



Minutes of the meeting of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGY GROUP held on MONDAY 19 FEBRUARY at 9.30 am.

- Present:**
- Councillor Sandra Clark - MKC Cabinet Member
(Chair)
 - Carolyn Boyd - Group Director Strategy, Commissioning and Quality - MKC
 - Naomi Eisenstadt - Non Executive Director – MKPCT
 - Amanda Farr - Assistant Director Monitoring and Review - MKC
 - Alistair Gibbons - Head of Adult Social Care - MKC
 - Vanessa Gwynn - Corporate Director Learning and Development – MKC
 - Claire Hutley - Executive Assistant Learning and Development - MKC
 - Gillian Kern - Senior Education Officer - MKC
 - John Liversidge - Chief Superintendent Thames Valley Police
 - David Moore - Head of Commissioning and Customer Care - MKC
 - Ian Revell - Chief Executive, YMCA, representing the Voluntary Sector
 - Mary Sexton - Divisional Manager Women and Children, MK General Hospital
 - Jill Wilkinson - Head of Children's Services/Deputy Director of Primary Care, MKPCT
 - Peter Taylor - Committee Manager – MKC
- Apologies:**
- Barbara Kennedy - Chief Executive - MKPCT
 - Simon Viccars - Headteacher, Leon Secondary School & Sports College

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the Children and Young People's Strategy Group held on 17 November 2006 be approved as a correct record.

2. CHILDREN'S TRUST

The Group received a verbal update from the Senior Education Officer on the outcome of interviews with key stakeholders regarding issues surrounding the Children's Trust.

The Group were informed that interviewees had expressed a shared enthusiasm for the Children's Trust project and had shown interest in the potential for shared budgets and increased customer involvement.

The Group noted that there was general agreement on the vision of creating a seamless delivery of service supporting personalisation and choice, but there was divergence regarding how this should be achieved.

The Group received a verbal update by the Head of Commissioning and Customer Care on the developmental programme that had taken place in Adult Services.

Members noted that Adult Services had encountered the following challenges when reforming service provision:

- Integrating different cultures, work practices, pay scales, etc.
- Solving issues surrounding Governance and accountability.
- Ensuring the new organisation had the capacity to deliver services.
- Budget issues.
- Identifying where competencies lay and establishing an effective knowledge base.
- Convincing staff of the benefits of change and ensuring compliance with Transfer of Undertaking (TUPE) regulations.

The Group considered the possible options for the configuration of the Children's Trust. The Group noted that all models had the potential to deliver improvements in reducing inequality, intervening earlier and raising outcomes for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.

The Group considered the different models of the Children's Trust against the objectives of integrated services for children (see Annexes A and B). Members agreed that the Community Foundation Trust was not a viable model. The Group requested that the Social Enterprise with Adult Services model, the Social Enterprise for Children, Young People and Family Services and the Council-led model be brought to the Group's next meeting where the options would be further refined and a final decision made.

Members of the Group made the following comments regarding the Children's Trust:

- The Group's decision on the model of the Children's Trust should be driven by the needs of Milton Keynes.
- Milton Keynes had an advantage over other areas because it was coterminous.
- Additional organisations increased boundaries between services.

- As part of a joint Adult and Children Services model, Children's Services may be the smaller organisation and therefore considered a secondary priority.
- The rationale for integrated services included the improved transition from child to adult care.

RESOLVED –

That the Social Enterprise and Council-led models for the Children's Trust be presented to the next meeting of the Children and Young People's Strategy Group for further refinement.

3. COMMISSIONING FRAMEWORK

RESOLVED –

That the Commissioning Framework be considered at a future meeting of the Children's and Young People's Strategy Group.

4. LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

The Group received the final version of the Local Area Agreement.

RESOLVED –

That the final version of the Local Area Agreement be noted.

5. FINANCIAL POSITION 2006/07 AND 2007/08

The Group received updates on the current financial position of its partners.

The Group noted the following comments:

- The Council had proposed a below inflation rate rise in the budget for the Learning and Development Directorate. However, there was a substantial increase in funding for Looked After Children.
- The Learning and Development Directorate budget was based on the assumption that £1 million worth of services would be sold to schools.
- Gershon efficiency targets were included in the budget assumptions.
- Thames Valley Police were facing funding reductions in the upcoming financial year.
- Milton Keynes PCT was still being monitored by the Strategic Health Authority.
- The PCT Financial Turnaround Plan was on target to achieve the planned level of savings in 2006/07.

RESOLVED –

That the current financial positions of the partners of the Children and Young People's Strategy Group be noted.

6. SYSTEMS THINKING

The Group considered a proposal to use a Systems Thinking process to assess how children and families accessed early intervention and preventive services.

The Group were informed that Systems Thinking work would be focused on a neighbourhood with high levels of referral to Children's Social Care, and the age range restricted to 0-11 years. It was proposed to undertake a six week data capture of all children for whom there were concerns and to track what interventions occurred. This data could, if needed, be augmented by records from the previous 12 months to ensure the results were representative of the overall situation.

The rationale for using a Systems Thinking process included:

- Improved understanding about demand for services and who created the demand.
- Improved understanding about how this demand was met, or not met.
- Supported development of early intervention strategies and service design.

The Group noted that a Systems Thinking process required total commitment across all agencies, at all staff levels, and that funding for the project would be provided by the Council's 'Invest to Save' scheme.

The Group suggested that as the results from one area may not be representative of the overall situation in Milton Keynes, a Systems Thinking process should be undertaken in two different localities. The Group suggested that the Lakes Estate would be a suitable location because this was an area in which Children's Services were already perceived as being good.

RESOLVED –

That suitable locations for a Systems Thinking study be identified and presented to the next meeting of the Children and Young People's Strategy Group.

7. JOINT MEETING WITH THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S JOINT PLANNING GROUP

RESOLVED -

The Group decided to extend the next meeting to a whole morning session and to hold it at an external location.

8. LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARDS

The Group received a written update report on the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

9. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLANNING GROUP

The Group received a written report from the Children and Young People's Joint Planning Group.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

10. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED -

That meeting of the Children and Young People's Strategy Group be held on the following dates:

Friday 30 March

Friday 25 May

Friday 27 July

Friday 28 September

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 11.42 AM