



Present		
Ben Cross	BC	Chair & Development worker, RCVYS
Esther Blake	EB	Partnership Manager, RBC
Andy Fitton	AF	Head of Service, Early Help and Intervention, RBC
Bindy Shah	BS	
Catherine Henry	CH	14-19 Participation Advisor
Sally Murray	SM	Head of Children's Commissioning, NHS Berkshire West CCGs
Gill Lake	GL	Executive Member, RCVYS
Julie Kennedy	JK	Reading College
Stan Gilmour	SG	Local Area Commander, Thames Valley Police
Young People in attendance		
Alex	Highdown School	
Business Support:		
Donna Gray	DG	Minute Taker
Apologies:		
Cllr Jan Gavin	Lead Member for Children's Services	
Gerry Crawford	Regional Director, BHFT	
Cllr Stanford-Beale	Councillor	
Hannah Powell	Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company	

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Round table introductions took place; colleagues shared their sparkly moments for the last week.

Alex from the Reading Youth Cabinet (YC) introduced himself to the group.

2. YOUTH CABINET UPDATE

3 Campaigns: LGBT, Curriculum for Life and Votes at 16 Campaigns.

Alex advised that the YC developed a LGBT presentation that was reviewed by the Reach Out Group. There was a lot of feedback about how to present this and the word choice throughout the presentation. The YC are working on updating this currently.

Curriculum for Life – The YC is planning meetings with RBC to discuss this further.

Alex asked for advice on how to talk to schools as the YC have been struggling with this; mainly secondary schools. Afi advised Alex that the YC need to consider Schools that are on the Reading Border in their communications. Afi asked what the YC want to talk to Schools about. Alex advised that they want to go into assemblies/PSHE Days to talk to the Schools about the LGBT Campaign. They want to talk to pupils and form a focus group to review the presentation with Yr 9 age groups upwards.

Alex advised that they would like to email Schools and Afi agreed to get contact details for pastoral leads/safeguarding leads in Schools for them to approach. Afi will pass this information on to David. GL advised that if the YC starts the conversation in their own Schools then they may be able to facilitate access to other Schools.

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AFi acknowledged that the YC have always found it quite difficult to get into Schools and advised the YC could facilitate this moving forward by writing to chairs of governors etc.

BS advised that Schools have their own School Councils and perhaps the School Councils be tasked with helping get these topics into the Schools. CH suggested linking into other meetings where School colleagues meet.

SG asked what the YC are trying to achieve and advised that it is important they know this before they make contact. Alex said that people need to be more aware of LBGT and how these children and young people need to be integrated as part of modern life. AFi advised that the YC can ask Schools how much they are including this group of people in their curriculum.

BS asked if the YC ad thought about undertaking a survey in Schools. I might help them form their thoughts about what they want to ask of Schools. They will also get an idea of how involved Schools are. BC advised that Support You run an LGBT Group in Reading and it may be worth the YC having conversations with them; this would be a good piece of partnership working.

Mental Health – Alex advised that not many people were willing to set up a campaign about this. It was merged with the curriculum for life campaign. AFi asked that Alex goes back to the group and ask if we can support/organise access to service providers to help them understand what they would like to implement/change.

SM advised the little blue book of sunshine will be launched to schools on 24th April 2017, across the West of Berkshire for Years 10 and over. There will be a big advertising campaign to promote this. SM asked if the YC could promote and share this with their peers.

Votes at 16 – Alex is not sure about the plans for this campaign. One member of the YC is a member of the Youth Parliament so they will take advantage of those links. EB ask if the YC has spoken to Cllr Gavin. AFi suggested the YC invite Cllr Gavin to meet with them along with other politicians to discuss this further.

Actions:

- AFi agreed to get contact details for pastoral leads/safeguarding leads in Schools for them to approach. AFi will pass this information on to David.
- Votes at 16 - YC to invite Cllr Gavin to meet with them along with other politicians to discuss this further.

3. EARLY INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION

In the October Meeting it was agreed that a task and finish group would take forward work on this topic. BC provided an update on the journey so far. BC advised it is important to recognise that we are in a new environment due to increasing demand/population with lower budgets.

Actions:

- DG to send Presentation with the minute of today's meeting.
- Maturity Matrix is available on the EIF.org website.

Next steps:

- What do people want in the strategy
- How do they want to contribute to it

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- Framework – appendix/web link showing what colleagues do, what they plan to do and their wish list.

GL asked whether a new strategy means a new structure. BS advised the strategy has nothing to do with structures and that they want to facilitate discussions where agencies are collectively better at early intervention. AFi advised there will not be a new structure and that the strategy should be partnership wide not just RBC.

GL asked if the strategy ties in with the Ofsted recommendations. AFi advised that this is part of the Ofsted Improvement Plan.

SM asked if the strategy will build on what's already in place; BC and AFi advised that it will.

AFi requested commitment to write the strategy before May; this is the next phase and AFi welcomed an open editing process while this piece of work is being completed.

WORKSHOP – PRIORITY AREA – LEARNING AND EDUCATION

From discussions today CH would like suggestions for up to 3 projects to develop and implement to move to the next stage of outcomes. CH advised of the need for a strategy for effective participation of CYP in education, employment and training.

Reading went from the third highest NEET in the country to 1.1% below the national average for NEET in 2016. GL asked where the marker is and if there are people we don't know about due to immigration etc. CH advised that Adviza do the tracking of those young people (YP) and they work with LA's to obtain the relevant information. If a YP leaves Reading they stay in the Reading figures until they are formally received by the new LA.

BC asked what is meant by 'Provision', CH advised this is formal education or training.

GL if there was a 16-17 undertaking a course with the children centre would they still be classed as NEET. CH advised that they would still be classed as NEET but if the YP is engaged then they can work with them to secure future employment.

GL asked who has got to re-engage these YP. Who has been involved in the disengagement? Or was it through certain circumstances that stopped them engaging. CH wondered if there was a link between the 0-5 and families that GL and her colleagues support. Quite a lot of the families GL deals with have issues with parenting their children so this could be the same with their older children. CH considered that there could be a portion of children that could be identified as early as 5 and questioned how far back they go to identify future YP.

AFi felt it would be very brave to focus on primary age children but this would make a difference for future cohorts of children. AFi said there is no targeted work for those children who disengage at 16; we need to think about what the transition looks like for them. Reading College receive these children blind and haven't been able to support these YP straight away so by the time they have all the information these YP have often disengaged.

AFi asked what the offer is for careers options for Yr 10 onwards, and if there is any standardisation to this. Alex advised that when he had discussions with School he had already been accepted to Henley College but the teachers remained very Highdown focused; these conversations started taking place in Yr 10. Alex felt if it was done any earlier it may distract from choosing options. Alex

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advised that when they picked their options they were asked to take into consideration what they want to do in the future rather than colleges.

AM advised that Independent Schools deal with this differently and advise their pupils at an earlier age what options there are for further education. BC advised that Schools have a varied opinion on IAG and how this is dealt with in Schools. BC advised that we know the children who are difficult to place have SEND and keeping a structure is incredibly important to maintain the processes for these YP.

A lot of YP engage in community activities and there is the need to make more connections between those YP and the local community. The resource needs to be released as there are community organisations that can signpost YP to relevant services.

English and Maths are mandatory subjects. Afi said that there is a need to uncover from a YP perspective why they drop out and this could be because of the requirement of English and Maths; this needs to be reframed so that YP know that this is about getting them into work not just education. This should be discussed in this way from the age 14 onwards explaining how this is about getting them into work and building a future.

GL asked if there were any Reading wide conferences for YP (careers fayre). CH advised that there has been but attendance has always been poor.

Alex felt that when people in his School were choosing careers a lot of YP didn't take it seriously and didn't comprehend what these conversations were about. There needs to be more emphasis on the importance of these careers interviews/meetings.

Top 3 Projects:

- Consistency of IAG – how do we get a more consistent offer on the table for YP.
- Transition Planning.
- Linking with YP outside of formal channels.

Actions:

- DG to send Presentation to be sent with the minute of today's meeting.

4. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the last meeting were signed off as an accurate reflection of discussions.

5. UPDATE ON OFSTED MONITORING VISITS

GL asked if there is an end date to the Ofsted visits. Afi advised that when the time arrives Reading will be re-inspected. Afi advised that Ofsted come every 3 months for 2 days and look at specific cohorts of YP. The last time was CIN and the focus of the next visit is LAC.

BC advised that they were presented with an action plan and asked if this was still valid or whether it had changed since December. Afi advised that a team of auditors in Oct-Nov who audited 700+ cases; the findings weren't necessarily what colleagues thought was going on. Afi advised that in some areas there has been improvement but in some areas it has not been enough.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

- Raising Attainment Strategy update

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7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None noted.

8. FUTURE ITEMS

Suggested workshop topics:

- TBC – 19th July 2017
- TBC – 18th October 2017