

**BARNET CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6 DECEMBER 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
Vivienne Stimpson	Head of Children's Commissioning, NHS/LBB
Denise Murphy	Interim Chief Executive, Community Barnet
Jack Newton	Head Teacher, Grasvenor Avenue Infants School

**OFFICERS PRESENT:**

Sharon Scott	Interim Assistant Director, Partnerships and Transformation
Heather Storey	Strategy and Projects Team, Children's Service
Elaine Runswick	14-19 Lead, Children's Service
Helen White	14-19 Team, Children's Service
Gail Jackson	Strategy and Projects Team, Children's Service
Andrew Nathan	Strategic Policy Adviser

**APOLOGIES-** Angela Trigg (Principal, London Academy), Jenny Gridley (Head Teacher, Oakleigh School), Clare Stephens (Clinical Commissioning Group), Ch Supt Adrian Usher (Metropolitan Police), Jay Mercer (Deputy Director of Children's Service), Tim Beach (Chair of Barnet Safeguarding Children Board), Janet Matthewson (Community Barnet).

**1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the Board held on 13 September 2012 were agreed as a correct record.

**3 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PLAN 2013-2016 (DRAFT)**

The Board considered a first draft of the new Children and Young People Plan, and Sharon Scott and Heather Storey attended to explain how the consultation and engagement programme to date had shaped a suggested

plan, which was based around a child's journey towards adulthood, and the key transition points in their life where the correct support was required.

They requested feedback on proposals for presenting the plan, and confirmation that the right agencies had been identified in the table setting out possible priorities and the lead agencies responsible.

The view of the Board was that the first draft set the correct direction and provided a good basis on which to develop the next stage, of ensuring it read across to, and was reflected in, each organisation's own budgets and business plans.

Given that a number of key partners were absent, Councillor Harper would write individually to all partners specifically asking them to commit to the actions assigned to their agencies, and to work them into their own business planning documents. This was required urgently as Executive Management Group would be considering the resourcing implications of the plan the following week.

**ACTION: Sharon Scott/Heather Storey**

In response to a question from Councillor Hart, the officers confirmed they had attended a recent meeting of the Clinical Commissioning Group to help bring them up to speed with the importance of the Plan.

The Board endorsed the decision to prepare a separate Child Poverty Plan rather than try and embed it within the Plan, and highlighted the links between welfare reform and the importance of ensuring families being supported through the Troubled Families scheme were not being disadvantaged in other ways.

The challenge of raising the profile of the role of the Children's trust Board and the Plan was recognised. It was agreed that as a starting point Councillor Harper should author a foreword to the Plan, highlighting examples where young people had brought issues to the forefront of the Board's work, and that the Barnet Youth Board be asked for advice on preparing a child friendly version.

**ACTION: Sharon Scott/Heather Storey**

In conclusion the Board endorsed the work to date and thanked both officers and partners for their contribution, and agreed that the Chairman seek the explicit agreement of all partners to the actions assigned to them.

#### **4 16-19 POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT**

Elaine Runswick presented a report which gave the Board an overview of the current policy environment and the range of current activity in Barnet to effectively respond to the new requirements on local authorities and meet the needs of learners. She highlighted that these new responsibilities were about partnerships and influencing and shaping the curriculum, and that there was a

diverse picture of provision with the growth of free schools and academies and new vocational routes such as 'studio schools'.

The 14-19 team had responded to the raising of the Participation Age and particular attention had been paid to broadening the curriculum offer for those who may find it more difficult to progress to further education and training. They had also supported schools in taking on their new responsibilities for careers advice and guidance.

It was noted that improving the support for care leavers in their attainment was currently a priority focus, particularly as the Council was below target on GCSE attainment for Looked After Children.

Elaine Runswick was invited to outline some of the challenges ahead that the Board could support her with. These included identifying accommodation for the studio school; working with Community Barnet to maximise the opportunities of education programmes in the voluntary and community sector such as supplementary schools; and joint working between schools, colleges and parents to ensure people made the right choices at 16 and that there were equally valid alternatives to A levels including apprenticeships which provided a direct route into a variety of professions.

It was agreed that providing support to schools to help them with their new careers function- for example accreditation for Quality Standards- should be explored as a potential traded service and brought back to a future meeting as appropriate.

**ACTION: Elaine Runswick**

## **5 PLATFORMS PROGRAMME**

Elaine Runswick and Helen White delivered a presentation on the 'Platforms' programme, in which the Council and partners had invested significantly to deliver a series of initiatives to address youth unemployment in Barnet and support young people aged 16 to 24 into employment and further training.

They highlighted how young people had helped shape the programme, including its name, and some of the key projects involving a wide variety of partners. These included apprenticeships such as an Apprenticeship Training Agency; employability support for people with learning and other disabilities; employability support for both graduates and non graduates; and enterprise support. Most of the schemes had successfully gained momentum although progress with some such as enterprise support had been slower.

The Board were concerned that the scheme was sustainable and that programmes would be mainstreamed after the initial investment had expired. Elaine Runswick reported that future funding was being reviewed in the New Year. There was an opportunity to bid for funds from the City of London Corporation while some programmes would in future be supported from mainstream funding.

It was noted that an evaluation report was being prepared which would return to the Board in March or June 2013.

**ACTION: Elaine Runswick**

## **6 EXAM RESULTS IN BARNET AND NARROWING THE GAP**

Kate Kennally introduced a detailed report which analysed the exam results of Barnet's schools in 2012 across all the Key Stages, and action being undertaken to improve results further, with a particular focus on progress made against the Children's Trust Board key strategic objective of Narrowing the Gap for children at risk of not achieving their potential.

She reported that the Education Strategy Board had confirmed the importance of monitoring and challenge with Academies to continue to drive up standards.

There was a discussion on how the Pupil Premium was being used within Barnet and Jack Newton explained how it was being spent in his school. It was agreed that best practice should be shared, including the opportunities for partnership working across schools, but that a single approach to deploying the premium was not suitable for a school population as diverse as that in Barnet. Councillor Harper and Kate Kennally confirmed that this reflected the emerging direction of the Education Strategy.

The relatively high levels of pupils with some Special Educational Need but not statemented was noted, and Sharon Scott reported that this was due to schools managing needs to a level where formal statementing was not required.

The Board noted the report.

## **7 TROUBLED FAMILIES UPDATE**

The Board noted a standing report on progress with expanding the Troubled Families Programme. They welcomed the way in which this was being rolled out at an accelerated pace by the team led by Stuart Collins and by partners, and was ready delivering improved outcomes. In particular work with schools to provide better absence data had been very useful.

## **8 REPORT OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S HEALTH OUTCOMES FORUM: IMPLICATIONS FOR BARNET**

Vivienne Stimpson introduced a report which set out the findings of the Children and Young Peoples Health Outcomes Forum commissioned by the Department of Health. Although the Government had yet to formally respond to the recommendations her report identified some of the implications for Barnet and current good practice locally.

In discussion, it was agreed that the findings of the Forum were generally well reflected in the themes of the Health Well Being Strategy. The engagement of the Clinical Commissioning Group would be critical and they should be encouraged to have regard to this document in developing their Commissioning Strategic Plan.

The Board endorsed the recommendations in the report and agreed that Vivienne Stimpson, Dr Andrew Howe and Dr Clare Stephens collaborate on a more detailed report to the next Children's Trust Board on how the Board can best deliver better child health outcomes, which would include recommendations around governance and resource planning (including Section 75 Agreements).

**ACTION: Vivienne Stimpson/Dr Clare Stephens/Dr Andrew Howe**

In the context of the recommendations on the health of Looked After Children, Councillor Hart reported that Barnet and Chase Farm Hospital had now identified a Doctor and a nurse with this designated responsibility, which was welcomed by the Board.

Kate Kennally asked that Officers ensure the procurement of a Barnet Healthwatch reflect the recommendation to engage children and young people in discussion on their issues.

**ACTION: Vivienne Stimpson/Andrew Nathan**

## **9 BARNET YOUNG CARERS- 2012/15 PLAN AND MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)**

Councillor Harper introduced this item by reminding the Board that it stemmed directly from a very inspiring presentation given by a young carer at the Children's Trust Board last year.

Gail Jackson reported that the Barnet Young Carers and Siblings Project had assisted adult, children's and drug and alcohol services in the development of this Plan. The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding was to ensure services for both adults and children were working closer together to ensure they had the full picture and alerted each other of relevant considerations.

It was agreed that Councillor Harper, as Chairman of the Children's Trust Board, sign the MoU to give it added weight as a partnership document.

Kate Kennally reported that the Council, via the 'pledgebank' area of its website, was seeking volunteers to purchase Christmas presents for young carers and encouraged interested partners to donate.

**ACTION; All partners**

## **10 FUTURE WORK PLAN**

The Board considered the work plan for future meetings.

Items on the approval of the Children and Young People Plan, Platforms and health outcomes as identified during the meeting would be added to the March 2013 agenda. It was agreed that the presentation should be from Barnet and Southgate College students, and that the presentation by the Young Parents Group be held over to the June 2013 meeting.

**ACTION; Andrew Nathan**

It was provisionally agreed that students at the 'Virtual School' be invited to present to the September 2013 Board, but Jack Newton would monitor progress on their readiness to do this and keep the Board informed.

**ACTION; Jack Newton**

It was agreed that the offer of an OFSTED lead with expertise in Education and Schools be welcomed, but that it be held over to the June meeting to allow consideration alongside the Education Strategy.

**ACTION: Heather Storey**

## **11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

14 March 2013 at 2.00pm at the Town Hall, Hendon NW4 4BG.

The meeting ended at 4.15pm.