

**Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board**  
**5 November 2015**  
**Children's Trust Briefing**

This paper outlines the activity of the Children's Trust since the last update which was provided to the Health and Wellbeing Board in July 2015. The Trust has met twice since the last update.

1. Members of the Trust have discussed and fed into issues including:
  - a. The **Supported Housing Pathway for children and young people**. The Trust discussed barriers faced by young people seeking housing and the benefits of the new supported housing pathway for those who cannot return home due to neglect, abuse, etc. It was recognised that partners need to work together to develop flexible solutions, so that young people do not remain in the pathway, but are able to move on successfully. The Trust will continue to receive updates on the new supported housing pathway, although performance will be monitored by the Health Improvement Board, alongside the supported housing pathway for adults.
  - b. **Outcomes for vulnerable learners**. The Trust discussed progress towards developing a strategy for vulnerable learners, with its central aim being equity with excellence. Members emphasised the importance of having input from primary care providers and the wider community, as well as acknowledging school as a protective factor in the lives of vulnerable young people. The changing role of the council was also recognised as the strategy will be able to influence and guide schools, but not instruct them. The Trust will have the opportunity to comment further when a draft is ready to be shared.
  - c. **Key messages and pressure points** from across the system in relation to children and young people. The Trust was made aware of the increasing volume of work across agencies dealing with child protection and safeguarding, and acknowledged that awareness of abuse and neglect has increased, as well as self-awareness of risky behaviour. The challenge of measuring the impact of training and preventative services was discussed and members emphasised the importance of working together to reach children and young people in different ways, particularly those who remain 'hidden' until crisis point. The Trust recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board is made aware of the key risks in relation to children and young people.
  - d. The **proposals for transforming Early Intervention services and Children's Social Care**. The Trust discussed the future service model and the three options that are the focus of public consultation. Members raised a number of points in relation to the content and timing of the consultation; the location of services; the future use of buildings; and the effects of reducing universal services on partners and the public. The Trust's comments were considered in preparation for the public consultation.
2. At its July meeting the Trust welcomed **new members**: Alexandra Walker from the Balsam Family Project, Simon Brown from the FASD Trust, and Katy Thompson from VIVA, as representatives from the voluntary and community sector.

Katie Read / Ben Threadgold  
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