

**MINUTES OF THE
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRUST BOARD MEETING
HELD ON 24th SEPTEMBER 2008, MEZZ ROOM 3, COUNTY HALL.**

Present:

Chris Williams (BCC) - Chairman, Sue Imbriano (BCC), Chris Munday (BCC), Ed Mallam (BCC), Cllr. Lin Hazell (BCC), Cllr. Marion Clayton (BCC), Cllr. Pauline Wilkinson (BCC), Cllr. Penni Thorne (AVDC), Cllr. Mimi Harker (CDC), David Lunn (Bucks PCT), Yvonne Taylor (OBMH), Andrew Toynton (Bucks LSC), Dean Taylor (BCC), Donald McPhail (LSCB), Carol Mason (Voluntary Sector), Gill Clipson (Amersham College), Sarah Newall (Aylesbury College) – on behalf of Pauline Odulinski, Melanie Turner (BCC) – Notes.

Apologies:

Alan Goodrum (CDC), Sally Loring (Bucks Hospital Trust), Cllr. David Polhill (BCC), Cllr. Hillary Evans (SBDC), Cllr. Helen Wilkinson (WDC).

Observer: Julie Waldron (OBMH).

Visitors: Emma Ironmonger (The Buckingham School), Ben Ward (The Buckingham School) and Tom Lewis (BCC).

1. Welcome and Apologies

CW welcomed everyone to the meeting and the apologies were noted.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes were agreed with the following amendments:

Item 7 – Organisational Updates

Should read Chief Executives have been written to regarding the Vetting and Barring Scheme, not Vetting Barrier Scheme.

4. Young Person's Guide to the Children and Young People's Trust (Ben Ward, Emma Ironmonger and Tom Lewis)

TL Introduced Ben and Emma to the Trust Board and they presented the leaflet they had created during their time with the Partnership Delivery Team on work experience. They then explained the following:

a. Project Brief.

Using information from interviews with Trust Board members, create a leaflet to explain the Children and Young People's Trust to young people in Buckinghamshire.

b. What happened during the project?

They decided what was important for young people to know about the Trust and came up with a range of questions which they used to interview a number of Trust Board members. They then produced the text for the leaflet and worked on the design.

c. What will happen to the leaflet?

The leaflet is going to be distributed to:

- Interviewees.
- Ben and Emma.
- The Buckingham School.
- Youth Centres/Projects.
- District Youth Cabinets.
- Bucks Youth Cabinet.
- Children and Young People's Trust partner organisations.
- Youth Parliament.
- Miscellaneous Young People's events.

It was decided that the leaflet should also be distributed to County Councillors with a brief explanation of how it was developed.

Action: TL

d. What they learned from the experience?

Ben and Emma informed the Trust Board they'd learnt a number of things from this experience which included developing their self confidence, interview techniques, communication and computing skills.

There was then the opportunity for questions from the Trust Board members.

SI asked if she'd be able to share the leaflet at a national level. Ben and Emma were happy for her to do this.

MC would like to see the County Council offer more work experience opportunities.

CMason stressed the importance of providing appropriate support during work experience projects and noted this had obviously been done very successfully by the Partnership Delivery Team.

EM informed the Board that we will be aiming to develop a children's version of the leaflet next year.

CW congratulated Ben and Emma on their work and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Emma Ironmonger, Ben Ward and Tom Lewis left the meeting.

5. Feedback from the Trust Delivery Group (Sue Imbriano).

CW said it would be useful to have the minutes from the Delivery Group at future Board meetings.

Action: EM

Item 4 – Child Poverty in Buckinghamshire

A presentation and discussion led by CMunday had taken place looking at Buckinghamshire child poverty data at a District level. The number of Lone Parent Benefit claimants are significantly higher than those receiving other types of workless benefits in all of the four District areas.

It was agreed that Buckinghamshire does not need a separate poverty strategy as partners are doing a number of things already.

SI stressed the importance of evidencing what is being done and identifying the gaps. A Healthy Communities Strategy is being written and includes a section on child poverty. We should look at smaller geographical areas i.e. around schools to see if we are doing things that will make a difference.

CW suggested that a piece of work was commissioned to undertake this mapping of localised activity via the work of either the Healthy Communities Strategy Group or the Trust Delivery Group.

Item 5 – Feedback on Mental Health Papers

Following feedback and subsequent amendments being made the Delivery Group has approved the Buckinghamshire Integrated Children and Young People's Mental Health Promotion Strategy 2008-2011.

Item 6 – Draft Buckinghamshire 14-19 Strategy

Louise Goll presented and discussed the paper 'The Buckinghamshire 14-19 Strategy 2008-2013 (Draft)' and has asked the Delivery Group for their comments on the draft.

6. Towards a Placement Strategy for vulnerable children placed away from home (Chris Munday).

The 'Towards a Placement Strategy for vulnerable children placed away from home' paper was presented and the Trust Board were asked to approve the strategy.

CM reported that the County Council invests over £14 million per annum in this area and stressed that this strategy is not a cost cutting exercise but about improving placements for children and young people. The following key points were noted:

- We need to look at the placement of vulnerable children away from home.
- Buckinghamshire does provide good residential care but we need to look at how we can improve this.
- There are five core principles of the strategy.
- It is important to emphasise the family role more and to collectively start thinking at how the family is supported i.e. other family members.

The floor was opened for questions/discussion with the following points raised:

- MH - integrated assessment is vital.
- DT - important to make link to the Youth Crime Action Plan.
- PW asked if there is help provided to support families to visit children placed out of county. CMunday responded yes there is but it is minimal.
- YT - stressed case management review is important, need to think about how we bring children back.
- CW - asked if this should be a partnership document?
- CW – asked for clarity on the choice of placement, is this about offering different options and if so who makes the choice? CMunday replied that it should be both the parents and staff making the choice to best meet the needs of the child. A range of choices to meet needs has to be developed.
- SI - stated it is important to think family. For example the impact on other siblings. This should be reflected in the strategy as it is developed. SI also recognised the importance of continuous review of placements by staff to evaluate the impact on children and young people.
- CMason – asked if there were any thoughts on developing a career pathway in this area for volunteers. This will be taken forward through the Workforce Development Strategy.
- CW - there are workforce implications and suggested that FE Colleges and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) could have a role in developing courses. GC agreed.
- CW asked about the quality of supply. This is outlined in Core Principle 4.

The Trust Board agreed the strategy as a positive direction of travel.

The Trust Board agreed that the strategy would be strengthened if it was made into a Partnership Strategy. CM to make the necessary amendments and circulate the revised document to Board members.

Action: CM

7. Youth Crime Action Plan (Dean Taylor)

DT presented and discussed the 'Youth Crime Action Plan' and noted that the Plan will be presented to three key partnerships, the Children and Young People's Trust Board, Youth Offending Service Management Board and the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

In particular DT stressed the recent attention to knife crime which has resulted in tougher sanctions. DT also stated that it is important to remember that young people are often the victims of crime and the need for positive media coverage about the contribution young people make to society.

DT asked the Board to consider the questions raised in the Action Plan.

The floor was opened for questions/discussion with the following points raised:

MH commented that people are using social networking sites such as Facebook and Bebo to gather gangs together. MH asked how accurate are the figures on gun and knife crime? DT responded that the figures are obtained from Thames Valley Police intelligence.

PW – pleased to see an emphasis on the role of parents within the document. We should be tougher on young people that do offend and felt that the media can encourage young people to commit crime.

LH - agreed the role of the family/parents is key and we need to work with them to support this. Gangs have always existed but seem to be more violent now. The sales of alcohol needs to be more effectively controlled.

CMunday commented that the Government's approach to youth crime needs to be integrated with social factors. The consultation questions reflect what the Trust has already prioritised e.g. prevention. The key is how these are delivered.

CMason – Chapter 6, bullet point one, asked if this could be worded differently so that Trust's have a role in 'developing strategy in this area' rather than 'preventing offending'. DT stressed an integrated approach is required and that the Trust needs to be part of this.

SI said it is crucial that the Trust Board gives consideration as to how it works to address youth crime. Prevention is key. Children and young people need to develop emotional intelligence and resilience in order that they can make choices for themselves.

DL felt the consultation questions did not reflect the positive approach taken in the rest of the paper.

CW – need to consider a local approach and the governance role of the Trust Board in this area.

DT will reflect the views of the Trust Board in the consultation response and circulate this to Trust Board members.

Action: DT

8. Information Sharing Protocol Position Statements (Ed Mallam)

EM presented and discussed the document showing the Position Statements which have been received from Trust Board Member organisations. These were requested following concerns raised at the Trust Delivery Group.

The following comments were noted by EM regarding the Position Statements received:

General points:

- Thanks to those organisations who had responded.
- There is evidence that some positive work is taking place to implement the Protocol.
- A number of organisations have not responded.

Chiltern District Council:

- Nexus suggested amendments to the Protocol have been incorporated.
- Training and support for staff will be available when Local Delivery Programme is launched in the area.

Voluntary Sector:

- There are issues raised by the voluntary sector that need further consideration.

The floor was opened for questions/discussion with the following points raised:

CW stressed that it is vital to share information. He stated that there are lots more organisations that needed to be encouraged to share information and be included in the Protocol.

For example:

- Are all schools covered?
- Connexions, DAAT and YOS?

CW made the following comments on the Position Statements paper:

- Disagreed with the comment from AVDC regarding them not having to share information about young people as they are responsible for housing and leisure services.
- Disappointing that WDC and SBDC had not responded.
- Asked how Buckinghamshire PCT could support better links with GPs?
- Queried what was being done regarding the duplicate systems within the Hospitals Trust for recording information.
- Stated that it is the responsibility of the Trust Board to encourage staff within their organisations to attend Information Sharing training.

MH asked how the general public are enabled to share information if they have concerns or fears e.g. about an individual's violent history.

Liza Wormell to lead on pursuing the issues identified above, including the query regarding the general public, and report back to the Trust Board at a future meeting.

Action: LW

9. Local Area Agreement (Chris Munday)

A verbal update was provided by CM with the following noted:

- CAMHS and YOS targets will be affected due to recent Government guidance.
- Quarter 2 performance data is about to be collected.
- Base line data for some targets has been obtained from the results of the Tell Us 3 Survey.

10. Organisational Updates (All)

SI reminded Board members that 11 Million Takeover Day was running again this year (7 November) and encouraged colleagues to take part. A letter from the Children's Commissioner for England was distributed giving more information about the day.

SI informed the Trust Board that the Tell Us 3 Survey results have been published and felt this would be a useful future agenda item.

Action: EM

LH reported that the regional Children in Care Event is scheduled for the 7th November. Kriss Akabusi will be a guest speaker at this event – thanks to CW for his help with arranging this.

JW informed the Board that World Mental Health Day is on the 10th October and an event is taking place in Oxford to promote this. Activities will include live music, arts and crafts, five a side football.

YT reported that the Eating Disorders Pack has now been launched in schools. The young people's Article 12 Group has been set up and is conducting an on-line survey for young people using mental health services.

MC reported that the Quarrendon Academy project is moving very quickly. The statutory notice to close Quarrendon School and reopen it as an Academy has been published. The current edition of Buckinghamshire Times contains a consultation on the County Council budget for next year.

GC informed the Board that Amersham College are working closely with Wycombe District Council on economic development.

SN reported that the first group of students for the Foundation Degree for working with children and young people have been inducted at Bucks University and Aylesbury College.

AT informed the Board about the LSC apprenticeship service and a joint approach with schools so that they are aware of vocational training.

CMunday reported that there is positive progress on a number of commissioning programmes.

EM reported that work is continuing on the Trust website and circulated a consultation paper on the Family Information Service next stages. EM will circulate this paper to the Trust Board electronically giving a deadline for feedback.

Action: EM

DL reported that the PCT is looking to separate its commissioning and provider functions. There will be a meeting on the 30th September to discuss this. Connexions are to open Centres in Aylesbury and High Wycombe in the near future. Young people's views will inform the design of these.

11. Any Other Business

None.

12. Date and Time of next meeting

Thursday 23rd October 2008, 9.30am to 12 noon, Mezz 2, County Hall, Aylesbury.