

SWINDON CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD

THURSDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2014

PRESENT: Liz Holmes (Chair), Councillors Michael Bray, Fionuala Foley, Cindy Matthews, Kathie Bryan (ASSSH), Valerie Johnstone (Governors), John Gilbert (Group Director), Mike Howard (LSCB), Doug Morris (Parent & Carers Advisory Group), Kate Rowe and Tanya Parkinson (Children's Centres), Steve Colledge (SASH), Cherry Jones (Acting Director, Public Health), Jenny Lewis (Barnardos), Andrew Ferguson, Dr Peter Mack (NHS Swindon / CCG).

Apologies for absence were received from Sharon Kirwan (SAPH), David Dawson (Diocese), Sue Wald (Head of Commissioning Children and Adults), Paddy Bradley (Head of Economy, Skills and Property Development and Karen Reeve (Head of Children's Social Care, Community Health and Family Services).

24. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 11th September 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

25. Public Question Time

No public questions were asked at the meeting.

26. Wiltshire Police Youth Engagement Strategy 2014

The Chair welcomed Superintendent Marion Deegan, Head of Crime Prevention at Wiltshire Police, Inspector Mark Freeman, from Wiltshire Police Crime Prevention and Dale Colsell from Swindon Youth Offending Team to the meeting. The Board considered a report by the Wiltshire Police Crime Prevention Department detailing the Wiltshire Police Youth Engagement Strategy.

Superintendent Marion Deegan, Head of Crime Prevention at Wiltshire Police presented the report, explained the aims of the strategy, how the plan contributed to the governance structure, and how the strategy would be linked to work being undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership.

The Board welcomed the report and raised the following issues:

- The possibility of extending the list of stakeholders in the draft Youth Engagement Strategy to include the Children's Trust Board and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and of exploring linkages between Wiltshire Police Crime Prevention Department and both Boards.
- The awareness of the direction of travel and working towards cohesion that existed amongst all stakeholders and the importance of ensuring that there was no duplication of work.
- Further to paragraph 1.3 of the Strategy, the Board noted the benefit of working in different ways and engaging other agencies, particularly the Health and Wellbeing Board, to ensure the continuation of a co-ordinated approach.

- A proposal to meet with the Secondary Association of Secondary Headteachers to elicit participation.
- The role of the Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group in the strategy.

Superintendent Deegan referred to the report as a “discussion document” and welcomed comments advising where the strategy should fit and what the “drivers” should be

Resolved: (1) That the Wiltshire Police Youth Engagement Strategy, be noted.

(2) That the Chair be requested to set up a working group to further debate the issues and questions highlighted in paragraph 2.5 of the report.

27. Disabled Children's Charter for Health and Wellbeing Boards

The Cabinet Member for Children’s Services and the Board Director Commissioning presented a joint report informing the Board on the content of the new Disabled Children’s Charter for Health and Wellbeing Boards.

Mrs Cherry Jones, Acting Director of Public Health, outlined the commitments within the Charter and referred to key areas where the needs of disabled and young people and their families were being met. She commented on the collaborative work being undertaken and outlined examples where commitments were met since the signing of the Charter.

The Board welcomed the report and Mrs Jones responded to questions regarding the ways objectives were measured and how engagement was demonstrated.

Resolved: (1) That the report on the Disabled Children’s Charter for Health and Wellbeing Boards, be noted.

(2) That the Health and Wellbeing Board’s decision to sign up to the Disabled Children’s Charter for Health and Wellbeing Boards, be supported.

(3) That the Board Director, Commissioning, be requested to provide a report in twelve months’ time demonstrating the Council’s compliance with the Charter.

(4) That, further to the decision in (3) above, the Board Director, Commissioning, be requested to update the Health and Wellbeing Board with comments from the Children’s Trust Board’s meeting in twelve months’ time on compliance by the Council with the Charter.

28. Children's Services Performance Report

The Cabinet Member for Children’s Services and the Board Director Commissioning presented a joint report updating the Board on the final outturn performance position for 2013/14 and on quarter 2 (July to September 2014) of Children’s Services.

Mr John Gilbert, Board Director, Commissioning, highlighted changes and the direction of travel for the various areas, and highlighted the continuing rise in referrals, the continuing decrease in the duration of children on child protection plans, the reduction in the adoption rates, and that the proportion of 16 to 18 year olds who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) was lower than last year’s figures.

Mr Gilbert, in response to issues raised by the Board, referred to:

- Reasons for the increase in the rate of children starting a protection plan for the second or subsequent time.
- The impact on Social Care referrals following the closure of some Children's Centres.
- Reasons for the increase in fixed term school exclusions.
- Swindon's achievement in the immunisation programme, particularly for the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV).
- Mental health services available in schools, the work being undertaken by the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), and how future health services for young people may be commissioned.

Mr Mike Howard, as Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB), extended an invitation for Board members to attend the next LSCB meeting on the 9th December 2014, where the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) were presenting a report.

Resolved: (1) That the Children's Services performance report, be noted.

(2) That the Board Director, Commissioning be requested to include children on child protection plans in the Children and Families Quality Assurance Framework for 2015/16.

29. Minutes of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Board Director Commissioning submitted a joint report setting out the minutes of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) meeting of 9th September 2014.

Mr Mike Howard, Chair, Swindon Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) commented on the report and highlighted matters of particular significance including an update on the Domestic Abuse Conference Call trails, the probation services inspection, and the LSCB's views regarding the Swindon and Wiltshire Domestic Abuse Reduction Strategy.

Resolved –That the report and minutes of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board meeting held on 9th September 2014, be noted.

30. Introduction of the Early Help Record and Plan - One year on

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Board Director Commissioning presented a joint report concerning the impact of introducing the Early Help Record and Plan and the work undertaken to provide early help and support to children and young people and their families in Swindon.

Annette Peer, Early Support Manager, introduced Kathy Macdonald, Integrated Services Operations Manager and Charmaine Tarring, Manager, Families First Team and referred to work being undertaken to review, evaluate, update and embed the process. Case studies were presented reflecting the impact of the work and processes undertaken by Swindon Children, Families and Community Health for particular families in Swindon.

Resolved: That the report on the development of the Early Help Record and Plan twelve months after it was introduced, be noted.

31. Minutes of the Joint Commissioning Board (Adults & Children)

The Cabinet Member for Children's Service and the Board Director Commissioning submitted a joint report setting out the minutes of the Joint Commissioning Board (Adults and Children) meeting of 16th September 2014.

Resolved – (1) That the report and minutes of the Joint Commissioning Board (Adults and Children) meeting held on 16th September 2014, be noted.

(2) That Members of the Trust Board be requested to inform the Chair or Committee Officer if they wish further information on any item appearing in the minutes of the Joint Commissioning Board.