

JOINT REPORT FROM READING BOROUGH COUNCIL, SOUTH READING CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP, NORTH & WEST READING CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP, BERKSHIRE HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION TRUST and ROYAL BERKSHIRE HOSPITAL

TO:	HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD		
DATE:	9 Oct 2015	AGENDA ITEM:	8
TITLE:	UPDATE ON JOINT WORKING TO SUPPORT CHILDREN & FAMILIES		
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 In September 2013, a report to the Health & Wellbeing Board set out the opportunities identified across the Council's Children's Services and Public Health teams, the two Clinical Commissioning Groups and local health services to strengthen joint working to improve health outcomes for children and families.
- 1.2 The Board agreed to set up a sub-group to progress the opportunities and to report regularly. The most recent report was in Jan 2015 giving an update on the revised Action Plan (Sept 2014) agreed by the sub-group is attached as Appendix A.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 To note the progress made against the sub groups three key themes in its action plan.
- 2.2 To agree for the sub-group to end as a task and finish group.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 A number of national policy and guidance documents (such as the Department of Health's 'Healthy Child Programme', the government's 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' guidance, and the NHS Outcomes Framework) recommend local agencies working together in an integrated way to better support health outcomes for children.
- 3.2 Locally, the sub-group's work also aligns with Reading's Health & Wellbeing Strategy, particularly **Goal Two** - "Increase the focus on early years and the whole family to help reduce health inequalities" - and **Goal One** - to "promote and protect the health of all communities particularly those disadvantaged".
- 3.3 Reading's Early Help Strategy was published in November 2013, broadly covering the range of services supporting children and families below the threshold of Children's Social Care or very specialist interventions. The sub-group's work

supports the delivery of a number of key actions identified within the Strategy to support health priorities - for example, increasing breastfeeding support.

4. PROGRESS TO DATE

4.1 Following the Board's approval, regular meetings have been held. Membership includes Reading Borough Council (both Public Health and Children's Services), South and North & West Reading CCG's, Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust, Royal Berkshire Hospital (Senior Children's Nurse)

4.2 The group has reviewed, revised and streamlined its Action Plan. The action plan now has 3 key themes;

Theme 1 - Improved Access and knowledge of family services (across both Health and RBC)

Theme 2 - Education opportunities and Support for Families

Theme 3 - Increasing our quality and impact in specific areas (supporting breastfeeding, uptake of immunisations/ reducing Post Natal Depression (PND)/ reducing obesity

4.3 Progress to date against the Plan is set out below under the three themes below (point 4.4 onwards).

Theme One - Improved Access and knowledge of family services (across both Health and RBC)

4.4 A pilot scheme set up across South and East CCG, RBC and Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust (BHFT) has been set up to provide a single referral route for local GPs to contact their local Children's Centre. There continues to be a lack of GP engagement with the pathway but it is acknowledged that a change in GP practice can take time. Both CCGs along with Children's Services, RBC, are committed to find a solution to this issue. The partnership is formed and we are proposing that this piece of work continues to be discussed at the Strategic Children's Centre quarterly meeting.

4.5 Another event is being sought, by the Public Health team to continue the children's health messages aiming at improving dental health, breastfeeding rates as well as obesity rates.

Theme Two - Education opportunities and Support for Families

4.6 CCG and Public Health funding has paid for a project manager to bring momentum to 2 actions from the plan. Firstly establishing 'Health education sessions' in and around our Children's Centres. Currently these are not as well developed but the project manager will be prioritising this in the coming months. This will focus on developing ideas and testing them with Health visiting, Speech and Language and Children's Centre colleagues. This item can be monitored through the Children's Centre Strategic group.

Theme Three - Increasing our quality and impact in specific areas (supporting breastfeeding, uptake of immunisations/ reducing PND/ reducing obesity. The action plan identifies the following aims:

- 4.7 Public Health are already starting to coordinate work between key partners (Breastfeeding network, Children's Centres, Health visitors and Midwives) to look closely at data and explore how to improve breastfeeding rates in particular areas e.g. South Reading.
- 4.8 Significant progress is being made with the peri-natal mental health action on our plan. The recently appointed project manager has researched and will be piloting training of staff to improve workforce confidence in this area. Mapping of current available services is complete, identifying gaps in provision which has led to a pilot partnership project with Home Start being tested. Finally a family consultation on this issue has begun which will inform delivery model and approaches for a range of services going forward. Peri-natal mental health is part of the CAMHs transformation plan which will enable this project results be discussed with key partners.
- 4.9 Reading, alongside other places in the UK are experiencing a rise in childhood obesity and the sub group is now confident that the Health & Wellbeing board in receiving the 3 key issues for children report at the same meeting is taking this issue seriously. Our group has not made significant progress in this area and would recommend to the board that within the overall Obesity strategy that a set of partnership actions are put in place that are specific to children. The partners at the sub group would fully support coordinated action with full participation as asked.
- 4.10 In addition to the actions above partners led by Public Health have been exploring how to work with Schools on identifying and responding to students health issues, by piloting ideas with JMA . A key learning is the need to build the confidence of the school workforce in key areas of children's emotional and mental health. As a result PMHW led training has been organised to be delivered to a large group of JMA staff by December 2015.

5. FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

- 5.1 While making progress on a number of actions over the last 18 - 24 months, the sub-group has recognised that the task and finish approach of the group has come to an end. It has reached this conclusion based on a two key factors.
- 5.2 Firstly, stronger professional relationships have formed between partners and all recognise that children's health improvements are important going forward. In many respects this is the sub group's most significant achievement, cementing the ability for partners to coordinate and work more closely together without the need of a specific plan.
- 5.3 Secondly there are other places, most notably Children's Centre Strategic group, where Health colleagues have already agreed to join, and the emerging CAMHs Transformation plan that are partnership meetings & processes that will monitor key issues and projects that this sub group have been sponsoring. This will continue to build on the productive working relationships that have been developed through the sub-group.

6. NEXT STEPS

6.1 It is proposed that the sub-group now stops and is recognised for being a successful task and finish group.

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

7.1 The group's work has been informed by a number of consultations with children, young people, parents and carers. This includes the consultations completed on the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Early Help Strategy, as well as the 'Listening into Action' work by Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust to understand the views of parents about health visitors and other services.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 'Joint Working Opportunities to Support Children & Families Across Health And Children's Centres' - reports to the Health & Wellbeing Board, 20th September 2013 & 21st March 2014 & 24th March 2015.

8.2 Reading's Early Help Strategy 2013-16

8.3 Reading's Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-16

8.4 Healthy Child Programme guidance

8.5 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' Guidance