

Health and Well Being Board 24th November 2011
Proposed role of the Children and Young People's Board

Vision

In Oxfordshire we are ambitious about improving outcomes for all children and young people. Our vision is:

- Keeping all children and young people safe
- Raising achievement for all children and young people
- Narrowing the gap for our most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups

Context

There are 155,700 children and young people aged 0 to 19 years living in Oxfordshire, out of a total population of 639,800 (mid 2008).

Despite the overall affluence of the county, there are several areas of serious deprivation, particularly in Oxford City and Banbury. In these areas children and young people experience ill health, are less successful at school, are more likely to become involved in or experience crime, may become teenage parents, face higher unemployment, lower earning capacity and, ultimately, an earlier death than their peers. There are nine urban areas across the county which are in the worst 10% of areas in the UK for child poverty and a further 16 wards (out of a total of 136) are in the top 25%. Additionally there are small pockets of poverty in some of our rural areas which can be masked by the general affluence of the population. Poor transport can compound the problem of deprivation in rural areas, making access to services difficult and contributing to feelings of isolation.

There is a significant military presence in the county which means some of our children and young people in military families experience unsettled lives and live with anxieties that sometimes impact upon their well-being, but also bring rich diversity and experience to the local community.

There has been a single Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) in Oxfordshire since 2006. This overarching plan is endorsed by all partner agencies and sets out an ambitious plan to improve outcomes for particular groups of young people. The current CYPP runs until 2013. There has also been a Children and Young People's Trust since 2006 and although its membership and governance has changed over time, the overall aim – to deliver the CYPP – has remained.

Part of the CYPP has been a plan to strengthen the joint commissioning function of the children's trust. In May 2010 a Joint Commissioning framework was agreed and has made some progress. There is now widespread support for joint commissioning across health and social care and the pooling of resources to support that joint commissioning. These arrangements are governed by formal legal agreements under Section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006. Key decisions are taken at **Joint Management Groups (JMGs)** which meet monthly and bring together commissioners, key providers, service users and carers. This is planned for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services from 1st April 2012.

The proposed role of the Children and Young People's Board

This Board will provide strategic leadership, oversight and challenge to the delivery of better outcomes for children and young people, their families and other carers. It will champion the rights of children and young people and ensure that they and parents are engaged throughout the process of decision making and local implementation. The board will add value by ensuring that the whole system joins up effectively around the needs of individual and groups of children. The aim will be to reduce bureaucracy, reduce duplication, increase choice and accessibility and to put young people at the centre of partnership working.

In order to do this it will:

- Develop and agree the strategy for children's services (currently CYPP2)
- Hold the Mental Health JMG to account for delivery based on performance against both the key outcomes and financial management for the CAMHS budget
- Develop use and governance of pooled budgets for children
- Develop integrated pathways, models of provision
- Deliver the outcomes and targets agreed by the HWB Board

The Board will have representation from the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB). There will be a protocol agreed to ensure that the requirements of the OSCB statutory functions to hold agencies to account¹ in its relationship to the sub board of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Proposed Membership of the Board:

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| Chairman: | Louise Chapman, County Council Cabinet Member Children's Services |
| Vice Chairman | Dr Mary Keenan, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group |

The membership will be discussed at the first meeting to reflect the new responsibilities of the Board. In addition it is proposed that the current structure of the existing Children's Trust is reviewed and a revised structure implemented by April 2012.

It is proposed that the Board will meet every 2 months.

Proposed Key Priorities

Priorities for the board in 2012/13 will include delivery of Year 3 of the current Children and Young People Plan:

- Raising educational achievement for all young people in Oxfordshire.

¹ Working Together to Safeguard Children: (2010)

- Focusing on evidence based early intervention services where we know they are most needed.
- Joining up young people and adult services around mental health so that transitions between services are seamless and appropriate and so that the needs of the whole family are considered where adult mental health problems exist.
- Integrating provision around the 'foundation years' in order to give young children the very best start in life.
- Building on the recommendations of the Munro Report in order to strengthen our approach to intensive early intervention and to child protection.
- Keeping children and young people out of the Emergency Department and hospital beds where we know they can be safely cared for closer to home.
- Building on the good practice from the Breaking the Cycle of Deprivation initiatives in Oxford and Banbury to address the causes and effects of child poverty in local areas.

Outline Work Programme

1. Understand Oxfordshire's performance against key performance indicators for children and young people and agree targets for 2013/14
2. Hold the Mental Health JMG to account for delivery of a CAMHS Commissioning Strategy by March 2013.
3. Develop a Commissioning Strategy for children and young people.
4. Focus local action plans on reducing child poverty by building on the lessons learned from the Breaking the Cycle initiative.

Performance Framework

The current dashboard of indicators is monitored regularly and it is suggested that these are still relevant and that they will be cross referenced and amended to reflect the indicators to be agreed for the Health Improvement Board. They are set out in a paper that was circulated for information.

Sarah Breton, Lead Commissioner, Children and Young People.
Oxfordshire County Council