

# CHILDREN'S TRUST PARTNERSHIP BOARD - 13<sup>th</sup> July 2016



<b>Present</b>		
Cllr Jan Gavin	JG	Lead Member for Children's Services
Andy Fitton	AF	Head of Service, Early Help and Family Intervention, RBC
Esther Blake	EB	Partnership Manager, RBC
Gary Campbell	GC	Interim Service Manager for Reviewing and Quality Assurance
Ben Cross	BC	Development Worker, RCVYS
Tom Woolmer	TW	Participation Co-ordinator, RBC
Kirsty Anderson	KA	Income and Assessment Manager, RBC
Dan Neal	DN	Senior Schools Advisor, On behalf of Richard Blackmore
Jill Lake	JL	Executive Member, RCVYS
Sally Murray	SM	Head of Children's Commissioning, NHS Berkshire West CCGs
Deborah Crossan	DC	IMPOWER
Helen McMullen	HMc	Director of Children, Education and Early Help Services
Tom Spencer	TS	IMPOWER
Fran Gosling-Thomas	FGT	Reading LSCB Chair
Stan Gilmour	SG	Local Area Commander, Thames Valley Police
Reva Stewart	RS	Lead for Reading, BHFT
<b>Young People in attendance</b>		
Nico	Bulmershe	
Kay	St Joseph's	
Warda	Kendrick and Youth Parliament Member	
Sharon	Reading Girl's	
Kudzai	Blessed Hugh Faringdon	

### Also in attendance:

Donna Gray	DG	Minute Taker
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### Apologies:

Sue Gale	Adviza
Mandy	RBFRS
Hannah Powell	Thames Valley CRC
Gerry Crawford	Regional Director, BHFT

## 1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2016 were confirmed as a correct record.

### Action Update:

The Youth Cabinet are now in contact with ACRE.

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Presentation regarding the challenges to Social Care, written report to follow. BC asked if this can be shared yet. EB confirmed that she has a presentation that will be circulated with the minutes of today's meeting.

Satinder Gautum is the new Head of Social Care replacing Catherine Parry.

HMc provided an update on the new structure that's been agreed and confirmed that appointments have been made. HMc advised that a number of overseas workers have been recruited and inductions are in place for when they arrive. HMc advised that hopefully Social Care will be close to fully staffed by September. There has been a huge increase in CIN and cases referred to MASH and more work is taking place with the LSCB regarding the appropriateness of referrals.

### 2. YOUTH CABINET UPDATE

**Mental Health Campaign** – This is a huge issue for Children and Young People. Children and Young People feel there aren't enough accessible services and they are unsure where to go to find these services. Children and Young People don't necessarily feel comfortable going to their family GP. We need to ensure that Children and Young People in Reading know how to access services. There is a data base (Reading Services Guide) in place on how to access services and the youth cabinet are looking to improve this; they want to get in contact with professionals in the mental health sector to get more information about what their services provide.

SM is happy that Mental Health is at the forefront of the campaign. RS advised that the BHFT website has links on their intranet site and will ask colleagues if this can be accessed via the Reading Services Guide (Maryam Makki is the contact at Reading Borough Council).

SM will assist in developing the youth cabinet guide further and asked the Youth Cabinet to think about their boundaries as some Reading Children and Young People go to Wokingham, West Berks and South Oxfordshire Schools. TW will support the Youth Cabinet to ensure progress and he will be the initial point of contact.

JL advised that routes through to services need to be explained further so the customer knows what they can reasonably do to access services. GC felt it would be useful if the Youth Cabinet highlight services that are difficult to find so that we can request that those agencies widen their advertising.

BC is happy to meet and share all of the voluntary sector agencies that can support this campaign.

#### **Action:**

- Youth Cabinet to feed back what information is missing to each agency.
- Youth Cabinet to go through list to identify that all relevant contacts are listed.
- Young Inspectors reports to be shared with the CTB Members

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- RS advised that the BHFT website has links on their intranet site and will ask colleagues if this can be accessed via the Reading Services Guide (Maryam Makki is the contact at Reading Borough Council).

**LGBT Campaign** – The Youth Cabinet want to raise awareness to help young people and find services that can support them. The only place Children and Young People can find information is via Reading Pride but a lot of children aren't able to attend this. The Youth Cabinet feel that this should be discussed more in Schools and that Schools Nurses could have a list of places that LGBT Children and Young People could go to for support.

BC advised that some Schools in the Reading area that have found it difficult to address these issues and asked if there is anything we could do to support schools further.

Schools should be encouraged to talk about it more in PSHE and assemblies. A lot of Children and Young People don't necessarily understand their feelings and teachers are reluctant to talk about it as they are not knowledgeable enough on the subject.

DN asked if there is a training issue or if awareness raising needs to take place for schools. DN advised there is work they can do to make schools more aware.

JL questioned the amount of time allocated for PHSE and is there a curriculum for LGBT that can be used. DN said there are areas where this is discussed but in a classroom situation it may be difficult to have these conversations.

### **Action:**

- DN to ensure that the LGBT Campaign is on the agenda of the next meeting with Head Teachers in September (14<sup>th</sup>)

**Racial Discrimination Campaign** – This topic is taught in Schools but it needs to go further than this. The campaign is seeking to build awareness and stop discrimination.

SG had meeting with ACRE today regarding what communities and relationships with the Police will look like in 2020 and extended the offer to the Youth Cabinet to attend future meetings; SG to speak with TW about progressing this. ACRE has already been in touch with TW.

DN is not aware of what the figures for Reading are in relation to racial discrimination abuse. AF advised that it is very under reported and needs to be looked at further.

DN asked the Youth Cabinet if they had a way of reporting discrimination at school. They confirmed that there have been cases that have not been reported however others felt there weren't issues in their Schools.

BC has picked up from a number of groups that Children and Young People have found it difficult to express themselves with regards to their religion. The Youth Cabinet agreed and said it is a 'touchy' subject and don't know how to tackle it.

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DN advised that the crossing the bridge project can be used in Schools and will raise with Head Teachers so they gain more knowledge of other religions.

SG asked the Youth Cabinet how the authorities can help them if they don't feel safe coming in approaching them. The Youth Cabinet are designing a magazine and this will be sent out to all staff for sharing.

### **Action**

- Racial Discrimination reporting from Schools – Information to be obtained from Knowledge Management Team and pass on to TW and feedback to the next meeting.
- DN to raise the crossing the bridge project with Head Teachers so they gain more knowledge of other religions.
- SG to speak with TW in relation to the Youth Cabinet attending Police Meetings with ACRE.

### **3. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES PLAN**

EB presented the refreshed Children and Young Peoples Plan and advised that it requires approval. JG expressed thanks to EB for all of the work she has done to refresh the Plan. JG was disappointed that the people involved in writing the Plan were all RBC colleagues and requested that other agencies be involved moving forward as the Children's Trust is a Partnership Board.

### **Action:**

- Feedback of any amendments to the Children and Young Peoples Plan to be provided to EB via email within 1 week (20<sup>th</sup> July 2016).

### **4. IMPACT OF WELFARE REFORMS ON CHILDREN**

FGT asked if the discretionary housing benefit money is in place for a transition period. KA advised that it is transition money has been commissioned until 2020 but the funding has not been agreed after that. The policy has been reviewed in Reading and the conditions around the use of the money have been agreed.

The LSCB has a priority around reducing the impact of neglect and FGT explained that a lot of family's could be pushed over the edge by these cuts.

RS explained that further down the line the welfare reforms could have an effect on mental health and asked if there was a system in place to track this. KA advised there is a lot of evidence available to show the impact that there has been on mental health.

As a Board we are concerned that in Reading there will be more children living in poverty. This will have a huge impact on families.

### **Action:**

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- KA's Presentation will be distributed to CTB Members with the minutes of today's meeting.
- At the October meeting the impact of the reforms will be discussed further in the neglect discussions.

### **5. READING CHILDREN'S SERVICES TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME**

HMc advised that IMPOWER are looking at all systems and reviewing how RBC work with partners to clarify roles and responsibilities. HMc asked for colleagues to take away the questions and presentation to discuss with their team/agencies and provide feedback to DC and TS.

Discussions took place around Social Workers being based in school clusters and whether it would aid early intervention. HMc wants to meet with health colleagues to see how preventative work can be embedded into universal services. There is the need to identify what would be best practice.

FGT advised that as a partnership board we need to know the story behind referrals into MASH. GC advised that a referral audit is taking place internally at RBC and this will extend to a multi-agency audit once the internal work has taken place. FGT asked if there was any data to show what agencies referrals are coming from and what the figures are in relation to appropriateness.

HMc is undertaking a piece of work to establish where joint working is essential. Strategy Meetings is one area that needs focus.

FGT asked if at a strategic level there is the need for a challenge session to streamline processes collectively. JL said there needs to be consideration around finding more flexible ways of engaging colleagues.

The Voluntary Sector work with Children and Young People and they are told by colleagues that the referral process is hard and that colleagues try to avoid it.

HMc advised that the work with IMPOWER is in place so we can have an accessible service that meets demands moving forward.

SG asked how this work is linking in with Adults Services and what can be done regarding early intervention with family and adults.

There has been an increase S47 enquiries and assessments but there is also a rise in CP and LAC cases which means assessments are right. HMc said that by enlarge assessments are appropriate. There needs to be more work around domestic abuse/violence and there needs to be more Police capacity in MASH.

JG advised that Social Care need input as they need to know what people think of the service redesign. This is an opportunity for agencies to contribute. HMc explained that a

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transformation board will be setup with corporate colleagues and agency representatives invited. TW asked if Children and Young People will be involved in the process. DC advised that a service user group will be set up to feed into the process. JG felt the Youth Cabinet may have a lot to contribute and asked that conversations with them be considered.

JG thanked everyone for their contributions to today's meetings.

### **Action:**

- Send presentation with minutes for colleagues to take away the questions and presentation and discuss with their team/agencies. Feedback to be sent to: Tom Spencer and Deborah Crossan via email [dcrossan@impower.co.uk](mailto:dcrossan@impower.co.uk).

### **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The next meeting will focus on Neglect and the Ofsted Inspection Action Plan.

### **7. FUTURE ITEMS**

JG encouraged colleagues to take part in the short breaks consultation.

### **8. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

**WEDNESDAY 12 OCTOBER 2016 – AVENUE ROOM, AVENUE CENTRE – 4PM TO 6PM**