

Report to Health and Wellbeing Board

Report from: Children's Trust Board (Chair – Jodie Lloyd-Jones in June & Cllr Liz Brighthouse in September)
Report Date: 28 th September 2021
Dates of meetings held since the last report: 9 th June 2021 & 16 th September 2021 – Virtual meeting due to COVID-19 restrictions
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
<u>Priorities for 2021-22</u>
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 2021/22: 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 2021/22: 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 2021/22: Focus on domestic abuse
Be Supported <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Be empowered to know who to speak to when in need of support and know that they will be listened to and believed.2. Access information in a way which suits them best.3. Have inspiring role models. Talk to staff who are experienced and caring. Priority focus for 2021/22

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

Priority	Be Successful
Focus	Children not engaged in education
Deliverable	See updated Children and Young People Plan for list of deliverables
Progress report	Reviewed in Sep 2021 meeting

Priority	Be Healthy
Focus	Social, emotional, physical and mental well-being
Deliverable	See updated Children and Young People Plan for list of deliverables.
Progress report	To be reviewed in Dec 2021

Priority	Be Safe
Focus	Domestic Abuse – update was planned in March 2021 meeting but due to sickness didn't happen
Deliverable	See updated Children and Young People Plan for list of deliverables.
Progress report	Domestic Report provided at June 2021 meeting

Priority	Be Supported
Focus	Listen to the feedback from young people in Oxfordshire
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	Reviewed at the Jun 2021 meeting Survey is launched every Jan and will run for 4 weeks. An update was provided at the June 2021 meeting. Due to COVID-19 there was a delay and ran for 6 weeks

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

The data and information below are for Performance Report Quarter 1 2021/22. Performance remains affected by Covid with no educational results last academic year.

Be successful

In May the DfE published figures on school absence (Sept – Dec 2020) which showed that overall and persistent absence rates in Oxfordshire were lower (better) than the national rates for all types of school - primary, secondary, and special schools.

Be healthy

CAMHS waiting times are now reported, but in line with other areas using the mean and median wait. The mean wait is 126 days and the median 99 days. Both have improved in the last 12 months.

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Levels of hospital activity have increased with considerably more A&E attendances for self-harm (92 in April compared with an average of 52 in the last couple of years) and hospital admission rates for self-harm 15-19 years olds being 53% higher in April than the previous 2 years.

677 early help assessments were completed in the last quarter, better than the target of 500

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment identifies just over 14,000 children in Oxfordshire living in poverty if we exclude housing costs, and just under 28,000 children if we include housing costs.

Be Safe

In the last quarter MASH enquiries were 31% higher than the same period last year – this is being mitigated through additional temporary staff. Timeliness of dealing with MASH enquiries is both better than last year and the target.

The number of children open to social care, on a child protection plan and cared for have risen. This is driven more by fewer children leaving the social care systems than front door demand.

Indicator Number	RAG	What is being done to improve performance?
1.3a Mean and Median wait for Core CAMHS (days)	N/A	CAMHS waiting times are now reported, but in line with other areas using the mean and median wait. The mean wait is 126 days and the median 99 days. Both have improved in the last 12 months
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 2021	A	Rise in the year as fewer children left the cared for system

3. Summary of other items discussed by the board

▪ Changes in Administration

Kevin Gordon confirmed the departure of former Cllr Harrod and thanked him for his excellent job as Chair of the Children's Trust Board and long-standing services to the children of Oxfordshire.

Welcome to the following councillors as members of the Children's Trust Board:

- Cllr Liz Brighthouse, Oxfordshire County Council, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Young People's Services and new Chair for the Board
- Councillor Merylin Davies, West Oxfordshire District Council, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities.
- Councillor Shaista Aziz, Oxford City Council, Cabinet Member for Inclusive Communities.
- Councillor Mark Lygo, Oxfordshire County Council, Cabinet Member for Public Health & Equality

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- [Children and Young People's Plan \(CYPP\) 2018-2023 – Recovery Plan 2020/21 – Area of Focus Be Safe – Report on Domestic Abuse](#)

Link provided below for the report that was circulated after the June meeting.

[Update on the new Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#)

The Domestic Abuse needs assessment, strategy and delivery plan are being refreshed across the partnership with final proposals to be presented by August. Lead responsibility for domestic abuse has moved to Public Health at Oxfordshire County Council which is very positive in terms of focusing more on preventative work.

Referrals for domestic abuse to the police and at front door of Children's Social Care have increased. The challenge is for the partnership to scale up to meet the level of the demand and provide an effective intervention that includes a greater emphasis on working with perpetrators.

- [Be Supported 20/21 Report](#)

Adrian Chant from the Engagement & Consultation Team in the County Council went through the main findings of the report (link to full report below):

[2021 'Be Supported' Questionnaire Engagement Report](#)

- Most of the feedback gathered in 2021 was positive, about how supported children and young people feel by the services they use in Oxfordshire.
- Overall figures from 2021 indicate children and young people are feeling more supported than in 2020.
- There were clearly areas which they felt services could be improved.
- They clearly value positive and established relationships with their workers and support staff, but often feel unsupported when these relationships break down, stop, or are felt to be non-existent.
- It is also important to keep listening to what children and young people tell us to ensure all services and workers across the county can support them as effectively as possible.

He highlighted the following recommendations from the survey which was open for 6 weeks (end of March 2021 to early May 2021):

- That this report will be used by the Children's Trust Board to influence their approach and ways forward for the current Oxfordshire Children and Young People's Plan (until 2023), in relation to the 'Be Supported' Area of Focus.
- The key messages identified can also be used as a benchmark, to compare to any feedback gathered in future years, around how supported children and young people feel by the services they access and use in Oxfordshire.
- Children and young people clearly value positive and established relationships with their workers and support staff, and often feel unsupported when these relationships break down, stop, or are felt to be non-existent. Based on this, it is recommended that the message around how important good relationships are, between workers and the children and young people they support, is reinforced.

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Generally, it is positive that four of the overall percentages have increased since last year but going forward more must be done to ensure the voices of children and young people are being listened to with meaningful actions carried out.

A wider summary of survey report findings from children and young people (link provided below) has been passed to the relevant strategic groups for domestic abuse, learner engagement and social and emotional well-being. This includes The Big Ask Report which has just recently been published.

[Children and young people surveys 2020/21 \(oxfordshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/children-and-young-people-surveys-2020-21)

- [CYPP Recovery Plan Year 3: Progress Report 20/21 & CYPP Plan for Year 4 - 21/22](#)

The leads for each priority updated the progress over the past year and agreed the plan for the coming year. Comments and feedback welcomed from all members before both plans published on the Oxfordshire County Council public page (links provided below):

[Children & Young People's Plan Year 3 COVID-19 Recovery Progress Plan 2020-21](#)

[Children & Young People's Plan Year 4 COVID-19 Recovery Priorities Plan 2021-22](#)

- [Children and Young People's Plan \(CYPP\) 2018-2023 – Area of Focus – Be Successful – Children who are not engaged in Education](#)

Hayley Good reported on children not engaged in education (link to report below). The numbers of children being permanently excluded from school has fallen significantly over the last 12 months, unsurprisingly, because many of them were not in school over the lockdown periods. The number of children missing education has also dropped over the last 12 months. Our attendance figures have improved, and we are above national measures across the board. Overall, our attendance compared to national and statistical and regional neighbours is good and a lot stronger than it has been in previous years. The one area, however, that is a concern is the significant increase in the number of children and young people electively home educated and the bar chart shows this in the report. Additional resources have been identified to mediate return to school where appropriate.

[Education Report for CTB](#)

- [SEND \(Special Education Needs & Disabilities\) Update](#)

Catherine Clarke provided a presentation on the Vision and Direction for SEND Services for the academic year (link below).

[SEND Vision and Future](#)

It covers the four key areas: National Context, SEND Service Strategic Plan 2021-22, SEND Reform Update and SEND Consultation Themes. SEND review has been delayed again, originally was to be launched in 2019. New SEND Inspection Framework was due for consultation in the autumn term but that it also delayed and yet to be confirmed. Basically, the system that we have currently is not working for many of the children, young people, and their families in Oxfordshire. So, we are asking for full support on the

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consultation from as many people as possible to gain as wide a view people's perception and how we can take this forward most constructively.

- Feedback from Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB) on emerging issues

A comprehensive risk register was introduced earlier in COVID-19 that is now being managed as business as usual. A new dashboard, which is focusing on demand and capacity is being developed.

There is a tremendous amount of work going on around the Jacob Review, which came out earlier this year. Communication will be going out to the wider partnership, reassuring colleagues that work is still ongoing and that there are conversations around placement, sufficiency, local solutions and what the national solution might be. There was an initial meeting of various partnership bodies across Oxfordshire to identify overlaps and gaps in relation to the Jacob Review, and this showed signs of promise with ongoing work in further meetings.

The OSCB annual conference, Big Day of Learning, was held online in June and a success with tremendous amount of work from lots of colleagues and we will look to do this again.

The OSCB annual report outlines the key priorities of safeguarding, practice, improvement, neglect, child exploitation and keeping children safe in education. The report also includes feedback from practitioners in relation to working during the pandemic.

The key messages from the OSCB Annual Report for the Children's Trust to hear for this coming year are:

- 1. Oxfordshire needs traction on changing practice.** The whole system must work together to effect change, which means each organisation must take responsibility for embedding change and learning. We are doing a lot of things to improve how we work together but the challenge is making it sustainable.
- 2. The Jacob CSPR shows that we need to improve how we work together across our whole partnership.** This includes community safety, children's safeguarding, education and health. We need to bring strategic leadership and direction to this work to make it easier to keep children safe from harm outside the home.
- 3. Post-pandemic interventions will need to be at scale and volume.** Pace and purpose is needed to deal with the emerging issues such as increased safeguarding referrals, visibility of children through school attendance, increased referrals for mental health and domestic abuse concerns.
- 4. Education settings are key partners.** Whilst they are not named as senior safeguarding partners in the guidance 'Working Together 2018', we are clear in Oxfordshire that our education colleagues are central to keeping children safe. They must be part of our conversations and actions for us to work better together.

In addition, a Neglect Challenge Event is being held on September 21 and there is an ongoing piece of work around disproportionality in the CSC system and a proposal is to be taken to the OSCB full board in December.

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- Update on Early Intervention Development

At the June meeting, Kevin Gordon provided a verbal update on the Early Help Strategy using a diagram to illustrate the plans (link below):

[Early Help Strategy Diagram](#)

Best practice will be established to identify the design approach for Oxfordshire and ensure that there is a common language to describe children's needs and outcomes. It involves information sharing and agreeing how success is measured, evaluation criteria and performance frameworks.

At the September meeting Kevin introduced Maria Godfrey as the new strategic lead for Early Intervention to develop the new approach on a multi-agency basis over the next year.

- Feedback on governance issues

The Health & Well Being Board have agreed the Children's Trust Board focus for the next few years. This gives us an opportunity to focus well on a few key issues at the Children's Trust. The link to the priorities document is provided below and there are 3 key initiatives:

- Early Help and Early Intervention SEND offer
- Children's Emotional Mental Health & Wellbeing
- 0-5s Reform

[HWB Priorities](#)

- Forward plan for next meeting

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

- Children & Young People's Plan Focus Area – Be Healthy: Social, Emotional, Physical & Mental Well-Being
- LGBTQ+ Report