

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD** held in Room 14 at Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Monday 8 June, 2015

PRESENT

Sue Harrison, Director of Children's Services, CBC (elected as Chairman)
Judy Baxter, BCCG
Linda Bulled, VOCYPF
Oliver Button, Principal, Queensbury Academy
Alan Caton, Central Bedfordshire Local Safeguarding Children Board
Shirley Crosbie, The Chiltern School
Steven Dawkins, Central Bedfordshire Youth Parliament
Peter Haddon, Holywell Middle School
Melanie Mercer, Aspley Guise Lower School
Sarah Mortimer, Central Bedfordshire College
David Morton, Diocese of St Albans
Anne Murray, BCCG
Stephen Phillips, The Lawns Nursery School & Children's Centre
Len Simkins, Chair, VOCYPF
Cllr Mark Versallion, Executive Member for Education & Skills, CBC

Other Attendees

Amanda Coleman	Partnerships & Performance Officer, CBC
Heather Hill	School Intervention Manager, CBC
Stuart Mitchelmore	Assistant Director Adult Social Care, CBC
Karen Oellermann	Assistant Director Commissioning & Partnerships, CBC
Mel Peaston	Committee Services Manager, CBC
Helen Redding	Assistant Director School Improvement, CBC
Barbara Rooney	Head of Public Health Children & Young People and Inequalities, CBC
Muriel Scott	Director of Public Health
Jackie Syme	SEPT Children's Services
Sue Tyler	Head of Child Poverty & Early Intervention
Brian Weatherall	Bedfordshire Youth Offending Service

Substitutes:

Gavin Hughes-Rowland, for David Boyle, Bedfordshire Police

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

RESOLVED

- 1. To elect Sue Harrison, Director of Children's Services, as the Chairman for the ensuing year;**

- 2. To elect Cllr Carole Hegley, CBC Executive Member for Social Care and Housing and Lead Member for Children's Services, as the Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.**

CTB/15/48. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

The Chairman thanked Cllr Versallion for his work chairing the Board in his previous statutory role as the Lead Member for Children's Services.

The Chairman welcomed everyone, in particular Steven Dawkins, Member of the Youth Parliament, to this his first meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from:

Richard Carr, Chief Executive, Central Bedfordshire Council

Cllr Carole Hegley, Executive Member for Social Care and Housing and Lead Member for Children's Services, Central Bedfordshire Council

David Boyle, Bedfordshire Police (Gavin Hughes-Rowland was present as his substitute)

Alison Harding, Bedfordshire Probation Service

Michael Ita (previously representative of the Youth Parliament, now replaced by Steven Dawkins)

Simon Barker, Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

CTB/15/49. Procedural Business

- (a) Declaration of substitutes

Gavin Hughes-Rowland was in attendance substituting for David Boyle.

- (b) Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

- (c) Exclusion of the press and public

It was noted that there was no reason to exclude the press and public for any item of business on the agenda.

CTB/15/50. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

AGREED

that the minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CTB/15/51. **Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life and Ensuring School Readiness (Presentation)**

The Board received a presentation which provided an update on the school readiness of children.

An attractively-presented flier designed in line with the Council's brand entitled "Is your child ready to learn?" was tabled. Comments were made that the drafting needed further work to be appropriate in an educational setting.

Discussion ensued on:

- the understanding by GPs of universal pathways, for which training was being rolled out
- the importance of seeking to maximise the take-up of assessments at 2-2.5 years of age
- the benefits of data sharing which would be more easily attained if parents were required to opt out of sharing reports rather than opt in, as currently. Legal and other barriers should be explored to achieve this.

AGREED

1. **to note the presentation;**
2. **that the drafting of the flier "Is your child ready to learn?" be reviewed so that it was grammatically correct;**
3. **that an update be provided at the next meeting on the possibilities for changing procedures to enable an automatic sharing of reports unless parents specifically chose to opt out of doing so.**

CTB/15/52. **Deep Dive: Attainment of Disadvantaged Children**

A presentation was given in which detailed statistics and the conclusions that could be drawn from them were shared, in respect of disadvantaged children in Central Bedfordshire. The Board also noted the actions which had been taken to date.

The Board recognised that although some improvement was taking place it was not clear to why this was happening nor why much better results were not being achieved.

A discussion took place in which some possible explanations were aired, but no firm conclusions were reached. The Board noted that there had been a marked increase in the number of unaccompanied asylum seekers arriving late in Year 11.

A request was made for examples of good practice which had led to successful achievement. It was noted that the council's Partnership Vision for Education, currently under consultation, would provide a clear improvement strategy for educational outcomes for all children.

It was noted that unvalidated data would be brought to the Board in the autumn of 2015. Our own validated data would in due course be fed back through the Council's Performance Team and the data would then be disseminated to schools.

AGREED

- 1. to note the presentation;**
- 2. that the Partnership Vision for Education be brought to a future meeting to assist consideration of how greater improvements could be achieved.**

CTB/15/53. **Monitoring the Children and Young People's Plan (June 2013 - March 2015): Annual Report (including the Children and Young People's Voice Report)**

The Board received a report setting out the progress made in delivering the Children and Young People's Plan (June 2013 – March 2015) by the end of the 2014/15 financial year.

The involvement of young people in supporting initiatives (as set out in the Children and Young People's Voice report) was particularly welcomed, including representation of the Youth Parliament on the membership of the Board.

The Board indicated that the Children and Young People's Voice report should be submitted to the Safeguarding Board for review there.

In respect of the voice of young people being heard, the Youth Parliament Representative, Steven Dawkins, asked that the Make Your Mark initiative which was a key approach to enabling young people to speak out, should be publicised and supported.

In response to a request for appropriate areas for further Deep Dive areas, the following was identified:

- Domestic abuse was an appropriate area for a Deep Dive, in view of its serious impact on emotional wellbeing, educational attainment and social care.

AGREED

- 1. that the report be submitted to the Safeguarding Board for review;**

2. that Headteachers be asked to support the Make Your Mark initiative in their schools;
3. The Board be updated on the recommendations of the National Working Group review into Child Sexual Exploitation (when available).

CTB/15/54. **Central Bedfordshire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Preparing for Adulthood Strategy (14-25)**

The Board received a presentation and noted that additional information was available to the wider public on the Council's website by searching "SEND local offer". This provided a one-stop-shop listing key contacts.

The Board also noted a plan to increase the user-friendliness of the information for young people, for example by making videos about the preparing for adulthood strategy for uploading onto You Tube.

AGREED

to note the presentation.

CTB/15/55. **Standing Item: Update from other Boards**

The Chairman of the Safeguarding Board provided a short update. He mentioned:

- that he had now been in post for a year
- that a restructure had taken place
- that the Safeguarding Board now had key sub-groups in place
- that the Safeguarding Board had commissioned two Serious Case Reviews in Central Bedfordshire, which were both currently ongoing. Reports would be published in due course and the Reviews would provide opportunity for lessons to be learnt from the circumstances of the cases.

The Director of Public Health updated the Board on the recent activities of the Central Bedfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board. It was noted that the Health and Wellbeing Strategy had been approved.

CTB/15/56. **Forward Plan**

The Board noted that the following matters would be added to the Board's Forward Plan for consideration at future meetings:

- Local Children's Safeguarding Board Annual Report (September 2015)
- Domestic Abuse (next meeting)

- Means of bringing about the automatic presumption of sharing children's data between agencies with the opportunity for parents to opt out, rather than to opt in.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 4.00 p.m. and concluded at 5.50 p.m.)