT community and they want promote services that help them. A Survey is being sent to schools and using the results from this the Youth Cabinet will create a webpage.

JG advised that in relation to the anti-discrimination campaign it would be useful for the Youth Cabinet to link in with ACRE and the work that they are doing in Reading. AF will facilitate introductions.

SM forwarded to TW a link to the Mental Health directory which provides links to the LA Services Guide.

BC was interested to find out how the Youth Cabinet reached the decision to include LGBT and asked if Young People consider this to be an issue. TW advised that the current group of Young People feel that discrimination is a big issue.

Action:

- AF to facilitate introduction between the Youth Cabinet and ACRE
- Any other requests for information or questions regarding the Youth Cabinet Campaigns are to be sent to TW via email.

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- TW will request further developed action plan from the Youth Cabinet in order for them to challenge the Trust around how we can help them to fulfil their campaigns.

SG has commissioned a piece of work to organise mediation about issues that come to Police attention; work to scope this is underway and SG will link in with TW. Peer Court has been rolled out in Hampshire and this option would be able to provide support and guidance in order for Young People to resolve these issues themselves.

HMc challenged how Young People are treated when trying to access health services as sometimes discrimination can become humiliation.

GC advised that the Locality Children's Service in BHFT will be transferring to Windsor and Maidenhead by the end of May this will result in their being new members for this Board and the LSCB. GC advised that this conversation could be progressed further then.

3. CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE UPDATE

CP advised that she has re-secured the Governance Framework in relation to performance, quality assurance, audit and safeness in terms of cases.

Social Care is in a better place staffing wise with more SWs being recruited.

The new service delivery model is being launched. There will be 3 streams:

1. LAC and Court Work
2. CIN and CP
3. Front end MASH and A&A.

The new structure will increase Team Manager capacity and reduce the ATM role. There will be smaller teams with a reduction in caseloads for workers.

Since January 2016 resignations in Social Care have ceased. Workers have agreed that the new model is safe.

The challenge moving forward is for there to be an increase in the permanent workforce by September.

Capacity in MASH has increased by over 100% and referrals have also increased by 100% since last year. There will be a more flexible approach in MASH and they will begin to have consultation conversations with workers to offer advice on referrals.

Under the new model A&A will have 12 additional workers.

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SM asked where the disable children team will be within the structure. CP advised that this team are located within AF's service area. Work is underway reviewing the capacity in that team.

HMc advised the new model is phase 1 and there will be more developments moving forward.

HMc is looking at a transformation programme to make sure the preventative work in early help is offered to children and young people at the right time. At the moment there is a lot of help available but there isn't a coherent package of support. There needs to be a step down support package in place for cases that move in and out of the system.

HMc stated that RBC recognises that Care Leavers placed out of the Borough have concerns about what happens to them when they leave their stable placements as the local authority in which they have been placed does not have to provide housing. HMc advised that work will take place around what these Young People need from Reading and how the process is made easier. Contracts are being reviewed for service providers and in the future service will be commissioned on outcomes.

HMc advised that the Local Authority want to make savings rather than cutting services. IMPOWER have been commissioned to undertake the Transformation Programme work taking place in the next 12-15 months.

BC ask if inappropriate referrals were a new issue in MASH. CP advised that 80% of referrals are accepted and does not see this is an issue. The MASH team have the ability to challenge and contact those who have made inappropriate referrals.

BC referred to the letter sent out to partner agencies regarding changes in MASH and expressed concern that the changes are quite significant. BC considered that there may need to be further discussions with partners around this.

CP advised that the MASH Operational Group will be looking at the referral routes into MASH.

4. WORKSHOP - YEAR 1 REVIEW OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES PLAN 2016/2018

EB explained that the first year of the Children and Young People's Plan has completed and partners had been asked to update progress against the actions included in the plan. The updated document had been circulated for review.

The Board were asked if the overarching priorities (Having the best start in life and throughout, Employment & learning, and Keeping children safe) are still relevant. SG suggested that given the savings needed to be made by all partners and the impact this will inevitably have on service delivery, a Service Transformation priority could be an area where the Children's Trust could have a

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beneficial role in ensuring the least amount of impact to service delivery through effective coordination across the partnership.

HMc confirmed the Demand Management element of the Transformation Board should pick up this work. HMc agreed to send out the project timetable and project plan to the Board, when available. JG suggested that the Children's Trust be kept up to date with this work through a six monthly report, and that the relationship between the Trust and the Transformation Board be explored further at the next Trust meeting in July. The Trust should be the mechanism for holding partners to account.

Action:

- HMc to provide Transformation Board project plan and timetable when available.
- Add Relationship between Transformation Board and Children's Trust to the next agenda.

The Board agreed that the three current priorities will remain, although suggestions to tweak the descriptors could be made through the review process.

The Board split into three groups, each focusing on one priority. Each reviewed progress in year 1 and the move towards year 2 - using the signs of safety model:

- What's worked well?
- What are you worried about?
- What are the changes/improvements that are needed? (and are these being looked at in an alternative governance arrangement?)
- What's the added value of the Children's Trust in this priority?
- What is the evidence that we need to collect to confirm progress has been made?

Following the discussion some initial feedback was given. All were clear that the actions needed to be revised to more accurately reflect how the Children's Trust partnership can enable progress in these priority areas. The Board agreed that one Board member will take a priority area and work with key colleagues to revise the actions. The results will be presented at the next meeting.

- Having the best start in life and throughout - Andy Fitton
- Employment & learning - Richard Blackmore
- Keeping children safe - Gary Campbell

Action:

- Add Update on review of the Children & Young People's Plan to the next agenda.

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5. INFORMATION ITEMS:

RBC Youth Offer Consultation -Reading Borough Council has completed a review of its range of services being offered to young people. The review has now been reported to ACE committee, March 2016, including proposals on changes that require consultation. We are now launching a public consultation. This will run from 16 March to 20 May 2016 and you are invited to respond to our proposals:
<http://www.reading.gov.uk/youthofferconsultation>

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

7. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

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

All 4 - 6pm