



Present		
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	GCa	Interim Service Manager for Reviewing and Quality Assurance, RBC
Kelly Swaffield	SW	Head of Transformation and Improvement, RBC
Tom Woolmer	TW	Participation and Accreditation Coordinator, RBC
Sally Murray	SM	Head of Children's Commissioning, NHS Berkshire West CCGs
Ben Cross	BC	Development Worker, RCVYS
Jill Lake	JL	Executive Member, RCVYS
Ann Marie Dodds	AMD	Head of Governance and Business Support
Helen McMullen	HMc	Director of Children, Education and Early Help Services
Dan Neale	DN	Senior Schools Advisor, On behalf of Richard Blackmore
Cllr Jane Stanford-Beale	JSB	Councillor
Young People in attendance		
Callum		Young Inspector
Natalie		Young Inspector
Business Support:		
Donna Gray	DG	Minute Taker
Apologies:		
David Seward		Berkshire Youth
Stan Gilmour		Local Area Commander, Thames Valley Police
Fran Gosling-Thomas		LSCB Chair
Sue Gale		Adviza
Gerry Crawford		Regional Director, BHFT
Kim Wilkins		Public Health
Cllr Simon Robinson		Cllr for Peppard Ward
Richard Blackmore		Head of Education
Jayne Reynolds		BHFT

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Round table introductions took place. Young Inspectors were welcomed to today's meeting.

1. YOUTH CABINET UPDATE

The aim is to help improve Mental Health and support in Schools. Callum advised that the Young Inspectors will be approaching schools and the wider workforce to see what support they offer. After the research has taken place they will report back and provide recommendations around what they have found. They will talk about attitudes to mental health and the results will be compared to identify what is working well and what needs to improve.

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The research will take place in focus groups and 1:1 interviews with teachers and there will be an anonymous online survey for students with mental health issues.

SM asked what schools will be approached: Callum will have discussion with Maiden Erleigh School in various departments. Natalie will be going to Reading Girls School and Reading College. SM asked if any other schools will be approached; Callum advised that other schools that will be looked at and other members are approaching various different schools.

SM advised that some schools will have commissioned mental health services and some won't so it will be interesting to see what the outcomes look like. Some schools have counselling services and it would be useful to see what pupils experience is of using these services.

JL requested that UTC, Maiden Erleigh and Bulmershe are included as they have a volume of Reading children attending those schools.

HMC offered to contact a HMI regional inspector to see if they can support the Young Inspectors to write up their findings up as an inspector would. HMC can facilitate discussions if this would be seen as helpful. Youth Inspectors agreed they would like this opportunity.

BC advised that at the LSCB Meeting 2 weeks ago they felt there was a lack of training in schools for special needs children and asked if this would be in the scope of the work they are undertaking. BC advised that RCVYS could support them if needed as it needs to be identified as an issue in schools.

DN asked how the online survey will be facilitated and if it would go to every school. Callum advised the Young Inspectors will speak to each school individually but they hope to send it to all schools. DN offered support to distribute the online survey into school.

JG asked what the timeframe was for completion, Callum advised as it is currently in the early stages it would be around March 2017 onwards.

EB asked if primary schools were being approached, perhaps approaching staff and teachers rather than children. Callum advised that this will be included. EB requested that the findings be presented to the LSCB as emotional health and wellbeing is one of their priorities for 2016/17.

SM is reviewing a workforce survey that was undertaken on emotional health and wellbeing to look at training needs; this might give a baseline for the work of the young inspectors.

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2. PRIORITY AREA –BEST START IN LIFE AND THROUGHOUT

Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy: AMD is reintroducing the strategy which needs to be thought about this differently due to financial constraints in Reading. The strategy will be for Reading as a whole not just and Local Authority strategy and it has to fit the needs of Reading children.

The strategy will focus on the difference we can make and the impact of early help interventions; is the right support provided at the right time? And whether there is enough learning from interventions to ensure there is sustained change.

There will be a reliance on our own networks and community to create sustainable change and ensure that everyone has access to universal services.

Demand Management – Does the whole system work? Do fewer children become LAC if services work well? This is being reviewed. There is a need to understand how we best use our community.

There was a lack of ownership with the strategy beyond RBC and it needs to be different this time, with the need to understand what partner agencies imperatives are.

RBC:

1. Ofsted Judgement – There is significant work to be done to be a good Local Authority. Some of this is partnership wide working not just RBC.
2. Savings – There needs to be a balanced budget for the next financial year in the context of rising demand. Need to secure ways to manage demand at all points of contact.
3. Partnership sharing and vision to manage demand. Need a stronger understanding of who is doing what and why.
4. Targeted resources to most in need but covering all services.
5. What is the whole offer and how does this play into the full picture.
6. Troubled Families – Need to be seen as a 'whole family' not adults and children with the need to be clear of what makes a difference for these families.

CCG – 5year forward view – National must do's:

1. Urgent and emergency health services and how they are used. Combining the out of hours services to avoid unnecessary visits to A&E.
2. Financial Constraints – Looking to work with neighbours and further to resolve this (Bucks, MK and Oxford).
3. Maternity Units – A review is currently underway.
4. Obesity and Diabetes – Particularly related to poverty and there are other conditions such as alcohol misuse that is huge in Reading.

CCG – Mental Health:

1. Expansion of services, training on the IAPT programme.
2. Eating Disorders – YP who present are seen within 1 week for urgent cases and routine cases are 4 weeks.

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3. Young People who hit crisis – Ensuring they have a package of care around them to reduce bed reliance in hospitals.
4. Improve crisis care services.
5. Perinatal Mental Health – Improving access to specialist services.
6. Transforming carer work – Using local services reducing reliance on hospital beds.
7. Increase % of population who have access to liaison services and whether there is a mental health issue involved; this is currently available for adults but not for children.
8. Suicide prevention – The suicide rate in Reading is very low but this is a big must do nationally.

RCVYS:

1. Think about doing things differently rather than doing less.
2. Collaborative working – lets genuinely work together as RCVYS can help but we all need to be open to thinking differently. There is a real willingness to do this.
3. Fair funding – this will create stable services for families. Need to explore how this is done. Keen to look about how we share information well to be able to do this.
4. Information Sharing.

RCVYS have 120 organisations under their umbrella. Finances come mainly from private trusts and they spend at least 1 million per year on supporting families. There needs to be engagement from partnerships (RBC staff and RCVYS) and open discussions about how services can be provided i.e. providing crèche facilities when a course is taking place. There is the need to think more imaginatively.

Callum advised that there is the need to target the young people to change the path of families and break the cycle. With younger people they are reluctant to seek help as they don't understand the process, there needs to be a simplified model with guidance on how to access help for young people. When people don't understand a process they are reluctant to change. Available services are not promoted well to Young People.

HMC agreed that there needs to be a clear signpost through universal services; there is some work to do to signpost to services via the universal services i.e. Health Visitors, GPs and Education and this will assist in breaking the cycle. There also needs to be better signposting to universal services so that targeted resources aren't required; cases need to be stepped forward from targeted services. Work with schools is required so that children are having their needs met via their universal services.

Recap:

Childs Journey

- Needs to be accessible and well defined – need an early help service that is part and parcel of what we do.

Strategic

- Need to get the right people through the right door at the right time.
- Need to know how to access the services and how to use whats available.

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- Need to remove the myths regarding thresholds and fully understand what's going on for the family.
- Structural alignment and how we make this happen.
- Workforce – awareness raising – knowing what services to use at what times.
- Services need to be more visible.

What happens next?

- We (partnership) need to translate what needs to happen into a document that will help people to access services that are already out there. Early help is also about ensuring continuity and stability.
- How do we get to what a service looks like and how do we do this collaboratively.
- Invite to partners to work with AFi and AMD. They will set up meetings and send invites. There is a tight deadline to get this work done. TVP will be involved in these discussions.
- DN will email heads, early years and SEN for involvement.
- BC suggested involving Elevate.

AMD advised that there will be a suite of indicators for RBC demonstrating the impact of early help. Partnerships need to work with RBC and start conversations about writing a strategy and encouraged partnership working. DN will identify an early years, primary, secondary and college representatives to meet with AFi and AMD.

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes approved.

Matters arising: None noted.

4. DRAFT POST OFSTED ACTION PLAN

DG to send out report that has gone to full council with the minutes of today's meeting

The action plan addresses the 18 recommendations from the Ofsted inspection. Reading has to demonstrate to Ofsted and the Commissioner that we can get to good in 12 months. The first Ofsted monitoring visit is 31st October.

The Commissioner will be in Reading on Monday 17th October and will review if the Local Authority can get out of the current situation and address how they got there. A huge amount of work has been done and this is still ongoing. Any information for inclusion to the action plan needs to go to KS by the end of October.

JL asked if Ofsted provide funds to get Reading through this process. HMC advised that this is not the case; there is no external additional funding.

KS explained that there are currently insufficient resources in the Local Authority to meet all of the recommendations in the action plan. Additional resources will need to be identified in the next financial year.

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JL felt that the Ofsted report, although highlighting a number of issues, also noted a lot of positives. The day to day response to children, young people and their families is the main issue/priority for improvement.

JL asked if Ofsted expect movement on all 18 recommendations and HMC advised that they do and that there has been movement already. Specialist social work teams have been reintroduced in Reading and this has been well received, caseloads are down significantly, cases are stepped forward appropriately/safely. There is a better understanding of thresholds. HMC has requested more TVP resource for MASH.

BC asked for the new structure charts for the new Social Work teams; this will be sent out with the minutes.

5. FUTURE MEETINGS

Children's Trust Board Meetings – 4pm – 6pm

10th January 2017 – Avenue Room, Avenue Centre

5th April 2017 – Avenue Room, Avenue Centre

19th July 2017 – Avenue Room, Avenue Centre

18th October 2017 – Avenue Room, Avenue Centre

Venue: The car parking facilities will not be available at the Avenue Centre from November 2016. However after 4pm the school car park can be used. DG to look at other possible venues in Reading. HMc advised that PACT have offered their meeting rooms at no cost (South Street).

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

Year 2 of the Children and Young people's Plan 2016/2018

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8. FUTURE ITEMS

18th November – Young People are taking over the council as elected members and will report back to Cllr's on 21st November.

25th October – Celebration Event for LAC, at the Avenue Centre, colleagues were encouraged to attend.

Postcards – HMC has had some postcards of Reading printed, they have been sent to LAC asking what they want Reading to look like and we can look at their ambitions and reflect them in the next C & YP Plan.