

**SLOUGH CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD - Meeting held on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> July, 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
Bill Alexander	Assistant Director, Raising Achievement, SBC
Nadiya Ashraf	Berkshire East PCT
Jean Cameron*	Sure-Start, SBC
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
Leigh Gravenor*	Project Officer, Local Strategic Partnership
Sally Grimstone*	Head of Psychology and Inclusion, SBC
Trevor Keable	Berkshire East PCT
Rebecca Lacey	Berkshire East PCT Community Health Service
Shelley LaRose*	Slough Youth Offending Team
Jacqueline Laver	Slough Primary Heads
Jessi Loftus	Connexions Berkshire
Karen Proctor	Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Trust
Nicky Rayner	Assistant Director, Children & Families, SBC
Jean Robertson	East Berkshire College
Mary Shannon	Business Manager CT/LSCB
Rachel Sheean*	Assistant Team Manager, Safeguarding, SBC
Sandra Storey	Performance and Projects Manager, SBC
Sarah Willcocks	Slough Council for Voluntary Service

\*Visitors

**Apologies for Absence:-** Rafiq Chohan, Kate Ford, Bob Jones, Councillor Patricia O'Connor, Shereen Sameresinghe and Jane Weller.

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**1. Chair's Opening Comments**

Clair Pyper (CP) updated the meeting on a number of issues as follows:-

Swine Flu – Alongside the authority's ongoing workload, considerable effort was being put into preparing contingency plans for a major swine flu epidemic to ensure that the Council's emergency planning processes were up to speed if further waves of the infection occurred later in the year. Efforts were being concentrated on business continuity planning in the event of a large number of staff becoming infected. One Children's Centre had been closed for several days.

Trevor Keable commented that the swine flu epidemic was having a significant impact on the PCT, with costs running at

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	<p>about £1m to date. As PCTs were required to operate within budget, it would be necessary to review all budgets looking for corresponding savings. Whilst the government may provide additional funding, East Berkshire had been particularly hard hit by swine flu and the situation would be reviewed in the autumn.</p> <p>Economic Situation – There was a significant increase in the number of unemployed people in Slough, particularly amongst the young and this would need to be closely monitored. In addition, it was likely that the government's funding would reduce in the future.</p> <p>Education White Paper – CP referred to the recent publication of the White Paper "Your Child, Our Schools, Our Future" which had considerable implications for Education and Children's Services, particularly in the context of schools within their communities.</p> <p>Statutory Guidance – The Roles and Responsibilities of the Lead Members of Children's Services and Directors of Children's Services – CP advised that this statutory guidance was about to be published and would be significant for Children's Trusts.</p> <p>Lead Member for Education &amp; Children's Services – CP advised that Councillor Patricia O'Connor was unwell and had therefore been unable to attend this and the last meeting of the Board.</p> <p>Agenda Papers – Some comments had been received about the quantity of papers circulated for Board meetings. CP advised that, whilst she felt that there was a need for Board Members to be fully informed, she would discuss with MS how to make the papers more manageable and would also look at the number of emails being sent to Board members.</p>	<p>Trevor Keable to report further in September</p>
<b>2. Feedback from Executive Board</b>	<p>Outcomes noted and to be followed up.</p>	<p>All to note</p>
<b>3. Presentation on the Comprehensive Area Assessment</b>	<p>CP made a presentation to the Board on the key characteristics of the new CAA which replaced the former Comprehensive Performance Assessment. It aimed to assess what made a real difference to local people; how public services worked together, as well as individual organisational performance; it focused on local as well as national priorities; it provided robust, but</p>	<p>Clair Pyper/ Mary Shannon to review</p> <p>All Board Members to review required actions and follow up</p>

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	<p>proportionate assessment of local services; and it would report its assessments directly to the public in straightforward language. It would look at how well local priorities expressed community needs and aspirations, how well the outcomes and improvements needed were being delivered and what were the prospects for improvement.</p>	
	<p>The CAA would be looking for evidence that the actions within the outcomes plans were linked to the priorities identified within the Local Area Agreement; how the authority and its partners were delivering on these outcomes and a demonstration that partnership working was more beneficial to the town and its population than would be the case if agencies worked in isolation. It was also noted that the views of the public would have more influence than had been the case under the previous arrangements which could prove challenging given that evidence of what people thought of the services provided was not readily accessible.</p>	All to note
<b>3.</b>	<b>Update of Outcomes Plans from Outcomes Leads</b>	
	<p>The Outcomes Plans were absolutely critical to the ability to deliver on the Trust's priorities and would form part of what the Audit Commission inspectors looked at under the CAA. The Executive had met to review the Plans and had taken the view that there was a need for major revision. The Leads would review the actions in their Outcomes Plans to incorporate the C&amp;YPP aims, outputs from the Awayday and LSP/LAA targets. The Plans at present comprised a long "wish list" with too many actions and they needed to be presented in a way that could be continually updated and used to drive the main priorities of the Trust. Outcomes Leads would not hold regular meetings but may possibly need one meeting for each group to initiate the next stage of developing the Outcomes Plans. CP suggested that she and MS work through the Plans and pull out the key strategic issues, outcomes from the Awayday, etc. and produce briefer documents explaining the targets more clearly and tying them into real actions against those targets so that there was a better focus. The aim would be to amend the Plans over the summer and then bring them to the Awayday on 15<sup>th</sup> September for discussion.</p>	
	<p>The Outcomes Leads' comments included an agreement that the plans were not currently sufficiently strategic; the importance of resource allocation against actions; a need to focus on the "red flags"; and agreement to simplify the structure of the outcomes areas.</p>	
	<p>LE referred to the vulnerability of children subject to Child Protection Plans which was a huge issue for Slough and asked</p>	

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	<p>whether the Plans would address the issue and the resources required. All Leads needed to be conscious that the Plans should address this critical issue.</p> <p>The following updates were submitted by Outcomes Leads:-</p> <p>BA reported that early data on performance at Key Stage 2 was being received which seemed to indicate a similar performance to the previous year. However, there was concern that we may continue to have a widening gap due to the exceptionally good results at the top. He expressed concern that there was a fundamental flaw in "narrowing the gap" in that the national picture gave a far better indicator than the Slough position. This would be discussed through the heads and Raising Achievement team.</p> <p>NR reported that she had met KF in respect of missing children and was developing an action plan. This had resource implications which were being considered.</p> <p>RC referred to the increase in the number of children at risk due to the economic downturn and to a bid made for supplementary funding for Haybrook College which would enable further post-16 provision to be developed. If successful, this should kick start additional provision for young people at risk of offending, etc.</p> <p>NA reported on projects under the health and well-being stream including the obesity and healthy eating strategy.</p> <p>CP reported on behalf of RfC that the number of unemployed young people was increasing rapidly, especially the over 18s. All agencies needed to think what they could do to help equip these young people for employment when the situation improved. CP undertook to follow up the work on 16-25 year old unemployment and report back.</p> <p>The strategy for updating the Outcomes Plans was agreed.</p>	<p>All Leads</p> <p>Bill Alexander</p> <p>Clair Pyper/ Rafiq Chohan</p> <p>Clair Pyper Mary Shannon to action</p>
<b>4. Performance Report</b>	<p>CP referred to the Ofsted profiles circulated with the agenda but asked partners not to distribute them any further until the final profiles were agreed to be correct.</p> <p>The key indicators and measures to support the Trust in improving the wellbeing of children and young people in Slough were considered.</p>	<p>All to note</p>

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	<p>The take-up of school lunches had increased by 6.5% at secondary level but there were still a large number of parents who chose to send their children to school with packed lunches. CT Board members took the view that whilst the target was important, it was also essential that parents were educated wherever possible on healthy eating for their children.</p> <p>The percentage of initial assessments carried out within seven working days of referral had deteriorated on the previous year due primarily to the large increase in numbers but was satisfactory when benchmarked nationally. NR reported that outcomes from Ofsted inspections had led to the need for a change in the entry of information about initial assessments.</p> <p>In respect of the proportion of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training, the outturn figure for 2008/09 of 5.8% had increased in June to 6.3% but this needed to be measured against a national figure of 10% and figures for Reading and Bracknell Forest of 10% and 8.3% respectively.</p>	All partners
	<p>Agreed that additional benchmarking data in the summary page would be extremely useful to put the information into context.</p>	Sandra Storey
	<p>JR expressed concern that some of the data shown in the document related to 2005/06 as she was certain that there was more up to date information now available.</p>	Sandra Storey to check and update
	<p>BA asked whether it would be possible to circulate the papers or have them on the website in a different format so that useful information could be more easily extracted, as the PDF format did not allow extraction of individual reports.</p>	MS/KFB to discuss
<b>5.</b>	<b>Performance and Data relating to Youth Offending Team/LAC Offenders</b>	Nicky Rayner/ Shelley LaRose
	<p>Shelley LaRose had joined the meeting for this item. She and NR submitted a briefing on the issue. Noted that there were only 5 looked after children who had been convicted of an offence and only one of them lived in Slough. There was a need to consider how Slough engaged with the YOTs in those areas and whether any sort of reciprocal arrangement in respect of their young people placed in Slough was possible. NR undertook to raise this as a national issue and Shelley would give the issue of those children placed outside of the Slough area further consideration.</p>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Rise in Child Protection Numbers</b>	
	<p>NR updated the Board on the current position with the number of children subject to CPPs now standing at around 160, an</p>	

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	<p>increase of 163% between April 2007 and April 2009. Referral rates had increased from all sources with particular increases in families referring their child protection concerns. This increase had placed enormous pressure on the local authority and the leadership had agreed to invest some additional resources in social workers. The police were also investing in additional staff in response to the increased work. Partner agencies were asked about the impact on their work.</p>	
	<p>RL reported that the PCT had a high level of health visitor vacancies with other authorities such as Hillingdon paying more and it was proving difficult to attract staff to work in Slough. Because of this, staff were being brought in from other parts of East Berkshire to plug the gaps. Not all CP conferences had the full range of attendees from all agencies. There was also concern that those children who did not have a child protection plan were vulnerable.</p>	
	<p>TK reported that GPs had expressed concern that they were not being invited to CP Conferences; also that the times were inconvenient for them and the meetings too long. There was a real concern about communication and whether, for example, GPs were receiving the minutes of conferences; and whether they fully understood their role in attending or supplying information for conferences.</p>	
	<p>NR undertook to look at this issue urgently.</p>	Nicky Rayner
	<p>LE commented that this was an issue of capacity and co-ordination for GPs and that capacity needed to be created within the Health Sector, possibly by developing the named GP role in this regard. RL undertook to consider this.</p>	Rebecca Lacey
	<p>KP reported on the position within the Acute Trust and the increase in training across the organisation. The increase in numbers was stretching capacity. NR would be placing two social workers in the hospital shortly.</p>	
	<p>JL reported that most schools felt that the school nurses' contribution at conferences was always very good. She was concerned however that where cases were being closed to make way for new ones, this was not always considered to be in the best interests of the child.</p>	
	<p>JL referred to a particular recent incident whereby all schools had been faxed with a list of children's names with a request that they indicate whether they knew the children in question.</p>	Nicky Rayner/ Bill Alexander to investigate urgently
	<p>The Voluntary Sector had also seen an increase in referrals.</p>	

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	CP commented that this issue needed to be one of the items focused on at the Awayday.	Clair Pyper/ Mary Shannon
	NR commented that all partners should approach her between meetings if any problems relating to child protection arose.	All partners to action
	Position to continue to be closely monitored through the LSP.	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Presentation - "Think Family"</b>	
	Sally Grimstone joined the meeting to make a presentation on this issue. Its aim was to improve outcomes for families with additional needs and its vision was for local systems and a workforce that can deliver services to meet the needs of all families.	
	The use of the CAF was critical in assessing family and individual need and SG commented that a Family CAF was being considered so that siblings were included.	
	RC reported that the authority was working with Haybrook College to take the 'Think Family' approach as many vulnerable young people would go through Haybrook or Littledown.	
	Agreed that this item be included in the agenda for the Awayday on 15 <sup>th</sup> September.	Clair Pyper/ Sally Grimstone Mary Shannon
<b>8.</b>	<b>Presentation – Slough Compact</b>	
	Sarah Willcocks presented to the meeting on the Slough Compact, an agreement for partnership working between central government and the voluntary and community sector. Its key principles were that a healthy voluntary sector was an essential part of the democratic society; partnership working between the LSP partners could result in better policies, services and outcomes for people; and partnership working required strong relationships. Local Compacts were local level agreements for partnership working at local level. She outlined the Slough Compact and the eight protocols drawn up in respect of accommodation and premises; partnership working; commissioning and procurement; volunteering; communication; community development; community engagement; and finance and funding.	
	A Procurement Officer had been appointed from 27 <sup>th</sup> July and would be working with the Council with a view to ensuring contracts were more workable for the voluntary sector.	

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<b>9. Commissioning Update</b>	<p>Jean Cameron updated the meeting on progress and sought the Board's approval in a number of areas.</p> <p>The funding for the post of Commissioning Co-ordinator had been approved.</p> <p>With regard to Children's Centre Forum Outcomes based on the Children's Trust commissioning priorities, Outcomes Leads to submit first tranche of commissioning proposals to the Commissioning Group with invitations to quote to be drawn up by 31<sup>st</sup> August. Agreed that service development proposals to be approved by week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> July.</p> <p>Approval given for Children's Trust Executive to agree further service development proposals as each tranche of funding is brought on board.</p> <p>Approval for Children's Trust Executive to agree to decommissioning of services receiving transitional funding.</p> <p>Approval given for proposal to launch commissioning procedures for discretionary funding only. To be reviewed every six months.</p> <p>RC commented that it was essential that this now moved forward quickly as there was a risk that money could be lost if substantial progress was not made.</p>	<p>Outcomes Leads</p> <p>Jean Cameron</p> <p>All to note</p>
<b>10. Vote of Thanks</b>	<p>CP reported that this was the last meeting of the Trust which would be attended by both Nicky Rayner and Laura Eades and she thanked them on behalf of the Board for their enormous contribution to its work and wished them the very best for the future.</p>	
<b>11. Minutes</b>	<p>The minutes of the last meeting of the Board held on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2009 were approved as a correct record.</p>	

(The meeting opened at 11.00 a.m. and closed at 1.12 p.m.)