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Report to the Health and Wellbeing Board

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| Report from | Children's Trust Board (Chair – Cllr Steve Harrod) |
| Report Date | 21 st September 2020 |
| Dates of meetings held since the last report: 24 th June 2020 (Virtual meeting due to COVID-19 lockdown) | |
| HWB Priorities addressed in this report | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Healthy Start in Life | |
| Link to any published notes or reports: | |
| Children & Young People's Plan 2018 - 2022 | |
| Priorities for 2019-20 | Be Successful <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have the best start in life. 2. Access high quality education, employment and training that is motivational. 3. Go to school and feel inspired to stay and learn. 4. Have good self-esteem and faith in themselves. Priority focus for 2020/21: Focus on children not engaged in education |
| | Be Happy and Healthy <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Be confident that services are available to promote good health and prevent ill health – early in life and before crisis. 6. Learn the importance of healthy, secure relationships and having a support network. 7. Access services to improve overall well-being. 8. Access easy ways to get active. Priority focus for 2020/21: Focus on social, emotional, physical & mental well-being |
| | Be Safe <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Be protected from all types of abuse and neglect. 10. Have a place to feel safe and a sense of belonging. 11. Access education and support about how to stay safe. 12. Have access to appropriate housing. Priority focus for 2020/21: Focus on domestic abuse |
| | Be Supported <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Be empowered to know who to speak to when in need of support and know that they will be listened to and believed. 14. Access information in a way which suits them best. 15. Have inspiring role models. 16. Talk to staff who are experienced and caring. |

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1. Progress reports on priority work to deliver the Joint HWB Strategy

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| Priority | Be Successful |
| Focus | Children not engaged in education (change of title explained section below) – update in June 2020 meeting |
| Deliverable | See Children and Young People Plan for list of deliverables. |
| Progress report | <p>There was a proposal to change the title as “children missing out on education” was confusing with the technical term for children who do not have education places.</p> <p>The anticipation is that in September 2020 there will be more blended learning opportunities for children and families, to be offered through school with a range of providers, including online providers.</p> <p>There is also the likelihood of an increase in elected home education and in applications for flexible schooling arrangements that essentially are the same as reintegration reduced school timetables.</p> <p>The focus should be a whole system approach to ensure that children are safe and have the best education opportunities, bearing in mind that there may be some very anxious children and parents returning to the new normal.</p> <p>This also links to the focus on well-being and mental health.</p> |

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| Priority | Be Healthy |
| Focus | Social, emotional, physical and mental well-being (it was agreed to include ‘physical’ from the March 2020 meeting) – update in June 2020 meeting |
| Deliverable | See updated Children and Young People Plan for list of deliverables. |
| Progress report | <p>This focus is a whole system approach taking into consideration the number of children and families that have been through traumatic experiences dealing with COVID-19.</p> <p>The importance of the system and services providing support quickly and in a multi-agency way. There is a commitment to co-ordinate prevention and early help across the system. The intention is to use the school survey to share findings and to identify needs to support the planning around recovery.</p> <p>There are 3 new established early help multi-agency networks that are there to support schools to identify children as early as possible to provide that support in a timely and co-ordinated manner to children and families.</p> <p>There is also a gap analysis which will be undertaken to understand what additional capacity will be needed. Practitioners are taking a trauma informed approach to work.</p> |

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| | There is an opportunity to influence a more child-centred culture and the pandemic has accelerated this. |
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| Priority | Be Safe |
| Focus | Domestic Abuse – update in June 2020 meeting |
| Deliverable | This is being measured via the outcome of a peer review audit, alongside a separate report which will evaluate the Domestic Abuse training outcomes. |
| Progress report | <p>There has been progress made in the last year with the Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Strategy. The priorities are building on those priorities identified in the Strategy and are also focusing on recovery.</p> <p>There is a multi-agency Domestic Abuse recovery cell which has been very effective over the period of the pandemic with real results in bringing organisations together and making resources available. They have looked at what the barriers are for people accessing support and what support can be provided. Some programmes supporting young people directly, will no longer run but there is a need to look at the gaps and which resources are needed going forward. Therefore, as part of a recent mapping exercise to look at recovery programmes available to support victims of domestic abuse in Oxfordshire we looked at programmes that have run previously here as well as those running currently. In the past CSC had commissioned PACT to run Bounce Back 4 Kids a programme for primary school age children who had suffered domestic abuse. This was discontinued as it was found not cost effective and was unable to meet the identified need. The techniques from this training continued to be used in one to one support.</p> <p>We are now piloting new recovery programmes to help inform future commissioning in this area. The pilots will cover adults, 5-11s and 11 – 17s and there will also be recovery programmes piloted that take a “whole family approach”. Pilots will run between 1 October 2020 and 31 March 2021.</p> <p>With Operation Encompass, notifications are sent to schools on whether there have been Domestic Abuse incidents, so schools are aware of the children’s vulnerability. 100% of schools have now signed up in Oxfordshire. The intention this year is to look at the effectiveness of notifications, what schools are doing with these notifications along with the support provided.</p> <p>The implementation of the Family Safeguarding Plus Model (FSPM) – <u>now called ‘Family Solutions Plus’ (to be launched in October/November)</u> will have Domestic Abuse workers for adults in the family. The idea is to see what the offer is going to be to children who live in families where Domestic Abuse</p> |

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| | occurs, as they make up a significant proportion of the statutory family workload. |
| Priority | Be Supported |
| Focus | Listen to the feedback from young people in Oxfordshire – update in June 2020 meeting |
| Deliverable | This deliverable is measured by a standing agenda item, to hear feedback from young people via VOXY. Additionally, via the “Be Supported Survey” |
| Progress report | Following on from the ‘Be Supported Survey’ where findings were presented from the full report at the Children’s Trust meeting in March 2020, a summary has now been compiled. These are published on the updated Children & Young People’s Plan webpages. Links for both are provided: VOXY 'Be Supported' 2020 Full Report VOXY 'Be Supported' 2020 Summary |

2. Note on what is being done in areas rated Red or Amber in the Performance Framework

Performance remains affected by COVID-19. There were no educational results last academic year and traditional attendance measures were redundant from Easter. So, it is not known what the vision of well-functioning education in COVID-19 looks like, as the previous traditional measures are not appropriate for the current world. Some health reporting was suspended included Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service timeliness.

Nationally Police Chiefs Council identified 6 key threats to the vulnerable from the pandemic: Domestic Abuse, Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, Intrafamilial Child Sexual Abuse, Mental Health, County Lines and Missing Persons. Quarter 1 this year saw a 50% increase in domestic crimes involving children and a 15% increase in domestic incidents compared to the same period last year. This is part of a wider local, regional and national trend and may reflect increased confidence in reporting and improved reporting. March 2020 saw a fall in domestic abuse incidents across Thames Valley but May saw the second highest figure for domestic abuse incidents in the last 3 years. Partnership work reached out to vulnerable people during lockdown and feedback indicates no substantive evidence of hidden harm being uncovered.

Since lockdown there have been more contacts to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub than in January to March 2020. The number of child protection investigations post lockdown is close to the pre-lockdown level and as in previous years increased before the school holidays. The number of children starting a plan has been consistent both pre and post lockdown. Activity levels for child protection are as we would expect. However, early help and child in need assessments are much lower than pre-lockdown. This may lead to escalations in difficulties that families’ experience that in a few months become a significant concern. We might therefore expect more demand in 6 months’ time than we would have expected without the pandemic.

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| Indicator Number | RAG | What is being done to improve performance? |
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| 1.1b increase the proportion of children that have their first appointment (with CAMHS) within 12 weeks. | R | Performance on the 12-week wait for CAMHS continues to be below target. November and December saw an improvement in performance, but this dropped again in January and February to 35% by end of February. Reporting suspended since February. 24/7 advice and consultation line has been in place since the start of lockdown. |
| 2.5 Reduce the persistent absence of children subject to a Child Protection plan | R | Figures released in March for the 18/19 academic year showed persistent absence of children the subject of a child protection plan to be 3 times more likely to be persistently absent than other pupils in Oxfordshire. Work is being undertaken across education and children's social care to address these issues. Following COVID-19 traditional measures of school attendance became redundant. |
| 3.14 Reduce the number of 'Children We Care For' (previously looked after children) to 750 by March 2021 | A | <p>At the end of June, the number of children we cared for was 762 – 2% lower than the end of June 2019. The latest national figures (March 2019) showed a 4% national rise.</p> <p>The council is introducing a Family Solutions Plus model. This will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebalance the safeguarding system to help keep more families together where this can be achieved safely • Develop a system based on working with family's strengths • Encourage professional relationships that are empowering and help families to make positive changes • Ensure interventions are timely, focused and intense • Work in a holistic way supporting parents to address problems that impact on their ability to look after their children • Reduce demand safely and appropriately • Create whole system improvements (e.g. with our partners) • Leads to a safe reduction in the numbers we care for |

3. Summary of other items discussed by the board

- Further update on Trans Inclusion Toolkit

As discussed in the Children's Trust Board meeting in March, the Trans Inclusion Toolkit was withdrawn by Oxfordshire County Council and the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board in the light of a threat of a judicial review. Firstly, there were not enough resources available during the pandemic to manage a judicial review on an issue of that nature. Secondly, national guidelines are expected soon on the subject. Concerns have been raised that children could be subject to

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increased bullying and that some children and young people had experienced a sense of abandonment as a result of the removal of the toolkit.

Oxfordshire County Council have tried to address this by meeting with key people to ensure there is some support to those transgender children who are struggling to deal with the consequences of the withdrawal of the toolkit.

- Learning from issues raised by recent national and international events in relation to diversity

The Board were asked how to better address these important issues and to reflect if there are issues of unconscious bias within the partnership, in relation to our collective practices regarding children and young people.

- Children and Young People's Plan 2018-2021: Review of Implementation Plan 2019-20 (link below)
Children and Young People's Plan Year 2 Progress Report 2019-20

This document for Year 2 was agreed by the Board last year and all progress and data has been updated. This has now been signed off and available on the Children & Young People's Plan web page.

- Proposed COVID-19 Recovery Plan 2020-21 (link below)
Children and Young People's Plan Year 3 COVID Recovery Plan 2020-21

It was agreed at the March Board meeting to keep the same priorities:

- Children not engaged in education
- Social, emotional, physical and mental well being
- Protect children from domestic abuse

This plan was drafted with the support of the leads in the above stated areas. This recovery plan reflects our priorities as we emerge from the pandemic and so the Children's Trust Board is sighted on some of the main areas that support the whole system. This has now been approved and is available on the Children and Young People's Plan web page

- Proposal for Refresh of Children and Young People's Plan 2021-24

The current plan is due to expire in 2021, so normally consultation would be starting now but with the current situation it was agreed and approved by the Board that the plan would be extended by a further year to 2022. Therefore, this time next year the Board can hopefully start consultation for a future plan.

- Child Friendly Planning

This report is an analysis of how children's rights are presented within national planning policies. The full report [Child Friendly Planning in the UK](#) concluded that children are most notably absent from national planning policies. The narrative is from a town planning perspective but in considering drastic reductions in children's autonomy to move independently since the 70s. Their perspectives should be considered in transport and planning policies, along with wider issues like safeguarding and wellbeing. ['What needs to change'](#) is an article that provides an overview of the findings from the report.

One of the findings of the report is that national policies and guidance are saying very little about children's spatial needs and their rights.

The report recommendations are:

1. The right to gather, play and participate should be central
2. Children should be recognised as a distinct group
3. Focusing planning towards children friendly outcomes

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4. Learning and collaboration between the policy spheres.

The Health Place shaping policy is being adopted across Oxfordshire through the Housing and Growth Board based on learnings from the National Health Service Healthy New Town. All Oxfordshire authorities have committed to work and plan together to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for local communities and specifically referred to children and young people.

The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 is currently being developed to support the ambitions for communities' healthy place shaping. One way of achieving this is to ensure that a Health Impact Assessment is carried out. Children have been divided into three categories, infants, children and young people in the assessment. Other criterion to highlight is deprivation.

District councils local plan updates now contains a policy requirement for a Health Impact Assessment to be carried out in major developments. Local Transport and Connectivity plans are considering children friendly measures such as School Streets.

As part of the COVID 19 recovery plan, £2.9 million has been allocated to Oxfordshire to make it easier for people to walk and cycle and School Streets are considered a standout priority. There are opportunities to take and develop in this area.

▪ COVID-19 Implications for Partnerships

All partners updated on implications and progress in dealing with issues raised during the pandemic and the recovery phase since lockdown in order to ensure the partnership is aware of agency priorities and any gaps in provision. Improvements in practice and collaborative working were noted as well as concerns about risk and increased demand in the recovery phase.

4. Forward plan for next meeting

The following items are due to be considered in the forthcoming meeting:

- Children & Young People's Plan Focus Area - Children not engaged in education
- CEF – Recovery Priorities – Outcomes & Performance
- Partnership updates – COVID-19 recovery priorities