



Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 21 July 2015

PRESENT:

Councillor T Smith (Chair), J. Hassall, P Sheridan, S Dainty, J. Webster, V. Harrison, R. Longster, B. Walker, S. Taylor, Supt J. Martin, F. Pender, D. Gornik

IN ATTENDANCE:

L. Arthey, T. Woodhouse. Seline Wakerley and Peer Educators, C. Drucker

1.0 INTRODUCTIONS and APOLOGIES

Cllr Smith welcomed the members and noted apologies had been received from Cllr W. Clements, Cllr C. Meaden, J. Monty, K. Podmore, G. Batchelor, J. Owens, N. Currie, G. Price

2.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest to note.

3.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (31 March 2015) and ACTIONS ARISING

The minutes were checked for accuracy and were confirmed as a true reflection of the meeting. There were no matters arising.

4.0 SPECIALIST SERVICES REVIEW : UPDATE

L. Arthey updated the Board on the redesign of children's social care (Specialist Services). This redesign was intended to improve the outcomes for children and families without any reduction in social work capacity. The Board was also provided with the details of the new structure which was mostly based on the constituency footprint.

Cllr Smith enquired if all schools had been advised of this new model and he was advised that the information had been cascaded widely which included schools. However it was suggested that a briefing be undertaken for all schools and head teachers which contained relevant contact details. L. Arthey would prepare and distribute the required information.

J. Hassall took the opportunity to remind all partner agencies that it was incumbent on them to ensure that no child steps into any gaps due to any redesign and that proper handover takes place to improve the child's journey.

It was resolved that:

a) The Board noted the update.

b) L. Arthey to distribute briefing and contact details to schools/headteachers.

5.0 BIRKENHEAD FOUNDATION YEARS PROJECT : UPDATE

The Board received the update report on the 6 programmes for the period ending June 2015. Z. Munby advised that the project was growing and referred to the increase in numbers for the Bump-Start programme.

The Board was also advised that the basic Early Skills and Support Index (BESSI) has reached the stage of its development whereby Cambridge University Centre for Family Research are confirming that it is valid for use from the age of 2.5 to 5.5 years. The foundation will be adopting this as a measure for all children reaching that threshold. It is understood that the BESSI manual is undergoing testing and it will be trialled using data from Birkenhead schools. Discussions are underway with Council officers in relation to bring the Cambridge team to the Wirral to provide a briefing in September.

Discussions continued around the Cambridge work which tested 2.5 – 5.5 yrs as opposed to the traditionally used 0-5 tests and also the ages and stages national tool which again focused on 0-5yr testing. It was suggested that all learning and information on Early Years currently ongoing at a local level be shared. Any joint work or initiatives could be done via the Early Years Multi Agency Steering Group. The opportunity was taken to advise the Board that a paper on the current status of Early Years work would be submitted to Cabinet shortly.

It was resolved that: The Board noted the report.

6.0 THE VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE

A group of Peer Educators from the Creative Youth Development team outlined their role and the range of projects and roles they undertake with the young people of the borough. The issues that they cover can be portrayed via a number of outlets including dance, art and drama and can help with confidence building and social skills for example. As well as group activities they offer 1:1 support to individuals. The peer educators themselves have also benefited from participating in the programme, stating that their public speaking skills have been enhanced as well as their communication skills. Young people are referred into the programme but the Board was also advised that outreach sessions have also been undertaken in schools and other community settings.

On behalf of the Board Cllr Smith thanked them for their time and for sharing the information and for providing this very interesting insight into the work of the group. He hoped they would continue with their work and acknowledged this valuable resource for the young people of Wirral.

It was resolved that:

The Board acknowledged the work of the Creative Youth Development Team.

7.0 CHILD POVERTY : UPDATE

The Board received the update on actions being taken by the Wirral Child and Family Poverty Working Group and the development of the school community hubs. J. Hassall advised that the Liverpool City Region (LCR) strategy has been refreshed and accepted. Work was also underway to capture the working group's key components and a document would be taken to Cabinet together with the regional strategy in September 2015. The working group also advised that they had received a presentation from the Church Credit Champion Co-ordinator for Wirral.

The two Hubs (Leasowe and Fender) are continuing to work well with the community and this principle has been extended to include a school within the Birkenhead Constituency with funding from Public Health. St Pauls RC Primary School in Beechwood was successful in its tender to develop a community hub and will focus on school readiness as a means to address the impact of child poverty. Discussions continued as to how these models could be sustained and rolled out to other schools as their success has been clearly evident.

In response to a question J. Hassall advised that there are just over 68,000 children living in Wirral with approximately a quarter of them classed as living in child poverty.

It also noted the update on the work of the Birkenhead Foundation Years Trust pilot services in the Beechwood Ballantine Estate, Rock Ferry and Birkenhead.

It was resolved that: The Board noted the report and accepted the recommendations contained therein.

8.0 SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

The Board received the report of the WSCB on safeguarding key developments locally and nationally on regulatory reform local social case reviews and key challenges for the partner agencies.

The report advised of the agreed priority areas for the WSCB for 2015-16 being

1. Children and Young People feel safe and are safe
2. Children and Young People are engaged in positive relationships which are not exploitative
3. The needs of Children, Young People and their families are identified and responded to early
4. Fewer Children and Young People witness or experience domestic violence and consequently more children and young people are living in family homes where they feel safe.

B. Walker stated that CSE was not given an individual priority as this was covered in priorities 1 and 2 above. He was hopeful that partners would support and take back to their respective areas. The links with the Council 2020 Plan was also noted.

The report also highlighted the feedback from the WSCB meeting of 9 June which discussed a number of issues including the multi-agency performance information. This covers the development of a multi-agency dataset of 155 safeguarding performance indicators and will also incorporate the development of a 'windscreen' to be able to present key information and to drill down into the data. This information will help direct the WSCB to areas of safeguarding which may be causing concern.

J. Hassall suggested that performance data session covering for example Children Missing from Care, could be presented at a future Board. This would present an opportunity to look at how the data could be used.

It was resolved that: The Board

a) Noted the report.

b) That a performance data report covering Children Missing from Care to be presented at a future meeting of the Board.

9.0 CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – THE WAY FORWARD : UPDATE

The Board received the update on the way forward for the Children's Trust Board. The report set out the proposed terms of reference and membership of the newly formed Children's Joint commissioning Group, together with the Governance and Principles of the group. The purpose of the group is to identify integrated commissioning approaches to support the

transformation of services to achieve the key outcomes contained within the Council's Plan 2020 Vision.

The commissioning group would meet on a monthly basis and their aim is to produce a Commissioning Plan in April 2016. This would be the vehicle to ensure that the children's outcomes are delivered.

It was resolved that: The Board noted the updated report.

10.0 Performance Management – Qtr 4 Year End 2014

The performance management report was reviewed by the Board.

Outcome 2 : Timeliness of Adoptions : Red Rag rated

Currently standing at 68% against a target of 80%: Some children have complex health issues or are siblings who need to be placed together.

Looked After Children: Concern regarding the number of looked after children in care : this was Amber Rag rated

Outcome 4 : A number of indicators were shown Red Rag status but there was an expectation that the gap in attainment was closing and going in the right direction for this academic year.

It was resolved that: The Board noted the report

11. Any Other Business

11.1 Cllr Smith highlighted the recent police review into the Rotherham Report and of the 28 cases reviewed 8 were considered inadequate. In response Supt Martin said he was aware of the report but could not comment as he had not read the full report. However he would be happy to do a review from the Wirral perspective at a future meeting.

Action: Supt Martin to present a review on the Rotherham Report at a future Board.

11.2 D. Gornik brought the Board's attention to the recent report submitted to the WSCB which gave the updated position on the Early Help and Prevention Strategy. The report described how the strategy would be developed and the anticipated timescales. It was further advised that the main body of the strategy would consist of 3 sections: Help in the Earliest Stages of Life, Help in the Earliest Stages of a Problem and Late Prevention. Each section would be underpinned with theoretical learning as to its importance and contain 4 key aspirations aligned with the Wirral Council Plan: A 2020 Vision. A series of workshops would be held in August to focus on each section of the strategy. Partners would be invited to each workshop in order to contribute to and shape the local approach. A workshop at the end of August would finalise the pledges and confirm the action plan. The final draft would be presented to the LSCB and Children's Trust prior to the official launch in October.

11.3 Cllr Smith advised that this would be the last meeting for R. Longster. On behalf of the Board he wished him well in his retirement and thanked him for his support and contribution during his time as a member of the Board.

CLOSE:

As there was no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 11.30 hrs

DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS

9.00 am 21 September 2015

9.00 am 18 January 2016

9.00 am 16 May 2016

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