



Agenda Item 2

Children and Young People's Trust Board 20th April, 2010 at 2.30 pm

Present:

Andrea Pope-Smith	Executive Director of Children & Young People's Services SMBC (Chair)
Councillor Ian Jones	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
Robert Bacon	Chief Executive Sandwell PCT
Laurie Dyer	Superintendent West Midlands Police
Dr John Middleton	Director of Public Health Sandwell PCT
Steve Clay	Chief Executive West Bromwich and District YMCA (VCS Executive Representative)
Dr Helen Grindulus	Divisional Director of Women's and Children's Health SWBHT
Malcolm Bailey	Representative Murray Hall (VCS Executive Representative)
John Garrett	Executive Director of Adult and Community Services SMBC

Apologies:

Allison Fraser	Chief Executive SMBC
Richard Taylor	Director of Services Sandwell Mental Health Trust
Nicola Myhill	Assistant Director for Children's Services – Barnardos (VCS Executive Representative)
Peter John	Director of Partnerships and Housing SMBC
Bev Hill	Chief Operating Officer – Sandwell Community Healthcare Services
Simon Lomas	District Manager West Midlands Probation Service
Joy Massey	Head of Partnering and Improvement SMBC

In Attendance:

Janine Brown	Joint Director of Partnership and Commissioning
Ian Cotterill	Programme Manager
Andy Ferguson	Director of Children's Social Care SMBC
Bob Griffiths	Service Manager SMBC
Paul Haden	Thematic Liaison Manager
Kashmir Singh	Principal Policy Officer SMBC
Gary Stevens	Audit Commission
Suky Suthi-Nagra	Democratic Services Officer.

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15/10	<p><u>Notes of Last Meeting</u></p> <p>The notes of the meeting held on 23rd February, 2010 were approved as a correct record.</p> <p>With reference to Note 7/10 (Determination of Matters by the Minister of Children and Social Care), the Chair reported that an improvement notice had now been received by the Minister which required the setting up of an Improvement Board with an independent Chair.</p>	
16/10	<p><u>Annual Review of the Children and Young People's Plan 2010/11</u></p> <p>Bob Griffiths presented the 2010/11 annual review of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP).</p> <p>The Trust Board had previously agreed that the duration of the current CYPP would be extended by one year to March 2011 after taking account of DCSF consultation and indications that there would be legislative changes to Children's Trusts which would require all areas to produce new CYPP from April 2011.</p> <p>The review was aligned to the priorities of the four Trust Board Programme Executives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding; • Good Start to Life; • Successful Young People; • Learning Improvement. <p>The review had been based largely on an update of each of the sections of the plan to take account of developments over the last twelve months and had taken account of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Local Strategic Partnership's New Shared Priorities; 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The outcomes of our Strategic Review Meeting with Government Office for the West Midlands, which took place on 26th January 2010; • Changes to the Local Strategic Partnership's Thematic Partnership Planning Guide 2010-13; • Performance outcomes for 09/10. <p>Due to the timeline that governed the production of thematic partnership plans, a number of the outcomes against performance indicators on the achievements section reflected third quarter performance. It was now proposed to include the fourth quarter data within the CYPP when this became available.</p> <p>Dr Middleton referred to the recent Marmot Review report which aimed to reduce health inequalities with particular emphasis on early interventions to help reduce health inequalities. No reference to this was made in the CYPP.</p> <p>It was therefore agreed that reference to the issues within the Marmot Review would be highlighted in the CYPP. Information on the Adolescent Health meeting that was held in February, which had a strong emphasis on peer education and peer support, was also required as it would be a big area to focus on next year. Reference to infant mortality issues was also needed as was a record of actions with the PCT, to review infant mortality and include floor targets within an action plan to instigate further changes.</p> <p>All changes in the Plan would be made in consultation with Executive Director of Children and Young People and the final version of the CYPP would be circulated to members of the Trust Board in due course.</p>	<p>Bob Griffiths/Andrea Pope-Smith</p>

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17/10	<p><u>Local Strategic Partnership – Strategic Risks</u></p> <p>Bob Griffiths reported that on 2nd February, the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Risk Management Forum agreed that each Thematic Partnership (TP) would make a contribution to the LSP strategic risks which had previously been identified. The strategic risks being:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Failure to ensure that Partnership priorities and key Actions, which recognised national or local policy decisions affecting Partnership working, were agreed with the involvement of all stakeholders and communities, and made widely known to all stakeholders and communities. 2. Failure to ensure that decisions made across the Partnership were made with full understanding of the current economic climate. 3. Failure to ensure that the allocation of resources by all partners was strongly aligned to priorities and key actions in the Sandwell Plan, LAA and Partnership Business Plans. 4. Failure to ensure that limited resources are used innovatively so that value is added through partners working together, investment is efficient and sustainable and duplication is minimised. <p>A set of questions / lines of enquiry had been identified, which each Thematic Partnership was invited to respond to. These contributions required represent information in relation to those existing controls, sources of assurance and further mitigating actions, which each TP was currently undertaking within their own activities and service delivery.</p> <p>Responses from each of the TP would be collated and captured as contributing controls, assurance and further mitigating actions within the risk management action plans for each of the strategic risks identified.</p>	

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	<p>Consideration was now given to the draft response which would be submitted to the LSP on 20th May 2010.</p> <p>A report would be submitted to the Board in May on identified operational risks for the Trust Board and the mitigating actions to address those risks with scores.</p>	<p>Bob Griffiths</p>
<p>18/10</p>	<p><u>Improvement Plan for Children's Services and Governance Arrangements</u></p> <p>Andrea Pope Smith reported that following the improvement notice from the Minister, a Children's Service Performance Improvement Board had been set up with an independent chair; Margaret McGlade, appointed by the Minister.</p> <p>The Improvement board had their first meeting on 13th April 2010 with the terms of reference of the group and standing items for consideration agreed.</p> <p>The recommendations contained within the improvement notice would be integrated within the Improvement Plan as well as the recommendations of the Ofsted inspection.</p> <p>The Improvement Plan would be considered by the Trust Board at their next meeting on 25th May, Cabinet on 26th May and the Improvement Board on 31st May. Scrutiny would also be looking at the Plan.</p> <p>It was envisaged that there would now be a flow of information between the Trust Board and the Improvement Board with the Trust Board scrutinising the same issues as the Improvement Board.</p> <p>All work streams and work development would be looked at in an appropriate and timely way, building a degree of confidence and sustainability in improvement.</p>	

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	<p>Further progress was reported as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress had been made on the LSCB Board and safeguarding issues which was now moving at a pace; • Governance issues for the Board and LSCB were currently being addressed; • There was an overall sustained improvement in practices with progress in areas such as health, workforce development and strategic improvement; • The appointment of an Executive Director of Children and Social Care was currently underway. <p>It was now proposed to set up a Programme Board which would act as a sub-group to the Trust Board to ensure that there was a governance and communication flow with transparency and accountability.</p> <p>Nominations were sought for members to join the Programme Board which would look at development of the service and improvement from the ground up and look at the key work streams in more detail, identifying the challenges and where progression was not being made.</p> <p>Members attention was drawn to pages 93-95 of the agenda that identified details of the recommendations workstreams and projects, to help them to decide if they wished to become a member of any of the project groups. Nominations would need to be sent to Bob Griffiths.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">All to note</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bob Griffiths</p>

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19/10	<p><u>Review of Sandwell's Joint Commissioning Arrangements</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report on the review of Sandwell's Joint Children and Young People's commissioning arrangements between Sandwell PCT and the Council, which was undertaken in 2008.</p> <p>There were a number of key recommendations within the report which remained to be addressed as a partnership. There was a need to improve the way in which commissioning was embedded in Trust work, the use of resources and engagement of partners. When the Away Day was set up, the governance arrangements for the Board would be looked at in more detail so as to improve the understanding and governance of joint commissioning.</p>	
20/10	<p><u>Presentation on Equality Priorities for Children and Young People</u></p> <p>Kashmir Singh reported that following work with Professor Tomlins on equality issues for the authority and its partners, the following equality priorities for children and young people were suggested:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Reduce incidence of Coronary heart disease (CHD) in BME communities; (2a) Increase resident satisfaction in neighbourhoods where satisfaction is low; (2b) Target poorest quality environment and task these neighbourhoods for environmental improvements; (3) Provide for priority vulnerable groups during the economic downturn e.g. 50 plus, young people, BME, people with disabilities; (4) Improving access for priority vulnerable groups to affordable housing; (5) Ensuring children have a healthy start to life with a focus on reducing infant mortality and childhood obesity; 	

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21/10	<p><u>“A Hidden Sentence”</u></p> <p>Malcolm Bailey referred to the report A ‘Hidden Sentence’ Working with Children and Families of Prisoners.</p> <p>The report raised issues for children whose parents were in prison and made the following recommendations:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Sandwell’s Children and Young People’s Trust formally recognise children of offenders as vulnerable children and incorporate a coordinated response into Sandwell’s Children’s Plan; 2) Identify a named person with specific responsibility for taking forward these recommendations; 3) Further work needed to assess the numbers of children affected in Sandwell and to develop robust recording systems so that children of offenders are identified and supported 4) Consider workforce development to raise awareness – Hidden Sentence training for frontline practitioners could be incorporated with forthcoming CAF training. Murray Hall Community Trust had staff trained in cascading the programme and links with the Families Do Matter project if wider-scale training was requested; 5) Report back to CYPTP board regarding progress by April 2010. <p>Concern was expressed that there was not currently a joined-up system for sharing data on the number of offenders with families. More work and evidence was required on whether children who had a parent in prison suffered from abuse/ill health to gauge whether they were a priority group.</p> <p>Supt Laurie Dyer and John Middleton undertook to work with the Probation Service, Prison Service and Offender Management Team to ascertain numbers of children affected in the Borough.</p>	

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23/10	<p><u>Updates from the Local Safeguarding Children's Board</u></p> <p>Janine Brown provided the following update on the work of the LSCB:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An independent chair of the LSCB, Avriel Reader, had been appointed last year; • The LSCB had held an Away Day in January 2010 looking at their governance arrangements. It had been proposed to set up various groups of the LSCB; one high level group, one operational group and four sub groups which would all link into the LSCB ; • Meetings were underway with the Business Manager to create a link with the Trust Board; • The Annual Report of the LSCB would normally be submitted to the Trust Board around this time but due to the recent changes, the report would be submitted to the Board in September/October. Future cycles would be aligned together as would the needs analysis work for the Children's Plan and Safeguarding works; • Regular updates on the work of the LSCB and the Trust Board were being reported to each respective Board so that they were aware of each other's work. Avriel Read was also invited to attend meetings of the Trust Board. <p>Andrea Pope Smith felt that a wider discussion was needed on aligning workforce issues by the Trust Workforce Development Group to look at how things could be done differently and more effectively. Bob Griffiths undertook to raise the issue with the Lead Officer of the Group, Paul Cox.</p>	Bob Griffiths
24/10	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>The Board noted the work of the Annual Report of the Voluntary Community Sector Executive Group 2009-10.</p>	

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	<p>In response to concerns raised by Councillor Jones relating to SCVO and whether voluntary groups felt it was value for money for them, John Garrett and Janine Brown undertook to provide a response.</p> <p>Ian Cotterill reported that Sandwell Partnership had launched a Pride in Sandwell event that would be taking place in each of the six towns. Details would be circulated to the Group. Partners were requested to get involved in exhibiting at the event.</p>	<p>John Garrett/Janine Brown</p>
25/10	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>It was agreed that the next meeting of the Board would be held on 25th May, 2010.</p>	
<p>Meeting ended at 4.30 pm</p>		