

## **SWINDON CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD**

**THURSDAY, 13 MARCH 2014**

PRESENT: Liz Holmes in the Chair, Councillor Cindy Matthews, Katherine Bryan (Special Schools Head Teachers), Mike Howard (LSCB), Kate Rowe (Children's Society), Kathie Bryan (Special Schools Headteacher), Debbie Kalynka (Primary Headteachers) and Bryan Morris (Fire Service).

Also in attendance: Helen Cawston Ofsted Inspector (Her Majesty's Inspector), John Gilbert, Board Director Commissioning, Children and Adults, Paddy Bradley, Head of Commissioning, Economy and Attainment and Sue Wald, Head of Commissioning, Children and Adults.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fionuala Foley and Michael Bray, Sharon Kirwan (Secondary Headteachers), Valerie Johnstone (Governors), Andrew Miller (Swindon College), David Dawson (Diocese), Cherry Jones (Acting Director of Public Health), Jenny Lewis (Barnardos) and Supt. Andrew Carr (Police).

### **32. Minutes**

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **33. Public Question Time**

No public questions were asked at the meeting.

### **34. Children and Young People and Sport in Swindon**

The Board considered a presentation by Gladys Barr, Service Manager, Sports Development and Partnerships, Swindon Borough Council, entitled "Children, Young People and Sport in Swindon - Working in partnership to build links, create opportunities and engage young people as volunteers in sport". Ms Barr outlined the importance of regular participation in sports and physical activity to the health of children and young people and how Leisure Services help to raise activity levels to meet the challenges identified within the Strengthening Families programme.

Ms Barr introduced Doug Imrie, Sports Participation Manager and Clive Maguire, Manager Swindon Town Football in the Community Trust. Mr Imrie explained the work being undertaken by the Leisure Services Department and of the positive participation of young people in Swindon. He introduced Jack Goodenough, Rich Overton, Brandon Jones, and Nathaniel Symonds who referred to their participation in the work undertaken by the Leisure Services, Sports Participation and Health Improvement Team and on the range of benefits this brought them. Mr Maguire referred to Soccer Centres, Twilight Football and on work being done with disabled young people to enable greater participation. The Board noted the positive work with the local community undertaken by the young people during their visit to Zambia in 2013.

Following the presentations, Ms Barr and the guests responded to members' questions and observations including:

- The definition of sport. Ms Barr confirmed that sport covered all manner of physical activities and that the focus was on being active regardless of what type of physical activity was being undertaken.
- Positive examples of how the presenter's lives had benefited from their involvement in the work undertaken by the Leisure Services, Sports Participation and Health Improvement Team.
- The various ways to engage young people to help ensure their successful participation
- Music, dance and arts opportunities as an alternative to sports. The Board noted the various services available for young people and that Swindon was a centre for urban dance.

Ms Barr referred to the opportunities of working closely with local sports clubs to enable young people to become more involved in the running of their clubs as this would broaden their sense of responsibility and business practices. Paddy Bradley, Head of Commissioning, Economy and Attainment further referred to the different schemes available that may offer entrepreneurship opportunities for young people.

Resolved: (1) That Board Members be requested to seek to promote the work of the Sports Development and Partnership Team within their organisations.

(2) That Board Members contact the Service Manager, Sports Development and Partnerships, with suggestions for increased partnership working.

(3) That the report be noted.

### **35. School Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination Schemes**

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Board Director Commissioning, Children and Adults submitted a joint report regarding School Admissions. Paddy Bradley, Head of Commissioning, Economy and Attainment referred to the link between school admissions and the Education transport policy and introduced Rebecca Mathis, Schools Admissions Assistant Manager, who gave an overview on the school admission arrangements from September 2015 together with an Education Transport Policy for 2015-16.

Miss Mathis commented on the report, highlighting the information centrally available for parents to access and advised that whilst governing bodies of Academies and Voluntary Aided Schools set their own admission arrangements, the Local Authority was legally required to consult on the co-ordinated admission arrangements for all schools within the Borough. She referred to the Department for Education Guidance regarding deferment of enrolment for summer born children.

Miss Mathis explained the changes to the Mainstream Home to School Transport Policy and confirmed that guidance was available for parents.

In response to a query regarding the Published Admission Numbers for schools, Miss Mathis confirmed that following discussions, all schools had agreed the published figures. The Chair referred to the autonomy of Academies on school admissions and enquired regarding their participation in the transport policy consultation.

Resolved: 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 and Year 7) and In Year admissions for all primary schools and secondary schools in Swindon for September 2015;
- (2) The admission numbers and arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools for September 2015;
- (3) That, if approved, these proposals are determined by 15th April 2014 and implemented by the Board Director, Commissioning, Children and Adults, for admission for September 2015 for all new applicants;
- (4) The Education Transport Policy 2015/16.

### **36.**

#### **Youth Forum Update**

The Chair welcomed Claire Smith, Participation Manager, Paul Dobson, Project Manager, STEP (Swindon Ten to Eighteen Project), Ellie James, the elected Member of the Youth Parliament and her deputy, Wilf Steenbergen to the Board meeting.

Ms Smith referred to the contents of the report and updated the Board on work undertaken by the Youth Parliament and Chatterbox over the past year. She explained that Youth Parliament elections were held in February 2014 and referred to the Youth Forum and multi-agency group set up to support development plans arising from the Children and Young People's Plan 2013-16.

Mr Dobson explained that the Chatterbox group had gone through a transition period and that a member of Youth Parliament sat on the group. Paddy Bradley, Head of Commissioning, Economy and Attainment referred to the possible opportunities and benefits of links between the Youth Forum and the Sports Development and Partnerships.

Ellie James explained why she became a member of Youth Parliament and talked about her message, "Education not Procreation". She confirmed that her campaign did not just relate to reducing teenage pregnancies but also to raising aspiration in young people. Wilf Steenbergen referred to his campaign that focused on bullying and advised that PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) lessons could be a way of further raising awareness of the negative impact of bullying. He explained how the use of social media helped raise awareness.

Mike Howard, Chair of the Local Safeguarding Board, commented on the work being undertaken by the Local Safeguarding Board that included the "Feeling Safe Survey" and invited members of the Youth Parliament to meet with the Local Safeguarding Board to discuss and progress work being undertaken by both bodies. Kate Rowe, Children's Centres, also invited the Youth Parliament members to visit Children's Centres where they can debate with young parents regarding their life choices and experiences.

In response to a question regarding Youth Parliament election campaigning, Ellie James explained that she had produced leaflets and posters and made speeches in assemblies across a number of schools.

Resolved: (1) That the Board note the report and presentations and reiterates that it will continue to support the work of the Youth Forum, Youth Parliament and

Chatterbox Group.

(2) That a meeting be arranged between the Chair of the Swindon Children's Trust Board, the Commissioner, Strategies and the Project Manager, STEP, to discuss the direction of work relating to the development plans arising from the Children and Young People's Plan 2013-16.

(3) That an update be presented to a future meeting of this Board on the work plans of the two proposed new project groups to focus on (a) all young people participating and enjoying sports leisure and culture, and (b) more people feel in control at times of crisis, are protected from abuse and family breakdown, and are more resilient and more able to regain their independence.

### **37. Swindon Children's Position Statement**

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Board Director Commissioning, Children and Adults submitted a joint report setting out the Swindon Children's Services Position Statement. John Gilbert, Director, Board Director Commissioning, advised that this was a living document, being updated regularly with input from various agencies. He gave a presentation on the Statement and explained the ways that Children's Services met the needs of children at every stage of their journey through the various services provided.

The Chair recommended that key objectives were discussed to help determine the work to be conducted by the Board during the next Municipal Year. She referred to the four priorities circulated to Board members before the meeting and recommended that other areas for discussion should include (a) exploring ways of raising aspiration, and (b) reviewing the links between policies and strategies of all agencies and updates on the effectiveness of these policies.

Following group discussions, Board members agreed that the focus should be on how well the work to meet the needs of children at every stage of their journey through the various services provided was being imbedded, was it leading to improvement and how was it being recorded and monitored across all agencies.

Resolved: That the Early Support Strategy priorities be updated taking into account the comments arising from the group discussions held at this meeting and these be circulated to Board Members for comment.

### **38. 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 the Board on the final performance outturn for Children's Services for the period to December 2013.

Sue Wald, Head of Commissioning, Children and Adults, referred to the report structure where it now better reflected the movement of young people through the education system. She highlighted trends including for referrals and assessments undertaken. In response to a query regarding school contact with Social Care services, the Board noted that after initial contact with schools, staff pressures affected subsequent communication.

The Board was updated on the following topics:

- The number of young people on Child Protection Plans. A verbal update

would be available at the next meeting.

- Young people suffering from neglect and exploitation. A presentation to the Local Safeguarding Children's Board had been given covering child neglect. A new strategy regarding child sexual exploitation was to be launched shortly.
- Sharing of information on domestic violence. A system (DDAC – Daily Domestic Abuse Contact) would be launched in March 2014 to enable improved flow of information across agencies.
- Attendance. The implementation of new legislation has had a positive impact on school attendance. Support was available for head teachers regarding the issue of penalty notices to ensure consistency across all schools.  
Resolved: That the Children Services Performance report, be noted.

#### **39. Minutes of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board**

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Board Director Commissioning, Children and Adults submitted a report setting out the minutes of the Local Safeguarding Board meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> December 2013.

Resolved – That the report and minutes of the Local Safeguarding Board meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> December 2013 be noted.

#### **40. Minutes of the Joint Commissioning Board (Adults and Children)**

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Board Director Commissioning, Children and Adults submitted a report setting out the minutes of the Joint Commissioning Board (Adults and Children) meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013.

Resolved: That the report and minutes of the Joint Commissioning Board (Adults and Children) meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013 be noted.