

SWINDON CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD

THURSDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2013

PRESENT: Liz Holmes (Chair), Councillors Michael Bray, Fionuala Foley and Cindy Matthews, John Gilbert (Group Director), Mike Howard (LSCB), Valarie Johnstone (Governors), Kate Rowe (Sure Start), Cherry Jones (Public Health), Debbie Kalyinka (Primary Headteachers), Keith Ewart (Wiltshire Police) and Janet Janeway.

Also Present: Claire Messenger, Early Intervention Foundation.

Apologies for absence were received from Sharon Kirwan (Secondary Headteachers), Phil Thomas (Community Safety), Andrew Miller (Swindon College) and Mr David Dawson (Diocesan).

10. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 6th June 2013 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

11. Public Question Time

Mr Jo Osario, Engagement Officer for Healthwatch Swindon, requested that the Committee note and welcome the partnership working opportunities between Trust Board Members and Healthwatch Swindon for the benefit of children and young people in Swindon.

Resolved – That the Swindon Children's Trust Board welcome the work and future partnership work to be undertaken by Board members with Heath Watch Swindon.

12. Swindon Children's Trust Board - Revised Terms of Reference

The Chair of the Swindon Children's Trust Board introduced a report regarding the amended terms of reference for the Swindon Children's Trust Board. Andrew Ferguson, Head of Litigation and Personal, advised that a small working group reviewed the terms of reference that now clarified the role of the Board and he stated that it would now concentrate on key high level, strategic issues. The Chair referred to the level and nature in which the Board would operate, how it would define its working relationship with other Boards and demonstrate how their work would be supported.

The Chair noted the following changes to the membership:

- General Practitioner Representative – Now Clinical Commissioning Group.
- Strategic Health Authority Representative to be deleted as now represented by the Clinical Commissioning Group.

Resolved – (1) That, following changes stated above, the Terms of Reference for the Swindon Children's Board Trust, be approved.

(2) That, the Board Director Commissioning, Children and Adults, be requested to submit the Terms of Reference for the Swindon Children's Trust Board, to Cabinet for approval.

13. Self Evaluation of Effectiveness of Early Help Services - Follow up

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Board Director Commissioning presented a report on effectiveness of Early Help Services. Sue Wald, Head of Commissioning, Children and Adults, referred to a successful joint application with Wiltshire Council to be an Early Intervention Place and introduced Claire Messenger from the Early Intervention Foundation, to update the Board on the Foundation's work.

Claire Messenger, Early Intervention Foundation, referred to the establishment of the Foundation in July 2013 as an independent charity set up following the report to Government by Graham Allan, MP setting out early intervention methods to tackle emerging problems for children, young people and their families. She informed the Trust Board on work undertaken by the Foundation that included advocate work, assessment programmes and advice to service providers. The Board noted that the Foundation would provide timely reviews on research undertaken, identify gaps and signpost service providers to current literature. Sue Wald, Head of Commissioning, Children and Adults commented on the benefits of the Foundation and referred to work undertaken to date by the Foundation.

The Board noted the positive impact of the Salamander LIFE project that demonstrated good partnership working. The Chair enquired if any assessments or reviews reflecting positive feedback and community relationship improvements had been undertaken by Police Community Support Officers participating in the Salamander Life Project.

The Board discussed information sharing between partners and noted that a cultural shift may be required to improve communication. They noted the need to focus on specific aspects of safeguarding that included early help.

Resolved – (1) That, Keith Ewart, Police representative, be requested to circulate information regarding Police Community Support Officer involvement and community relation benefits of the Salamander Life Project.

(2) That, the Board Director, Economy & Attainment, be requested to circulate information regarding school attendance and school exclusions of pupils in the Salamander Life Project.

(3) That further to paragraph 1.5 of the report, the Board Director, Economy & Attainment be requested to circulate revised questions to Members of the Board.

(4) That further to (3) above, Members to respond by end of December 2013.

14. Children's Trust Board Performance Report

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Board Director Commissioning, Children and Adults, submitted a joint report updating Members of the Board on the performance within all service commissioning for the period April 2012 to end of March 2013 and for the first quarter, April 2013 to June 2013. Sue Wald, Head of Commissioning, Children and Adults, 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.

The Chair welcomed the report and commented on the report format that

enabled members to easily capture data for review. The Board noted the following points:

- Placement Stability figures. Sue Wald confirmed the figure related to the period April 2012 to end of March 2013 and explained factors affecting data.
- Common Assessment Completion. Sara Tough, Head of Children and Families referred to the strong working relationship between teams that had evolved ensuring more integrated work.
- Exclusions. Due to the robust pupil support process in place, permanent exclusion had decreased. Fixed period exclusions were monitored.

Resolved - (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That, the Head of Commissioning & Attainment, be requested to circulate information on the number of fixed term exclusions.

15. Swindon Tuition Service

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Board Director Commissioning, Children and Adults, submitted a joint report to inform members of the work that takes place in Swindon to support children of compulsory school age who were not educated in school.

Nigel Pickering, Additional Provision and Reintegration Manager, supported by Rosemary Pearce, Proprietor of the Shed Project, gave a presentation regarding the Swindon Tuition Service and the Shed Project. They referred to the challenges faced by "hard to reach" pupils and explained that the service provided flexibility of learning within a set policy framework.

After the presentation, Nigel Pickering and Rosemary Pearce responded to the Boards' questions and observations including:

- Budget for the project.
- Programme for the young people attending the Shed Project.
- Age range of young people taking part in the Shed Project.

Resolved – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That Nigel Pickering and Rosemary Pearce be thanked for attending the meeting to present the report and presentation and for their full and open responses to members' questions.

16. Children's Services Self Assessment 2012/13

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Board Director Commissioning, Children and Adults, submitted a joint report detailing performance for the period April 2012 to end of March 2013. Sue Wald, Head of Commissioning, Children and Adults, explained the report reflected work undertaken on the One Swindon Priorities and reflected areas for development.

The Chair enquired on issues that affected adoption timescales. Sara Tough, Head of Children and Families, advised that due to various factors that included improved communication between partners, there had been significant improvement in timescales.

Paddy Bradley, Head of Commissioning & Attainment referred to cyber bullying faced by children and young people in schools and stated that it was

essential to expand knowledge and understanding of cyber bullying and what could be done to counter it. The Board requested further information relating to difficulties encountered and how best to engage with schools. The Trust Board noted the work being undertaken by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board through its sub-group led by Huw Ford and noted that this work was guided by the Sexual Exploitation Strategy.

Resolved – (1) That the Head of Commissioning & Attainment be requested to undertake more detailed work during 2013/14 on the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) / Single Assessment and to report back at a future meeting.

(2) That the Head of Commissioning & Attainment be requested to undertake more detailed work during 2013/14 on the 'attainment gap' for children on free school meals, linking that to the Growing Economy Programme, school standards and the child poverty agenda, and to report back at a future meeting.

(3) That the Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board be requested to circulate a briefing note regarding cyber bullying work being undertaken by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

17. Improving Health Outcomes for Children and Young People: Invitation To Sign The Pledge

The Chair of the Swindon Children's Trust Board submitted a report regarding the invitation by the Department of Health, Local Government Association, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health and Public Health England to Lead Members for Children's Services and Chairs of Health and Wellbeing Boards to sign a pledge entitled 'Improving health outcomes for children and young people'.

Cherry Jones, Acting Director of Public Health explained the five pledges the Trust Board was requested to sign up to and advised that work would challenge the current position to improve outcomes.

Resolved – That the Cabinet Member for Children Services, in collaboration with the Chair of the Trust Board, be requested to sign the Pledge: 'Improving health outcomes for children and young people', and to promote improvement through delivery of the Children and Young People's Early Support Strategy.

18. Swindon Youth Offending Team Youth Justice Plan 2013-14

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Board Director Commissioning, Children and Adults, submitted a joint report on the Restorative Youth Service Plan for 2013/14 for information and approval.

Kevin Leaning, Head of Service, Helping Children and Families referred to the Model of Swindon Young People Offending 2012/13 data, on partnership working with the Police, Probation Services, Children Services and Health Services and explained how the model assisted Trust Board members in their work.

In response to a query regarding the ethnicity breakdown of participants of the "U turn Service", Kevin Leaning referred to the Diversity Impact Assessment conducted on the plan and commented on work undertaken to increase participation by minority ethnic groups in counselling and substance misuse services. He informed the group of the impact that generational cultural traits were having on service take-up.

The Chair commented on restorative justice schemes and Keith Ewart, Police referred to the work being undertaken by the Police.

Resolved – (1) That the Trust Board notes and approves the strategy direction for Restorative Youth Services in Swindon, including plans for reducing first time offending and re-offending.

(2) That the Trust Board recommends Cabinet to approve the Restorative Youth Services Plan 2013-14, attached as Appendix 1 to the Report.

19. Minutes of Local Safeguarding Children's Board

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Board Director Commissioning, Children and Adults, submitted a joint report setting out the minutes of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) meetings of 11th June 2013.

Mike Howard, Chair, Swindon Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), commented on the Minutes and informed the Board of the main points arising from the LSCB meeting. He referred to discussions undertaken that included the following:

- Performance reports. The LSCB and Swindon Children's Trust Board both received regular performance reports and these emphasised different data aspects.
- Definition of Missing Children. Police reassurance was given that "absent" children were included on the risk register.
- Social Care Institute for Excellence review had been undertaken and addressed child neglect issues.
- Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment commissioned by the LSCB and delivered by Public Health.
- Advocacy Annual report.

The Trust Board noted a conference was to be held in November 2013 regarding child neglect and would also introduce a framework to support all practitioners working to identify and address this issue.

Resolved – That the report and the minutes of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board meeting of 11th June 2013, be noted.

20. Reports for Noting

The Board Director Commissioning, Children and Adults, submitted a report to inform Trust Board members of the Corporate Parenting Strategy, to note the minutes of the Joint Commissioning Board (Adult and Children) and to present the Threshold document for information.

The Trust Board noted that Councillor Mick Bray was the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board.

Resolved – That the Corporate Parenting Strategy, minutes of the Joint Commissioning Board (Adult and Children) and the Threshold document, be noted.