

SWINDON CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD

THURSDAY, 12 MARCH 2015

PRESENT: Liz Holmes (Chair), Councillors Michael Bray and Cindy Matthews, Kathie Bryan (Association of Swindon Special Schools Headteachers), Debbie Kalyinka (Swindon Association of Primary Headteachers), Steve Colledge (Swindon Association of Secondary Headteachers), Valerie Johnstone (Governors), John Gilbert (Group Director), Mike Howard (Local Safeguarding Children's Board), Karen Reeve (Head of Children's Social Care, Community Health and Family Service), Paddy Bradley (Head of Economy, Skills and Property Development), Dr Wendy Woodhouse (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services), Caroline Little (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services), Paul Dobson (Swindon Ten to Eighteen Project), Sally Burnett (Commissioner, Routes to Employment), Victoria Guillaume (Strategic Planning Manager), Gareth Cheal (Strategic Planning Manager).

Apologies for absence were received from Sue Wald (Head of Commissioning, Children and Adults), Supt Andrew Carr (Police), Cherry Jones (Director of Public Health), David Dawson (Diocese) and Jenny Lewis (Barnardos).

Also in attendance: Councillor Fionuala Foley.

32. Minutes

Councillor Foley informed members that this was the last meeting of the Swindon Children's Trust Board. She referred to the excellent work undertaken and overseen by the Board to ensure safeguarding in Swindon and that this had been positively highlighted by the previous two Ofsted inspections. She explained the reasons for this decision and commented on the changing landscape particularly to the high conversion rate of local schools to academies and on how this had affected membership and attendance.

Councillor Foley explained that Ofsted's main focus was now on attainment and referred to the need to review governance arrangement. She thanked all members for their attendance and contribution in the past, particularly the Chair for her work as a member and then Chair of the Board.

Resolved: (1) That the minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

(2) Noted that this would be the last meeting of the Swindon Children's Trust Board.

(3) Noted that further to Minutes 26 of the minutes, the Community Safety Partnership Team to liaise with Wiltshire Police Crime Prevention Department on implementing the Youth Engagement Strategy.

(4) That members of the Board and officers be thanked for their valuable work during the past years and their attendance at the Board's meetings.

33. Public Question Time

No public questions were asked at the meeting.

34.**Youth Forum Update**

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Board Director Commissioning presented a joint report updating the Board on the joint project between the Youth Forum, Member of Youth Parliament (MYP) and the Routes to Employment Team. Mr Paul Dobson, Project Manager, STEP (Swindon Ten to Eighteen Project), presented the report and referred to the progress made following the Apprenticeship Workshop held on 27th October 2014. He explained that the consultation exercise had been expanded to include young people attending therapeutic groups and following the Apprenticeship Workshop, the need to widely promote apprenticeships in schools as part of the curriculum. He referred to the benefits this would have for school leavers. Mrs Sally Burnett, Commissioner, Routes to Employment, explained how some apprenticeships were now a pathway to obtaining a university degree and reiterated Mr Dobson's comments regarding the need to promote apprenticeships with employers, parents and young people.

The Chair welcomed the report and explained how this work positively linked to the "Routes to Employment" report (Minute Item 35). She commented on the importance of breaking down perceptions barriers regarding apprenticeships and on the need to engage parents. Members noted how rebranding apprenticeships may highlight employability opportunities and identify progression routes to employment for your young people. The Chair further commented on the five week window of opportunity to promote this work when Year 11 pupils completed their exams.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

35.**Routes to Employment for Vulnerable Groups**

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Board Director Commissioning presented a joint report to provide a) an overview of the local authority's statutory duties regarding the participation of young people 16 to 25 in education, employment or training; b) to update members on the current participation outcomes; and c) to comment on strategies in place to improve routes to employment for vulnerable groups.

Mrs Sally Burnett, Commissioner, Routes to Employment, explained the statutory duties, highlighted current outcomes and elaborated on the strategies in place, particularly referring to the Skills and Employment Strategy that included actions to improve routes to employment for vulnerable young people in Swindon. She commented on work being undertaken with learning providers to ensure guidance and support provided was effective and productive. Mrs Burnett explained that support for young people with special educational needs continued until they were twenty five, in terms of having a personal advisor to support them through a Pathway Plan.

Mrs Burnett, responded to members comments and questions on the following issues:

- Challenges faced by Youth Offenders.
- The collaborative work being undertaken with the Youth Offending Team to ensure youth offenders were on the right pathways and were able to overcome any barriers to employment.
- Review strategies to introduce support for Year 11 pupils towards the end of their scholastic year.

- The importance of Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinators (SENCO) in schools who were able to support young people with special education needs to identify the right route to employment.
- Encourage data sharing with other stakeholders.

Resolved: That the current education, employment and training outcomes for vulnerable groups, the strategies in place and the future challenges as highlighted in the report, be noted.

36. Emotional and Mental Health Support for Children and Young People in Swindon

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Board Director Commissioning submitted a report updating members on the emotional and mental health needs of children and young people in Swindon and on the performance of the local Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). Mrs Caroline Little, Joint Children's Health Commissioner, CAMHS, referred to the multi-agency and tiered approach to this work and commented on the current review being conducted regarding the needs and services of young people in Swindon. Mrs Little elaborated on the four tiers of CAMHS work and advised that demand for services had increased over the past years, resulting in a range of actions being undertaken to reduce the waiting list. She confirmed that the number of caseloads remained static, with time spent on each case being extended.

Following her presentation of the report, Mrs Little responded to members' questions and observations on the following issues:

- Tier 3 CAMHS demand. Reasons for the percentage reduction of new referrals offered an assessment within four weeks of referral and the actions being taken by the department to address this.
- Engagement with schools enabling them to access Targeted Mental Health Services (TaMHS) and CAMHS and how the quality of service provided to schools would be monitored.
- How services were provided to schools through Traded Services.
- Clarification on ways parents were able to access CAMHS.
- Importance of information sharing particularly for young people at risk of self-harm.
- The range of therapeutic support available for young people at risk of experiencing child sexual exploitation.

Resolved: (1) That progress on the needs assessment and service developments made by the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, be noted.

(2) That the Joint Children's Health Commissioner, be requested to circulate to members of the Board, information on how parents were able to access CAMHS.

37. School Admission Arrangements 2016-17

The Board Director Commissioning, Children and Adults and the Head of Economy, Skills and Property Development, submitted a joint report concerning the co-ordinated admission arrangements for Year 3, Year 7 and Year 10 (University Technical College) and on the in-year admission scheme for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools in Swindon from September 2016. Mr Gareth Cheal, Strategic Planning Manager, explained the report was submitted annually as part of the legal requirement to consult on the admission arrangements. He referred to the report structure where it reflected the Council's responsibilities for the Co-

Ordinated Scheme and b) the Council's responsibilities as an admitting authority. Mr Cheal highlighted two changes in the 2016/17 Admission arrangements from previous years. These related to the priority given to children naming a specific school on their Education, Health and Care Plan and the change in catchment area for Isambard School.

Resolved: That the Swindon Children's Trust Board recommends Cabinet to approve:

(1) The Co-ordinated Scheme of Admission Arrangements for the normal point of entry [Reception Year, Year 3, Year 7 and Year 10 (University Technical College)] and In Year admissions for all primary schools and secondary schools in Swindon for September 2016.

(2) The admission numbers for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools for September 2016.

(3) That, if approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 18th March 2015, the proposals referred to in (1) and (2) above were determined by 15th April 2015 and will be implemented by the Board Director, Commissioning for school admission for September 2016 for all applicants.

(4) That the Strategic Planning Manager be requested to add a recommendation to the report clarifying the position of the University Technical College as an academy within the admission process.

38. Children's Services Performance Report

The Cabinet member for Children's Services and the Board Director Commissioning submitted a joint report updating the Board on the final performance outturn for Children's Services for the period to December 2014. Mrs Victoria Guillaume, Strategic Planning Manager, highlighted the improvements that had been made and the areas still causing concerns. Mr Paddy Bradley, Head of Economy, Skills and Property Development, responded to questions and comments from the Board regarding the following issues:

- Future arrangements for recording and presenting children's performance data to the agencies represented on the Swindon Children's Trust Board. Councillor Foley referred to other Committees where this report would be submitted.
- Reasons for the high number of fixed term exclusions and actions of the Fair Access Panel to support pupils at risk of exclusion.
- An analysis to be conducted to help identify reasons for the low rate of Early Help Record and Plans being undertaken.
- Identifying ways to promote Early Help Record and Plans.
- The demand on the 'front door' of social care - demographics behind referrals.

Resolved: That the performance data for the period to end of December 2014, be noted.

39. Minutes of 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 held on 9th December 2014. Mr Mike Howard, Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) introduced the report and commented on the minutes. Mr Howard referred to the four new lay

members sitting on the LSCB. He remarked on the on-going work being undertaken regarding the increase in the number of children presenting at Great Western Hospital as self-harming and child protection issues resulting from domestic abuse. Mr Howard explained that the LSCB Business Plan reflecting new priorities for the Board, particularly focusing on child protection issues, would be submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting in May 2015.

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