

Report for EYCY PDS 24 November 2014

My comments on MTSRP

Management restructure.

This was mainly completed by April 2013 ie before the full scope of the SEN reforms realised hence the limitations in the overall savings achieved.

Children Centre and Early Services

No Children Centres are to close!

Important to recognise that the various reductions to the savings originally proposed in this budget line have reduced the percentage cut to 15% from 38.5%

The new spend for this service is has been built up from a zero based budget, not salami sliced. Each centre will get an allocation based on an agreed funding formula where local need now makes up the biggest proportion of the formula (from 55% to 85%).

Staff mutual proposal being developed by staff.

This is an opportunity to find other ways and funding for universal services that are considered valuable by and at each setting.

The changes to Children Centre services need to be considered in the context of other national strategies such as the changes to Health Visitor service. This will become part of LA (through Sirona) in 2015.

The Health Visitor service is universal.

Additional training for Health Visitors focuses on Mental Health and early spotting of, and signposting to solutions, for problems. IMO Health visitors should be based in children centres but obviously this may now have to be a proposal from the staff mutual, if agreed.

Other relevant strategies include increasing early years places for 2 year olds in line with Government targets of 40% of 2 year olds to have a nursery place (an increase from 20% in 2013). All 3 year olds have an entitlement to free 570 hours a year (15 hours a week).

Music Service

Saving of £50k has been deleted to protect access to the national grant

Report back and actions on various Conferences

Child poverty: 12% of BathNES are considered to live in poverty. Below national figure, and not noticeably increasing. In the Council we are to remove the lower pay bands, scrap zero hour contracts and have family friendly working practices.

I raised concern of using FSM to access pupil premium since the introduction of UIFSM. In BathNES we have changed the way we collect this data to try and mitigate a fall due to this. The problem seems to stem from how DWP and DoE share data.

CAMHS: Nationally 11% of all money for Health and Wellbeing is spent on mental health and only 6% of the current mental health budget is spent on children and young people despite 23% of population being under 18 years old. As with most other issues early

intervention is considered the most cost effective yet often CYP don't access mental health services till mid teens.

In BathNES a pilot programme Brighter Futures is being looked at in some primary schools, this may also help with the associated stigma. In future years this programme (or another like it) will be able to build on the work started by Health Visitors.

Annual CYP: championing the views of young people (see National Takeover Day)
Identifying abuse, this is everyone's business.

Adult and Children Health: raised the FSM, PP and UIFSM question again!

Council and partners initiatives

SACRE: 450 pupils from 6 schools attended a sixth form conference to explore 'religions are a human concept'. SACRE also provides religious resources for all LA funded schools and grants for trips to places of worship.

10/100 projects: over 50% of the projects focused on CYP!

They are Energy smart schools, Footprints, Atomic Comic, Volunteering is Valued, Book Bugs and Family Matters and are all schemes initiated by council staff.

Student and Community Partnership: young people and river safety were discussed and the good initiative from Bath College noted with a view to linking in with this.

Celebration of apprenticeships within the Council, we have a number of Care Leavers working within the Council and its partners, including Jake who won the SW Apprenticeship of the Year.

Also to note during October we had another successful **Children Literature Festival** with lots of local children getting to take part in finding out everything from more about their favourite authors, illustrators and designing the perfect classroom!

Finally, on Friday, as part of **National Takeover Day** (national event created by the Children's Commissioner for England, Dr Maggie Atkinson), I held a session on Engaging Children and Young People in Consultation. These young people would like to be involved in all levels of consultation on everything from planning to alcohol harm strategies, as well as the more obvious CYP centred issues.

This fits in very well with the request that the Council becomes a **Child Friendly City** (asked of Cabinet on 10/9 and Full Council on 11/9, followed by a launch event on 1/10).

I will be progressing this further!

Please contact me directly if you have any questions on any of the above, or any other issue in my portfolio.

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