

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

Present:

Sue Imbriano (BCC), - Chair, Chris Munday (BCC), Cllr. Lin Hazell (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), Vivien Sailsbury (Voluntary Sector and Chiltern and South Bucks Local Board), Malcolm Peckham (School Governor Representative), Stephen Czajewski (Thames Valley Probation), Gill Clipson (Amersham & Wycombe College), Karen Mitchell (Aylesbury College), Cllr. Jeanette Mann (WDC), Melanie Turner (BCC) – notes.

In Attendance:

Pam Curits (BCC), Pat James (BCC), Barry Cullen (National Care Advisory Service).

Apologies:

Chris Williams (BCC), Alan Goodrum (CDC), Joules Howarth (Holmer Green Junior School), Katharine Horler (Connexions), Cllr. Hilary Evans (SBDC), Cllr. Mimi Harker (CDC), Pauline Odulinski (Aylesbury College), Ed MacAlister-Smith (NHS Buckinghamshire), Cllr. Steven Adams (BCC), Andy Toynton (Young People's Learning Agency), Sue Collins (Special Schools Representative), Andres Walker (Marlow, Wycombe and Ridgeway Local Board).

1. Welcome and Apologies

SI welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

Matters Arising:

Page 1, Item 2, Minutes and Matters Arising:

- Trust Champion Role – EM noted a briefing pack has been drafted and is with volunteers for comment.
- Reform of Children's Trusts – SI noted the reform of Children's Trusts will come back to a future Trust Board meeting once it has progressed forward.

Page 5, Item 7, Child Poverty – SI thanked BK for circulating information on the position of 18-24 year olds in Buckinghamshire. SI reported BCC are trying to look at a range of initiatives to tackle the issue e.g. internships. SI also reported this item will need to come back for further discussion.

Page 6, Item 10, "Getting it right for children and young people: overcoming cultural barriers in the NHS so as to meeting their needs" – EM noted a paper will be presented at a future Board meeting. EM to schedule this in.

Action: EM

Page 7, Item 11, Comprehensive Spending Review – EM noted PC is in discussions with KH regarding Charitable Bonds.

3. Declarations of Interest

None.

4. Ofsted Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children (Sue Imbriano)

SI presented and discussed the Ofsted 'Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children Services, Buckinghamshire' and alerted members to the following:

- Page 7, Paragraph 14, the use of CAF – Inspectors are clear it is an applicable tool and identified where appropriate, cases are escalated to social care, although the number of cases is reportedly reducing. Inspectors also reported schools are increasingly on board.

VS raised concerns about sustainability and the difficulty moving forward regarding capacity and boundary issues. SI identified members need to take this on board and make sure it is a tool everyone is using.

- Page 9, The contribution of health services – SI thanked health colleagues for their support.
- Page 10, Paragraph 26 and 27, Ambition and prioritisation – the Local Authority and partners have a clear direction and a mature Children's Trust. SI thanked colleagues involved in the Trust focus group.
- Page 12, Partnership working – partnership working is good, which is reflected all the way through the document.

SI stated she was pleased with the outcome. This will now be taken through County Council Cabinet and an action plan is being drafted. SI also thanked all partners and colleagues within Children and Young People's Services for their contributions during the recent inspection.

AD noted the following:

- Work is being undertaken around having a clearer understanding over outcomes.
- Safeguarding are expecting a planned inspection for Fostering and Adoption and an unannounced inspection for Referral and Assessment.
- The division received an excellent from Ofsted for one of their children's homes.

VS raised concerns around young carers and family members who have a life limiting condition. This isn't always flagged up by the health sector therefore; the family is unable to get the support they are entitled to. VS requested for this to be built into the action plan. SI asked CMatthews to investigate and liaise with VS. VS noted she can advise of particular organisations but not specific cases.

Action: CMatthes/VS

5. Child Poverty (Pam Curtis)

PC presented and discussed the 'Buckinghamshire Child Poverty Strategy'. The floor was opened to the Board for question and comment:

CMunday noted the vision encapsulates what we want to do. SC reported the Green Paper for Probation uses the slogan 'break the cycle' therefore; we need to be clear they are not linked in any way.

SC noted the priority actions should be sustainable before the strategy is signed off. PC to check the 'achievable' priority actions are agreed across the Board

Action: PC

VS raised concerns regarding the strap line 'every bodies business'.

SI stated the following:

- Research around removing young people from poverty – prevarication on education and relationships. An open statement which reflects this is required.
- Need to contextualise work which came out of the Allan Report.
- A greater reference around skills in education is needed.

GC noted in relation to Priority D, Amersham and Wycombe College have received external funding to undertake a piece of work and will be happy to share what transpires from this.

The following main points were noted:

- The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) Group are next meeting on 11th March. Work is being undertaken on the actions but the group will focus on specific activities to build a framework for each one.
- Priority A, Point 2 – change allow to 'to inform'. PT noted there is more money to improve housing efficiency. Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust are working with the Town Council on a specific energy efficient project.
- SI asked PC to look into the priorities and come back to the next Board meeting with a list agencies, partners and initiatives.

Action: PC

- LH made reference to the 'Big Society' and to think through areas where we can help as communities, not just agencies. Work can be undertaken through the Local Area Forums.
- BH stated the role should be a facilitation one as capacity will diminish. Some unemployed adults will not want to engage with this. A longer term strategy is required.
- EM noted to include some narrative about people helping themselves.
- AD reported we need to be clearer about delivering targeted strategies. It's implicit within some but not so clear in others.
- SI noted the document should contain:
 - Broad aims.
 - Objectives under 'achievable' actions.
 - Actions which flow to deliver the objectives (some much longer term).

PC requested comments were submitted to her within the next 10 days.

Action: ALL

Stephen Czajewski left the meeting.

6. Day in the Life Workshop (Ed Mallam)

EM gave a brief outline of the 'Day in the Life' Project. The Board was given the opportunity to participate in a workshop which looked at the findings. EM noted if partners would like a more detailed session he would be happy to do this.

The main points discussed following the workshop include:

- A Loan Parent Advisor is starting at Southcourt Children's Centre. SI raised interest in how this was going. BK to report back.
- There is a strategy in place for violent extremism.
- The Board agreed to the methodology used. SI noted Adult Social Care is looking into using this process.

Action: BK

7. 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, Schools Capital Programme:
 - Primary Capital Programme – awaiting outcomes of the James Review.
 - Aylesbury Vale Academy – awaiting confirmation of next steps.
- Page 4, Children and Young People with complex needs:
 - Special Education – further discussions are to be had with Governing Bodies and the schools involved.
- Page 6, Develop Local Provision:
 - Children's Centres - final sites confirmed however, the challenge will be finishing by the 31st March 2011. If BCC deliver within this timeframe we will be one of the only local authorities to do so.
- Page 7, Children and Young People with Complex Needs - A business case was presented to the Councils Leaders Advisory Group. A detailed project plan is being drawn up. Members agreed it would be helpful to have the Transitions paper presented at the next Trust Board. EM to add to future agenda items.

Action: EM

- Page 8, 14-19 Reforms:
 - Education Business Link – funding still unknown.
 - Connexions contract – the contract has been extended but there are uncertainties around what the Government will be doing. CM has met with BH to come up with other options.
- Page 9, Youth and Leisure Activities – still suspended until the budget decision.

8. CYP Plan Q3 Performance Report (Ed Mallam)

EM presented and reported on the 'Performance Monitoring of the Children and Young People's Plan Targets'. The following updates were noted:

- Permanently excluded pupils – CM stated he was surprised at the performance level as alternative provision is in place.
- NI 114 – the measure of exclusions are taken from the schools, not where the pupil(s) live.
- NI 117 – work Connexions are doing was acknowledged.

The floor was opened for discussion:

AD reported initial and core assessments (NIs 59 and 60) have been impacted due to backlog issues and increased volume. Safeguarding is set against a level of high demand and the amount one can feasibly do against target is limited. AD noted he would like the opportunity to analysis this in more detail. EM to change the 'unit' to Smaller is Better.

Action: EM

9. Budget settlements and impacts (ALL)

Partners updated the Board on their current situation.

MP – still waiting to hear what the schools budget will be.

AD – If recommendations go through on the 17th February, Safeguarding will have done reasonably well.

VS – the amount of changes currently happening has raised some interesting challenges. Volunteers are becoming increasingly stretched.

DL – there are sufficient efficiency savings required within the NHS to stay where we are. A lot of work needs to be done on demand management.

BH – the focus is on prioritising and greater collaborative working. The dialogue between BCC and Connexions is fantastic.

GC – hours have been cut at Aylesbury College but the delivery and entitlement to students remains the same therefore, staff are having to think creatively about working in a different way. EMA is also a concern. There is no information about how the system will work for young people in deprived areas/poverty.

BK – there are a lot of changes ahead for Job Centre Plus. The work programme won't impact too much; the real concerns are unemployed 18-24 year olds. Currently if unemployed after 6 months they will be offered work of work-focused training, this has now increased to 9 months.

CMatthews – the NHS are in the process of negotiating contracts. They are looking at an organisational change and a quick plan to reduce waste.

KM – echoed concerns GC raised regarding the EMA.

PT – AVDC have learnt the grant from Government has increased. Most of the direct work with children and young people will stay the same this year but may change next year. There are concerns regarding youth provision. A project currently underway carries a sports coach qualification. AVDC are aiming to engage NEET young people.

SI – the budgetary position of the County Council will be going to cabinet on the 17th February. The strategy is looking to protect as many areas as possible but the focus will be on the most vulnerable. Support to voluntary organisations will be maintained. There will be significant reductions in the School Improvement Service and universal youth provision. The strategy looks at protecting funded grants and to maintain funding in Early Intervention and Prevention work.

CM noted once everyone's position has been confirmed to look at any arising issues. We still have not heard from the TDA, CWDC, YPLA and Youth Justice Board regarding funding.

LH left the meeting.

10. Care2Work (Pat James and Barry Cullen)

Pat James and Barry Cullen presented the Board with an overview of Care2Work. The following main points were noted:

- The initiative aims to create opportunities and raise aspirations for young people in and leaving care aged 13-25 years old.
- 150 local authorities are currently engaged in the programme and over 40 national companies.
- Tesco's, Aylesbury are currently involved in a national pilot work experience programme.
- Booklets are given to employers and young people which note what their rights are, but with these rights comes responsibilities.
- The longer young people are out of work the more difficult it is to find them something.

The floor was opened for discussion.

BH asked whether capacity is there to support the young people if the opportunity arises? Response was yes there is..

VS praised the wonderful work the team is doing.

PJ reported within his team there are 13 personal advisors. Within this there are a number of specialist advisors - asylum worker, NEET, benefits and district council worker and two accommodation workers. PJ also noted the budget comes from the Safeguarding Division.

SI thanks both for coming and was pleased to see how far we have come in such a short space of time. SI asked colleagues to contact PJ should any opportunities arise.

11. Organisational Updates

EM noted lots of work is happening on developing the new Children and Young People's Plan.

CMason reported the merger between Action4Youth and Youth Focus has been successful.

MP stated there is an "Additional school" / "Free school" conference taking place in September. MP raised concerns regarding the consultation. SI noted an organisation is asking to see us. If either of the above are opened next to a primary this could have implications.

AD reported the Youth Offending Service will be inspected in 4 weeks time.

DL noted the following:

- The scale of the health service changes is colossal. The Department of Health have announced all PCT's have to merge into clusters, Bucks will probably merge with Oxfordshire, this must be in place by 31st March 2011.
- The Strategic Health Authority disappears next year.
- All provider organisations have to be Foundation Trusts by April 2014. Bucks Hospital Trust will have a lot of work to carry out.
- PCT staff have been very resilient.

SI noted we must make sure we are engaged with GP Commissioning.

BH noted the following:

- Is waiting for the budget outcome.
- Has been invited to be part of a visit with Ofsted on the 3rd March.

JM stated work is being undertaken to help charities.

CMatthews echoed DL's comments and voiced she is looking forward to working with the new Bucks Health and Wellbeing Board and GP consortia.

CMunday noted he is dealing with the implications of the budgetary position. There are pressures with the school's budget, mainly DSG.

SI reported the following:

- The county has two established academies.
- Work is being undertaken on proposing and developing national protocols, as well as local ones.
- The Education Bill is making its way through parliament
- The Special Needs Green Paper is coming out in March; this could have a significant impact .

12. Any other business

PT raised concerns regarding participation breaks for carers of disabled children. SI and CM agreed to have a conversation outside of the Board meeting.

Date of next meeting, 9.30am to 12 noon, 4th April 2011, Mezz 3, County Hall, Aylesbury.