

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD UPDATE ON CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD 13 JULY 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 March 2017.

The update focuses on the following areas:

1. Prevention and Early Help
2. Representation of the Voice of Oxfordshire Youth (VoXY) on the Board
3. Managing Transitions
4. Children and Young People's Plan (2015 – 18) - Annual refresh 2017 -18
5. Children's Trust Board and OSCB dataset Performance Report 2016 -17 Quarter 3; October 2016 –March 2017
6. OSCB / OSAB Annual Impact Assessment Report (2017):

UPDATE:

1. Prevention and Early Help:

The iMPOWER Project team presented their key findings on demand analysis to the Trust.

In summary, their work has focussed on understanding demand across three areas:

1. Early Help:
2. Front Door:
3. Social Care:

Key findings to date include:

- Evidence of strong working on the ground and the new Early Help offer has the potential to improve communications, signposting and multi-agency working
- There are potential resources across partnerships to stop escalation of needs.

Analysis points to a need for:

- An Early Help Strategy
- Strong governance to support its implementation
- Strong partnership working
- Improved feedback and guidance
- Workforce development focussing on the key areas leading to family breakdown and "adult issues"

The Trust is taking forward findings and recommendations from this research by:

- Holding a multi agency workshop to consider the findings and agree key actions and jointly plan a way forward.

Aligning agendas to develop a locality ambition group / Community impact zone

We have undertaken a strategic mapping exercise of existing groups and structures that focus on prevention and community development. The review takes into account the success of the “Ready by 21” programme developed in the United States and will lead to a pilot community impact zone. £50,000 funding successfully accessed through the Troubled Families Programme will further enhance capacity to take this work forward. It will build on the existing good work in local areas.

This approach will be a key platform to develop cohesive approaches through mobilising capacity across different local initiatives.

2. 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. Furthermore, one of our key priorities is to improve the educational progress of vulnerable learners (Strategic Overview 2016-2020) and the Education Strategy.

The review will comprise workstreams:

- *To review central services supporting vulnerable learners*
- *Develop skills and capacity in localities to be able to support children at lower levels of need*
- *Ensuring good quality local specialist provision and reducing reliance on high cost placements*
- *Leadership and research to improve outcomes for learners at risk of underachievement*

3. Voice of Oxfordshire Youth (VOXY):

The Voice of Oxfordshire Youth will now also be represented on the Children’s Trust Board. Seven young people have been nominated to join the board and there will be two members at each meeting. The Children’s Trust is keen to support VOXY to reach more young people.

Terms of reference for the Trust Board have been updated to reflect this new development.

4. Managing Transitions: update on transitions workstream:

Members received and considered a report from the Strategic Transitions Group updating on its work alongside its terms of reference.

The Independent Chairs of OSCB and OSAB have proposed to the Strategic Transitions Group that it should reconsider its Terms of Reference with a view to including the areas of concern identified by the two Safeguarding Boards or clarify which areas it cannot take responsibility for so that alternative solutions can be identified.

In response, the Strategic Transitions Group has identified where information about each identified area could be collated from. The group will co-ordinate the gathering of this information, and combine into a report for OSCB/OSAB and the Children's Trust Board, which will also identify key risks, gaps and barriers to progress in each area. This information will be co-ordinated to report to the September Children's Trust..

5. Children and Young People's Plan (2015 – 18) - Annual refresh 2017 -18:
Members received and endorsed the (annual) refreshed Children and Young People's Plan.

Members agreed that a new Plan will be developed for 2018 which should reflect new challenges and priorities through wider consultation and feedback.

To oversee the development of the new Plan, a small multi agency task group will be established, reporting to the Board, to support the Children's Trust Policy and Partnerships Officer produce the new plan.

The development of the Plan will begin in September 2017 with a final draft to be presented to the Children's Trust Board for sign off in March 2018. It is envisaged that there would be wide consultation with partners and children and young people.

6. Children's Trust Board and OSCB dataset Performance Report 2016 -17 Quarter 3; October 2016 –March 2017:

The key issue remains the increases in activity across all services. To this end there are 3 related key pieces of work: the Locality & Community Support Service which was fully operational from the 1st March 2017; the work being undertaken within the MASH about predictive risk factors and the project with iMPower to understand and manage demand for Children's Services.

Additionally, the Children's Trust is concerned about the educational attainment for vulnerable children. Consideration is being given to an independent review of these issues. VOXY is suggesting that we ask young people why they are not at school and this could be part of the review.

7. OSCB / OSAB Annual Impact Assessment Report (2017):

Members received a report on the OSCB / OSAB annual impact assessment (2017). key issues raised in this report relate to:

- Managing Risk: Individual agencies are effectively managing safeguarding risks within their service, however, in the context of current challenges the need for multi-agency approaches to managing risk are imperative.
- Rise in demand for services and activity pressure
- Resources, staffing and restructure pressures:

- Workforce development and support:
- Housing: Two distinct issues were identified relating to housing and homelessness. The first related to homelessness among children and families, including migrant families. The second related primarily to adults and to the reduction in supporting people funding and the implications for people who do not meet the thresholds for social care.

Members agreed that the Independent Chairs of OSCB and OSAB should present this report to the Health and Wellbeing Board in July.