

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD** held in Room 14, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Monday 6 June 2016

PRESENT

Mrs S Harrison (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs C Hegley (Vice-Chairman)

L Bulled	VOCypf Officer, Voluntary Organisations for Children, young people and families
Sharn Basra	Bedfordshire Police
E Burke	Member of Youth Parliament
O Button	Principal, Queensbury Academy
S Chakrabarti	Assistant Director, Public Health
Liz Clarke	Bedfordshire Youth Offending Service
K Green	Participation Manager SNAP
P Haddon	Headteacher, Holywell School
G Lamb	ELFT
M Mercer	Headteacher, Aspley Guise Lower School
S Mortimer	Vice Principal, Curriculum & Strategic Partnerships, Central Bedfordshire College
D Morton	Diocese of St Albans
A Murray	Director of Nursing and Quality, Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group
M Scott	Director of Public Health
G Williamson	VOCypf Officer, Voluntary Organisations for Children, young people and families

Substitutes:

Other Attendees:	K Oellermann	Assistant Director - Commissioning & Partnerships, CBC Head of Community Safety, CBC Assistant Director School Improvement, CBC Head of Commissioning and Performance, Children's Services, CBC
	M Peaston	Committee Services Manager, CBC (clerking)

CTB/16/43. **Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman**

RESOLVED

- 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/16/44. **Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

The Chairman welcomed all attendees to the meeting, in particular Gemma Williamson from Voluntary Organisations for Children, Young People and Families, for whom this was her first meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Alan Caton, Len Simkins and Steven Dawkins.

CTB/16/45. **Procedural Business**

(a) Declarations of substitutes

There were no declarations of substitutes.

(b) Declarations of interests

There were no declarations of interest.

(c) Exclusion of the Press and Public

AGREED

that in accordance with Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

- Agenda item 10: Deep Dive – Youth Offending (First Time Entrants)
- Agenda item 11: Children and Young People's Plan – Q4 Performance.

CTB/16/46. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising**

AGREED

that the minutes of the meeting of the Children's Trust Board held on 8 March 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CTB/16/47. **Domestic Abuse Strategy**

The Board received a report providing an update on the development of a Domestic Abuse Strategy for Central Bedfordshire Council.

It was noted that considerable work had been undertaken to involve partners in the development of the Strategy. In response to a question as to how it would be apparent that partners were engaging with the Strategy in due course, the Board noted that lines of reporting would be through various statutory bodies including the Domestic Abuse Board chaired by Sue Harrison, Director of Children’s Services, CBC and Chair of the Children’s Trust Board.

Further to discussion, the Board **AGREED:**

	Action	Who
1.	that the Board would receive regular reports on the use/impact of the Strategy	A. Coleman to include in the Board's Work Programme
2.	schools would be invited to become involved to address consequences of domestic violence, in view of their front-line status	H. Redding to use networks to involve schools
3.	wider networks and providers should be identified	All – contact details to be provided to J. Keyte
4.	training available through the Safeguarding Board would be publicised to Board members.	K. Oellermann

CTB/16/48. **Introduction to Special Needs Action Panel SNAP**

The Board received a presentation on the Special Needs Action Panel. The presentation slides can be accessed by clicking on the link below:

<http://www.centralbedfordshirechildrenstrust.org.uk/cbct/useful-links/useful-links>

The Board welcomed the work which SNAP was undertaking through co-production, enabling a collective power-sharing approach to be taken to generate opportunities for quality, cost-effective services for young people with special educational needs and their families.

It was noted that difficulties faced by parents which they had raised in particular included personal care budgets and personal care plans.

It was also noted that the co-production approach, which had generated valuable improvements for young people with special needs, could be used in

the area of mental health care services. An approach would be made to start discussions.

A You-tube link was mentioned which would be made available to the Board members.

AGREED:

	Action	Officer
1.	to note the presentation and initiate discussions on any wider application of the co-production model	G Lambe/ELFT and K Green, SNAP
2.	to consider SNAP's request to become a member of the Board	
3.	to note that a You-tube link would be made available to Board members.	H Redding to provide link

CTB/16/49. Ensuring Good Mental Health - Children and Young People

The Board considered a report which:

- outlined the milestones for achieving universal good mental health among young people and also set out what good would look like
- explained why mental health is a priority focus area and the reasons for lower self esteem among young people
- advised on proposed work to be undertaken April 2016 – March 2018.

The Board noted that further consultation had been undertaken among young people and it appeared that improvements in the mental health of young people in Central Bedfordshire were significant, and better than the reference groups.

Whilst the development of certain mental health intervention services had taken time, they were still not yet generally available and comments were made indicating that there seemed no sense of urgency to address targets in the near future.

It was noted that despite the questions in the questionnaire not being drafted specifically to assist Middle School-age children to understand them, problems of mental health were now becoming evident in Year 6 children.

The Board concurred that intervention was called for to improve the mental health of young people locally. It was noted that a multi-agency steering group was in the process of being formed by the CCG and nominations by Board members would be welcome. Areas which the Board highlighted for attention by the steering group included:

- the indirect impact of being overweight on children’s mental health and the difficulties in resolving overweight prevalence in families
- the mental health of children in police custody
- drug use impacting on children’s mental health
- the importance of handling step-down appropriately as young people could find this challenging.

The Chairman suggested that the CCG’s steering group on improving mental health in young people should provide a report to the Board in due course.

AGREED:

	Action	By whom
1.	to note the submitted report;	
2.	to welcome the CCG’s initiative in setting up a steering group to improve the mental health of young people in the area;	
4.	to note that the terms of reference of the CCG’s steering group on improving mental health in young people would be drawn up and circulated to Board members;	S. Chakrabarti
3.	to respond to the request for nominations to the CCG’s steering group.	All, to S. Chakrabarti
4.	that the CCG’s steering group on Improving Mental Health in Young People should be asked to bring a report to the Board.	A. Coleman to include in the Work Programme; report to be brought by S. Chakrabarti

CTB/16/50. **Standing Item: Update from other Boards**

No updates from other Boards were received.

CTB/16/51. **Forward Plan**

The Board identified the following items to be added to the Forward Plan:

- Annual Report
- CCG Steering Group on securing improvements in the mental health of young people
- The Secretary of State’s letter, in view particularly of the White Paper reference to Academies (for 26 September meeting)

CTB/16/52. **Exempt: Deep Dive - Youth Offending (First Time Entrants)**

The Board considered a report providing performance data in relation to first time entrants to the Criminal Justice system.

It was clear that early intervention was an important factor in stopping behaviour in young people likely to lead to criminal justice outcomes. It was therefore important that early intervention should take place.

AGREED to note the report.

CTB/16/53. **Exempt: Children and Young People's Plan - Quarter Four Performance**

The Board received a report providing an update on Quarter 4 progress in delivering the priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan (March 2015 – March 2017).

The report indicated a mixed picture in developments, such as:

- positive outcomes for many under-5 year old children in good settings
- less positive outcomes in indicators about "mood" in young mothers and breastfeeding statistics
- teenage pregnancy figures were reducing and were now better than East of England and national reference figures.

The Board welcomed the NEETS figures (Not in Education, Employment or Training) which were now in the top quartile.

In respect of those areas where we were struggling to improve, it was suggested that looking at those authorities and agencies which had radically improved performance could provide insights into what interventions worked best. A deep dive for such areas could be beneficial.

A discussion ensued about supportive interventions needed in some Dunstable schools and the most appropriate timing.

AGREED:

	Action	By whom
	to note the report.	All

(Note: The meeting commenced at 4.00pm and concluded at 6.15 p.m.)