

OXFORDSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

29th JUNE 2023

Children's Trust Board Report

Executive Summary

The Children's Trust ensures that the Health and Wellbeing Board are sighted on the key challenges facing children and young people in Oxfordshire. This report provides updates from the Children's Trust Board including details of performance issues rated red or amber in the performance report.

Main Report

1. Children & Young People's Plan 2023/2024 and Early Help update from partners

It was agreed at the last Children's Trust Board meeting in February that early help should be the overarching theme for the 2023/2024 Children & Young People's Plan and that partners would take a more inclusive approach developing the plan. The Strategic Transformation Leads across the partnership were involved to review early help priorities and agree key priorities and metrics to enable us to measure progress. Children's Trust members will attend a workshop on 14th June to agree the Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP), identify and commit to actions that are needed across the partnership to deliver on the plan, over the next 12 months. The Board will also discuss how to effectively communicate the plan through the partnership and with the public.

Presentation slides (Paper 1 available upon request)

Following the workshop, all partners will incorporate actions and measures into their business plan, work plans, projects, and programmes of work. Updates will be provided at the September meeting and future meetings by all partners, on how actions have been incorporated into their workplans and the progress made.

Early Help 'Ask' responses from partners

Partners were asked to provide feedback on the form in advance, and then to discuss further at the meeting on the progress being made within their organisations, and any challenges they are faced with, on their early help plans for 2023/2024.

Focus on Early Help 'Ask' Form (Paper 2 available upon request)

Early Help Data Update

The Early Help Strengths & Needs (S&Ns) Assessments is improving as the numbers increased from approximately 500 in 2016-2017 to 4000 in 2022 and figures

also show that there is greater engagement with the process. However, there is a concern that the younger age group are less likely to get S&Ns assessments, although the learning from the Health Visitor pilot will be helpful and how we move forward with this. For those children and young people who are on a social care plan, a child in need or a child protection plan, more work needs to be done on ensuring consistency in having that S&Ns assessment, earlier.

Early Help Data to March 2023 (Paper 3 available upon request)

It was recommended that partner agencies should consider individual targets for number of early help assessments to undertake in 2023/2024.

Review of CYPP Outcomes for 2022/2023

The 2022/2023 plan has been updated and was provided to the Board for any comments, before its publication.

[Children and Young People's Plan Year 5 Progress Plan 2022-23](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/children-and-young-people/plan-year-5-progress-plan-2022-23)
([oxfordshire.gov.uk](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk))

2. SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities) Update

The paper provides 3 areas of updates, firstly on the SEND Employment Forum grant that has been established and is exploring how it can strengthen our model to plan meaningful outcomes and measure impact.

Secondly, Oxfordshire has been successful in securing an Early Intervention fund of £3.3m. Therefore, a strategic group has been established to focus on 3 broad workstreams of which updates will be provided to partners on a monthly basis.

The last area is the Education Health Care Needs Assessments (EHCNAs), where there continues to be an increase in demand each month. There is continued focus by Health and Social Care colleagues to carry out the EHCNAs within the 20-week statutory timeframe and data provided monthly improvements. However, the challenge is keeping this improved timeliness performance with the high demand and limited staff capacity across services.

SEND Update (Paper 4 available upon request)

3. Partnership Protocol

Based on the existing partnership protocol introduced in 2016 and following the learning from Operation Bullfinch and the Child Safeguarding Practice Review concerning Jacob, this led to a request of a review of the Safeguarding and Community Safety system in 2022. The report is to be shared with the safeguarding boards, the Safer Oxfordshire Partnership, the Community Safety Partnerships and the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire & Berkshire West (BOB) Integrated Care Partnership (ICP), for their support to implement some or all the recommendations.

Safeguarding & Community Safety Report & Presentation (Paper 5a & 5b available upon request)

It was agreed that The Children's Trust Board would be kept informed of how the protocol develops and to be engaged in those arrangements.

4. Feedback from OSCB on emerging issues

The Safeguarding Practice Review on child sexual abuse will be published in May and will also be available on the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board (OSCB). There is joint working to commence monthly from June, with colleagues of the Adults Safeguarding Board, to improve communication and prevent duplication of work. There is continued focus on safeguarding concerns and issues around Elective Home Education, permanent exclusions, in particular vulnerable children, children with an attendance plan and Children Missing Education (CME). An Interim Board Manager is in post, until a permanent position will be in place from August.

OSCB Update (Paper 6 available upon request)

8. Forward plan for the September 2023 meeting

The following items are due to be considered in forthcoming meetings:

- Agreed 2023/24 Children and Young People's Plan by partners
- Focus and progress on Early Help - partner responses and feedback
- Progress of Early Help Board
- SEND update.

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APPENDIX A

What is being done in areas rated Red or Amber in the Performance Framework

The data and information below are for Performance Report to February 2023.

Be successful

- The number of children expelled continues to be a third of the 18/19 level, but the number of children suspended, which had been dropping is now rising
- 43% of primary school pupils and 22% of secondary school pupils who were suspended last year had special educational needs.
- Persistent absence (over 90%) has risen across the last 4 years – with 1 in 4 primary school children and 1 in 3 secondary school children persistently absent.
- 1.1% of primary school children (596 children) and 4.3% of secondary school children (1733 children) have severe absence.
- The number of electively home educated children is 64% higher than pre pandemic levels but only 8 children who are electively home educated are the subject of a social care plan

Be healthy

- Data on waiting times for CAMHS has not been updated since July 22 because of the cyber-attack on the trust. Concerns about access to eating disorder services

have been raised by the ICB. Performance in Oxfordshire below standard and other areas in BOB. Updates on performance has been affected by the cyber-attack on Oxford Health.

- There has been a 16% decrease in A&E attendances for self-harm compared to last year, but figures are still 19% more than 2020 when we were in lockdown. Hospital admissions are 20% lower than the last 2 years.
- The number of early help assessments in the last 12 months is 24% higher than the previous 12 months but remains 19% below target. 88% of MASH contacts do not have a preceding strength and needs document and 2 out of 3 MASH contacts end up in no further action
- After 4 quarters when under-age conceptions fell it increased in the last two quarters. 14 children under 18 and some under 16 (number suppressed under 5) presented at the OUH

Be Safe

- MASH contacts for the first 11 months of the year are 4% higher than last year and more than 60% higher than pre pandemic levels. Despite this increase the timeliness of red (most urgent) contacts remains better than target. Local benchmarking data suggests contact levels are similar to other areas in the southeast.
- Child protection numbers remain above target and those of similar authorities (605 compared to 550 target) but have decreased by 50 in the last quarter. The Child Protection Quality and Tracking Meeting is focusing on children the subject of repeat plans currently stands at 29% against a national average of 23% and children on a plan for over 18 months.
- There are currently 894 cared for children (compared to 413 in 2013). Numbers have dropped in the last 3 months by 20. The growth is driven by unaccompanied young people. Just 9% of initial health assessments have been completed on time and 5 children are in unregistered placements.
- In 2022 domestic incidents involving children were 9% higher than 2019 (pre Covid) and domestic crimes 28% higher. In the last year domestic incidents fell by 1% in the year whilst domestic crimes rose by 7%.
- In 2022 the number of children going missing was 12% lower than 2019(pre Covid) and the number of occurrences was 16% lower. However, compared to last year 9% more children went missing and there were 11% more missing incidents
- At the end of quarter 3, 8 out of 10 taxi drivers across county had up-to-date safeguarding training. City (75%) and South & Vale (73%) are below 90%

Indicator Number	RAG	What is being done to improve performance?
1.3a Mean wait for Core CAMHS (days)	N/A	In July 2022 the number was 124 – 16% higher than July 2021. Figure not updated since cyber-attack.
1.3b Median wait for Core CAMHS (days)	N/A	In July 2022 the number was 70 – 20% lower than July 2021.
1.11 Reduce the persistent absence of children subject to a Child Protection Plan	N/A	As of Term 4 22/23, the figure is 8.5% lower than this time last year.

Indicator Number	RAG	What is being done to improve performance?
1.1 Reduce the number of children we care for to 750 by March 2022	A	As of March 2023, the number was 770 - the number of children we care for is beginning to fall. It remains below the national rate, but above similar authorities.

May 2023