

**MINUTES OF THE
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRUST BOARD MEETING
HELD ON 6th May 2010, Mezz 1, County Hall, Aylesbury**

Present:

Sue Imbriano (BCC) - Chairman, Carol Mason (Voluntary Sector), Chris Munday (BCC), Cllr. Penni Thorne (AVDC), Pauline Odulinski (Aylesbury College), Cllr. Hilary Evans (SBDC), Katharine Horler (Connexions), Gill Clipson (Amersham & Wycombe College), Andy Toynton (Young People's Learning Agency), Ed Mallam (BCC), Christine Matthews (NHS Buckinghamshire), DCI Yvette Hitch (TVP), Sue Collins (Furze Down School), Peter Rowe (Princess Risborough School), Donald McPhail (Local Safeguarding Children Board), Lee Gilmour (BCC) – Notes.

Apologies:

Chris William (BCC), David Lunn (NHS Buckinghamshire), Alan Goodrum (CDC), Cllr. Jeanette Mann (WDC), Cllr. Lin Hazell (BCC), Cllr Mimi Harker (CDC), Cllr. Marion Clayton (BCC), Joules Howarth (Holmer Green Junior School), Glyn Crowther (Jobcentre Plus), Paul Emmings (TVP).

Guests: Amanda Buchanan (BCC), Lynne de Looze (Young Carers Bucks), Oliver Treen (Royal Grammar School), Amybeth Brown (The Cottesloe School), Richard Woodward (BCC), Lynda Ayres (BCC) and Sally Morgan (BCC),

1. Welcome and Apologies

SI welcomed everyone including Peter Rowe and Sue Collins as their first meeting. Apologies were noted.

It was agreed to move to Item 4.

4. Young Cares Strategy (Amanda Buchanan, Lynne de Looze, Oliver Tween, and Amybeth Brown)

SI introduced AB, LdL and two young carers. AB gave a PowerPoint presentation, giving the background information to the Strategy, noting that young people had been involved in the consultation to develop the paper.

OT and AB tabled the paper 'Underpinning principles of the Strategy'.

It was noted that schools are the best place to identify young carers; unless they are identified it is hard to see what services are required. 27% of pupils who are young carers experience attendance problems which increase if associated with parents' use of alcohol or drugs.

AB talked about her father, whom she has cared for since 2003 and things that she has learnt through Young Carers for example how to communicate better with others around her including friends, how to plan things better and how it has also helped her sister. AB wants the awareness of what being a Young Carer is all about to be raised in schools.

OT talked about his mother and how he and his father and sister have cared for her over the last seven years. OT said that at times it is very hard, he receives support from Young Carers and his school are very understanding. As his mum's illness is re-occurring it has been a problem in the past for him to keep explaining the problems over and over again. OT thinks it would be better if more teachers were aware and not have to be reminded. Young Carers help OT to let off steam when he is feeling pressured and eases the pressure when other members of the family are experiencing difficulties.

LdL noted that it takes a long time for young carers to be identified. There are approximately 450 known young carers in Bucks but it is thought that there are a lot more. They are mostly found through referrals, not many are found through Adult Services, Mental Health or GP's. Adult Services and GP's need to more active in this area. LdL gave examples of problems experienced recently by a colleague.

There are too few referrals from schools. Most young people say that schools do not understand the difficulties. When young carers are not identified and there is not a tracking system, specialist help isn't obtained. Twilight awareness sessions and lunchtime workshops are being run but it is hard to establish engagement with schools.

It was suggested that Bucks need to:

- Raise awareness.
- A county lead to be identified to oversee strategic planning.
- Encourage partnership working.
- Whole family assessments.
- A named office in A&L.
- Designated school leads.
- Young people to be included in planning.

The implementation of the Strategy will not be a small piece of work. Although there has been some good work, there is still a great deal to be done.

The floor was opened for questions and following was noted:

- There are no timings in the Strategy, because support is needed before moving to the next level. It was considered how we could move forward as a Trust.
- It was suggested that there is a gap for a direct link to Adults Services.
- Should the C&YP Plan link into the Adult Plan?
- SI and DMcP have a meeting set up for the Safeguarding Forum and there is an agenda item for recognition of young carers.
- It was suggested that in the Strategy where it mentions schools it should also refer to colleges as they do support this work. AB noted that this would be helpful as the transition can be very hard.

SI asked any colleagues with further comments to direct them to EM. It was suggested that a small group be formulated to take this work forward, interest should also be indicated to EM.

Action: All

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes were agreed as a true record with the addition of the notes under Item 8 below.

Matters Arising:

Page 1, Item 2, Minutes and Matters Arising – EM confirmed that the Bill has become an Act. Child Poverty Needs Assessment needs to be done and work is being progressed. It was noted that there are 11,000 children living in poverty in Bucks.

Page 2, Item 2, Minutes and Matters Arising – It was agreed that the action was unclear so SI and PO will discuss with GV outside of the meeting to see what needs to be done.

Page 2, Item 4, CYP Trust Participation Plan 2010/11 – There has only been two responses regarding the plan. EM will chase organisations for a response.

Action: EM

Page 4, Item 8, Request from Safeguarding Board, 6th Paragraph

It was agreed that this paragraph should be changed to read 'It was noted that services do exist for this client group and that whilst there is not current evidence of gaps in provision it was the lack of coordination of these services and identification of needs of the children and therapy needed that was an issue.'

The final paragraph, last sentence should read 'The Trust Board agreed that it would like to see further information regarding this.'

3. Declarations of Interest

None recorded.

It was agreed to move to Item 6.

6. LAC Report (Diana Large standing in for Mary Sullivan)

DL presented and discussed the third update paper 'Care Matters'. DL noted that the Baby 'P' case could account for some of the increase in children in the care of Bucks but not the whole amount.

DMcP left the meeting.

SI noted that the nature of the work around LAC doesn't allow BCC to make totally public the work being done.

The floor was opened for discussion with the following noted:

- It was asked how it was being monitored – nurse in service level agreement
- PO and GC asked what else is needed and how can they put a more well defined strategy in place to support those in care at FE Colleges. DL will contact to discuss outside of the meeting.

Action: PO, GC & DL

It was agreed to move to Item 5.

5. Feedback from Joint Commissioning Group and Annual Report (Chris Munday)

CMunday presented and discussed the 'CYP Joint Commissioning Group Contract Monitoring Report' showing what is being done and the 'Strategy Action Plan Tracking Sheet' showing what is planned.

The floor was opened for questions with the following noted:

Monitoring Report

- Page 4 - what is being done to help NYAS – response, BCC are working with them to help fill vacancies.
- Page 7 – with regard to A&L, it was asked if there isn't any KPI data why wasn't it red – response, CMunday was unsure and will check and confirm back to SI.

Action: CM

- SI suggested that there should be glossary for clarification.

Tracking Sheet

- Page 3 – Special Education, SI and CMunday to discuss outside of the meeting

Action: SI & CM

The Trust Board agreed that the reports were helpful and that the reports should continue to be a standing agenda item in the same format as currently presented.

CMunday presented and discussed the 'Joint Commissioning Group Annual Report 2009/10'.

The floor was opened for discussion with the following noted:

- It was noted that the amount that has been achieved over the last three years is very impressive.
- It was asked if a response has been made to lessons learnt in the first year.

SI congratulated and thanked everyone who had been involved also noting that it is good to see the impact on children and young people's lives.

7. Think Family (Richard Woodward and Lynda Ayres)

RW presented the summary paper, noting the bullet points on page 2. All key workers and managers will be in place on Monday. It is also hoped that children in care nurse will become part of the system. The referral process is just about to start and a pool of names is increasing. Information sharing with Adults still needs to be developed.

RW has made a presentation to the BSPIG, which was followed by a good discussion. The Bucks Strategic Partnership are looking at what is currently being done and working to identify gaps.

Invitations to the BSP Think Family Conference have gone out with 80 responses in just two weeks (there is a capacity for over 100). The conference will be looking at how to establish Think Family in Bucks. It was considered what part the Trust wanted to play in Think Family.

SI suggested that this is about culture change and a commitment to make this work, preventative work being a real challenge.

The floor was opened for questions with the following noted:

- The conference is good, but doesn't reach many or all, is there something else that could go out? Response – RW showed a leaflet/booklet that is available. LA suggested that one of the aims of the conference could be to develop a concise and useful handout.
- It was asked whether the thresholds are too high and are some children with particular needs being missed? Response – RW confirmed that some children would get missed as the system is currently set up. SI suggested that there should be a discussion at the Safeguarding Board around this.
- It was noted that GP's would know about illnesses and it was considered how we could get through working in silos? It was noted that confidentiality could be an issue. CMatthews and RW to discuss outside of the meeting.

Action RW & CM

- It was asked what would happen if funding disappears or gets reduced. Response – RW confirmed that the Think Family funding is ring fenced with support also from the DCSF.

The recommendations to the Trust were considered (Page 2):

1. It was agreed the Trust Board support the Think Family principles.
2. It was agreed the Trust Board endorse the initial work.
3. It was agreed the Trust Board will champion the role out of Think Family reforms.
4. The Trust Board agreed that this point needed more consideration and would be brought back to the Trust Board.

Action EM

SI thanked everyone involved.

8. Teenage Pregnancy (Lynda Ayres)

LA presented the paper 'Buckinghamshire Teenage Pregnancy Strategy 2009-2011' noting that the figures are fourteen months in arrears from the Office of National Statistics.

In Bucks we are not doing very well against the National Target, although Bucks is within the 10 lowest rates areas. LA noted the charts on pages 7-10. LA noted that it was disappointing that sexual health education in schools was not made statutory.

The floor was opened for questions with the following noted:

- It was asked about the ages of the fathers. Response – ¼ to ½ are up to 21, there is also a number of 30 year olds and beyond.
- It was considered how we can get the information about how they meet i.e. social Internet sites?
- It was asked how the broader issues around self-esteem were being addressed. Response – LA confirmed that more youth workers are being trained to talk to young people about sexual issues.

SI thanked LA.

9. CYP Plan/LAA Q3 Performance Report (Edward Mallam)

EM presented the paper 'Performance Monitoring of the Local Area Agreement and the Children and Young People's Plan Targets'. EM noted how the paper was broken down with the explanations column on the right. EM also noted that a lot of work is being done with target owners.

The floor was opened for questions with the following noted:

- It was considered if there were more urgent things that could be done around 'Closing the Gap' and whether this should be brought back as an agenda item for further discussion? SI confirmed that a much wider discussion is needed, considering what we are doing and what we can do.
- It was suggested that it might be useful to slice up and look at different areas within Closing the Gap. CMunday suggested that this could be done as facilitated workshops using different tools. The Board agreed to run this workshop instead of their next meeting on 30th June.
- It was suggested that it would be useful to know if higher or lower was better or worse.

10. Planning of the 2011/14 Children and Young People's Plan (Chris Munday)

It was noted that from 2011 the Trust will be responsible for the C&YP Plan not the LA. CMunday explained the process. Part of the proposal to the Trust Board was 'Targeting those with poor outcomes'.

CMunday noted major differences from previous years and highlighted the time lines.

The floor was opened for questions with the following noted:

- Concerns were raised around the Local Partnership Boards needing to have ownership and thinking of ways of engaging them. CM noted part of the plan will be around joint shaping with professionals.

The Trust Board agreed the proposal.

11. Trust Champion Role (Edward Mallam)

EM introduced the paper and explained the background to it as noted on page 1.

The Trust Board agreed in principle the proposal. It was asked if the members could let EM know if there were areas they would be interested. EM will collate information and this will come back as a future agenda item.

Action: EM

12. Organisational Updates

CMunday confirmed that Bucks was successful in getting into the Building Schools for the Future project and thanked the Trust Board for their contribution.

AT noted that YPLA has now existed for four weeks and the national framework was printed before purdah.

GC noted that they are re-focusing on student support, looking at services with greater focus on at risk/vulnerable students and career advice is back on the agenda. GC also noted that they have been chosen as one out of 30 colleges to trial a health check, which will be an online questionnaire for students to complete, a report will then be available.

PT noted that they developing safeguarding strategies and Buckingham Town Council is developing a youth council.

CMason reported that proposals for Youth Focus have been passed and will go through in 8 weeks.

HE reported that an event with Maplewood and Downey School went well, with everyone having a fantastic time.

PR reported that a significant grant has been received for extended services. There has been a successful celebration event engaging parents that have had negative school experiences.

PO reported on a Celebrating Diversity event, which had a good speaker. It raised issues around lack of support for young people who are gay or lesbian.

EM noted that the Trust's Annual Report will be circulated in early June for comment.

13. Any Other Business

SI thanked everyone and the meeting was closed.

14. Date of the Next Meeting

Wednesday 30th June 2010, 9am to 12 noon, Mezz Rooms 1 and 2, County Hall, Aylesbury.