

SWINDON CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD

THURSDAY, 6 JUNE 2013

PRESENT: Liz Holmes Chair), Councillor Fionuala Foley, Councillor Cindy Matthews, Sharon Kirwan, Liz Holmes, Katherine Bryan (Head Teachers), Valerie Johnstone (Governors), Teresa Harding (GWH Foundation Trust), John Gilbert (Group Director), Phil Thomas (Community Safety), Mike Howard (LSCB), Doug Morris (Parent & Carers Advisory Group), Mr David Dawson, Louise Campion (Swindon Primary Care Trust), Steve Colledge (Schools Forum) and Councillor Michael Bray.

Apologies for absence were received from Paul Gregory (Equalities), Andrew Miller (Swindon College), Bob Buckley (School Representative) and Supt. Gavin Williams (Police).

1. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2013 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising:

The Trust Board noted that information relating to Minute 22(2) of the minutes, (Preparation for the adoption of the new directive, School Responsibility for the Education of Pupils Permanently Excluded) had been circulated.

2. Public Question Time.

Mr Paul Sunners, Swindon Resident asked a number of questions regarding Swindon Youth Service and the engagement of Swindon Youth Partnership with the Trust Board.

The Chair advised that a written response had been prepared and circulated at the meeting. She remarked that the Trust Board welcomed such engagement and welcomed future opportunities to interact with young people.

3. Healthy Weight Strategy Consultation

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Board Director, Commissioning submitted a joint report setting out the draft Swindon Healthy Weight Strategy. Fiona Dickens, Public Health Programme Manager, invited the Trust Board to comment on the strategy as part of the wider consultation process. She referred to the key consultation areas including the overall strategy, aims and attaining agreed goals.

The Trust Board welcomed the strategies Swindon context. The Chair asked if the strategy could explain more about why we use Body Mass Index (BMI) to measure obesity as the strategy says this measure has limitations. The Chair enquired what actions were being considered to address public engagement, particularly when communicating with parents and the emotive issue of BMI in children as part of the National Child Measurement programme (NCMP). Fiona Dickens outlined the ways of communicating with parents as part of the NCMP, particularly highlighting actions that could be adopted to enable healthier lifestyle

choices. She offered to circulate the NCMP parent feedback letter to members of the Trust Board. There was discussion around what more could be done to reduce obesity in Swindon. Fiona Dickens said that structured whole school programmes, which included the local community, which support a healthy diet and an increase in physical activity, offer have some evidence of effectiveness in stopping a rise in obesity and in some schools where intensive work has been carried out there has been a decrease in obesity.

In response to a query regarding the scope of the strategy, Fiona Dickens commented that some consultation feedback queried the overall spectrum of the strategy as being too wide given that the action plan was aimed at tackling overweight and obesity issues. The Board discussed the focus of the report and agreed that the title 'Healthy Weight Strategy for Swindon' should remain the same and noted the following points:

- The strategy should focus on tackling obesity, rather than trying to include other issues arising from the whole weight spectrum, including underweight, safeguarding and eating disorders, which are covered elsewhere in clinical care pathways and/ or strategies. The terms of reference of the strategy need to be changed to reflect this shift in focus of the strategy.
- With regard to the Vision, the Trust Board agreed that 'healthy lifestyle' should be included as is what the strategy is trying to achieve.
- Interventions. As well as sports, Arts might have a part to play in delivering the strategy.

The Board noted how this strategy would complement work being undertaken by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

Resolved – (1) That Fiona Dickens to circulate to Trust Board members, for information, the NCMP feedback letter sent out to parents regarding healthier lifestyles.

(2) That the Strategy be updated to reflect the Trust Board's comments.

(3) The Acting Director of Public Health be requested to include the Board's responses in the consultation process.

4. Children and Young People's Early Support Strategy 2013-16

The Chair of the Swindon Children's Trust Board submitted a report regarding the Children and Young People's Early Support Strategy 2013-16 and its delivery plan. She referred to the updates made in the report, particularly to the references in the introduction of the report that had been prepared by the Youth Parliament. She advised the Trust Board that she had approached the Youth Parliament as to how best it could interact with the strategy. It had agreed that it could align with the strategy within three key areas of the Children and Young People's Plan and requested support from Trust Board Members as and when required.

Resolved: (1) That Council be recommended to approve the final draft of the Children and Young People's Early Support Strategy 2013-2016 and the Delivery Plan.

(2) That the contribution of the Youth Forum to the Plan, including the Foreword from the Swindon Members of the Youth Parliament, and the additional priorities recommended by the Youth Forum, be noted.

(3) That, it be agreed that, a progress report on the delivery of the Children and Young People's Early Support Strategy 2013-2016 be submitted to this Board

in December 2013, and at six monthly intervals thereafter.

(4) That, it be agreed that, the Children and Young People's Early Support Strategy form the basis of the Children's Services Self-Assessment from 2014.

(5) That, it be agreed that, the Plan be published on the Swindon Borough Council website at <http://www.swindon.gov.uk> once it is finalised and printed copies only made available on request.

(6) That the Children and Young People's Early Support Strategy 2013-2016 and the Delivery Plan, be endorsed.

(7) That Trust Board members support the Youth Parliament in their work.

(8) That Victoria Guillaume, Commissioner – Strategies, be thanked for her work in the preparation of the Strategy.

5. Self Evaluation of Effectiveness of Early Help Services

The Chair of the Swindon Children's Trust Board submitted a report (a) updating members of feedback received from partners on the Trust Board and (b) information relating to individual agencies' early help offer and evaluating the quality and impact of their work. The Chair thanked all the agencies who had submitted responses and advised that suggestions received would be utilised to inform future discussions.

Recommendations received from Trust Board members were circulated and the Chair requested that members identified key themes from the responses that may inform best practice around both service delivery and evaluation of quality and impact across all agencies involved in delivering and commissioning early help services for children, young people and families.

The key themes discussed by Trust Board members were:

- Differentiation between everyday high quality service delivery and identifying and implementing early support provisions where needed.
- Individuals or departments taking ownership of issues from identification to resolution utilising their skills and expertise. Outreach work was highlighted as such an example.
- Early help support not being age dependent but a clear definition of what constitutes early help should be established particularly where a young person needing support was already identified within the system. It was noted that early help commenced when young people or their families were already in the system.
- Concerns were expressed as to how co-ordinated the support from various agencies actually was.
- Concerns were noted regarding whether the early help services were tailored to individual needs or offered across the board to those identified as in need.
- Feedback received indicated the voice of the child and working with the whole family was strong.
- Quality of service across all agencies. Clarity on consistency needed as not clear what defined good quality.
- Service delivery remit varies across agencies and a wider view of how to help the child and families needs to be improved.
- Agencies evaluated their services differently. Case studies illustrated this, particularly at the early help stages. The Trust Board noted the need to work on having a culture of evaluation with the possibility of co-ordinating systems.

- Example of good practice - STEP implement an exit form service procedure and this data informs future provision. A procedure that may be adopted in other agencies.
- Sharing services. The Trust Board noted that some agencies may be hampered by barriers that prevented collectively sharing information.
- Safeguarding – Required all services to have appropriate safeguarding policies in place.
- Whilst case studies reflected specific successes, the everyday good work undertaken by agencies was not widely publicised. The Trust Board queried, as a Body, if this information should be given wider public acknowledgement.
- Whilst the Common Assessment Framework was utilised across agencies, it was debated if a template could be produced that would help staff and may increase sharing of information and knowledge.
- Salamander – An example of good practice of co-ordinated working.

The Chair enquired if Trust Board members had experience of early help or multi agency work to share and enquired if the experience was positive or negative. She further requested the Trust Board members to comment on where or when they became involved and how quickly were multiple agencies involvement triggered.

Responses:

- Query regarding multi agency working around child protection and Children in Care where there was a statutory requirement and a clear structure as compared to children in need where the quality depended on the individual providing the service. The need to identify if this occurred was debated and ways of addressing this situation identified.
- Information and communication. Need better communicate information in the public domain. The need to increase public awareness on service available.
- “Early help” – Clarity on the tag line meaning to various agencies. Variable meaning, so there was a need to understand an agreed definition.
- Processes may work well, but dependent on other pressures and variables within the agencies involved.
- Good at “immediate” help as provided during office hours. The need for clarity of process during out of hours situations.
- The need to ensure good communication and co-ordinated approach between agencies.
- Early intervention. The Trust Board agreed that information was available regarding support. There was a need for greater clarity for young people and families on who to contact and where the information was available. This co-ordination needs to be cross county.

The Chair thanked Trust Board members and advised that these insights allowed clarity on actions may need to be undertaken. She referred to discussions to be held with Sue Wald, Head of Commissioning Children and Adults, to review ways of moving this forward and this may be included as part of the Strengthening Families framework.

Resolved – (1) That the Self Evaluation of Effectiveness of Early Help Services report be noted.

(2) That the Chair be authorised to action recommendations made by Trust Board members.

(3) That the Fire Service Department to submit a case study regarding Salamander project to members of the Trust Board for their information.

6.

Ofsted Inspection School Improvement Service

The Cabinet Member for Children Service and the Board Director Commissioning submitted a joint report relating to the new Ofsted Inspection of local authority services for supporting improvements on schools and other service providers. Paddy Bradley, Head of Commissioning, Economy and Attainment referred to the published framework setting out working arrangements between the Local Authority and Academy schools in Swindon and advised that consultations have been undertaken with Schools Associations and headteachers regarding the Education Improvement Strategy. He referred to the duty on Local Authorities to monitor schools' performance and Ofsted would carries out focused and targeted reviews of schools where they had concerns. He further commented on the various trigger points that would initiate a schools' review by Ofsted.

The Trust Board welcomed the report and commented that they were pleased to see this protocol being developed as this would ensure academies were not disconnected and isolated. It was noted that there was a ground swell of opinion within Swindon for them to remain part of the overall school community and for them to add value across the board.

Resolved: (1) That the new Ofsted inspection arrangements, be noted.

(2) That the protocol setting out the working arrangements between the Local Authority and Academy schools in Swindon, be noted.

7.

Minutes of Local Safeguarding Children's Board

The Cabinet Member for Children's Service and the Board Director Commissioning submitted a joint report setting out the minutes of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board meeting held on 12th March 2013. Mike Howard, Chair, Swindon Local Safeguarding Board referred to the report and advised that the focus of that meeting was on a Safeguarding case study and how agencies worked together to communicate. He referred to Item 6 of the Swindon Local Safeguarding Board Minutes and highlighted the ambiguity regarding the meaning of safeguarding for different agencies. He referred to work undertaken to clarify the definition of safeguarding.

The Chair welcomed Janet Janeway, Senior Public Health Manager, and the Trust Board noted the work she had undertaken with the Local Safeguarding Board. The Board noted the Chair's comments regarding possible commonalities of work between the two Boards.

Janet Janeway gave a presentation to raise awareness regarding domestic violence, particularly relating to intimate partner violence and its impact on children. She explained the work being undertaken by agencies and referred to the emerging themes that resulted from needs assessments. She referred to the process of conducting a needs assessment and explained that these aided work undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership.

The Trust Board agreed it was a relevant and informative presentation and noted the need to focus on this work at a future meeting. It noted that this work cut across all agencies and that as a whole, make a substantial contribution. This work ideally needed to be co-ordinated under one Body.

Resolved: (1) That the report and minutes of the Local Safeguarding Board meeting held on 12th March 2013, be noted.

(2) That a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Board setting out future work relating to domestic violence.

(3) That Trust Board members be requested to contact Janet Janeway at jjaneway@swindon.gov.uk with any insights or comments relating to work on the prevention of domestic violence.

(4) That Janet Janeway, Senior Public Health Manager, be thanked for her presentation.

8. Children's Services Performance Report

The Cabinet Member for Children Services and the Board Director Commissioning submitted a joint report updating Members of the Board on the performance within all service commissioning for the period to February 2013. The Trust Board to asked to comment where data was available and to identify performance measures for reporting and discussion at future meetings. She advised that the report had been structured to highlight the improvements that had been made, areas where further work would be undertaken and areas where further actions would be required to improve the programme.

Sue Wald, Head of Commissioning, Children and Adults, referred to work undertaken in consultation with stakeholders regarding the revised Common Assessment Framework and the initial internal piloting of the Single Assessment Part 1. Louise Campion, Principal Officer, Health and Wellbeing delivery, added that training would be undertaken with more focus on assessment rather than form completion.

Louise Campion referred to the "Breastfeeding Welcome" which was a national scheme that Swindon had signed up to and requested the Trust Board's support to recommend to Council that Council owned premises sign up to this scheme.

Janet Janeway, Senior Public Health Manager, updated the Trust Board regarding measles figures and advised that Swindon had not been adversely affected and there were less reported cases this year than last year. She also updated the Trust Board on neighbouring authorities figures.

Resolved: (1) That members be requested to submit comments regarding the Children, Young People and Families Service consent form to the Commissioner – Strategies at vguillaume@swindon.gov.uk by 1st September 2013.

(2) That Trust Board Members submit their views on the effectiveness of the new process and training at the meeting of the Swindon Children's Trust Board in December 2013.

(3) That the Cabinet Member Children Services, be requested to look into the breast feeding scheme to be adopted across all Council owned premises.

(4) That the performance data on Children's Service Performance for the period to end of February 2013, be noted.

9. Minutes of Joint Commissioning Board (Adults & Children)

The Cabinet Member for Children's Service and the Board Director Commissioning submitted a joint report and the draft minutes of the Joint Commissioning Board (Adults and Children) meeting of 5th March 2013.

Sue Wald, Head of Commissioning, Children and Adults, commented on the Voluntary Sector consultation relating to adult sector and advised that Joint Commissioning Board members agreed to implement a series of recommendations regarding de-commissioning and re-commissioning some services to ensure wider partnership working.

Resolved – That the report and minutes of the Joint Commissioning Board (Adults and Children) meeting held on 5th March 2013, be noted.