

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
UPDATE REPORT FROM CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD
October 2017**

SUMMARY:

This is a summary update on the work of the Children's Trust Board, since the update report presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board in July 2017. The Children's Trust Board met on 26 September 2017.

The update focuses on the following areas:

- 1. Educational attainment for vulnerable groups of children: High Needs Review Progress Report**
 - 2. Prevention, Early Help and Early Intervention**
 - 3. Managing Transitions**
 - 4. Developing the Children and Young People's Plan 2018 -21**
 - 5. Children's Trust Board and OSCB dataset Performance Report for Quarter 1 March 2017 – June 2017**
 - 6. Joint meeting between Children's Trust Board and OSCB on 24 July 2017 – notes and discussion of way forward.**
 - 7. OSCB Annual Report and key issues emerging**
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UPDATE:

- 1. Educational attainment for vulnerable groups of children: High Needs Review Progress Report**

The Children and Families Act 2014, requires local authorities to keep provision for children and young people with special needs and disabilities (SEND) under review. The Department for Education has provided a one off grant for the local authority to carry out an in depth review. This review is being undertaken under significant changes to education funding policy and amidst growing concerns around the sufficiency of specialist provision and the educational progress of children with SEND. One of our key priorities is to improve the educational progress of vulnerable learners as set out in the Strategic Overview 2016-2020. The High Needs Review and action plans support the vulnerable learners' strategy.

At this stage in 2017 attainment data are provisional and comparisons with national figures for vulnerable learners will not be available until October/November. However, there are some indications that Oxfordshire's performance is improving.

Early figures indicate that the proportion of disadvantaged pupils reaching the expected standard in reading, writing and maths at key stage 2 has increased to 42% this year from 29% in 2016, and from 9% in 2016 to 17% in 2017 for children at SEN Support.

At Key stage 1, the attainment of pupils with a statement of SEN or Education, Health and Care plan in Oxfordshire has increased noticeably since 2016 (from 10%-23% in reading, from 5%-17% in writing and from 8%-21% in maths). However, this is a relatively small cohort. The attainment of pupils at SEN support has also increased this year, but not by such a noticeable amount. Pupils with EAL in Oxfordshire have also shown a relatively larger increase in attainment this year, particularly in writing where almost 2/3 (65%) reached the expected standard, compared with 57% last year.

The governance arrangements for this work are now in place. The 'golden thread' for the priority to improve the attainment of vulnerable learners runs through the Children's Trust, Education Strategy, Children and Young People's Transformation Programme and Strategic Schools Partnership Board. The Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board (OSCB) is also focusing on the safeguarding risks if children are absent from school and the impact on their attainment. A project steering group has been established and colleagues from a range of services and schools are involved in the work streams. There are clear structures in place for monitoring and reporting to the various boards on a regular basis.

Updates on the workstreams:

- *Review of central services supporting vulnerable learners*

A survey 'Have your say on services to support vulnerable learners' was carried out in the summer term and there were 69 responses and over 80 pages of comments. The full report will be shared with the High Needs Review Project Group and then disseminated widely.

- *Development of a locality approach.*

The Children's Trust has confirmed the Banbury locality and an area in Oxford city as pilots for developing a locality approach and to achieve a step change for Oxfordshire's most disadvantaged communities. The approach will be community-led. The Banbury pilot is progressing well with key players across sectors coming together to focus on specific outcomes. A strategic mapping exercise of existing groups and structures that focus on prevention and community development has been undertaken. The pilot work is intended to provide a template for other areas with rollout across the county by September 2018.

Given the high number of managed moves and exclusions in the Banbury area a Primary In Year Fair Access Panel (IYFAP) is being trialed from September 2017. The commissioning arrangements for alternative provision across primary and secondary is also being investigated to explore the feasibility of locality commissioning arrangements.

- *Ensuring good quality local specialist provision*

We are currently developing plans in consultation with parents, carers and providers about how best to spend our allocation of the one-off capital grant from the DfE to be used to invest in creating new school places, improving facilities or creating new facilities. The final plan will be published on our Local Offer website by March 2018 in order to receive the first tranche of our allocation later in summer 2018. The plan will then be updated in March 2019 to receive the final tranche of funding in summer 2020. Detailed analysis of supply and demand of specialist provision is under way.

- *Leadership and research*

The Annual Inclusion Conference, Diminishing Difference was well attended. Several research projects are underway through systems leadership approaches, we are working in partnership as an Oxfordshire system to meet the current and future challenges. A substantive research project is being commissioned to identify the key enablers of, and barriers to, raising attainment levels in Oxfordshire, and to understand how the system as a whole can facilitate and support improvement.

- Early Years

There have been significant changes in Early Years entitlement and funding arrangements affecting vulnerable children. These changes have been introduced hastily, with limited time to consult, model, plan and communicate the changes. Further engagement with settings and refinements will be needed over the next 12 months to ensure that fair and transparent systems are in place, and outcomes are continuing to improve. Further modelling and monitoring of the Disability Access Funding, Inclusion Funding, and top-ups for those with Education, Health and Care plans is taking place.

- Special Schools

An aspect of the High Needs review includes considering whether the current special school funding arrangements are fit for purpose, and are either supporting or hampering the development of local specialist provision.

- Post 16

The high needs block covers funding for young people with high level needs aged 16 to 25 in further education and training. Meetings have been held with the three college principals in July to discuss the review and to consider ways to ensure that

- funding is fair, efficient, predictable, transparent and simple
- administrative burdens are minimised
- there are common approaches across colleges
- there is consistency with funding levels pre 16.

Four meetings are being planned over the next 12 months with representatives from each of the three colleges in Oxfordshire and a consultant with expertise in SEN funding arrangements, to explore and develop funding approaches. The intention is to implement any changes from September 2018. We will also be exploring opportunities to develop local residential experiences to reduce reliance on post 16 residential placements.

2. Prevention, Early Help and Early Intervention

The Locality and Community Support Service (LCSS) was created as part of the Children's Services Integration Programme to support partner agencies across Oxfordshire. The team is part of a cultural change, aiming to intervene at the earliest opportunity not wait for escalation. The service has had good feedback so far with an evaluation plan of the service in development. The data shows a steady increase in the use of Early Help processes.

What has been achieved so far?

- Link workers

LCSS Link workers are now assigned to areas and are meeting with key professionals in their link schools and settings to establish relationships and working practices. They are actively supporting schools, settings and professionals in identifying vulnerable children and their families where there are emerging concerns and helping to ensure the right services are being offered to those families to prevent deterioration of the family circumstance which could ultimately necessitate referral to statutory services.

- Training

LCSS have provided training to over 450 partners in the use of Early Help Assessment and 'Team Around the Family' processes.

- Information leaflets

Helpful tools for engaging with children, young people and families are now all easily available and accessible on OSCB website.

- LCSS staff based in the MASH

It became clear that LCSS also needed to have a presence in the MASH, to ensure smooth transition of those cases that require an immediate safeguarding response and to facilitate cases from MASH into early help. In recognition of this three new LCSS posts have been created to be based permanently in the MASH. Recruitment to these posts is underway.

- Community Around the School offer

The LCSS together with partner agencies are in the process of finalising a community support offer for schools designed to ensure that agencies working with schools have a co-ordinated approach. The purpose of the offer is to:

- Develop strong relationships across the agencies who are working with and within schools to provide clarity of roles and avoid duplication
- Offer coordinated multiagency support, consultation and training to schools
- Schools can use this offer in a variety of ways. All schools may have different ideas of how to use this offer and we want to be flexible, issues with individual children, or involving a number of children, can be considered.

- Community Impact Zones

The creation of a Community Impact Zone is progressing in Banbury. The first meeting was well attended and there was a strong commitment to creating a community led action plan, working collaboratively, recognising that this is the best

way forward. The response was that the community wanted this to work, and there has already been a good response regarding membership and chairing the group. Community Impact Zones are good examples of moving services down to a local level. Currently discussions are taking place with the City council to agree a pilot area for the City.

3. Managing Transitions

Members were advised that a report from the Strategic Transitions Group updating on its work will be presented at the December meeting of the Children's Trust Board. The paper is first being discussed at the joint meeting of the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board and Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board on 28 September.

4. Developing the Children and Young People's Plan (2018 -21)

Members received, and endorsed, the proposal for the new Children and Young People's Plan 2018 - 2021. The steering group had their inaugural meeting on 21 September and agreed a proposed vision and areas of focus.

- Vision: 'Oxfordshire – a great place to grow up and have the opportunity to become everything you want to be'
- Areas of Focus: be successful, be healthy, be safe, be supported

Wide consultation and engagement will take place with partners, parents/carers and young people on the proposed vision using a presentation pack requesting feedback on 3 specific questions.

Consultation and engagement will take place in November and December 2017 with a final draft on target to being presented to the Children's Trust Board for sign off in March 2018.

5. Children's Trust Board and OSCB dataset Performance Report for Quarter 1: March 2017 – June 2017

- This is the report for Q1 2017-18 on the combined Children's Trust, OSCB and Health & Wellbeing Board datasets.
- The priorities in the dashboard were chosen based on any issues identified in the Joint Strategic Needs Analysis, any areas where we can see that benchmark performance is below par and key areas where service delivery is primarily a partnership response. Therefore, the dashboard can focus on areas where performance is off target and can give a misleading impression of what growing up in Oxfordshire is like.

- Growing up overall in Oxfordshire remains a positive experience - and when wider datasets (such as the Public Health Profiles for School Aged Children) are reviewed Oxfordshire scores well. It does raise issues about the number of children involved in risky behaviours, which we may want to consider going forward.
- The key issues from the profiles are low levels of educational attainment and high levels of some risky behaviour (smoking, taking cannabis, drinking, chlamydia detection rate) and the low levels of school pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs
- In the Trust's dataset 10 measures overall are off target. These continue to relate to an increased demand on statutory services and an increasing educational gap for vulnerable children.
- Green Shoots are there and the priorities we have tie in with what the data shows are areas for improvement.

6. Joint meeting between Children's Trust Board and OSCB on 24 July 2017 – notes and discussion of way forward.

A Report was presented to the Board. The purpose of the meeting was to:

- consider the overall activity levels across the system following the OSCB/OSAB Impact Assessment in March 2017 and the Impower findings.
- agree a strategic response and joint vision including shared principles and objectives.
- agree key actions and governance arrangements.

A key issue was creating a joint vision and strategic response to whole system working. To move the agenda forward the following actions were proposed:

- A top level strategic group is set up to ensure ownership and buy in at the most senior level. This group will drive the strategic conversations necessary to do things differently.
- The Children's Trust should have strategic oversight of the development and delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan/Children's Transformation Plan. OSCB role is to contribute to the vision, agree the strategy and then step back to challenge and to check it is delivered.
- That a multiagency senior management group is formed to develop the joint vision and strategic response and deliver key elements of the programme.
- We need to ensure that there is representation from schools and multi-academy trusts perhaps via the Strategic Schools Partnership Board.

7. OSCB Annual Report and key issues emerging

Members received the OSCB Annual report, Executive Summary and a report on the key emerging issues for the OSCB.

The Annual Report measures performance of the OSCB against the priorities in the business plan. It reports on outcomes for children and young people in Oxfordshire.

The positive news is that the OSCB performs well in terms of governance and interaction. The infrastructure set up is good and there is positive work being done in terms of clarifying the thresholds for safeguarding e.g. toolkits and guidance documents. Awareness is increasing. There is good action planning being undertaken in response to areas of learning raised by Serious Case Reviews.

The data (page 2 of the Executive Summary) suggests a different picture. Green shoots are critical to developing and improving the overall safeguarding position. The quality assurance work highlights that partners must continue to input into the OSCB, and test multi-agency working, OSCB will increase its scrutiny of all member agencies. New legislation this year gives OCC the opportunity to review arrangements for OSCB.

Key Issues:

- Youth secure estate. Some of Oxfordshire's children are placed in institutions with low standards, as highlighted by inspector of prisons. OSCB has written to the Youth Justice Board and relevant institutions raising concern and asking for an action plan.
- Hospital beds for young people needing specialist provision after mental health inpatient treatment. This is on the agenda for discussion with local members and MPs.
- Maternity services when mother and baby are in hospital for extended periods of time while court hearings are awaited.
- Grenfell Safety checks have been completed by District colleagues. OSCB is confident all checks have been done.
- Green shoots in the educational progress of children with special educational needs and other vulnerable groups , national comparisons will not be available until November.