

Report to Health and Wellbeing Board

Report from: Children's Trust Board Chair – Cllr Liz Brighthouse
Report Date: 6 th October 2022
Dates of meetings held since the last report: 7 th September 2022 – Virtual meeting
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 2022-23 – Focus on Early Help</u>
To ensure all partners on the board dedicate senior leaders to the Early Help (EH) agenda and review their agency's current resource.
<p>Priority focus for 2022/23:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Help & Mental Health & Well-Being • Early Help & 0 – 5-year old's • Early Help & SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities) Early Intervention <p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify issues and concerns for children and families early so that they can be addressed promptly and without the need for statutory interventions if that is not necessary or appropriate. • To ensure that Early Help support is at the least intrusive level and designed to support families continue to develop and thrive. • To use an Early Help Assessment to develop a holistic, coordinated multi-agency intervention where an organization alone cannot fully support the problems a family is facing. <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each agency to review their senior leadership and resource levels to early help and report to Children's Trust Board and report on targets for their agency Early Help Assessments. • To increase the number of Early Help Assessments (EHAs) to 10,000 by 2024/25. • To identify resource to ensure front-line staff/designated staff across all our services are trained in the early identification and support that can be offered in relation to mental health and well-being, attachment, trauma informed and whole family working by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - scoping what is in place - adapting existing resources and designing training - planning delivery of training and/or train the trainers <p>Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior strategic leadership and increased resourcing in place for early help so that fewer children are supported by statutory services.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pooled resource for Early Help • Increase in EHAs (Early Help Assessments) to 5,000 by April 2023; 250 more staff trained to deliver EHAs. • Reduction in children needing assessments for Education Health Care Needs, Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) or Children’s Social Care statutory support and improvement in Good Level of Development because their needs have been addressed at the earliest opportunity. • Staff are confident to deliver mental health and well-being interventions, promote whole family working, signpost on as appropriate.
<p>Priority focus for 2022/23: Be Supported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure the partnership listens to and learns from the views and feedback from children and young people, aged 8-18yrs and up to 25yrs with additional needs, about how supported they feel by the services they access in Oxfordshire.

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

Priority Focus	Early Help & Mental Health & Well-being
	Early Help & 0–5-year old’s
	Early Help & SEND Early Intervention
Deliverable	See updated Children and Young People Plan for list of deliverables
Progress report	TBC

Priority	Be Supported
Focus	Listen to the feedback from young people in Oxfordshire
Deliverable	This deliverable is measured by ensuring the voice of children and young people is included in our agenda items, via VOXY and the “Be Supported Survey.”
Progress report	<p>Be Supported Survey 2022 was launched on the 14th of March and ran 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.</p> <p>The full report is now available here after provided for info at the September meeting.</p> <p>Some <u>key messages</u> from this report of children and young people’s views are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even though the sample size has been smaller in 2022 there hasn’t been a significant change in their views and opinions in relation to how supported they feel. • Most of those surveyed do feel supported by the services they use, but it was slightly less compared to 2021. • There were positive responses for them knowing who to speak to when in need of support. • There were fewer positive responses, with regards to feeling listened to and believed and when they speak to staff, they are experienced and caring.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As with previous years most respondents commented again on schools, followed by health services which were mostly positive, but references made to the CAMHS waiting times being unacceptable. • There were some comments from transgender young people who felt unsupported and not understood by their school and trans healthcare services. • A general note is that responses have been slightly less positive overall in 2022 compared to 2021.
--	--

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 2022/23.

Be successful

- To term 4 (Easter) nearly 1 in 4 pupils were persistently absent. Absence is highest for vulnerable groups; Children with a child protection plan (57.0%), child in need plan (53.5%) and Children with an EHCP (41.9%).
- However there has been significant success in reducing exclusions which fell from 66 in 2020 to 19 in 2022 and suspensions fell from 1741 to 846 in the same period.
- Although the number of electively home educated children rose between Easter 2020 and Easter 2022 from 789 to 1021 those who were the subject of a child in need of child protection pan fell from 18 to 15

Be healthy

- The average (mean) waiting time for core CAMHS services is 10% lower than 12 months ago, and the median is 19% lower
- To April, A&E attendances for self-harm are 28% higher than last year and 52% more than 2019, though hospital admissions have remained stable
- The children's trust agreed a target of 5,000 early help assessments this year and 10,000 in 23/24. However, in the first 2 months of this year the number of early help assessments are lower than the corresponding period last year and under half the target rate.
- The number of under-age conceptions is falling, but the pregnant women scored with a risk of 3 or 4 continue to rise.

Be Safe

- The rate of growth of MASH contacts is beginning to slow down but remains over 60% higher than pre pandemic levels. Despite this increase the timeliness of red (most urgent) contacts was above target for every month of the year
- 535 children were the subject of a child protection plan at the end of May. This is below the revised target (550) and below that of similar authorities and is 200 less than the highpoint of June 2019 (769)
- The number of children we care for continues to rise but remains below the national rate. This puts pressure on workloads across the system and on placements.
- Recorded domestic incidents involving children were 3% lower than 20/21 figures but 5% higher than 2 years' ago. Recorded incidents of domestic crimes involving children were in line with last year's numbers, but 11% higher than 2019/20.

Indicator Number	RAG	What is being done to improve performance?
1.3a Mean wait for Core CAMHS (days)	N/A	In April 2022 the number was 114 – 10% lower than April 2021.
1.3b Median wait for Core CAMHS (days)	N/A	In April 2022 the number was 80 – 19% lower than April 2021.
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	R	The number in May 2022 was 805 – the number of children we care for continues to rise but remains below the national rate (excluding unaccompanied young people).

3. Summary of other items discussed by the board

3.1 Update on Statement of Intent/Vision Statement for Children

Following on from the last Children's Trust meeting in May, it was agreed for members to send ideas and examples of how the [Statement of Intent](#) has been put into practice, by 10th October, then this will be on the agenda for the 27th of October meeting.

The [link](#) for the poll was recommended to be shared with other interest groups and to be completed and submitted by mid-October. The results of the survey will be launched at the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board (OSCB) Conference in November.

3.2 Responding to the Cost-of-Living Crisis

Along with a proposal on emerging insights being put together to take to Cabinet in a few weeks, there is a listening event on 6th of October which will involve partners from districts and localities. There is a Partnership Protocols Framework on 23rd of September that will involve strategic partnership work, following the COVID-19 pandemic.

This item will be covered again in the next Board meeting.

3.3 Feedback from OSCB on emerging issues

The OSCB annual report sets out the safeguarding challenges and where we need to improve practice. The key messages from the [2021/22 report](#) are ensuring organisations are doing everything they can to support safeguarding priorities of neglect, child exploitation and keeping children safe in school. We require a collective focus to ensure early help is led and resourced at a senior level; capacity issues and demand in organisations are known across the partnership and the issues surrounding recruitment and retention of our highly valued workforce.

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Annual report sets out what the safeguarding partnership can learn from the most serious and complex reviews. The current data from the 2021/22 report shows that 3 reviews were undertaken, 6 Rapid Reviews completed, and the Serious Case Review for Child R was published. The strategic messages from these reviews are:

- make sure that vulnerable children are seen.

- embed the culture of early help work across everyone working with children.
- develop a clear understanding of trauma informed practice across your services and adopt that approach to working with children.
- develop and invest in plans to keep children close to home by expanding local residential and foster care provision to meet children's needs.
- ensure rigorous commissioning and quality assurance of placements for the children we care for.
- maintain oversight of how we record and share information about children.
- ensure greater understanding of the range of mental health and mental wellbeing support opportunities for adolescents.

3.4 Children & Young People's Plan Priorities 22-23: Focus on Early Help

The Board agreed the Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2022-23 at the May meeting, which includes 3 priorities around Early Help.

[Oxfordshire Children and Young People's Plan 2018-2023](#)

The CTB (Children's Trust Board) has requested that each organization formally responds by 16th September with their commitment to working together to deliver the plan.

The key actions are:

- Identify senior leaders within organisations who are responsible for Early Help (EH)
- Reviewing resources allocation to support EH
- Identify key metrics to evidence increase in EH delivery
- Ensuring that staff are trained to identify certain aspects of early identification and support.

[*CEDR Item \(available upon request\)*](#)

The above document is a well-advanced draft that will be developed further before being taken through Children, Education & Families (CEF) governance. The Senior Leadership Team will then take this through the required Oxfordshire County Council governance arrangements to ensure full sign up from the council to deliver the EH aspects of the CYPP, prior to it being submitted to the CTB. Below is a useful presentation for CTB members to discuss with senior leaders in their organisations.

[*CYPP – Organisational sign up \(available upon request\)*](#)

The strategic leads identified for EH would then form a multi-agency 'early help' partnership board.

3.5 Voice of Oxfordshire's Youth (VOXY)

A VOXY representative, Chloe Sharman-Moss, who observed the last CTB meeting in May and has been a nursery teaching assistant, highlighted some points from children and young people's voices at this meeting that link to the boards 3 early help priorities. These

are some of the points from her observations, with more detail in the paper inserted below:

- Children would have much more successful academic careers if they have early help in their lives and reach their milestones
- Young people mentioned having positive relationships and exercise to keep their body and mind healthy
- Need for more specialist schools, learning bases and support systems
- Improving the transition from primary to secondary school
- Children increasingly facing cyberbullying on social media mainly from people they know

[Chloe's Observation \(available upon request\)](#)

Here are her own experiences from being a nurse teaching assistant:

[Chloe's Experiences \(available upon request\)](#)

3.6 Update from parent representatives – Healthwatch Oxfordshire

Key points raised were:

- Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) waiting lists
- Accident & Emergency self-harm admissions statistics
- Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) strategy
- Clinical systems outage – parents would welcome more clarity and updated information – Oxford Health fed back that there may be months of disruption
- Cost of living crisis – increasing gap between needs and funding

3.7 Update from the Children and Young People Forum - Voluntary Sector

Key points raised were:

Children and Young People Forum are to elect new representatives week commencing 12th September

A request for Kevin Gordon and Maria Godfrey to discuss the Early Help concept to the charity sector in terms of extra support and provision

There is an initiative from Oxford Hub to put together a presentation focusing on early support for families

3.8 Presentation on SEND Reform including the Green Paper

A SEND update and presentation was provided on the following:

- SEND and Alternative Provision (AP) Green Paper
- Local Area SEND Consultation
- Co-Production of implementation plans
- Accelerated Progress Plan (APP) Monitoring visit
- Local Area SEND Inspection methodology Testing

[SEND update \(available upon request\)](#)

The feedback from the Local Area SEND consultation was that parents find it difficult to comment without detailed implementation plans and that they are not given the detail around high-level statements.

The board partners would be happy to be involved in the co-production group and information on this would be provided at the next board meeting.

3.9 Youth Offer

There was an update of the Targeted Youth Support Service which has been set up to empower and support children and young people to improve their life opportunities and reduce disruption through adolescence leading to a more successful pathway into adulthood. Below is the strategy and presentation:

[Target Youth Support Service Strategy and Update \(available upon request\)](#)

The aims of this service are to:

- Improve outcomes for young people related to their personal and social development
- Improve the health and wellbeing in young people
- Identify opportunities for prevention and early intervention
- Prevent escalation of negative outcomes and sustained reduction of future long-term risk of harm

3.10 Forward plan for the next meeting

The following items are due to be considered in forthcoming meetings:

- Partner responses to the request for senior response to the Focus on Early Help in the Children & Young People's Plan
- Partner responses to how the Statement of Intent is being implemented in each organisation
- SEND update
- Cost of Living Crisis update