

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD** held at Room 15, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Monday, 26 September 2016

PRESENT

Cllr C Hegley (Vice-Chairman, in the Chair)

O Button	Principal, Queensbury Academy
R Carr	Chief Executive, Central Bedfordshire Council
A Caton	Chair, Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board
Cllr S Dixon	Executive Member for Education and Skills
M Mercer	Headteacher, Aspley Guise Lower School
D Morton	Diocese of St Albans
S Phillips	Executive Headteacher, the Lawns Nursery School & Children's Centre
L Simkins	Chair, Voluntary Organisations for Children, Young People and Families
G Williamson	VOCypf Officer

Substitutes: None

Others Attendees:	A Coleman	– Partnerships and Performance Officer
	P Fraser	– Head of Partnerships & Community Engagement
	K Oellermann	– Assistant Director – Commissioning & Partnerships
	H Redding	– Assistant Director School Improvement
	M Scott	– Director of Public Health
	Cllr M A G Versallion	– Central Bedfordshire Council
	D Waller	– Policy & Implementation Manager, Human Resources
	M Peaston	– Committee Services Manager, CBC

CTB/16/54. **Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

Cllr Hegley, Vice-Chairman, chaired the meeting in view of Sue Harrison having sent her apologies.

Cllr Hegley welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Sue Harrison, Liz Clarke (Youth Offending Service), Gary Jeffrey (Fire Service), Peter Haddon (Holywell School).

CTB/16/55. **Procedural Business**

(a) Declarations of Substitutes

Pat Jennings was due to attend on behalf of Liz Clarke.

(b) Declarations of Interest

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 item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Agenda item 10 – Children and Young People’s Plan – Quarter One Performance.

CTB/16/56. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

AGREED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 6 June 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CTB/16/57. **The Offer of Work Experience Opportunities for Young People within Central Bedfordshire Council**

The Board received a report of the Head of Partnerships and Community Engagement together with the HR Policy and Implementation Manager providing an update of progress following the request from the Central Bedfordshire Youth Parliament that the local authority should lead by example and offer work placements across the Council.

A scheme had been drawn up following consultation with Youth Parliament representatives and the following were in hand:

- a pilot scheme would start in the spring of 2017 involving work experience placements being offered to young people. This would be linked to the Council’s Apprenticeships Programme.
- a handbook to support young people seeking or undertaking work experience with the Council was in the process of being finalised.

The Board commended the action taken to provide work experience placements across the Council for young people. It was noted that particular consideration would be given to Looked After Children for whom the Council was the corporate parent, as in effect the Council represented the “family business”.

AGREED:-

- 1. to welcome the work undertaken so far and the planned next steps;**
- 2. to refer information about the proposed work experience scheme to the Secondary/Upper Schools Headteachers' Forum together with a request for nominations of young people to be involved in the work experience pilot starting in spring 2017;**
- 3. that the Youth Parliament be advised of the progress so far;**
- 4. that a further update be brought to the Board in due course.**

CTB/16/58. Children's Trust Board 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 (March 2015-2017) by the end of the 2015/16 financial year.

Details relating to specific objectives of the Plan were noted. The Board discussed the recent Joint Targeted Area Inspection and Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board's monitoring of the associated action plan.

The Chairman asked the Board whether members wished to identify any areas which would be appropriate for a deep dive exercise to be brought to a future meeting. It was noted that whilst there was concurrence that the voice of the child was vital, at times, although much valuable work was being carried out to promote this, there remained challenges in showing how young people's voices have influence services in a systematic way.

The Board reinforced the need for a systematic approach to be taken – to recognise and learn from many good-practice initiatives.

AGREED:

- 1. to note the progress achieved in delivering the priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) to March 2015 identifying areas for further challenge and review as part of the Board's work programme;**
- 2. to receive and agree the Annual Report 2015/16;**
- 3. that the Children and Young People's Voice report be submitted to the Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board 'Voice of the Child Group' to review and progress as appropriate.**

CTB/16/59. Briefing on SEND Inspection Framework

The Board received a report which provided an overview of the following:

- the framework for the local area inspection of Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities

- the implications of that framework for the service and planning with the relevant agencies
- the handbook for the inspection of local area effectiveness in identifying and meeting the needs of young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Questions and comments included the following:

- the draft Joint Strategic Needs Assessment chapter should form part of the inspection framework, and the Board may wish to look at this as it evolves
- it was important to recognise that this approach represented a joint inspection process which should be prepared for accordingly
- the key role of the voluntary sector was recognised, and arrangements would be put in place to ensure appropriate representation on the Aspiration Board.

It was noted that there were strong partnership arrangements with the parent and carer forum.

AGREED:-

- 1. to note the emphasis on joint working in the inspection framework and reinforce this in the joint working arrangements;**
- 2. that preparation for the forthcoming inspection be agreed and implemented with the relevant agencies.**

CTB/16/60. Request: Children's Trust Board Membership

The Board considered a report on a request from the local parent carer forum SNAP to become a member of the Children's Trust Board.

The Board recalled that the Participation Manager of SNAP had attended the last meeting and explained the role of SNAP.

The Board acknowledged that having the voice of the parent or carer through SNAP representation would add value to the work of the Board.

AGREED that SNAP be invited to nominate a representative to become a member of the Children's Trust Board.

CTB/16/61. Standing Item: Update from other Boards

Oral reports were provided by:

- the Chair of the Safeguarding Board
- the Director of Public Health on the Central Bedfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board.

It was noted that a report from the Community Safety Partnership would be circulated after the meeting. (**Action** - Amanda Coleman)

CTB/16/62. **Forward Plan**

There were no changes to the Board's work programme.

CTB/16/63. **Exempt: Children and Young People's Plan - Quarter One Performance**

The Board recalled that the press and public had been excluded from the meeting for the consideration of this item and noted that no members of the press or public were present.

The Board considered a report of the Assistant Director Commissioning and Partnerships, Children's Services, providing an update on Quarter 1 progress in delivering the priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan (March 2015-17).

A discussion took place on the latest data on permanent exclusions where, 2014/15 Central Bedfordshire figures showed 0.03% permanent exclusions in primary schools. This placed Central Bedfordshire in the 3rd Quartile.

In response to questions raised by Board members it was noted that:

- challenges to young children's mental health seemed to be increasing and could impact on behaviour leading to the potential for exclusion
- planning for change, for example transition to the next phase of school, was crucial to enable young people to develop resilience and manage their own behaviour.

The Chairman identified the area of exclusions as a focus for a future deep dive review. Preparations would be undertaken for this and it was envisaged that this may be brought to the December meeting.

AGREED:-

- 1. That a deep dive review be carried out on exclusions (referencing the association with the emotional resilience of children and young people). (Action – Helen Redding)**
- 2. That (subject to the work being concluded) this deep dive be presented to the Children's Trust Board at its next meeting in December 2016.**

(Note: The meeting commenced at 4.00 p.m. and concluded at 5.35 p.m.)