

Report to Health and Wellbeing Board

Report from: Children's Trust Board Chair – Cllr Liz Brighthouse
Report Date: 4 th March 2022
Dates of meetings held since the last report: 2 nd December 2021 & 9 th February 2022 – 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>
<p>Be Successful</p> <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. <p>Priority focus for 2021/22: Focus on children not engaged in education</p>
<p>Be Happy and Healthy</p> <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. <p>Priority focus for 2021/22: Focus on social, emotional, physical & mental well-being</p>
<p>Be Safe</p> <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. <p>Priority focus for 2021/22: Focus on domestic abuse</p>
<p>Be Supported</p> <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. <p>Talk to staff who are experienced and caring.</p> <p>Priority focus for 2021/22</p>

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	Area of focus presentation provided in the December 2021 meeting by Kevin Gordon and Vicky Norman. Please refer to more information under section 3 later in this report.

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 & February 2022 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	Be Supported Survey 2022 to be launched on the 14 th March and running 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. To be reported and presented at the May 2022 meeting In the February 2022 meeting, Carole Stow shared highlights from research with young people by Family, Kinds and Youth to inform the development of Oxfordshire County Council's new strategic plan (<i>link to presentation provided below under Section 3 – ‘Listening to Children and Young People’</i>)

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 3 2021/22.
Performance remains affected by Covid with no educational results last academic year.

Be successful

September – December last year nearly 1 in 4 children were persistently absent from school - that was twice as high as a year ago. There is a concern post covid they have not got everyone back into schools. To note: the levels of children that were electively home educated is 40% higher than pre Covid-19.

35 children are currently missing, Deborah Bell has provided a report to the Safeguarding Board.

The number of children suspended from school dropped by 20%

Be healthy

Core Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) waiting times are reducing, they are 12% lower than a year ago

Accident & Emergency attendances for self-harm are 73% higher than last year and 70% higher than 2019

The number of early health assessments continues to be above target but remain 2½ times more likely to have a social care than an early help assessment.

Be Safe

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) contacts continue to rise and are 22% higher than last year

Child protection have fallen in the last quarter but remain higher than the start of the year

The number of children we care for is growing, this is creating a real pressure on placements

Recorded domestic incidents involving children fell by 2% in the last year but is still 8% higher than the figure 2 years ago

The number of missing children is 42% higher than a year ago (when we were in lock down) it is still 16% lower than 2 years ago

Indicator Number	RAG	What is being done to improve performance?
1.3a/1.3b Mean and Median wait for Core CAMHS (days)	N/A	CAMHS waiting times are now reported and reducing. The November 2021 update shows that the mean wait is 110 days, 12% lower than in November 2020. The median wait is 93 days, 89% higher than May 2020
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	A	Rise in the year as fewer children left the cared for system

3. Summary of other items discussed by the board

3.1 Feedback from OSCB on emerging issues (Derek Benson) – December 2021 & February 2022 Meeting

The Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board and Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements are continuing to oversee the recommendations from the Jacob Child Safeguarding Practice Review published in January 2021. This document will be shared more widely so that children, young people, and practitioners can see what we are trying to achieve.

The Serious Case Review of Child R was published in December. A number of issues emerged such as delivery of early help and how it's improved, how the commissioning and monitoring of placements is done but still a concern around sufficiency of placements and talks are being held with other local authorities.

Work is continuing around the Jacob Child Safeguarding Practice Review and there was an event recently and another one in a few weeks' time.

There were events like Big day of Learning in June and The Neglect Challenge in September. There is ongoing work around neglect because of its seriousness and working with partners to tackle this.

3.2 Oxfordshire CAMHS – Challenges, Developments and Emotional Well Being and Mental Health Strategy - December 2021 Meeting

With significant rises and demands on mental health interventions in Oxfordshire, members of the Joint Commission Executive and Oxford Health colleagues are trying to develop different ways of approaching the range of mental health needs.

A presentation was given by Kevin Gordon, along with Vicky Norman and Mandy Round from Oxford Health about how we are trying to manage these demands (*links to presentations provided below*). It concluded with our system-wide plan to map numbers of children accessing services.

[Mental Health Support in Oxfordshire 2020 CAMHS Presentation](#)

Going forward our plan for emotional mental health and well-being is that we need to try and provide services at an earlier point where young people need some of those clinical interventions. We are at the service mapping stage, but we need services to get involved who deliver mental health interventions to understand what we are currently delivering in this county.

3.3 Update on progress on Emotional Well-Being and Mental Health Strategic Approach – February 2022 Meeting

The Lead Commissioner of Start Well Programme, Caroline Kelly explained that we are nearly at the end of the need's analysis, although there are still gaps in the voluntary service.

A good focus group with members of CAMHS, Voluntary Sector and wider strategic partners talking about key gaps and needs for children and young people. There is a long

list of opportunities where we can add some improvements to the mental health services across Oxfordshire.

The plan is to have a panel to evaluate the identified opportunities to come up with a short list for proposals and how we might fund it to make a real difference going forward. The intention is to launch the strategy in May at the Youth in Mind Conference.

3.4 Listening to Children and Young People - February 2022 Meeting

Carole Stow shared highlights from research with young people by Family, Kinds and Youth to inform the development of Oxfordshire County Council's new strategic plan (*link to presentation provided below*) – *please note that the video is not available for wider circulation*

[Highlights from research with young people by family, kids and youth](#)

Engagement and Consultation Team to look into if there are young people who are willing to share their views on how the Mental Health system can be improved across Oxfordshire.

3.5 Voice of Oxfordshire's Youth (VOXY) – December 2021 & February 2022 Meeting

The VOXY representatives and Rosie Boyes covered the work that VOXY are undertaking, such as the LGBTQI children and young people inclusion group meeting in September 2021 and then another in January 2022.

Climate Action Group which was previously attended by VOXY has formally closed now. There have been 3 big projects linked to the Council and 9 priorities of digital work process, inviting feedback from residents and stakeholders, informing the budgeting process and to help develop a strategic plan.

The Digital Work Process where 8 young people took part in online interviews facilitated by a fluent interaction to support the Council's digital transformation programme. It explored numerous areas such as what is the best way to get information from the Council.

VOXY members were actively linked and involved to COP26, through OxLEP (Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership)

The Be Supported Survey 2022 is to be launched on the 14th March and will run for 6 weeks.

3.6 Feedback from parent representatives presented by Dan Knowles and Lisa Hughes Healthwatch Oxfordshire – December 2021 & February 2022 Meeting

There was the first meeting of the Oxfordshire Well-Being Network Parent/Carers Group a few weeks back and Kevin Gordon attended presenting some of the work that is being done, such as Children's Centres and moving forward in a new world of early help. This network group will meet one month before the CTB and look at a couple of key subjects and bring those to this group for a wider discussion.

From the Oxfordshire Parent/Carer Forum there are now 725 engaged parents and carers with children that have special needs.

Following on from the CAMHS presentation, there was a challenge raised by several parents, such as the links between autism and social care as its difficult to get referrals into the social care system.

With the SEND consultation running, Healthwatch are holding an Oxfordshire Wellbeing network meeting on 17th February where they are hoping to get parents, carers, and parent carer organisations to play a part in that consultation. There is good representation of people signed up for that session. Views will be shared with the Board.

3.7 Feedback from the Children and Young People Forum (Voluntary Sector) by Jodie Lloyd-Jones & Charlotte Pearson-Miles – December 2021 & February 2022 Meeting

Kevin Gordon has been invited to attend a meeting in the New Year to explain 0-5 offer and explore partnership opportunities with the Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS). The groups in the network are dealing with that increased mental health need amongst parents and children, so with this early and preventative support, it is not necessarily clear where to signpost parents for additional help.

Children & Young People's Forum elected a new VCS representative onto OCSB. There have been difficulties of recruitment of staff and volunteers. There are also challenges managing more complex safeguarding and higher levels of mental health concerns.

Kevin Gordon and Jessie Dobson attended the forum to present on the new Targeted Youth Service. It was received well with lots of positive discussions. Some of the concerns raised were about the immediate impact of recruitment of staff and ensuring a partnership approach long-term. The voluntary sector is very keen to join up the existing work with the new service.

3.8 Update from Emma Anderson Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) representative – February 2022 Meeting

The concerns and needs about parental and child mental health and anxiety, came through from the Early Years Network (EYN) meeting in December. The EYN are working with Oxfordshire Community & Voluntary Action to source a programme of training in response. There are also challenges in the access to mental health provision or knowing where to refer on in their area.

There is a lack of effective one-stop information source for health professionals and the public to find out what early years VCS provision is available. Hopefully the Family Information Service or Virtual Family Centre will address this.

There is a programme from April to October for parents, residents and people working in schools, councils, and other agencies to come together and look at the following question: How do we holistically support families to thrive in, and with, their community to prevent crises and break cycles of intergenerational disadvantage?

3.9 Children's Trust Board Priorities from the Children and Young People's Plan 2018-2023 - February 2022 Meeting

There will be a review of our 2021-2022 plan in terms of the data and progress for the next meeting in May. The three priorities for the 2022-2023 are:

- emotional health and wellbeing
- 0-5s
- early help and SEND early intervention

Over the new few months, the Children's Trust Board will be looking at how we, as a partnership can address those issues. Proposals are to be brought to the next CTB meeting in May.

3.10 Early Help and SEND Early Intervention - December 2021 Meeting

Kevin Gordon presented Oxfordshire's Early Help Strategy - there is extensive across the county which needs joining (*link to presentation provided below*).

Early Help Presentation

The data indicates that we are probably disproportionately over assessing a significant number of children and families in the county. There needs to be a cultural change with Early Help, so that we provide services differently. We need to have very honest and direct conversations about how to achieve cultural change.

The Board members worked in breakout groups to discuss what needs to be done in their individual organisation/agency to make this happen and what help and support do they need from senior leaders.

Some key suggestions were:

"...there's a couple of ways one is a bit of a process, so about the MASH pushing stuff back and I think the second part is education about how other partners or practitioners can do an early help assessment and the support they get".

"...frontline staff are really questioning at times that early help assessment process and what that achieves. So, talking about really having multi agency workshops with frontline staff to talk it through with case studies or best practice. You know, to really kind of engage with what the barriers are and what the kind of benefits are of doing it. When you've got hard-pressed people, who are kind of struggling in the front line, so real commitment to work, some of this through, but some ideas about how we can do it."

"EHAs still come into social care, which is a barrier to some families."

"The need for a much more flexible workforce and a skilled workforce across partners. So maybe having some sort of common grounds and across different organisations. And that linked also with a focus around the fact that we don't think our culture in our organizations is child centred enough or relationship based enough".

"It's about how what kind of mechanisms would work better and can they be built into people's business as usual instead of being an add on".

"...the impact of a social worker and a statutory assessment and how that feels for a family and a child and a parent as having that without any support before".

The Board agreed that moving forward it would be beneficial to have further discussions on the progress of this.

3.11 Thames Valley Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) – February 2022 Meeting

Tim Wiseman (Senior Communications & Engagement Manager) presented an overview of the Violence Reduction Unit and explained the work they are doing across the Thames Valley (*link provided below for presentation*).

[Thames Valley Violence Reduction Unit Presentation](#)

The Serious Violence Strategy was drawn up in the wake of a real spate of youth violence and knife crime, particularly in London. This also now includes violence against women and girls.

There are 20 units across the county which are aligned to police forces in England and Wales.

3.12 Forward plan for the next meeting

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

- Children & Young People's Plan Focus Area – Be Supported Survey 2022 Report
- Progress of the 2021-2022 plan from the Children & Young People's Plan (2018-2023) and Priorities for the 2022-2023 plan
- CAMHS waiting times
- Targeted Youth Support