



Central Bedfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board

Contains Confidential or Exempt Information No

Title of Report Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life: School Readiness

Meeting Date: 27 July 2016

Responsible Officer(s) Sue Harrison: Director of Children's Services

Presented by: Deborah Pargeter

Recommendation(s)

- 1. For the Health and Wellbeing Board to consider and comment on the progress made in giving every child the best start in life: school readiness.**

Purpose of Report

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| 1. | The report provides the Health and Wellbeing Board with an update on the progress being made in respect of 'School Readiness'. |
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Background

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| 2. | This item was last considered in detail by the Health and Wellbeing Board at its meeting on 7 th October 2015. |
| 3. | Work has been progressed through the School Readiness workstream of the Partnership Vision for Education Board. |
| 4. | <p>A detailed action plan exists which has been refined to expedite impact for children entering reception classes in Central Bedfordshire in September 2016. Current actions include:</p> <p>Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentations have been shared with, and delivered to parents and professionals, on the characteristics of school readiness and the detrimental impact of not preparing a child for school.• A leaflet detailing the characteristics of school readiness which provides parents with guidance on what they can do to support their child has been sent with all reception class offer letters. Posters have been distributed to promote the leaflet. |

- Future actions include the development of a similar leaflet to support better school attendance.
- Social media links to a Central Bedfordshire Council video clip are being prepared - demonstrating the characteristics of school readiness for parents.
- All professionals aware of services available to support children, through an on-line directory.

Early Years Foundation Stage Data

- All Central Bedfordshire schools agreed to continue with Early Years Foundation Stage data collection using the profile currently adopted. (There is no requirement for schools to use a uniform assessment tool to record early years progress.)

Information Sharing

- Transition documents and assessment tools are being shared.
- School improvement, early years and health teams present as a collective unit and share information routinely (including at professionals briefings).

Lessons Learned

- Reflecting on lessons learned when things have gone wrong for a child.

Transition

- All 0 - 5 settings know their linked Early Years professional and Health visitor.
- Improving the handover between health visitors and school nurses.
- Settings and Central Bedfordshire Council are to be held accountable for the uptake of Early Years Pupil Premium and impact on learners.
- Linking health checks and 2-½ year checks to Early Years Foundation Stage progress and facilitating health checks in educational settings. The Partnership Pilot Programme (2015-16) between Early Years and The Health Visiting Service to implement an Integrated Health & Education Review at 2½ years has been extremely successful and has driven a significant increase in uptake of the review in the pilot areas of Biggleswade and Sandy. Face-to-face integrated reviews, including a social and emotional focus were offered in all early years settings in these areas.

	<p>Parents reported having a more comprehensive understanding of the age appropriate social development of their children and identified - with the professionals - clear areas of work to support their child. Staff reported that opportunities and referrals for appropriate early interventions for children with additional needs were more effective and efficiently delivered, due to the collaborative approach. The Integrated 2½ year Review is now being rolled out across all of CBC in 2016-17 and the impact – particularly in relation to the outcomes of ‘ready to learn’ and ‘ready for school’ - will be monitored through Early Help/Early Years and Public Health.</p> <p>Vulnerable Pupils</p> <p>A pilot has started with high achieving settings with vulnerable pupils sharing good practice with less successful settings with a similar context.</p>
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Reasons for the Actions being taken by the Workstream Group	
4.	<p>The expected outcome for every child leaving reception is that they achieve a ‘Good Level of Development’.</p> <p>2015 results show that in Central Bedfordshire 64% of children were classed as having a Good Level of Development – 2% below the national average.</p> <p>Indicative results for 2016 indicate that this level has risen by 4% to 68% of children having a Good Level of Development. This figure has yet to be moderated, and national and statistical neighbour figures are not yet available.</p> <p>The school readiness research carried out suggests that milestones that indicate a child’s ability to reach a national expectation by the end of reception were not being shared or discussed between professionals as there was no medium for sharing information and good practice.</p>
5.	<p>Other reasons for the above actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents and settings were not preparing children adequately enough to allow them to make rapid progress immediately on entry into a reception class. • Sharing good practice (Matching higher achieving settings with those less successful and share good practice.)

6.	<p>Working towards the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved communication between early years settings and schools. • Parents and professionals aware of key contacts and how to access additional support for a child. • Shared best practice (Matching higher achieving settings with those less successful.) • Improved transition of information between professionals. • Up-take of health checks and educational checks continued increase. The latest data for 2½ year reviews in Central Bedfordshire indicate an increase from 55.3% (published data for Q3 2015-16) to 63.7% (May 2016), with a planned increase to 78% by October 2016. • Vulnerable children identified sooner and early intervention put in place to allow children to flourish. • Children’s exit data for Early Years in the top quartile nationally.
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Issues	
Governance & Delivery	
7.	‘School Readiness’ is a workstream of the Partnership Vision for Education Board. The Board oversees delivery of the Partnership Vision for Education 2015-19.
Financial	
8.	There is no budget allocated to this project and this is impacting on the impact of improvements.
Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)	
9.	Central Bedfordshire Council has a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation
10.	Research compiled by Ofsted (The Impact of Early Education as a Strategy in Countering Socio-Economic Disadvantage) indicates that early education for low income and ethnic minority children can contribute importantly to combating educational disadvantages if certain criteria are met.

11.	<p>The plan is fully inclusive to the needs of adults and children within Central Bedfordshire and promotes equality of access for all children.</p> <p>The school readiness work stream is supporting the progress of all groups of children in Central Bedfordshire, including those born at different times of the year, from multi-ethnic groups, children known to social care, children with a special education need or disability and children eligible for free school meals. The work stream group is made up of professionals with direct experience of effectively supporting children in all of these groups.</p>
12.	<p>Are there any risks issues relating Public Sector Equality Duty</p> <p style="text-align: right;">No</p>
	<p>If yes – outline the risks and how these would be mitigated</p>

Source Documents	Location (including url where possible)
Partnership Vision for Education	http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/Images/partnership-vision_tcm3-7593.pdf

Presented by Sue Harrison