



Minutes of the meeting of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGY GROUP held on FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER at 9.00 am.

- Present:**
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| Councillor Sandra Clark
(Chair) | - | MKC Cabinet Member |
| Carolyn Boyd | - | Group Director Strategy,
Commissioning and Quality |
| Alistair Gibbons | - | Head of Adult Social Care |
| Vanessa Gwynn | - | Corporate Director Learning
and Development – MKC |
| Claire Hutley | - | Executive Assistant Learning and
Development |
| Barbara Kennedy | - | Chief Executive - MKPCT |
| Ian Revell | - | Chief Executive, YMCA, representing
the Voluntary Sector |
| Geoff Snelson | - | Assistant Chief Executive Strategy
and Performance |
| Sarah Stivala | - | Vanguard |
| Simon Viccars | - | Headteacher, Leon Secondary
School & Sports College |
| Jill Wilkinson | - | Head of Children's Services/Deputy
Director of Primary Care, MKPCT |
| Peter Taylor | - | Committee Manager – MKC |
- Apologies:**
- | | | |
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| Naomi Eisenstadt | - | Non Executive Director – MKPCT |
| John Liversidge | - | Chief Superintendent Thames
Valley Police |
| Maggie Southcote-Want | - | Director of Nursing, Milton Keynes
Hospital |

**Number of
Public Present: 1**

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the Children and Young People's Strategy Group held on 22 September 2006 be approved as a correct record.

2. PRIMARY CARE TRUST

The Group received an update on the Turnaround Plan from the Chief Executive of Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust.

Members noted that the Primary Care Trust (PCT) was facing a gross deficit in the current financial year of £17.9m. This figure would be reduced to £9m when the Turnaround measures were applied. Despite expected revenue growth from 2006/07 due to a revised funding allocation, significant action was required in order to return the PCT to financial balance on a recurring basis.

The Group noted that a large proportion of the savings that needed to be made would come from the acute sector. The PCT informed Members that in services where savings would be made, a baseline service would be retained that could be built back up in the future. The plan was to be presented for approval to the PCT board meeting on 23 November 2007.

The Group was advised that the PCT would keep it informed of proposed changes to its services and would welcome Members' comments. However, there was no formal requirement that the Group be part of the consultation process.

Members suggested that the Group should formally receive the Turnaround Plan from the PCT and that a corporate response be issued.

RESOLVED –

That a formal response to the Turnaround Plan be issued by the Children and Young People's Strategy Group.

3. OPTIONS FOR THE MODEL OF THE CHILDREN'S TRUST

Members received a presentation on the available options for the model of the Children's Trust.

The Group noted that a Children's Trust was a partnership between organisations with responsibility for children's services. Its primary responsibility was to secure integrated commissioning leading to integrated service delivery.

The Group noted that measures taken towards integrated governance so far included the designation of the roles of Director of Children's Services and Lead Member for Children. A number of joint posts had been appointed and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board would be formally launched on 21st November 2006.

The Group noted that measures taken towards integrated strategy included the implementation of the Children and Young People's Plan. A Workforce strategy was also scheduled to be in place by April 2007.

The Group discussed the different options available for the model of the Children's Trust and Members made the following comments:

- That whichever model was chosen for the Children's Trust, it needed to be compatible with a PCT that was primarily a commissioning body.
- That staff affected by the changes would need to be persuaded of the need to adopt a new service delivery model.

- That the Voluntary Sector needed to be engaged with at an early stage to allow it to build up the necessary capacity to be able to respond and reshape to the increased demand that would be placed on it.
- That, whilst schools were keen to engage with a social agenda, the ultimate aim of any Headteacher was to improve student attainment.

Central government was keen for local authorities to be bold with their plans for the Children's Trust and they had indicated that they would be accommodating to innovative ideas.

The Chair raised a concern that again there were no representatives of the acute sector present at the meeting and stressed that it was important that their views were heard.

Members suggested that following the discussion on the model of the Children's Trust, proposals be finalised and presented at the next meeting.

RESOLVED –

That the finalised options for the model of the Children's Trust be presented at the next meeting of the Children and Young People's Strategy Group.

4. SYSTEMS THINKING

The Group received a presentation from a representative of Vanguard to explain how a Systems Thinking approach could be applied to the Children's Trust.

The Group noted that Systems Thinking was a system designed to help organisations focus on the customer. Applying Systems Thinking involved understanding the demands that organisations faced from their customers and measuring how well the organisation respond to them.

The Group agreed that Systems Thinking should be taken to the next stage by starting work on understanding the demands that the Children's Trust would face. This should be carried out at a local level and discussions should taken place on a suitable sample area to use. Members asked that the study also take into account the deficiencies in the present service.

Members asked that they be allowed to consult with their respective organisations prior to formally committing to a Systems Thinking approach being applied to the Children's Trust.

5. CHILDREN'S PLAN QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT

The Group received the 2nd quarter report against the actions set out in the Children's & Young People's Plan and identified any areas for attention.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

6. FEEDBACK REPORT FROM THE PRIORITIES MEETING WITH THE GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR THE SOUTH EAST (GOSE)

The Group received feedback on the Priorities meeting with the Government Office for the South East.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

7. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S JOINT PLANNING GROUP

The Group discussed how the work of the Children and Young People's Joint Planning Group (CYPJPG) could inform the work of the Children and Young People's Strategy Group (CYPSG). Members suggested that the minutes of the CYPJPG could be included as a standing item on the agenda for the CYPSG.

The Group noted that the CYPJPG had asked for the CYPSG to consider holding a joint meeting between the two groups. Members supported this idea and suggested that the CYPJPG be invited to attend the meeting of the CYPSG on 30 March 2007, to consider the first annual review of the Children and Young People's Plan.

RESOLVED –

- a) That the minutes of the Children and Young People's Joint Planning Group be received as a standing item at the Children and Young People's Strategy Group.
- b) That the Children and Young People's Joint Planning Group be invited to the meeting of the Children and Young People's Strategy Group on the 30 March 2007.

8. LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD UPDATE

The Group noted that the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) had now ratified its terms of reference and work programme. An interim Chair had been appointed and the post of Independent Chair had been advertised. Interviews for the post of Business Co-ordinator were held in October but unfortunately no appointment had been made.

The Group noted that the LSCB would be redrafting the interagency procedures to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children in line with the revised 'working together' guidance. The Policy and Procedures

Group was in the process of commissioning someone to undertake this work.

The Group discussed how it could interact more closely with the LSCB. Suggestions from Members included an annual workshop, a Chair's meeting, and a standing update item at each meeting.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the LSCB update be noted.
- 2) That an update on the Local Safeguarding Children's Board be received as a standing Item at the Children and Young People's Strategy Group.

9. PARTNERS UPDATE

RESOLVED -

That an update from partners of the Children and Young People's Strategy Group be received at a future meeting.

10. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The Group received a summary report on the 2006 Annual Performance Assessment of services for children and young people in Milton Keynes.

The assessment classified the Council's management of services for children and young people as good. The Council's capacity to improve further was classified as adequate. The Group were informed that the assessment had commenced only 5 days after the final recommendations of the Joint Area Review had been received. There was therefore limited opportunity for the recommendations of the Review to be implemented in time to affect the assessment.

The Group briefly discussed the report and Members suggested that the judgements were encouraging.

RESOLVED –

That the Annual Performance Assessment be noted.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 11.28 AM