

**SLOUGH CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD - Meeting held on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2009 at Connexions, High Street, Slough.**

**Present:-**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Clair Pyper (Chair)	Strategic Director of Education and Children's Services, SBC
Nadiya Ashraf	Berkshire East PCT
Jean Cameron*	Sure-Start, SBC
Hilda Clarke	Slough Secondary Heads
Robin Crofts	Assistant Director, Inclusion, SBC
Jesal Dhokia	Slough Council for Voluntary Service
Laura Eades	Independent Chair, Slough Local Safeguarding Children Board
Janine Edwards	Homestart Slough/SCVS
Kate Ford	Thames Valley Police
Aman Gill*	Performance and Information Manager, SBC
Kevin Gordon*	Assistant Director, Transformational Change, Improvement & Development, SBC
Leigh Gravenor*	Project Officer, Local Strategic Partnership
Jacqueline Laver	Slough Primary Heads
Pat Leroy	Reviewing Service Manager, SBC
Jessi Loftus	Connexions Berkshire
Karen Proctor	Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Trust
Nicky Rayner	Assistant Director, Children & Families, SBC
Mary Shannon	Interim Business Manager CT/LSCB
Jane Weller	Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service
David White	Learning and Skills Council

\*Visitors

**Apologies for Absence:-** Bill Alexander, Rafiq Chohan, Councillor Suki Dhaliwal, Alison Hibbert, Katherine Horler, Bob Jones, Trevor Keable, Rebecca Lacey, Annal Nayyar, Jean Robertson, Shereen Sameresinghe, Sarah Willcocks and Viki Wadd.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Main Points/Action Arising</b>	<b>Action By</b>
<b>1. Outcomes from Children's Trust Away Day</b>	Clair Pyper (CP) presented a brief overview of the outcomes of the CT Away Day held on 31 <sup>st</sup> March, 2009. She undertook to circulate a written resume of the outcomes to all Board members along with a series of questions for Members to respond to, with replies to be forwarded to Mary Shannon (MS). A copy of the outcomes also to be forwarded to the Shadow CT Board.	Clair Pyper/ Mary Shannon

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	Particular reference was made to the issue of engagement of CT members in the five Outcome Plans and whether there was a requirement for attendance at meetings or not. This was an issue that would need to be returned to through feedback from CT members.	Clair Pyper
<b>2. Feedback from Executive Board</b>		
	Outcomes noted and to be followed up.	Clair Pyper/ Mary Shannon
<b>3. Exception Reports from Outcome Leads</b>		
	<b><u>Enjoy and Achieve</u></b>	
	The identified problem with primary school attendance had been flagged up as a major issue of concern and whilst actions were required by the Attendance Team, the view of the Board was that all agencies have a role in ensuring that both parents and children were aware of the importance of school attendance. Forcing home this message has to be a multi-agency approach.	
	All agencies were asked to feed back their comments and suggestions in respect of attendance at both primary and secondary school to Bill Alexander.	All agencies to action
	Kate Ford commented that she had recently met Education Managers to discuss the police role in supporting home visits/enforcement of school attendance and it was noted that this was a good example of joint working between agencies.	
	This issue highlighted the importance of accurate and timely performance data being presented to the Trust.	
	Hilda Clarke and Jackie Laver undertook to take the issue back to their relevant Heads' meetings. Report back on progress to the next meeting.	Hilda Clarke/ Jackie Laver Mary Shannon – next agenda
	With regard to reducing the number of primary schools that are below floor targets, update to be presented to the next meeting.	Bill Alexander Mary Shannon – next agenda
	<b><u>Making a Positive Contribution</u></b>	
	Robin Crofts reported on key successes and current challenges. The successes over the last year included the re-offending rates amongst young people; the number of first timers in the youth justice system; and the number of young	

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	people participating in positive activity. Whilst all of these figures had shown significant advances, there was still much work to be done.	
	The current challenges included the rate of recidivism – reduction on previous year which showed an increase of 7.4%; the proportion of supervised juveniles in full time education, training and employment; and the percentage of looked after children over 10 years looked after continuously for at least 12 months, who were given a final warning/reprimand or convicted during the year. He commented that the position was being closely scrutinised and would continue to be reported as necessary.	Robin Crofts
	NR commented that the LAC data did not appear to be appropriate for reporting in this context and she would undertake some work to bring back to the next meeting.	Nicky Rayner
	JL commented that there was a trend for offenders to be younger than had been the case in the past. She had a concern that some of the programmes designed for older offenders were not appropriate for the younger ones and that separate programmes needed to be designed for them or they could prove counterproductive. RC to discuss with Shelley LaRose.	Robin Crofts
	<b><u>Economic Wellbeing</u></b>	
	The increase in unemployment amongst 16-25 year olds was the major concern and CP was setting up a meeting to consider what was already being done and what further could be undertaken to tackle the issue. This age group contained the largest proportion of unemployed in the population.	
	Reference was made to the availability of places in colleges and other institutions for those not in employment and whether it would be appropriate to bid for additional resources to make further places available.	Bill Alexander
	<b><u>Safeguarding</u></b>	
	NR presented her update report, noting that the increase in high need referrals and children and young people with protection plans was being discussed separately later on the agenda.	
	All of the other key issues were being progressed as appropriate. With regard to the number of planned annual reports to the Board now (over)due, NR would discuss with CP and report back with a proposal.	Nicky Rayner/ Clair Pyper

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	<b><u>Be Healthy</u></b>	
	A report to be presented at the next meeting.	Viki Wadd
<b>4.</b>	<b>Reports on Key Areas</b>	
	<b><u>Integrated Working</u></b>	
	HC reported on the key issues. With regard to eCAF, she stressed that an impetus was needed from all partner agencies to ensure that the eCAF was rolled out. Robin Crofts undertook to take the issue back to Sally Grimstone.	Robin Crofts/All Agencies
	Particular reference was made to the issue of GPs and the problem with confidentiality issues. The PCT was key in overcoming this difficulty. The non-participation of GPs was causing particular difficulties in launching the CAMHS hub as some 80% of referrals to CAMHS were via GPs. Following discussion, it was agreed that Nadiya Ashraf would discuss the issue with RC and take the matter back to the PCT with a view to overcoming the problem.	Nadiya Ashraf
	Importance of CAMHS representation on the Integrated Working Sub-Group was noted.	Hilda Clarke Robin Crofts to action
	CP gave young people's feedback, including a proposal that the name of the CAMHS should be changed as it had negative associations for young people.	Robin Crofts to action
	<b><u>Commissioning for Children and Young People's Plan Priorities 2009/10</u></b>	
	CP presented a paper setting out the Trust's priorities for 2009/10 including details of where the Trust had performed well in 2008/09, areas identified for improvement in 2009/10 and actions to ensure that the Trust had agreed and was achieving the agreed priorities. This would be through needs analysis (JSNA and other relevant data); performance data; and in fact all areas for improvement were built into Outcomes Plans and monitored by the Trust. Delivery would be via a number of routes including local delivery through children's centres, extended schools and the youth offer – multi-agency working, Borough-wide delivery specified targeted services; and commissioning of services through statutory and voluntary sectors to meet identified needs. Scrutiny of the services would be through Ofsted inspections (including unannounced safeguarding inspections); the new Comprehensive Area Assessment framework; Member overview through the Council's Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel, the Cabinet and Council; and the	

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monitoring of performance by both the Trust and the LSCB.	Services would be commissioned to deliver the outcomes detailed in the five Outcomes Plans together with any new outcomes agreed. Services would be decommissioned if they were not delivering services which met those objectives and/or did not meet the quality standards required of them.	
The themes under which the services would be commissioned were:-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parenting</li><li>• Safeguarding</li><li>• Narrowing the Gap</li><li>• Healthy Children</li><li>• Services for Disabled Children</li><li>• The Youth Offer</li><li>• Workforce.</li></ul>	
The following decisions were requested of the Board –	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Were there any further achievements for 2008/09 to add?</li><li>2. Were there any further priorities for improvement in 2009/11?</li><li>3. What other themes needed to be added to the commissioning strategy?</li><li>4. What were the priorities from the themes listed for commissioning?</li></ol>	
CP undertook to indicate in the revised document those targets which were new.		Clair Pyper
Agreed that responses to questions 1 and 2 above be forwarded by email by partners as quickly as possible.		All to action
Jean Cameron outlined the current position in respect of the work being undertaken by the Commissioning Group and outlined the milestones for the commissioning of children's services. The milestones were extremely ambitious given that a considerable amount of work was still required.		
NR was concerned that the Board was still not receiving all of the detailed information it required in order for it to be able to take informed decisions about needs in the town. KG commented that his team was looking at how the appropriate information could be fed into the Trust. CP commented that the organisations represented on the Board had the required data within their organisations and it was essential that partners provided it so that informed decisions could be taken.		All partners

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	<p>In respect of the list of themes under which services would be commissioned, it was agreed that the heading "Services for Disabled Children" be amended to read "Children with Complex Needs". It was agreed that it was important that all commissioning work was listed, not only that for which the Commissioning Group was responsible, so that the full picture could be drawn up for the Board of all of the activity taking place to meet the identified key themes.</p> <p>This should include short-term funding where the funding source will run out in the future.</p>	Jean Cameron
	<p>RC suggested that it may be helpful to list "sub themes" under the key theme headings and it was agreed that JC would liaise with KG's area with a view to mapping all of the work already being carried out across the town.</p>	Jean Cameron/ Kevin Gordon
	<p>Agreed that JC along with CP and the Outcomes Leads undertake work on what should be listed under each theme then report back to the Board on what the next stage of the work should be.</p>	Jean Cameron/ Clair Pyper/ Outcomes Leads
	<p>All partners to feed back any achievements/areas for improvement not listed as well as other information about work being undertaken for inclusion in the document.</p>	All to action
	<p>Child poverty to be included within the "narrowing the gap" theme.</p>	Clair Pyper

### **Rise in Child Protection Numbers**

NR and PLR made a presentation setting out the recent steep rise in the number of children subject to a child protection plan, which currently stood at 151, plus an additional 16 which may be added within the next couple of weeks. Every month since July 2008 has seen a net rise in children subject to a CPP. Work had taken place to challenge the inclusion of new cases but this had shown that no inappropriate inclusion was taking place. A particular reference was also made to the tightening up of the holding of Initial CP Conferences within 15 working days of Section 47 initiation. This had meant that partners were not now getting the amount of notice they previously had in respect of attendance at conferences.

The current position was an extremely serious resourcing issue for the Borough Council and was leading to a great deal of stress for the social work staff, many of whom had caseloads far above the recommendations of Lord Laming. The current position was being managed safely but was extremely fragile. It was important that the Board considered

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<p>the position as a partnership issue as all agencies had a role in managing the current difficult situation, and partners in social care, health, police and schools were experiencing pressures on their staff in conference attendance, review meetings and submitting reports.</p>	<p>PLR commented that some 45 conferences were now being held a month with approximately 30% being inquorate. There was also difficulty in obtaining the necessary reports from partners, including the health authorities which had led to the cancellation of some conferences. There had also been a drop in attendance by health partners. Reference was also made to an understanding that the police were considering dropping out of those conferences where they had had no initial involvement.</p>	
	<p>Kate Ford undertook to check the position and report back.</p>	<p>Kate Ford</p>
<p>CP stressed the importance of considering this situation as a Board given the absolute necessity of working safely with these young people. The Borough Council was aware that it was struggling to undertake the necessary work safely and other partners were similarly struggling to meet the need. Other problems included the 50% vacancy rate amongst health visitors and shortages in midwifery.</p>	<p>JL expressed concern that there were delays in the process whereby, once a CPP was in place, referrals to other agencies could slow the whole process up because of a lack of adequate response, e.g. Adult Mental Health Services, DAAT.</p>	<p>All agencies to action</p>
<p>CP commented that NR's report showed clearly the rise that was impacting upon all agencies in the town and it was essential that all partners fed back to their own organisations so that they understood what was happening. All agencies must ensure that they gave priority to attending conferences and producing the required reports given the intense pressures already on social work staff. It was important to identify those services where a "block" was being caused in efficiently managing the process.</p>	<p>It was also noted that some of the key indicators in this area would be affected because of the sharp rise in referrals. KG undertook to report on the situation to the LSP and to consider including a system whereby the LSP was alerted every time a target was missed.</p>	<p>Kevin Gordon</p>
<p>CP requested that situation should be reported to all partners' Board meetings as an emergency item.</p>	<p>All partners to action</p>	

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<b>5. Items for Update and Information</b>		
	<b><u>Compact, Commissioning and Champions</u></b>	
	Agreed to defer this item due to the absence of Sarah Willcocks. Mary Shannon to agenda for next CT meeting.	Mary Shannon
	<b><u>Feedback from Shadow CT Board</u></b>	
	Outcomes Leads to take away the information contained within the report.	Outcomes Leads
	<b><u>Performance and Data</u></b>	
	Aman Gill and Kevin Gordon updated the Board on performance exceptions. The figure for NI 70 (hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children and young people) was still showing as well above the national average although it had improved and it was important that this was followed up. PCT and Acute Trust colleagues to ask for information about what work has been undertaken to understand the performance data and address the potential problems.	Clair Pyper  All NHS Partners
<b>6. Minutes</b>		
	The minutes of the last meeting of the Board held on 24 <sup>th</sup> March, 2009 approved as a correct record.	

(The meeting opened at 11.00 a.m. closed at 1.00 p.m.)