

Report to Health and Wellbeing Board

Report from: Children’s Trust Board Chair – Cllr Liz Brighthouse
Report Date: 1 st December 2022
Dates of meetings held since the last report: 8 th November 2022 – Virtual meeting
HWB Priorities addressed in this report – A Healthy Start in Life
Link to any published notes or reports: Children & Young People's Plan 2018 - 2023

“Working together to help children, young people, and families to thrive”

Priorities for 2022-23 – Focus on Early Help

To ensure all partners on the board dedicate senior leaders to the Early Help (EH) agenda and review their agency’s current resource.

Priority focus for 2022/23:

- **Early Help & Mental Health & Well-Being**
- **Early Help & 0 – 5-year-olds**
- **Early Help & SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities) Early Intervention**

Objectives

- To identify issues and concerns for children and families early so that they can be addressed promptly and without the need for statutory interventions if that is not necessary or appropriate.
- To ensure that Early Help support is at the least intrusive level and designed to support families continue to develop and thrive.
- To use an Early Help Assessment to develop a holistic, coordinated multi-agency intervention where an organization alone cannot fully support the problems a family is facing.

Actions

- Each agency to review their senior leadership and resource levels to early help and report to Children’s Trust Board and report on targets for their agency Early Help Assessments.
- To increase the number of Early Help Assessments (EHAs) to 10,000 by 2024/25.
- To identify resource to ensure front-line staff/designated staff across all our services are trained in the early identification and support that can be offered in relation to mental health and well-being, attachment, trauma informed and whole family working by:
 - scoping what is in place
 - adapting existing resources and designing training
 - planning delivery of training and/or train the trainers

Outcomes

- Senior strategic leadership and increased resourcing in place for early help so that fewer children are supported by statutory services.
- Pooled resource for Early Help
- Increase in EHAs (Early Help Assessments) to 5,000 by April 2023; 250 more staff trained to deliver EHAs.
- Reduction in children needing assessments for Education Health Care Needs, Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) or Children’s Social Care statutory support and improvement in Good Level of Development because their needs have been addressed at the earliest opportunity.
- Staff are confident to deliver mental health and well-being interventions, promote whole family working, signpost on as appropriate.

Priority focus for 2022/23: Be Supported

- To ensure the partnership listens to and learns from the views and feedback from children and young people, aged 8-18yrs and up to 25yrs with additional needs, about how supported they feel by the services they access in Oxfordshire.

Progress reports on priority work to deliver the Joint HWB Strategy

Priority Focus	Early Help & Mental Health & Well-being
	Early Help & 0-5-year old’s
	Early Help & SEND Early Intervention
Deliverable	See updated Children and Young People Plan for list of deliverables
Progress report	TBC

Priority	Be Supported
Focus	Listen to the feedback from young people in Oxfordshire
Deliverable	This deliverable is measured by ensuring the voice of children and young people is included in our agenda items, via VOXY and the “Be Supported Survey.”
Progress report	Be Supported Survey 2022 was launched on the 14 th of March and ran for 6 weeks – 4 weeks of school time and then extending into the Easter holidays giving 6 weeks in total to complete the survey and to boost engagement. The full report is now available here after provided for info at the September meeting. Some <u>key messages</u> from this report of children and young people’s views are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even though the sample size has been smaller in 2022 there hasn’t been a significant change in their views and opinions in relation to how supported they feel. • Most of those surveyed do feel supported by the services they use, but it was slightly less compared to 2021. • There were positive responses for them knowing who to speak to when in need of support.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were fewer positive responses, with regards to feeling listened to and believed and when they speak to staff, they are experienced and caring. • As with previous year’s most respondents commented again on schools, followed by health services which were mostly positive, but references made to the CAMHS waiting times being unacceptable. • There were some comments from transgender young people who felt unsupported and not understood by their school and trans healthcare services. • A general note is that responses have been slightly less positive overall in 2022 compared to 2021.
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The data and information for Performance Report Quarter 2 2022/23 is available in [Appendix A](#) at the end of this report.

1. Early Help ‘Ask’ from the Children’s Trust Board to the Health and Well-Being Board

Cllr Brighthouse, as Chair of the Children’s Trust Board, has asked all Children’s Trust Board partners to:

- Identify a strategic lead for early help
- Identify resources that will be allocated to this work by their agency
- Identify targets to increase their Early Help Assessments (now Strengths & Needs Forms)
- Ensure staff are appropriately trained in the early identification and support that can be offered in relation to mental health and well-being, attachment trauma informed and whole family working

This in accordance with the [Children & Young People’s Plan 2022/23](#)

The full request is available upon request

The strategic leads would form a new Early Help Board from January 2023, which would be accountable to the Children’s Trust and progress would be a standing item at Children’s Trust Board meetings. All key statutory and voluntary sector partners would be part of the board and able to influence their organisations to deliver the priority regarding early help.

Progress to date is outlined in the presentation (*available upon request*) along with the Terms of Reference.

Case studies and quotes were provided to demonstrate how Early Help makes a difference and the importance of multi-agency support. These will be available and updated on the OSCB website on a rotational basis. Further information is also available via the [Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children’s Board](#) (OSCB) website, where there is an area exclusively around Early Help.

Action requested by Children’s Trust Board of Health and Well-Being Board

The Children’s Trust Board is requesting all Health and Well-Being Board partners to champion this approach in their organisations, to ensure that the early help priority and

response are aligned with their own organisations strategic direction and that they respond to and meet the 'ask' of the Children's Trust Board in relation to early help.

For any queries please contact Maria Godfrey, Strategic Lead, Early Help on maria.godfrey@oxfordshire.gov.uk or Tan Lea, Strategic Safeguarding Partnerships Manager on tan.lea@oxfordshire.gov.uk

2. Other items for noting by Health and Well-Being Board

2.1 New Children's Strapline for all partners: "Working together to help children, young people, and families to thrive"

A poll was undertaken with over 400 responses to agree the strapline for all children's services across our sector. There was good engagement from practitioners, the public and children, young people, and families. This is being brought together along with the Children's Trust Board Vision and Statement of Intent. A 'Thrive model' is being developed to demonstrate how the strapline and vision will be put into practice to ensure that as a partnership we all focus first on universal needs and ensure children are not referred into services at higher levels than they need and to manage our resources effectively.

Presentation available upon request

All partners have been asked to put this strapline into practice in their organisations, through meetings, policies, and procedures to bring it to life and ensure it is a manifesto for children. The board will ask all partners in three- and six-months' for examples of how they have put the strapline into practice.

2.2 Voice of Oxfordshire's Youth (VOXY)

At the Sounding Board on 15th October young people met with councillors about what is important to them. The young people completed a survey which raised themes, such as the cost-of-living crisis, mental health, education, and these were discussed in the session with county council decision makers.

Presentation available upon request

The young people gave feedback: "our voices are heard", "we are part of a wider conversation", "we tried new experiences/hobbies" and "we enjoyed it as it empowered us with the councillors".

2.3 NHS (National Health Service) Health Services in Oxfordshire for Children

The Place Director for Oxfordshire for the Integrated Services Board outlined the new structures and priorities to the Board. The overarching priorities are:

- Identify the population that will be served best by integrating services
- Reducing health and inequalities
- Delivering sustainable models of care that are sustainable in terms of costs and carbon

There is a strong strategic alignment with the Children's Trust Board priorities through the Start Well priorities:

- Early years outcomes – 0-5yrs; school readiness
- Emotional, mental health and wellbeing
- SEND (Special Education Needs & Disabilities) and support for children with neurodiversity and their families

Further information of the major changes taking place across the health and care system with the legal framework of the 2022 Health and Care Act which aims to change this and make it easier for organisations to work together are available here:

[How does the NHS in England work and how is it changing?](#)

Here is a useful summary of Oxfordshire outcomes:

[Public Health Outcomes Framework - at a glance summary](#)

2.4 SEND Reform: Focus on parents and carers and improvement plans

In response to recent petitions, the Council will be doing some specific work around Education Other Than at School (EOTAS), i.e., policy, choices for both system and parents and what this means in terms of resource allocation and equality of service.

The SEND update covered the following areas:

- Changes to SEND staffing
- Delivering Better Value
- Educational Health Care Needs Assessments
- Early Intervention

Full update available upon request

Feedback was more positive from the schools' perspective, the feedback from parents forums is that they do not feel listened to. As part of the SEND strategy and through Parent/Carer's Forum, further work is being undertaken to improve this.

2.5 OSCB on emerging issues

The OSCB Annual Report identifies the following key priorities of neglect, child exploitation and keeping children safe in education.

The OSCB has endorsed recommendations from a recent review, as well as other learning, to support children who are at risk of serious self-harm and suicide. This review also supported similar conclusions/recommendations from the published Serious Case Review for Child R, regarding the insufficiency of placements.

The Board reviewed local data and practice in relation to stop and search on juveniles, in response to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review in Hackney on Child Q including the requirement to inform parents for children of all ages.

2.6 Forward plan for the February 2023 meeting

The following items are due to be considered in forthcoming meetings:

- Partner responses to the request for senior response to the Focus on Early Help in the Children & Young People's Plan and progress on Early Help Board.
- SEND update.
- Cost of Living Crisis update.
- 2023/24 Children and Young People's Plan; review of 2022/23 Plan; You Said, We Did feedback to children and young people.

APPENDIX A

What is being done in areas rated Red or Amber in the Performance Framework

The data and information below are for Performance Report Quarter 2 2022/23.

Be successful

- The number of pupils expelled has reduced and is virtually half the level it was in 18/19. Suspensions have dropped by less.
- 86% of primary and 50% of secondary school pupils who were suspended last year had special educational needs.
- Persistent absence has doubled since 2018/19 and now over a quarter of secondary school pupils and over 17% of primary school pupils persistently absent.
- The number of electively home educated children is 46% higher than pre pandemic levels but only 20 children who are electively home educated are known to social care.
- The number of children missing education is similar to the pre pandemic level. 4 are known to social care and 14 are receiving early help.

Be healthy

- The average (mean) waiting time for core CAMHS services is 6% lower than 12 months ago, and the median is 11% lower.
- To June A&E attendances for self-harm are 18% higher than last year and 50% more than 2019, though hospital admissions have remained stable.
- The children's trust agreed a target of 5,000 early help assessments this year and 10,000 in 23/24. We are currently 28% below target. Most EHAs are for secondary school children and a significant proportion (around 40%) of children becoming the subject of statutory plans for neglect have not had an early help assessment
- The number of under-age conceptions is falling, but the pregnant women scored with a risk of 3 or 4 continue to rise.

Be Safe

- MASH contacts for the first 5 months of the year are 2% lower than last year, but still around 60% higher than pre pandemic levels. Despite this increase the timeliness of red (most urgent) contacts was above target for every month of the year
- August saw a significant increase in children the subject of child protection plans, which stand at over 600. This is part seasonal but was more emphatic this year. It remains below the highpoint of 769 in June 2019.
- The number of children we care for continues to rise and stands at 887 (413 in April 2013) but remains below the national rate. This puts pressure on workloads across the system and on placements.
- Recorded domestic incidents involving children were 4% lower than 12 months ago but 1% higher than 2 years ago and 7% higher than 3 years ago.
- Number of children going missing from home was 19% higher than 12 months ag; 5% higher than 2 years ago and 15% lower than 3 years ago.

Indicator Number	RAG	What is being done to improve performance?
1.3a Mean wait for Core CAMHS (days)	N/A	In May 2022 the number was 118 – 6% lower than April 2021.
1.3b Median wait for Core CAMHS (days)	N/A	In May 2022 the number was 88 – 11% lower than April 2021.
1.11 Reduce the persistent absence of children subject to a Child Protection Plan	N/A	Data available annually only. This is for 2018/19 academic year.
1.1 Reduce the number of children we care for to 750 by March 2022	R	The number in August 2022 was 818 – the number of children we care for continues to rise but remains below the national rate (excluding unaccompanied young people).