



CHILDREN'S TRUST PARTNERSHIP BOARD – 18th October 2017

Present		
Cllr Jan Gavin	JG	Lead Member for Children's Services
Ann Marie Dodds	AMD	Director of Children, Education and Early Help Services, RBC
Jill Lake	JL	Trustee for Homestart, RCVYS
Ben Cross	BC	Business Development Manager, RCVYS
Cllr Jane Stanford-Beale	JSB	Councillor
Young People in attendance		
Sasha	Youth Cabinet	
Anwita	Youth Cabinet	
Business Support:		
Donna Gray	DG	Minute Taker
Esther Blake	EB	Partnership Manager, RBC
Apologies:		
Stan Gilmour	Local Area Commander, Thames Valley Police	
Sally Murray	Head of Children's Commissioning, NHS Berkshire West CCGs	
Kim Drake	Quality and Improvement Lead, RBC	
Alison McNamara	NUT	

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Round table introductions took place.

2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

PSHE Campaign – AMD will check with LW on the progress of the action in relation to the endorsement of the PSHE Campaign.

Maryam Mackie was not invited to today's meeting and this will be discussed under membership when the ToR are reviewed.

BC asked if there was an update on the early intervention and prevention strategy. LG advised AMD will cover this in her updates later on the agenda.

3. YOUTH CABINET UPDATE

The LGBT group have made multiple connections with resources suggested at the last meeting. They have established a presentation that they will bring to the next meeting.

The Youth Cabinet attended the Heads Forum and presented their ideas regarding PSHE, Tax and Finance and how that could be included in the curriculum along with political education.

Make Your Mark vote – Sasha advised that there was a high turnout; over 9000. The top result was transport and Sasha asked where they could discuss their ideas for improvement. Mental Health came second in the vote.

Sasha advised that Reading Buses have not engaged with young people about the changes to transport in Reading. JSB is meeting with Reading Buses and will suggest they meet with members of the youth cabinet. JG asked some time could be made for the Youth Cabinet to meet with the Lead Member (Cllr Tony Page) for transport to hear what young people's perception of transport in Reading is. The Youth Cabinet need to establish what a campaign will look like and what

improvements they want to see prior to the meeting, taking into consideration the needs of the children travelling to out of borough schools.

World's Biggest Metal Health Lesson – Sasha advised that from feedback received the event went very well. Brighter Berkshire has been to visit the youth cabinet. BC said it is a real message that young people still rate mental health highly on their priorities. The little book of sunshine has come from the HWBB after they took on the youth cabinets concerns. BC felt that the youth cabinet should feel encouraged that what they say is being taken notice off.

Berkshire Community Foundation – JL advised it is worthwhile approaching them for some funding for the Youth Cabinet to be able to undertake surveys properly. Sasha was advised to contact JSB for further information. EB to send Sasha JG's email address.

4. EARLY HELP AND PREVENTION STRATEGY

The Early Help Strategy is in draft and will be updated further once the Ofsted Monitoring Visit has taken place next week. There will be challenges about the offer of Early Help services and there are some causes of concern. Ofsted will notice that progress has been made but it is too slow.

5. CHILDREN'S SERVICES MOVING FORWARD

Reading Children's Company – The Local Authority submitted a business case to the DfE for the funding to set up the childrens company at the end of August 2017. The DfE have agreed this. AMD advised that if the Local Authority follows the route the DfE want then they will have some influence over the direction. There are numerous work streams in terms of the company. CSB advised that it is important to look after staff through this process as the feedback from colleagues in Slough when transferring to a Trust was not positive.

JL asked if the company includes education; AMD advised that it does, as it will provide a more cohesive service for children if all the childrens services stay together.

The governance of the company will be via a management board and not the elected members however they will still hold the company to account on the provision of childrens services and they will be expected to report to a committee for scrutiny.

Timescales: Report to Minister in November 2017 about the position and where we are. Consultation with partners, DfE and the council is taking place from September 2017 to November 2017. Consultation with staff will take place from November 2017 to January 2018. Communication with service users will take place November 2017 to January 2018. Management will be appointed in the spring of 2018.

Appointments to the Board and the Chair can be decided by the Local Authority (Council Leader, Chief Executive and the DfE) however if the Minister does not agree with the decision then this could change. The first person to be appointed will be the Chair of the Board. Once a Chair is in place the non-executive directors will be appointed and then they will recruit the management team. This is a DfE timetable and not one set by the Local Authority. The new Children's Company should be fully operational by October 2018.

Strategic Intent

AMD asked each agency to identify what their strategic intent was moving forward.

Homestart - To get as many families, at home or in groups, the support they need so that children have a better life experiences.

RCVYS - To establish strong relationships, connections and partnerships to support the young people and families.

JSB – To support individuals who live with autism, whether this be a child, an adult, parent or family to live happy and fulfilled lives.

LSCB – To ensure that partners are working together to deliver services to children in an effective appropriate and timely way to keep them safe.

AMD asked what the strategic intent of Children’s Trust Board is and whether there is a role for this moving forward. JL said there have been quite a few meetings recently where key agencies haven’t been represented and gradually attendance has drifted. JL said the Children’s Trust Board is the only meeting where she has met people from different agencies and felt that there needs to be some kind of forum to get people together. AMD advised that the Local Authority will be moving into a different landscape with the LSCB as it will move to being a west of Berkshire Board. The Children’s Trust Board may then be an essential forum to talk about local issues. AMD asked the group to consider putting the future meetings on hold until the west of Berkshire LSCB has been fully established.

JL feels that there is a need for a hybrid safeguarding partnership board so that local issues do not get lost. JG said we need to find the most effective way to deliver our strategic intent.

Children’s Trust structure going forward:

- Can we develop a shared strategic intent?
- Communication and engagement with CYP and families?
- Communication and engagement of key stakeholders?
- Clarity regarding the role of the CTB role priorities?
- Do we need a CTB moving forward? – What is the motivation to being around the table today? Would there be priority areas of work. There needs to be more of understandings as to why people aren’t attending these meetings and we need to be sure that as a partnership we are using time effectively.

It was agreed that a decision can’t be taken today as the meeting is not well attended today. There needs to be further work undertaken.

Colleagues were asked to feedback some questions for the wider partnership about the future of the Children’s Trust Board as this needs further discussion at the January 2018 meeting. JG to write to partners once the questions and content of discussion has been agreed.

6. CHILDREN’S SERVICES UPDATE

BC advised that the move to the CSPoA has been very positive. Feedback is being received on referrals and outcomes. It would be good to look at statistics about where contacts are coming from in the future.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

Not discussed.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

RCVYS will be closing down and the funds they have left will be distributed. BC and JL thanked the Local Authority for their help and support; they have achieved some wonderful outcomes over the years. BC is moving on to a new post Yorkshire. JL advised that this will be the last meeting they attend. The voluntary sector still want to be involved but this will look different moving forward. AMD thanked RCVYS for their help and support and extended thanks to them on behalf of Children's Social Care.