

Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board
3 March 2016
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 November 2015. The Trust has met twice since the last update.

Members of the Trust have discussed and fed into issues including:

1. The **Domestic Abuse Review**. The Trust was informed about the multi-agency strategic review of domestic abuse services, aimed at aligning strands of work already going on across agencies. It was agreed that the Trust would have oversight of the work of the Oxfordshire Children's Domestic Abuse Strategy Group (OCDASG) to support robust governance arrangements and enable the Safeguarding Children Board to fulfil its role of challenge and effective scrutiny.
2. The **Education Strategy and Equity and Excellence in Education Strategy**. The Trust endorsed the Education Strategy's ambition to make all schools and settings in Oxfordshire at least 'good' by 2018, but recognised the changing role of the local authority in education. Members were concerned about high numbers of permanent exclusions in the county, but reassured that a county-wide protocol exists to ensure no children in care are excluded. The Equity and Excellence in Education Strategy for improving the educational attainment of vulnerable learners was also supported. The Trust will continue to receive updates on the implementation of these strategies.
3. The **Youth Justice Service Review**. The Trust recognised interdependencies between the review and the transformation of Children's Social Care and Early Intervention Services. Members discussed the importance of the Trust's links with Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), as a proportion of funding for Youth Justice Services is allocated through these Partnerships. The Trust agreed to consider ways to strengthen its relationship with CSPs and to receive updates on the work they do with children and young people.
4. **Children in Care and Care Leavers**. The Trust considered the main barriers to achieving aspirational targets in the Education, Employment and Training Strategy for Looked After Children and Care Leavers and discussed where it could influence work in these areas. Members agreed to raise the profile of Looked After Children and Care Leavers by briefing the Local Enterprise Partnership and ensuring they become an area of focus for the Oxfordshire Skills Board.

Members were also updated on the Placement Strategy and achievements/ activities of the Children in Care Council (CiCC) from 2015. Whilst the Trust was concerned about the cost of placements, members were pleased to note the high rates of adoption in Oxfordshire and the influential role of the CiCC. The Trust will continue to receive updates on the Strategy and the council's work with children and young people in the care system.

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