

**BARNET CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2012 AT TOWN HALL,
THE BURROUGHS, HENDON, LONDON NW4 4BG**

PRESENT:

Cllr Andrew Harper (Chairman)	Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Families, LBB
Cllr Helena Hart	Cabinet Member for Public Health
Kate Kennally	Interim Director of Children's Service and Director of Adult Social Care and Health
Cynthia Folarin	Assistant Director of Public Health
Tim Beach	Independent Chair, Barnet Safeguarding Children Board
Vivienne Stimpson	Head of Children's Commissioning, NHS/LBB
Denise Murphy	Interim Chief Executive, Community Barnet
Supt Mark Strugnell	Deputy Borough Commander, Metropolitan Police
Angela Trigg	Principal, London Academy
Jenny Gridley	Head Teacher, Oakleigh School
Judith Barlow	Service Director, Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust

ALSO PRESENT:

Jay Mercer	Deputy Director of Children's Service
Sharon Scott	Interim Assistant Director, Partnerships and Transformation
Heather Storey	Policy Officer, Children's Service
Brian Davis	Principal Educational Psychologist/Interim Head of Complex Needs
Andrew Nathan	Strategic Policy Adviser

APOLOGIES- David Byrne (Barnet and Southgate College), Clare Stephens (Clinical Commissioning Group), Ann Graham (Assistant Director- Children's Social Care), Dr Andrew Burnett (Director of Public Health), Ceri Jacob (NHS Barnet Borough Director).

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Kate Kennally was introduced to her first Board meeting as the new Interim Director of Children's Service following Robert McCulloch-Graham's secondment to the Troubled Families Unit in the Department for Communities and Local Government.

The Board noted that Dadia Conti, Children's Service Manager at Community Barnet, had now retired to Derbyshire. They paid tribute to her contribution over many years and the Chairman would formally write to Dadia to express this.

2 PRESENTATION BY HOMELESS YOUNG PEOPLE

(This item was taken in private session).

Three young people who were resident at one of the foyers for homeless young people made a presentation, outlining their experiences and concerns and the support they required, and discussing these with the Board.

3 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Board held on 10 May 2012 were agreed as a correct record subject to:

Minute 2- in the penultimate para, 'unemployment' should read 'employment'

Minute 6- on the 3rd line the figures should read £10,000 and £4,000 respectively

4 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PLAN 2013-2016

Heather Storey introduced proposals for a new Children and Young People Plan from 2013, which would be more ambitious and creative while at the same time recognising budgetary constraints. The proposal was for a short high level three year plan, accompanied by a more specific action plan which would include resourcing commitments.

As the Every Child Matters framework no longer needed to be followed, there was an opportunity for all partners to collectively agree a set of cross cutting priorities that reflected Barnet's own needs, and a workshop on 3rd October would develop these priorities, focusing on the 'Journey of the Child'.

This would be further informed by a survey being circulated through schools, children's centres, GP surgeries and Job Centres, and with young people directly through such groups as Barnet Youth Board, the Role Model Army and Barnet Youth Shield.

She confirmed the Clinical Commissioning Group had been invited, in addition to a separate meeting being arranged with them, and that the Health and Well Being Strategy priority around preparing for a healthy life would be woven in.

Kate Kennally requested that Board members prepare for the workshop by sharing their own plans and priorities and thinking in advance about key desired outcomes and how to push further integrated working.

It was agreed that Board members receive an advance copy of the detailed programme and that they be visibly identified as such at the session.

ACTION; Heather Storey

Board members highlighted the need to combine ambition with a Plan that was deliverable and actively used rather than sitting on the shelf. A further report would be made to the next Board on development of the Plan.

5 CHILDRENS TRUST BOARD – FUTURE GOVERNANCE AND WORK PLANNING ARRANGEMENTS

Andrew Nathan introduced a report outlining a series of proposed changes to ensure that the Board functioned effectively, focusing on outcomes and operating in a transparent and accountable way now that Partnership Boards were meeting in public.

The proposals in the report for performance management were discussed. It was agreed that the Executive Management Group (EMG) be responsible for tracking delivery against the Children and Young People Plan using appropriate metrics. However they would sign off a high level performance 'dashboard' which the Board consider at each meeting, but for noting except where there were specific issues requiring action. This dashboard would reflect the new CYPP and a proposed draft performance framework would be presented as part of the update to the next Board meeting.

Jay Mercer highlighted that the EMG at present mixed commissioners and providers and might need review, such as splitting up agendas, to ensure there were no conflicts of interest.

Councillor Harper emphasised the importance of partners nominating items they would like discussed. On the work plan the Chairman reported that there were a number of significant consultations on future OFSTED regimes. A briefing that Heather Storey has prepared would be circulated and it was agreed to invite the regional HM Inspector to the March meeting.

ACTION: Heather Storey

On the work programme a follow up item on Housing and Young People, and an update on the Children and Young People Plan were added to the December meeting. It was agreed to defer the Munro review report to the March meeting and acknowledged that other items on the December agenda might need to be pruned further.

Subject to these comments the report was adopted.

ACTION: Andrew Nathan

6 CHOICE AND ACHIEVEMENT; A NEW INCLUSION STRATEGY FOR BARNET

Dr Brian Davis presented a draft of a new Inclusion Strategy, encompassing Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Learning Difficulties and Disability, Social Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties and Child and Adolescent Mental Health. He tabled a proposed outline Implementation Plan based around a phased approach to consultation which was planned to be launched in November 2012. Some draft principles had already been considered by Scrutiny.

He reported that outcomes in Barnet for pupils with SEN were very good and their highest yet in 2011, but the challenge was to sustain that against

pressures which included increasing birth rates, migration into the Borough and increasing complexity of needs. These were expected to result in a 15-20% rise on higher level needs.

This was being managed as a transformation project to move to more integrated, multi agency delivery, and joint work streams and common data sets were being developed as well as how planning how joint resources were going to be organised, for example in teams around the setting.

The joint consultation programme between the council and the voluntary and community sector would be launched on 13 November for schools and settings. In addition this would need to encompass the statutory requirements to consult disabled people on changes that may affect them.

In discussion, Denise Murphy highlighted the potential of volunteering opportunities as a pathway into employment and it was noted that the 14-19 team and Barnet and Southgate College would be taking this work forward. Vivienne Stimpson emphasised the importance of being explicit about the resources available from the health sector.

Jay Mercer stressed the links to other pieces of work, for example the work led by Social Care on transitions into adulthood for disabled young people, and the Education Strategy.

Kate Kennally expressed the risk of strategies proliferating or overlapping, and suggested that initial engagement be around the Children and Young People Plan. The connections between the two would be explored at the 3rd October workshop so that a coherent story was developed by 13 November, which would then inform the shape of the consultation.

It was agreed that the overall direction and vision of the Strategy be supported but that the Board consider further, including as part of the December report on the Children and Young People Plan at the Board.

Action; Brian Davis/Sharon Scott

7 BARNET SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (SCB) - ANNUAL REPORT

Tim Beach presented the annual report of the SCB which it was noted it was no longer in draft. This discharged the statutory responsibility to report to the Children's Trust on progress made in supporting outcomes for children and families, and their internal arrangements, achievements and priorities for the year. It had already been received positively by the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

He drew attention to the OFSTED Inspection judgement which was generally positive but had only rated Barnet 'adequate' on a couple of areas including quality of provision. He identified a number of concerns that the Trust should be aware of, specifically the risk of spreading resources too thinly and issues

of Police representation at Multi-Agency Training and Awareness Raising which reflected a London wide issue.

The Board specifically commended the way the views of young people had been taken into account, through such bodies as Youth Shield.

Kate Kennally emphasised the responsibility of each Board Member to understand the report and take it through their own organisational governing bodies as appropriate.

It was noted that the consultation 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' would remove some of the prescription around safeguarding structures and allow local authorities more local discretion, but it was essential that the Board, in focusing on the next stages, be clear of its own strengths and weaknesses. This report would aid that process.

8 TROUBLED FAMILIES UPDATE

Jay Mercer circulated a booklet that had been published to explain the background to the Troubled Families Programme in Barnet and the models being used. Referral guidance, information leaflets for agencies and practitioner guides had also been prepared.

Although the Troubled Families Unit had been unable to accede to Barnet's request for further funding up front, the scheme was being fast tracked so the first 705 families would be supported over two years and not three. He further reported that a database was being procured for Early Intervention work, and that Barnet was seen as a national leader in the field by Central Government and was featuring in case studies.

He reported that he and Angela Trigg had identified the need for better secondary school data and exploring how that could be provided.

ACTION: Jay Mercer/Angela Trigg

The update was noted and welcomed.

9 HOME LEARNING ENVIRONMENT – RESEARCH PROJECT- PRELIMINARY REPORT

Cynthia Folarin presented the findings of initial research that suggested the home learning environment of pre-school children was a major determinant of both educational attainment and health outcomes. She reported that while nine families had been interviewed, she sought suggestions on how further families in deprived areas might be approached individually to participate.

The Public Health team were advised to approach Karin Ridout (Family Focus Team Manager) to identify families identified as at risk.

Angela Trigg highlighted the links with the Parent Support Advisers who were funded to work in deprived communities under the Excellence in Clusters

programme. Other leads included Children's Centres for early years settings and primary schools that had Children's Centres linked to them.

ACTION: Dr Andrew Burnett/Cynthia Folarin

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

6 December 2012 at 2.00pm at the Town Hall, Hendon NW4 4BG.