

MEETING:

Barnet Partnership Board

DATE:

18 November 2013

REPORT OF:

Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Families

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To update the Barnet Partnership Board (BPB) on the outcomes of the Children's Trust Board (CTB) held on 24 October 2013.

INPUT REQUESTED FROM BARNET PARTNERSHIP BOARD:

- To endorse the outcomes of the Children's Trust Board and its agenda items.
- To reinforce the importance of partners providing timely performance information to enable progress in the achievement of the Children & Young People's Plan to be tracked and for any emerging performance issues to be swiftly identified.

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Detail:

The Children's Trust Board (CTB) provides inter-agency governance to ensure that partners in Barnet are working effectively together to improve the wellbeing of children and young people. This paper provides an update on the outcomes from the CTB meeting held on 24 October 2013.

I. Mid-Year Performance Report of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP)

Mid-year progress of the CYPP is measured against the seven strands of the plan; Early Years; Primary; Secondary; Preparation for Adulthood; Early Intervention and Prevention; Targeting of Resources to Narrow the Gap; and Keeping Children and Young People Safe.

The CTB was advised that it had not been possible to collect data from partners in some instances as the indicators previously agreed were no longer monitored. It was agreed that partner agencies would identify alternative or amended indicators that can be used to track achievement of the CYPP. Some of

these changes will also need to feed into other boards, most notably in monitoring of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

II. 2014/15 Budget Proposals and Longer-term Financial Challenges:

The CTB was advised that the Council needs to make savings of c.£19million in 2014/15, and further savings of in c.£20million in 2015/16, with planned austerity until the end of the decade. The CTB was advised that the Council had forecast a budget gap in the period 2016-2020 of approximately £70million. In context of the financial constraints, the CTB commented on the need to deliver services through greater efficiencies where possible.

III. Early Years:

An internal review on early years is currently being undertaken – led by the Council but working with partners - with the aim of improving provision across the borough. This review brings together a number of strands of work including the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, the increase in provision of 2-year old places within the borough and the review of health visiting.

The CTB were advised that Phase One of the review is now complete the emerging findings of the review had led to a range of recommendations that can be summarised as follows:

- Create a more joined-up Barnet early years system to identify vulnerable families early and co-ordinate support for them. In particular, a more integrated delivery approach for children's centres and health visitors, along with other health professionals.
- An improved family approach with higher risk adult groups – mental health, drugs, alcohol and domestic violence.
- Simplifying the system for parents and partners.
- Consolidation of support for early years settings.
- A further shift in the balance from universal to targeted services.
- Market development activity in growth areas to ensure there is appropriate and sufficient childcare across Barnet.

IV. Increasing Participation and Addressing Youth Unemployment, Learning Lessons and Next Steps:

In developing Barnet's Education Strategy, the CTB identified a need to broaden the range of opportunities available to ensure that all of Barnet's young people successfully transition into adulthood and are equipped to become economically independent. Whilst a high proportion of young people in Barnet stay on at school to continue their studies and a higher proportion go on to university compared with elsewhere, there is a continued need to improve the opportunities available to ensure that all young people actively participate in employment, education and/or work related training.

Ensuring young people are ready to access the world of work and that they acquire the right skills and expertise is also crucial to Barnet's plans to grow. Schools and colleges now have the responsibility for delivering careers guidance, sharpening the focus on the future employability of students as they go through their school and college career.

The CTB was asked to:

- Note the progress made and lessons learnt
- Note the partnership working group and encourage attendance from their organisation
- Identify opportunities within their organisations to increase work-based opportunities for young people
- Identify opportunities for improving the co-ordination of opportunities and sharing experiences within the borough.

<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s11270/Increasing%20participation.pdf>

V. Annual Report of the Barnet Children's Safeguarding Board (BSCB)

Safeguarding remains a key priority of the CTB. The annual report of the BSCB was presented and noted by the Board;

http://www.barnetscb.org/downloads/download/59/annual_report_2012-2013

The priorities for the BSCB remain similar to those of last year and reflect the Board's Work Plan 2012/14 agreed in 2012. Additional focus has been made on issues of neglect, child sexual exploitation and reviewing safety policies.

In May 2013 the BSCB held a planning day with a focus on the learning from the SCIE Case Reviews which had been completed and reviewing our existing Work Plan priorities.

The consensus from the day taken in conjunction with significant feedback from multi agency "Learning Events", with frontline staff which had been carried out through the year resulted in an agreed focus on the priorities below and with a strong emphasis on the fundamental role that the MASH will play in continuing to develop both the culture and operational practice across the partnership in Barnet;

- Quality Assurance, Challenge and Scrutiny - To further develop scrutiny of BSCB in monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of safeguarding activity across the partnership through a combination of S11 and multi-agency audit together with shared performance information, so that children & young

people in Barnet are safe from abuse neglect, violence and sexual exploitation

- Risk Assessment, Information Sharing and Partnership Work - Seek to develop Tools/Protocols to promote improved information sharing, risk assessment and partnership working, including support for development of MASH
- Young People at risk through peer violence and exploitation - To focus on peer to peer violence including Gangs/Sexual exploitation/ Anti Bullying/e safety
- Neglect/ Early Intervention - Promoting and evaluating a model of early help for children and families which reduces demand and cost as part of the Munro Demonstrator pilot with a particular focus on issues of neglect.
- Learning and Development - To strengthen the BSCB role in promoting learning and development across the partnership.