

**MINUTES OF THE
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRUST BOARD MEETING
HELD ON 4th APRIL 2011, MEZZ 3, COUNTY HALL, AYLESBURY**

Present:

Chris Williams (BCC) – Chair, Sue Imbriano (BCC), Chris Munday (BCC), Alan Dinning (BCC), Cllr. Penni Thorne (AVDC), Ed Mallam (BCC), Carol Mason (Voluntary Sector), David Lunn (NHS Buckinghamshire), Christine Matthews (NHS Buckinghamshire), Bob Harrison (Connexions and Aylesbury, Wing, Wendover and Buckingham Local Board), Bianca Kerley (Jobcentre Plus), Katharine Horler (Connexions), Peter Holding (Sir William Borlase Grammar School), Vivien Sailsbury (Chiltern and South Bucks Local Board), Andrew Walker (Marlow, Wycombe and Ridgeway Local Board), Sue Cooke (Thames Valley Probation), Pauline Odulinski (Aylesbury College), Melanie Turner (BCC) – notes.

In Attendance:

Pam Curits (BCC), Marylene Isaiah (FACT Bucks), Richard Woodward (BCC), Lesley Manning (NHS Buckinghamshire), Laura Nankin (BCC).

Apologies:

Cllr. Lin Hazell (BCC), Malcolm Peckham (School Governor Representative), Gill Clipson (Amersham & Wycombe College), Cllr. Jeanette Mann (WDC), Alan Goodrum (CDC), Joules Howarth (Holmer Green Junior School), Pete Rowe (Upper School Head teacher representative), Sue Collins (Special Schools Representative), Andy Toynton (Young People's Learning Agency), Cllr. Hilary Evans (SBDC), Cllr. Steven Adams (BCC).

1. Welcome and Apologies

CW welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly the three Local Trust Board Chairs who were attending for the first time in their new capacity.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

CW noted the two documents which were distributed after the Board papers were for information only. If colleagues had any queries to contact EM.

The minutes were agreed as a true record with the following amendment:

Page 3, Item 5, Child Poverty – SI noted the importance of education and relationships.

Matters Arising:

Page 5, Item 9, Budget settlements and impacts – PO noted since the EMA was published the Government has since backtracked. Third year students would continue to receive the same payments until the end of the academic year, second year students will be part funded. New students who face financial hardship may receive a bursary however, this is via harder means testing.

3. Declarations of Interest

None.

4. CYP Plan 2011/14 (Ed Mallam)

EM presented and discussed the draft 'Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014' and the 'Proposed Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Plan 2011/14 indicators'.

EM noted the Plan gives you a good flavor of what the document will resemble but a number of additions still need to be made to reflect national and local changes such as The Munroe Review of Child Protection.

Consultation has taken place with children and young people, the three Local Boards and through the JSNA, the Adult and Children and Young People's Resident Surveys and Tell Us 4 Survey.

There has been a reduction in the proposed indicators and it was noted that the Child Poverty indicators will be contained within the Child Poverty Strategy. Nevertheless, child poverty is reflected in the CYP Plan.

The floor was opened for discussion.

CW made reference to the key priorities on page 9 and asked the Board to confirm this is what we are working towards? – colleagues agreed. CW noted there are two principle themes need to be reflected in the Plan. The first is the County Council providing support to the most vulnerable. The second is the promotion of ambition and self-reliance through all services.

PT noted FACT Bucks are an ideal group to consult with as they are parents or carers with children who have additional needs and/or disabilities, this has not yet happened. EM and PT to arrange consultation with FACT.

Action: EM

SI questioned whether more of a balance is required to show our drive for excellence.

VS made reference to the priorities document specifically 'Closing the Gap'. VS noted the need to consider the brightest of children and illuminating this priority. Reference was also made to a 'stable home environment'. Action4Youth are unsure they can promise this. VS asked EM to express this in a different way.

Action: EM

EM stated there is no requirement on local authorities to have a CYP Plan therefore there is not a specified deadline for completion.

CMason noted the following:

- It would be beneficial to have an e-friendly version, without photos.
- Questioned whether the indented audience is the general public? If so the document would need to contain a glossary of words.
- The indicators do not correlate with the plan in terms of the order of the priorities.

- Within the indicators document what is meant by 'Target owner'? CW noted his interpretation of this is the person who is accountable. CMason requested this is made clearer.

Discussions were had over how the Plan resonates with schools especially with Headteachers and Governors. PH noted it is not something most Headteachers and Governors would use; especially now most secondary schools will be academies this time next year. CW asked whether we could do something specific around indicators? PH noted there is a possibility this may work but the landscape is changing.

AW stated the previous plan did not resonate with Governors at all. There is the opportunity to engage if we want.

CMunday asked if it would help if both Strategic Area Networks cross-related into the document? – yes.

PH stated the core problem is the plan is focused on a very important but small minority. CMatthews noted children will go in and out of vulnerability at different points. The indicators in the plan have the ability to catch this.

VS made reference to the Local Partnerships Boards delivering solutions, she is unsure if they are set up to do that and asked EM to change the wording to 'take forward solutions'.

CW asked colleagues if they were happy to go forward with the plan on the recommendations made and to bring the document back to the next meeting for approval. This was agreed. EM to progress taking into account the views expressed.

Action: EM

5. Child Poverty Strategy 2011/14 (Pam Curtis)

PC presented and discussed the 'Buckinghamshire Child Poverty Strategy 2011-2014'.

The following was noted:

- The strategy was brought together and will be taken forward by the Child Poverty Plan Group (formally the CYP Plan Group).
- The Bucks Strategic Partnership has been involved in the development of the Strategy.
- Consultation took place last year with children and young people, parents through our children centres and Community Groups.
- The strategy does not cover everything which is happening, but concentrates on the priorities and activities which will hopefully make the biggest difference.
- Sponsors for each activity will take forward work with an operational lead.

The floor was opened for discussion.

CMason stated the following:

- Young carers should be identified.
- ACORN data disregards Early Years, they should be acknowledged.
- Clarification required around the wording of Priority D.

Action: PC

- Priority D, Point 1 - there is a big gap between career advice and early years. More emphasis on career advice is required.

Action: PC

CMunday noted the career advice relates to parents/carers.

KH stated Connexions have undertaken two pieces of work with younger children which would link in well:

1. Career Planet, aimed at primary schools.
2. Work with Year 5 students.

VS noted a lot of good work has gone into this. However, short breaks (for families who have children with disabilities) are not covered within childcare process. These are included in the CYPP however.

SI reinforced how critical is it to reach children early and requested this is emphasis in the strategy.

Action: PC

PT again expressed her concern that FACT Bucks had not been consulted. CW questioned the timescale of the project. PC noted the national strategy is about to be published, therefore the Child Poverty Planning Group had hoped this would be distributed at the same time.

CW asked colleagues if they were happy to approve the strategy taking into account the recommendations made – the Board agreed.

6. Inspection of safeguarding and looked after children services (Sue Imbriano and Alan Dinning)

SI and AD presented and discussed the 'Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children Services, Buckinghamshire' and the 'Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Child Action Plan'.

SI reported other local authorities who were inspected at the same time e.g. Northamptonshire had 11 areas for improvement, BCC only had 3. Collectively we know Bucks and recognise what we need to do to improve. SI thanked all partners for their support and time during the recent Inspection and CW echoed SI's thanks.

The floor was opened for discussion.

BH noted the action plan does not reference the VCS. BH also questioned the 'By whom' column? AD noted this is the lead.

PH stated there is no mention of cost, time spent, and work done. SI reported there is no additional resource therefore work has to be undertaken within budget.

PO suggested colleagues take the action plan away to their own organisations for comment then take responsibility for resourcing any additions made.

AD welcomed everyone's comments.

7. Families and Carers Together (Penni Thorne and Marylene Isaiah)

PT and MI gave an overview of FACT Bucks. The history and chronology were circulated along with an information leaflet. The following was noted:

- FACT Bucks (previously Parent Consultative Group (PCG)) was set up to make sure the views of parents and carers with children and/or young people with additional needs and disabilities have their views and concerns heard.
- Bucks have been referenced nationally three times (2002, 2004, and 2010) for good practice.
- Local meetings are held across the county.
- The role of the group is to take responsibility for gathering and representing issues.
- A Government grant has been received for the next 3 years.
- The Participation Worker has been reduced to 2 days a week but in addition an admin worker has been recruited at 0.5.
- Parents are often asked to participate in consultations, meeting and training (Opening Minds; Opening Doors).
- Next steps are to have board representatives across the whole county.

PT asked the Board for their support.

The floor was opened for discussion.

CMunday asked if charitable status had been applied for and if so how long it will take? PT noted FACT Bucks would hope to have charitable status within the next 12 months but will initially make themselves a limited company. CMunday offered his support with this process.

AW noted the PCT have produced a document around this. CMatthews to send to PT.

Action: CMatthews.

BH reported Connexions can help with regards to venues for meetings.

8. Feedback from the Joint Commissioning Group (Chris Munday)

CM presented and reported on the 'CYP Joint Commissioning Strategy Action Plan Tracking Sheet'. The following updates were noted:

- Page 2, School Capital Programme:
 - Area Plan Capital – this no longer remains.
 - Aylesbury Academy – awaiting confirmation of next steps.
- Page 4, C&YP with complex needs:
 - Special Education – progressing.
- Page 6, Develop Local Provision:
 - Children's Centres capital programme – there is a new risk to any children centre's attached to academies. All have been completed except Prestwood. Centres are now being inspected by Ofsted.
- Page 8, 14-19 Reforms:
 - Residential placements – until all Care Funding Calculators are complete the financial risk is not known.

- Re-commission Education Business Link – confirmation received from the YPLA on 30th March, all funding previously received has been removed at one day's notice. A commitment has been made regarding the summer activities.

KH reported the Department for Work and Pensions have had a number of conversations with Connexions around this.

Discussions were had around the significant impact on schools and how important work related learning and work experience is to headteachers. CW noted we need to find a way of tapping into Bucks Business First.

CW suggested a letter to Central Government expressing our sincere displeasure.

CMunday noted further work needs to be undertaken on skills centre and technical education for 16-19 yr olds. CMunday suggested bringing a discussion paper to a future meeting. PO offered to give an overview as Aylesbury College have submitted a technical bid. PO to liaise with EM on this.

Action: PO

9. Transitions paper (Richard Woodward)

RW presented and reported on the 'AOP Board Transitions to Adulthood Paper'. It was noted this detailed piece of work looks at the level of resources provided in Children and Young Peoples Services (CYPS) versus that provided in Adults and Family Wellbeing (AFW). The perception prior to this piece of work was that there is a greater need in CYPS therefore creating an unrealistic expectation of the level of support required from AFW. This has been disproved in the vast majority of cases and the following points were noted:

- Of 513 clients pulled from SWIFT in the last seven years, 203 had an active package of support.
- The vast majority who went on to receive adult services came from special schools.
- Of the 203, 170 have a lower package of care/education cost in CYPS compared to AFW. Of these 74% attended special schools and other residential care settings.
- There are a large number of young people with moderate disabilities going into residential care and not being diverted into supported living and Shared Lives (Adult Placement) placements.
- The average cost of a residential care placement for this cohort is £81,994. The average annual cost for supported living for this cohort is £45,000.
- Capital and revenue funding has been allocated over the next three years totalling £1.9 million.
- Every young person likely to be eligible for AFW services will, from the age of 17 is allocated a Care Manager.
- A guide is being developed for young people and their parents.
- Work with Connexions is being refocused.

RW commented on the recommendations put forward:

- Establish a tribunal team – to challenge placements for children and young people in specialist provision.

- Develop business case and commission local college provision, especially residential living – this will reduce the need for high cost independent residential college provision.
- Enhance the offer for short breaks – to maintain the reduction in placements.
- Pathway and transitions planning – emphasis on the need for early and more robust transition planning.
- Transition placement planning.

The floor was opened for discussion.

CMunday stated the process currently in place is inadequate for children, young people and their families; it needs to be clearer and smoother.

CW suggested involving PT and FACT Bucks. RW advised he had presented at FACT Bucks a few weeks ago and has made a commitment to sit on this group.

Discussions were had around the tribunal team and the wording of this.

10. Buckinghamshire Obesity Strategic Framework 2010/13 (Lesley Manning)

LM presented and reported on the 'Buckinghamshire Obesity Strategic Framework 2010 – 2013'. The following was noted:

- 8.83% of reception children are obese. 14.3% of year 6 children are obese.
- The strategy covers both adults and children.
- The recommended strategic direction is as follows:
 1. Enabling an environment that supports healthy weight – in policy and opportunity. This will be delivered through partnership working.
 2. Early Warning Early Intervention. This will initially be delivered through children's centres but will need to include a wide range of partners in due course.
 3. Help for those living with obesity. Currently this is delivered through the PCT/NHS work stream commissioning new services, but commissioning streams may alter as public health moves into Local Government.

The floor was opened for discussion.

VS noted there is little mention of the voluntary sector. Action4Youth would be able to acquaint LM with the right people.

CMunday stated it would be useful to contextualise obesity in Bucks compared to national target, this doesn't come through in the strategy. LM noted Bucks national and regional positions are referenced on page 7.

PH reported Healthy Schools and Schools Sports Partnership no longer exist. There is no way forward for the Schools Sport Partnership. Primary and secondary's are committed in principle but schools are awaiting clarity with regards to funding streams. The threat is to those who have not committed, they will miss out. Those who have will benefit.

CW questioned whether there is any way we can reactivate the Schools Sports Partnership. SI noted work has been undertaken and a model explored.

CMason questioned whether there anything we can do as a Trust Board to feed back to the Government? LM noted Bucks Sport and NHS Bucks have fed back in various consultations.

CMason stated 64% of the population is overweight. With regards to table two, page 6, what are the percentages they represent? LM to add % into the document at the next review.

Action: LM

CW requested LM to contact, via EM, each partner for additional contributions to the strategy.

Action: LM

SI reported we must keep our views clear on the combined impact on a number of strategies. CW suggested doing a mapping exercise of any policy changes to see which changes might impact on obesity.

Action: LM

DL noted obesity is a huge worry. It is a growing threat to the nation's health. No one appears to be getting to grips with it.

The Board agreed with strategy as way forward.

11. CYP Trust Participation Plan 2011/12 (Laura Nankin)

LN presented and reported on the 'Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Trust Participation Plan April 2011/March 2012'. The following was noted:

- The Plan has been developed by the Trust Participation Group, in consultation with children and young people.
- The focus is on participation within the development of the strategic Children and Young People's Trust agenda, particularly the CYP Plan.
- There are many projects outside of the Plan which take place.
- The key themes are:
 - Collecting data.
 - Further integration of participation across services.
 - More emphasis on communication and joining up/sharing or good practice.
 - Continued need to raise the level of involvement of children looked after and children with disabilities.
- The implementation of work is only possible with the continued funding of the Trust Participation Worker and two specialist Participation Workers (LAC and disability). This has been agreed by the County Council for 2011/12.
- The financial contribution requested totals £7,300. Page 13 of the documents gives a breakdown of costing; page 14 shows the amount we are asking for from each organisation.
- Over 4,000 young people will be directly involved.
- A minimum of 60 staff will have the opportunity to receive training.
- To deliver the plan it is vitally important to receive contributions.

LN asked the Board to for their approval of the plan.

CW commented on the importance of this activity and getting the views of children and young people into our work.

CMason suggested including an appendix of which organisations are involved in the participation group.

The Board agreed the plan and that the organisations listed should be approached for funding.

Action: LN

12. Organisational Updates

SI noted the following:

- Maintain the level of relationship with Academies/free schools.
- SEN Green Paper and specific changes.
- CYPS – what restructuring will still need to happen?

CMunday reported he is investigating establishment of a Charitable Trust to deliver a range of Early Years and educational provision.

AW noted the Marlow, Wycombe and Ridgeway Local Board are looking at the following:

- Engaging with schools.
- Reduce time taken to pass domestic violence information from police to safeguarding in education and safeguarding and school.
- Engagement of voluntary and community sectors in Children's Centres.

BK noted the following:

- Unemployment rose in Bucks last month however, it is still lower than the national average.
- 6,300 claim JSNA. Incapacity benefits will soon be reassessed. Nearly 3,000 lone parents claiming.
- Jobcentre Plus is looking to work with other partners e.g. Connexions and commission more outreach services.
- The organisation is going through lots of changes.
- There are an increasing number of work experience opportunities.
- Transport is an issue. Someone who can drive is in a better position. Jobcentre Plus is looking at negotiating different start times with employers as transport is cheaper after 9am.

CW noted we would not see the full effect of the recession until this time next year.

CMason stated she was delighted with the merger of Action4Youth and Youth Focus. Exciting work with some youth clubs is taking place.

BH noted the Aylesbury, Buckingham, Wendover and Wing Local Board are looking at the following:

- Early Years - ensuring good emotional health in transition between schools, Children's Centres Local Boards – themes specific to the CYPP.
- 14-19 NEET.
- 19 + and LLDD - tackling unemployment.
- Central hub of information for schools/parents on accessing services.

KH noted the following:

- Is pleased with the outcome regarding settlement. Bucks will continue as normal but will keep an eye on the future about how we change and develop.
- Bucks was noted as an example as good practice.
- Connexions have won a European bid for three years. This brings 1.5 posts.
- Currently there are four future job funds for people for the next four months.

DL noted the following:

- PCT hit financial balance.
- Excellent work with transition of PCT comes to a close and GP involvement.
- Compulsory cluster with Oxfordshire – this is happening in a couple of months. CW has been involved in the interview process.

VC noted the Chiltern and South Bucks Local Board are looking at the following:

- Youth Services.
- Geographical boundaries and responsibilities.
- Underachievement and early year's patterns/16-19 disengagement.
- Central hub of information for schools/parents on accessing services.

AD noted the following:

- Youth Offending Service Inspection taken place – report sent today. There are a number of recommendations. AD to bring back to a future meeting.
- Action: AD/EM**
- Introducing regulations and guidance and foster care.
 - Preparing for inspection of fostering and adoption, private fostering before September.

SC noted this was her first official day in post for Thames Valley Probation. Their main priority is to safeguard children and deliver more for less.

PT noted the following:

- AVDC have published a leaflet of activities for the Easter half term.
- FACT Bucks – delighted to do a presentation to all Local Trust Boards and SEN meetings. Marylene thanked everyone for supporting FACT Bucks.
- Bucks Vision has been awarded a lottery bid to do some work with visually impaired children using bats.

PC noted work produced on child poverty will go out through the Local Trust Boards.

EM reported CBI has taken on two apprentices, both NEET. EM asked members whether they would be interested to see a presentation from them. The Board agreed.

Action: AD/EM

13. Any other business

AD noted one of the Buckinghamshire children's homes received an outstanding from Ofsted.

CMason reported on the television programme presented by Neil Morrissey and children in care.

**Date of next meeting:
9.30am to 12 noon, 24th June 2011,
Mezz 3, County Hall, Aylesbury.**