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Report to the Health and Wellbeing Board

Report from	Children's Trust Board (Chair – Cllr Steve Harrod)
Report Date	27 th May 2020
Dates of meetings held since the last report: 17 th December 2019, 12 th March 2020	
HWB Priorities addressed in this report	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Healthy Start in Life 	
Link to any published notes or reports:	
https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/children-and-young-peoples-plan-2018-2021 (Link to current Children and Young People's Plan)	
Priorities for 2019-20	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 2019/20: Focus on children missing out on 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 2019/20: Focus on social and emotional well-being and mental health
	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 2019/20: Focus on domestic abuse
	Be Supported <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Be empowered to know who to speak to when in need of support and know that they will be listened to and believed. 14. Access information in a way which suits them best. 15. Have inspiring role models. 16. Talk to staff who are experienced and caring.

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

Priority	Be Successful
Focus	Children missing out on education (reported in October meeting)
Deliverable	See Children and Young People Plan for list of deliverables.
Progress report	Area of focus report provided in October 2019 meeting. Performance at key stages for disadvantaged pupils and pupils with special educational needs in terms of progress and attainment remains below the national average. Being picked up by Chris Hilliard and his team as a concern. (please refer to section 2 Performance Framework for absence and exclusions)

Priority	Be Healthy
Focus	Social and Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health (December 2019 meeting)
Deliverable	See updated Children and Young People Plan for list of deliverables.
Progress report	<p>Based on April-November figures the number of Early Help Assessments (EHA) are exceeding expectations.</p> <p>TAF (Team Around the Family) figures are also increasing, ensuring the right professionals are brought together with families.</p> <p>OCCG have managed to secure funding to pilot 4 Mental Health Support Teams (MHST), with each team covering up to 8000 students. The Oxford City area is currently up and running, and a Bicester and Banbury area is currently being established.</p> <p>For a preventative approach funding has been received to develop a Restorative Practice</p>

Priority	Be Safe
Focus	Domestic Abuse (March 2020 meeting)
Deliverable	This is being measured via the outcome of a peer review audit, alongside a separate report which will evaluate the Domestic Abuse training outcomes.
Progress report	<p>Presentation provided through the document, '<u>Young People and Domestic Abuse – A presentation on progress</u>'. This covered the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delays with audit for Pathway due to compliance with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as seeking consent from people involved in the cases that are going to be part of the audit from the outset.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 free training modules on domestic abuse and 3 additional will be provided. Content of these were raised from consultation events. • Additionally, training days on Reducing Parental Conflict will be offered. • Great feedback from the Happy Even After theatre production and further targeted awareness events will follow • 100% take up on Operation Encompass. Work is being done around this and OSCB Safeguarding & Education sub-groups involved to develop and share good practice in schools. <p>CTB to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting safe and effective implementation of the new Relationships and Sex education and health education (RSHE) curriculum in schools - Supporting the development and embedding of Reducing Parental Conflict across Oxfordshire <p>Consultation Events – this depends on the Coronavirus situation if they go ahead or not</p>
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Priority	Be Supported (March 2020 meeting)
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	<p>The survey launched on 13th January 2020 and ran for 4 weeks. A presentation was provided by Rosie Boyes and VOXY representatives that went through the paper VOXY’s 2020 ‘Be Supported’ Questionnaire – Engagement Report. Responses were less than previous year at 150 but still significant. Key findings were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people generally felt positive in relation to how supported they feel by the services, but slight drop compared to 2019 • More positive comments made about schools by young people but less positive when referring to CAMHS • With regards to SEND there were comments that certain staff members were helpful, but some didn’t have their needs met or didn’t receive enough support • Young people were asked to indicate if they identify with the 3 priorities of Missing out on education, Social & Emotional Wellbeing and/or Mental Health needs and if they have experienced and/or witnessed Domestic Abuse. This didn’t show a significant shift between 2019 and 2020 but conclude that opinions of children and young people have changed appreciably, in relation to how supported they feel. <p>Recommendations were:</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • focus and engagement with children who don't feel supported • investment and funding to support VOXY was raised and how to continue the work with involving other organisations to assist • development of an easy read version of the survey for children with SEND which could include a collaborative process alongside other participants • although lower responses these are more diverse, and we need to hear from other areas such as children missing out on education • suggestion that VOXY could produce a media video to share amongst young people to raise its profile <p>Access to the larger demographic data is available upon request from Rosie Boyes (rosie.boyes@oxfordshire.gov.uk)</p>
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2. Note on what is being done in areas rated Red or Amber in the Performance Framework

Indicator Number	RAG	What is being done to improve performance?
1.1b increase the proportion of children that have their first appointment (with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services - CAMHS) within 12 weeks.	R	<p>An online service (Healios) has been commissioned as a pilot to reduce the Getting Help pathway waiting list which by the end of December should have assessed and treated approximately 600 children that are on the waiting list. While the KPI performance is disappointing the Trust provides information to show that the average wait for CAMHS is reducing month on month.</p> <p>Increasing numbers of children are being assessed in the service but the focus is on longest waiters. In addition, open cases are currently being transferred from Getting More Help pathway into the Neurodevelopmental Condition (NDC) service. Parent workshops being set up to support parents during waits. Recent capacity planning indicates that the service now has the right capacity for new referrals once the backlog is addressed. 106 children on the waiting list are being assessed by Healios using funding from National Health Service England (NHSE), which was awarded last financial year. The most recent award in October will enable Oxford Health to further reduce the waiting times for this pathway.</p>
2.3 Ensure that the attainment of pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) but no statement or Education Health and	R	<p>This is a key area of focus identified by the SEND performance board.</p> <p>A detailed action plan is in place and is overseen by the board and the Head of SEND. This has a focus on increasing the level of support in early intervention for</p>

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Indicator Number	RAG	What is being done to improve performance?
Care Plan is in line with the national average. * Key Stage 2 * Key Stage 4		mainstream schools and the gathering of evidence for where a pupil is requiring additional support. This action plan has been shared and signed off by Department for Education and the Care Quality Commission.
2.5 Reduce the persistent absence of children subject to a Child Protection plan 2.4 Reduce the persistent absence of children subject to a Child in Need plan.	R R	Updated annually: no update from the previous meetings The trust has a detailed review of children's attendance and attainment at its September meeting. <hr/> Following the launch of the Learner Engagement services in October, the education service is actively working with schools within a new Learner Engagement strategy overseen by the Learner Engagement Board. The Board has focused on persistent absence through the introduction of a behavior and attendance helpline for schools and are working in partnership with CAMHS on their Oxford City pilot.
Reduce the persistent absence rate from secondary schools	R	Please see above: this is dealt with through the Learner Engagement Strategy
Reduce the number of permanent exclusions	R	Although the target of halving permanent exclusions was not met, this needs to be seen in the context of figures nationally rising by 25% over 4 years. Figures in Oxfordshire remained roughly stable (increasing from 69 to 72). The OSCB target for exclusions is 69 for 19/20 and 60 for 20/21 in line with the Learner Engagement Board and with a zero aspirational aim and ongoing downward trend. We need to work with heads and schools to realise any reduction and consider how we may use and additional funding (expected in schools from 2020-21) to support this. We are developing an early intervention and prevention alternative to permanent exclusions which will be in place by 2021 and are developing alternative provision for the occasions where children are permanently excluded.
3.14 Reduce the number of looked after children by 50 in 2019/20	A	At the end of the year 780 children were looked – at the end of February there were 785 looked after children. Last year Ofsted inspection rated our children's services overall, and services for looked after children, as 'good', which assures us that we are performing well and keeping children safe. However, the high numbers can mean that children are placed further away, and workload pressures rise. Each current looked after case has been reviewed by a senior manager in the council to determine an appropriate plan is in place. All external places are regular reviewed to ensure that they are appropriate.

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Indicator Number	RAG	What is being done to improve performance?
		Within the council's 'Journey of the Child' programme we have a set of projects looking at the sufficiency of placements and how we support looked after children returning home after placements. 60% of children who become looked after do so within a year of them being on a child protection plan. The introduction of a Herts Family Safeguarding model should reduce the numbers of looked after children.

3. Summary of other items discussed by the board

- Ofsted Focused Visit to Oxfordshire County Council
Report published 28th February 2020 - link: <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50147222>
This inspection looked at children receiving social care services in need of child protection plans and was in the last week of January into the 1st week of February 2020.

Highlights:

Effective practice across those areas with committed staff that know their cases and communities well.

Social working managing complex cases very well

Impressed by the whole family approach that was making a real difference.

Development of suitable qualified staff. Good learning and developing package for social workers.

Liked the emerging style of writing records directly to the child.

Good progress on timelessness of pre-birth assessment (start at 12 weeks).

Improvement work in pre-proceedings.

Thresholds were in the right place and consistent.

Improvement areas:

Good management oversight but not evidence of the quality to drive the outcomes.

The use of evidence-based tools was evident in very few cases.

Quality assurance framework needs to improve and get better engagement.

Real impact of the work should be more evident.

They were critical of the attendance of the child protection conference by a number of multiagency partners.

They raised a wider issue: they felt that in Oxfordshire there was so much to do in ensuring proper school inclusion.

- Children & Young People's Plan - Implementation Plans 19/20, 20/21 & Refresh CYPP for 21-24
 - The Board agreed to keep the 3 priorities (Domestic Abuse, Children Missing out in Education and Social, Emotional, Physical and Mental Wellbeing (physical dimension added as requested) along with Child Exploitation included in all 3 priorities – proposal to be produced for the 24th June 2020 Children's Trust Board meeting
 - Review of Implementation Plan from 19/20 – updates from relevant leads and to provide at the Children's Trust Board meeting on 24th June 2020
 - Setting priorities and the Implementation Plan for 20/21 – preparation and deciding on actions with a selected group (volunteers selected)

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- Agreement in due course for the process to refresh and update the CYP Plan going forward from 2021 – engagement and consultation to commence during Autumn/Winter 2020
- Election of the Vice-Chair – We are delighted to welcome Jodie Lloyd-Jones (Chief Executive Officer of Oxfordshire Youth)
- School Readiness:
The Board endorsed the ‘Oxfordshire School Readiness’ and ‘Lifelong Learning Strategy’. This came out from concern from headteachers and others working with children as to if they were ready for school. Priorities were:
 - 1) strong home learning environment to support children’s learning and development,
 - 2) early engagement with parents
 - 3) high quality provision building links with the home learning environment
 - 4) information sharing and high-quality transitions through life.A Task & Finish Group will be set up to review and identify what organisations are doing to meet priorities and what further work is needed.
The Board support the strategy, signed it off and noted next steps going forward.
It was suggested that this could be similarly used for employment/further education, especially for young people with learning disabilities.
- LGBT+ Strategy:
 - This was reported at both the December and March meetings and the Board endorsed the need for support for delivering training, particularly considering schools are expected to be LGBT inclusive under the new Relationship & Sex Education & Health Education curriculum starting in September 2020.
 - Ideas and suggestions were put forward by Children’s Trust Board members of sources of training that are provided by the agencies linked to the Children’s Trust Board, e.g. Oxfordshire Youth, Oxfordshire Governor’s Association and Chaplaincies etc.
 - Updates to follow in future meetings.

Update on Trans Inclusion Toolkit

The Trans Inclusion Toolkit, which was published in November 2019, has been an important part of our safeguarding work. Created in partnership with multiple stakeholders with safeguarding responsibilities, the Toolkit was designed to help schools support young people who are trans or gender questioning. The guidance contained in the Toolkit was rooted in the principle of protecting and safeguarding all children and young people. It sought to help schools and colleges become inclusive environments whilst ensuring they were compliant with the relevant law and Department for Education guidance.

However, the guidance in the Trans Inclusion Toolkit will soon be superseded by guidance from the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC). We anticipate that the EHRC will provide UK-wide information and resources to support trans and gender-questioning young people.

As we will be adopting this new national guidance, we have taken the decision to withdraw our Toolkit and to withdraw from the judicial review of the toolkit that was due to be held in the coming months.

The coronavirus pandemic means we are currently facing huge demands on our vital frontline services. During this period of crisis, the resources of Oxfordshire’s

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multi-agency safeguarding partnership need to be devoted to protecting the most vulnerable children. To have continued with the court case at this time would have diverted valuable resources away from this urgent work.

Although we have taken the decision to withdraw the Toolkit, we will continue to prioritise support for young people and schools in dealing with the safeguarding concerns which our guidance originally sought to address. We are very much aware of the challenges faced by young people who feel they are not the gender they were assigned at birth. We will do our utmost to safeguard these potentially vulnerable young people and help the schools who support them as part of our critical safeguarding work.

We have had contact with the chair of VOXY (Voice of Oxfordshire's Youth), to discuss the negative impact that the decision has had on young people. VOXY is a youth-led countywide forum which provides a voice for all young people in Oxfordshire (aged 11-18 and up to 25 with additional needs) so they can have their say about the issues that matter the most to them. Further to this, we have been speaking to Topaz and other local organisations to explore further means of support for this vulnerable group, which could be publicised through local voluntary and statutory networks

4. Forward plan for next meeting

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

- Update on 19/20 Implementation Plan & review of priorities for 20/21 Implementation Plan
- Proposal for refresh of Children & Young People's Plan for 2021-24
- Corporate Parenting update
- Child Friendly Planning
- COVID-19 implications for partnerships