

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Date of Meeting

25 January 2017

Aiming for the Best for Children, Young People and Families in Central Bedfordshire: Annual Public Health Report by the Director of Public Health

Responsible Officer: Muriel Scott, Director of Public Health

Email: Muriel.scott@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Advising Officer: Kiran Loi, Assistant Director of Public Health

Email: kiran.Loi@bedford.gov.uk

Public

Purpose of this report:

1. To highlight key issues and make a series of evidence-based recommendations that have the potential to make a real difference to the lives of children, young people and their families.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Health and Wellbeing is asked to:

1. **endorse, champion and ensure that, together with Children Young People and their families, we achieve our aspiration of aiming for the best for children, young people and families in Central Bedfordshire; and**
2. **use this report, particularly the Call to Action and areas for improvement, to influence the refinement of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.**

Background

2. The previous report of the Director of Public Health focused on Mental Health and an update on progress is included in section 5. The focus of this this report is achieving the best outcomes for children and young people.

3. Ensuring that every child and young person has the best start in life is a priority: the benefits of a healthy and happy childhood and adolescence can last a lifetime, and should be achievable in Central Bedfordshire. As OFSTED stated in 2016, if we get the early years right, we pave the way for a lifetime of achievement. If we get them wrong, we miss a unique opportunity to shape a child's future.
4. A recent health needs assessment revealed that, overall, the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Central Bedfordshire is good but we can do better. Therefore the report makes a series of recommendations to improve outcomes for all and importantly to reduce inequalities. Disadvantage can start before birth and can accumulate throughout life so we need to take action now to break the link between disadvantage and poor outcomes.
5. Through prevention and early intervention children, young people and their families can be helped to be more resilient. Promoting resilience and the ability to cope is just as important as delivering services that deal with problems once they arise.
6. The report provides a picture of the health and wellbeing of children and young people, what good looks like, how Central Bedfordshire compares and how we can improve.

Improving outcomes

7. If we compare outcomes in Central Bedfordshire with the England average, the picture looks good for our children and young people. If we compare ourselves with the very best in the Country, then there are areas where we could and should do better. These are highlighted within the report but include emotional resilience, teenage pregnancy, variation in breastfeeding rates, maternal obesity, early years foundation profile, excess weight and hospital admissions in the under fives.

Call to Action

8. Throughout, the report identifies areas for improvement but it also highlights a call to action in each area – these need significant attention and must be areas of considerable focus. The Health and Wellbeing Board should champion the actions for local children and particularly those most vulnerable.

Call to Action	
Pregnancy	Midwifery services need to consistently identify, as early as possible, risk factors for women and families e.g. poor mental health, domestic abuse, maternal obesity, drugs and alcohol, smoking. They must ensure that they share information and utilise all referral support pathways to local services, including the Access and Referral Hub, to result in a safe and healthy pregnancy and birth.
Early Years	All individuals working with children need to be skilled to recognise the key risk factors, including Adverse Childhood Experiences, share information and work effectively with partner organisations and families to address challenges.
School Years	Senior Leadership Teams in schools, working with governors, partner agencies and parents, must support pupils, particularly those at risk of poor outcomes, to develop positive relationships, healthy lifestyles and resilience. This will need to be delivered through a whole school approach with access to support, resources and curriculum time.
Vulnerable Children	System-wide partners working with young people and families must use learning from reviews, audits and inspections to improve practice, monitored by the Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board. Commissioning partners must agree measures of success in early identification of risks and vulnerabilities, and monitor these to improve outcomes.
Mental Health	Commissioners and providers must work together to ensure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) A comprehensive parental mental health pathway is in place to identify parents with, and at risk of, mental illness during the perinatal period (pregnancy to the first year following birth) and offer prompt support, including for the infant and wider family where necessary.

	ii) Across the system, professionals working with children, young people and families are focused on the early identification of mental health issues, with prompt access to high quality CAMHS.
--	--

Financial and Risk Implications

9. There are no additional resources specifically to deliver this plan therefore it must be delivered by sharing resources and integrating care where possible as well as by focusing on prevention and early intervention.

Governance and Delivery Implications

10. As no single profession or organisation can deliver all of the actions required this will require partnership commitment and will be overseen by the Children’s Services Leadership Board on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Children’s Plan with their associated scorecards will monitor progress and outcomes. It is proposed that the following indicators will be added to the HWB performance scorecard:
 - Under 18s conception rates
 - Year R children overweight or obese
 - Maternal Obesity (L&D only) at booking appointment

Equalities Implications

11. The PSED requires public bodies to consider all individuals when carrying out their day to day work – in shaping policy, in delivering services and in relation to their own employees. It requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between 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.
12. 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.

In developing the annual public health report, consideration has been given to the relationship between health inequalities and protected characteristics. The findings are reported throughout the document.

Implications for Work Programme

13. An update of progress on implementing the call to action should be presented to the Board in six months.

Conclusion and next Steps

14. The report highlights the areas where Health and Wellbeing for Children and Young People in Central Bedfordshire can be further improved. It identifies specific recommendations for improvement and importantly a 'Call to Action' to highlight the areas most in need of attention.
15. A joint partnership approach is required and the Health and Wellbeing Board will play an important role in ensuring that progress is made. This will be monitored through the dashboard and update reports to the Board.
16. The Board is asked to endorse, champion and oversee the progress to aim for the best for children, young people and families in Central Bedfordshire.

Appendices

The following Appendix is attached: Public Health Report by the Director of Public Health – Aiming for the Best for Children, Young People and Families in Central Bedfordshire.

Background Papers

None