

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

**THURSDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2014**

**PRESENT:** Liz Holmes (Chair), Councillors Michael Bray, Fionuala Foley, Cindy Matthews, Kathie Bryan (Head Teachers), Valerie Johnstone (Governors), John Gilbert (Board Director Commissioning, Children and Adults), Mike Howard (LSCB), Doug Morris (Parent & Carers Advisory Group), Kate Rowe (Sure Start), David Dawson (Diocese), Sue Wald (Head of Commissioning, Children and Adults), Cherry Jones (Acting Director of Public Health), Paddy Bradley (Head of Economy and Attainment) and Karen Reeve (Head of Children's Social Care, Community Health and Family Services).

Apologies for absence were received from Supt Andrew Carr (Police), Andrew Miller (Swindon College), Paul Bearman (NHS Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group) and Jenny Lewis (Barnardos).

### **14. Minutes**

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

The Chair thanked members for their presence and referred to the December 2014 meeting where members' attendance was important due to the planned format for that meeting.

### **15. Public Question Time**

No public questions were asked at the meeting.

### **16. Children's Services Performance Report**

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Board Director Commissioning, Children and Adults presented a joint report updating the Committee on the final performance outturn for Children's Services for the period 2013/14 and Quarter 1 of 2014/15. Mrs Sue Wald, Head of Commissioning, Children and Adults explained that the report structure better reflected pupil movement through the education system, and referred to child protection, the demand for Children Social Care and to the increase in the adoption rate.

Mrs Wald, Mr Paddy Bradley, Head of Economy and Skills and Ms Karen Reeve, Head of Children, Families and Community responded to the Committee's queries regarding the following points:

- School attendance and reasons for the increase in exclusion numbers.
- Whilst numerical data presented in the report was of interest, qualitative data reflecting clarity on outcomes achieved following interventions was desired by the Board.
- The proportionally high number of fixed term exclusions of pupils with Special Educational Needs. Mr Bradley explained that schools tried to determine the underlying issues for misbehaviour and referred to work undertaken between schools and multi-agency teams to work with

families in understanding the underlying reasons for any challenging behaviour by pupils at schools.

- Further to the findings from the Quality Assurance Audits, qualitative work was being undertaken with schools to ensure early signs of possible child sex exploitation were identified. Ms Reeve referred to the Community Score Card toolkit, pocket guide and practitioners handbook to assist staff.
- The reduction of youth unemployment in Swindon and if a core number of youth included in the data provided were young people persistently in and out of employment.

The Board noted that the LSCB conference would be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014.

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

(2) That at a future meeting of this Board, the early stages of intervention in order to prevent sexual exploitation, be addressed.

(3) That the Head of Commissioning, Adults and Children be requested to include timeframes for strategies and action plan implementation together with progress made towards expected outcomes in future reports to this Board.

## **17. Teenage Pregnancy in Swindon**

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Board Director, Commissioning presented a joint report updating the Board on Swindon's progress and challenges in reducing risky sexual behaviour, teenage conceptions and unwanted pregnancies.

Ms Jo Hartley, Senior Commissioner Family Support and Sexual Health and Mr Ayoola Oyinloye, South West Public Health Training Programme Director introduced the report and referred to the continued reduction in teenage pregnancies since the launch of the first strategy in 1998 and explained how teenage conception rose with levels of deprivation. Ms Hartley commented on the open access to sex and health services through outreach clinics, sex education being conducted to aid teenagers make an informed decision and on the collaborative work with PSHE (Personal, Social, Health, Economic education) programmes in schools.

Ms Hartley and Mr Oyinloye responded to the Board's questions and comments in respect of the following points:

- The strategies being implemented to achieve greater sex education in schools.
- Whilst understanding school's pressures to deliver the curriculum, noting the importance of ensuring that sex education was part of PSHE studies across all schools in Swindon.
- The importance of peer to peer support that may include working with the Young Parents Group.
- How abortion was being used as a way of contraception - the importance of promoting and delivering sex education programmes.

The Board noted the planned work to be undertaken between secondary schools and the Youth Parliament to promote the importance of healthy relationships and resilience.

Resolved: (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Head of Children, Families and Community

be requested to circulate further information on strategies being implemented on sex education in schools before the next meeting of this Board.

## **18. Teenagers in Care in Swindon Borough Council**

The Board Director Commissioning and the Head of Children, Families and Community presented a joint report setting out the key data and associated narrative around the number of teenagers in care of Swindon. Ms Karen Reeve, Head of Children, Families and Community referred to (a) the work being undertaken to support young people aged between ten and seventeen on the edge of care; (b) how this work could be further developed to keep more teenagers out of the care system; (c) the support required by agencies on the Board to assist the local authority in keeping teenagers out of care.

Ms Reeve referred to Swindon data as compared to national and statistical neighbours and explained how the report reflected the various reasons why young people entered into care. The Board heard about the qualitative work undertaken by Outreach and Group Work Services and on how future work would focus on defining the characteristics of good foster care and residential placements to effectively support young people as research had indicated that the later young people received care intervention, the less positive the experience.

Ms Reeve responded to observations on the following issues:

- The range of support available to parents and this may include community based support for families.
- The availability of services to support families after working hours and at weekends.
- The reasons for and time taken before parents requested assistance from Social Care and the timescales of cases being open before young people entered into care.
- Clarity on the types of need as highlighted in 3.14 of the report.
- Confirmation that there was no generational correlation between those who had benefited from care and any future children they may have.
- Work being undertaken by the Looked After Children Services to support children in care and their families in accessing information regarding sex education and healthy relationships.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

## **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) meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

Mr 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 the changes in the format style for the LSCB minutes following a recommendation from Ofsted and commented on the discussions held at the meeting that included the following:

- The Safeguarding In Schools audit report – the work being undertaken by Sarah Turner, developed by her predecessor Pam Jackson, School Safeguarding Advisors, to ensure best practice was cascaded

between all schools in Swindon.

- The E-safety Sub-Group annual report. He referred to work being undertaken by the sub group that included raising awareness of sexting as a form of bullying and expressed his concerns regarding the low take-up of available support by secondary schools for the LSCB sub-group work relating to e-safety. He informed the Board on the LSCB's engagement with the Youth Forum and young carers in compiling a school internet survey relating to e-safety that would be launched in autumn 2014 with results expected in spring 2015.
- Domestic abuse and its impact on children and young people. He referred to collaborative work undertaken with Wiltshire Police to launch of the "Daily Domestic Abuse Conference Call" scheme.
- The use of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub by Swindon and Wiltshire Local Authorities.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

## **20. The Local Authority Role in Improving the Quality of Education in a School-Led System**

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Board Director Commissioning, Children and Adults, submitted a joint report on the approach taken to improve the quality of education provided in Swindon schools and through using the Ofsted Inspection Framework, to be able to reflect the effectiveness of the Local Authority role in this process.

Mr Paddy Bradley, Head of Economy and Skills, explained the role and responsibilities of the local authority and advised that following the academy expansion programme, the majority of children in Swindon now attended academy schools. He explained that Swindon had a wide range of school settings and referred to the collaborative work being undertaken with academies following their expansion. Mr Bradley referred to the Education Improvement Strategy that reflected different educational provision within the Borough and commented on the new Ofsted inspection framework regime that identified schools requiring improvement. Mr Bradley introduced Mr Nick Capstick, Chief Executive Officer of the White Horse Federation, who gave a presentation on how the two new teaching schools in Swindon were able to support local schools in improving their rating.

Following the presentation, Mr Bradley and Mr Capstick responded to the Committee's questions and comments in respect of the following points:

- Explanation of how and why a number of schools fell below the floor standards.
- Clarity required within the Strategy on the course of action to be undertaken if an academy school failed to accept local authority advice and support.
- The need to reflect the strong support available for schools governors in the Strategy.
- Various ways on how teaching schools are able to support local schools needing improvement.
- The pre and post Ofsted Inspection support currently undertaken by the teaching schools with Wiltshire, Oxfordshire and Dorset schools.

Resolved: (1) That the report be endorsed

(2) That the Head of Economy and Attainment be requested to include the Board's suggestions for improvement into the Education Improvement Strategy.

**21.**

### **Youth Forum**

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Board Director Commissioning, Children and Adults, submitted a joint report regarding a new joint project between the Youth Forum, Members of the Youth Parliament and the Routes to Employment Team. Mrs Sally Burnett, Commissioner, Routes to Employment, and Paul Dobson, Participation Manager, STEP (Swindon Ten to Eighteen Project) referred to the collaborative work between all parties that would link into the Curriculum For Life and the Skills to Employment Strategy. The Board noted this work complimented the Members of Youth Parliament campaign, "Encouraging young people to strive to achieve" and that discussions were being conducted with Job Centre Plus and local business to ensure young people were equipped with the right job skills to enter the job market.

Resolved: (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That a report on the progress of the project be submitted at the Board's meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

**22.**

### **Minutes of Joint Commissioning Board (Adults & 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 17<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

Resolved: That the report and minutes of the Joint Commissioning Board (Adults and Children) meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> June 2014 be noted.

**23.**

### **Restorative Youth Services Plan 2014\_15**

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Board Director Commissioning, Children and Adults submitted a report on the Restorative Youth Services Plan 2014/15, reflecting the performance, priorities and risks for the forthcoming year.

Resolved: That the report be noted.