



Minutes of the MILTON KEYNES CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN CONSULTATIVE BOARD
held on MONDAY 13 MARCH 2000 at 5.00 pm

Present: Councillor Turnbull (Chair)
Councillors Lloyd, Monk and Saunders

Officers: J Stansfield (Strategic Director Learning and Development), P Scrimshaw (Policy and Inter-Agency Liaison Manager), J Cove (Leisure, Youth and Community Manager), T Hunter (Policy Officer), M Smith (Leisure, Youth and Community Worker) and J Marshall (Committee Manager)

Young Carers' Project

T Iliffe

Young People's Racial Awareness Group

S Nelson

S Siffah

R Tanner

MK Children and Young People's Rights Service

D Morgan

The Family Support Project, Children's Society

J Day

MK Youth Offending Team

L Westlake

MKPCG

J Rose

MK General NHS Trust

J Hugman

M Shipman

MK Play Association

R Roche

MK College

J Rouse

Apologies: J Balzanella (Pre-School Learning Alliance), N Coolman (Thames Valley Police), D Cooper (MKC-Economy and Learning Manager), L Eades (NCH Action for Children), A Flack (MKC-Director of Education and Early Years Services), R Greenway (MK Youth Assembly), M Page (Thames Valley Police), D McCauley (MKC), C Mlyneck (Buckinghamshire Health Authority), M Rock (Racial Equality Council), L Russell (MKC-Service Development Manager), J Spicer (MKC-Principal Educational Psychologist), P Sutton (MKC) and J Williams (MKC).

1.0 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 5 January 2000 were received.

2.0 'OVERCOMING RACISM AND CELEBRATING CULTURAL DIVERSITY' TRAINING COURSE AND CONSULTATIVE EXERCISE – PRESENTATION FROM YOUNG PEOPLE

The Board received a presentation from young people on the 'Overcoming Racism and Celebrating Cultural Diversity' training course. This included information about a major consultation initiative being undertaken to ascertain the opinions of young people on racism in Milton Keynes; and to bring together young people's recommendations in a report on how to overcome it and celebrate cultural diversity.

The Board received copies of the consultation questionnaire, and each member was urged to consult a young person and thereby contribute to the findings of the activity. It was presented as an opportunity for Board members to work in direct partnership with young people.

The young people described their desire to combat racism through education, and emphasised the need to make participation through positive exercises appealing to young people.

The Board heard that the young people were approaching the end of their training, which had been supported by mentors from various sectors, including teachers and youth leaders. Following the course completion the young people would go out and consult others in a wide variety of fora.

It was reported that the young people would use this training experience for accreditation in an Open Network Course.

The young people would report back to the Consultation Board, at a later date in the summer, the findings of the consultation exercise.

3.0 CONNEXIONS SERVICE

The Board received a presentation on the new Connexions Service. It was reported that, the Children's and Youth Committee were receiving a presentation on this matter at its meeting the following evening. The implementation of the Service would entail a fundamental overhaul of how services operate in Milton Keynes.

Connexions would offer help, support and guidance for all young people, aged 13 - 19, attempting to break down service boundaries to enable young people to effectively deal with issues so that they can remain in Education, Training or employment.

It was reported that Connexions formed an important strand of the Government's aim to give each young person the best start in life.

With regard to its structure it was explained that Connexions would operate out of the Department for Education and Employment. There would be Connexions Partnerships at a sub-regional level, in this area covering Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. This would consist of representatives from the police, the health sector and Local Authority, amongst others.

Officers explained that the possibility of using the Board as the basis of the local group for Connexions was being investigated. Although there were some statutory requirements for membership it should be able to incorporate all existing members.

It was reported that the likely deadline for the submission of a partnership plan was the end of May. Officers requested that the Board give consideration to its desire to be involved in this project.

4.0 AGREEMENT OF THE SUMMARY UPDATE AND REVIEW OF THE MK COMMUNITY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES PLAN 2000-2001

Officers restated that the Department of Health had instructed local authorities to use discretion over whether they wanted to produce a Plan for the year 2000-2001. It was reported that at the request of the Board a draft plan had been produced, which members were asked to consider.

The Plan was compiled on the basis of each member agency's main achievements and one target which was still being implemented. P Scrimshaw requested that any comments on the plan or proposed alterations be forwarded to her.

5.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was reported that the 'Close to Home' project was in the process of setting up a web site to enable children and young people to have access to information via computers at their schools and homes. It was noted that the web site was being put together by young people.

The Board felt that this was a very helpful initiative and discussed the possibility of inviting someone to talk to the Board on this topic at the next meeting.

6.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

AGREED –

That the next meeting of the Board be held on Thursday 25 May 2000 at 5 pm.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6.10 PM