



Somerset Children's Trust – Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP) Executive Summary

Progress as at: end March 2018

Overall

At the end of Quarter 4 (January to March 2018) the Somerset Children's Trust (SCT) received reports on the Improvement Programmes that reflect achievements at the end of the second year and the progress toward its outcomes, especially areas where actions will feature in next year's activity.

Five of the 7 Improvement Programmes rate their progress as GREEN; however Programmes 6 and 7 have rated their end of Year 2 status as AMBER and actions not yet completed have informed their Year 3 Action Plans.

Somerset Children's Trust Executive held a workshop with Improvement Programme Leads where we evaluated progress to date, discussed emerging trends and risks and proposed final Year 3 actions that evidence outcomes and future needs. This aligned with the pre-publication of the Ofsted judgement following the November 2017 inspection of Children's Social Care. The report highlighted areas of good development and improvement leading to a judgement of Requires Improvement; however thirteen recommendations have been made to support our services to get to 'Good'.

The recruitment of three key people – Annette Perrington, Assistant Director for Inclusion (SCC), Rowina Clift-Shanley, Strategic Manager for Joint Commissioning and Integration (SCC), and Julie Breeze, Strategic Commissioning for Early Help (SCC) – further strengthens our abilities to meet our responsibilities to the CYPP and the Improvement Journey of 'Getting to Good'.

Data from some of the newly commissioned emotional wellbeing and mental health services have been reported in this process. The evaluation of this data is showing a positive uptake of services and an upward trend of usage, for example;

- Kooth online counselling has increased by 53% this quarter (Q4: 430 / Q3: 203), and the number of children and young people receiving online counselling has improved by 52% (Q4: 104 / Q3: 50)
- Phoenix (Child Sexual Abuse support service) numbers of children being seen have risen by 28% this quarter (Q4: 45 / Q3: 32)
- Emotion Coaching Training numbers have risen to 406 in Q4 from 326 in Q3
- Numbers of school staff trained in Mental Health First Aid has risen to 80 in Q4 from 34 in Q3

- CAMHS are reporting 100% of referrals are taking place within their target treatment times
- Parent Carer Toolkit has seen successful uptake and are reporting 1011 hits on their website

Analysis of quarter 4 highlight reports show that the ongoing challenges still centre around recruitment and retention issues, a lack of available data to evidence key performance indicators, and a lack of capacity across the partners to drive the programmes and engage in the reporting process.

Whilst each programme's issues will be addressed individually later in this summary, the Trust should note the progress as follows:

PROGRESS DURING Q4:

- The current SEND local offer site is reporting a continued increase in user page views and access from mobile devices. The work on redefining and improving the SEND Local Offer due to complete in Year 2 has now been delayed until Year 3 due to the development of a new platform and website. Additional signposting and advice on debt and benefits has been added to Somerset Choices which will meet the outcomes of more families being able to manage their debts and have access to benefits.
- The bid was submitted to NHS England for a specialist Perinatal Infant Mental Health (PIMH) community mental health team to work with women with more acute and severe presentations, including support with attachment and promotion of infant mental health. Results announced April 27th 2018.
- Two self-harm tier 2 liaison posts have been secured with NHS England funds, and the self-harm action plan has now been developed with further work in Year 3 in addition to the Kooth online counselling which has increased children and young people's access to mental health support.
- There are twelve TalentEd Academy programmes now running across Somerset with over 200 young people engaged and over 50 annual meaningful engagements with employers in key Somerset employment sectors. Work to review funding, management and working arrangements for Parent and Family Support Advisors (PFSA) has been completed for implementation from September 2018.
- The decision was taken by cabinet in February 2018, to implement the Family Support Service (FSS). Staff engagement has been undertaken by the Senior Leadership Team of Somerset County Council (SCC) to plan the transfer of Public Health Nursing staff from Somerset Partnership into Somerset County Council. Remodelling of the Children's Centre buildings has also commenced that will support delivery of Family Support Services across Somerset. Project governance and work streams aims and objectives have been agreed by SCC and Somerset Partnership. Programme 2 will address the concerns around the skill mixing of Health Visitors which they have identified as a risk.

- Family Group Conferencing – 34 family group conferences held during Quarter 4 of which 23.5% ended in kinship care.
- Programme 7 reports that Children's Services are developing leadership attributes to support the Getting to Good journey.

Identified slippage, issues and risks for the Somerset Children's Trust Executive to consider :

SLIPPAGE:

- Programme 1 shows slippage to the work of advocacy to parents of vulnerable children, the Inclusive Communities Charter Mark, and improvement of the SEND local Offer.
- A planned multiagency workshop to progress parenting support and promote to Parent Carer Toolkit was cancelled due to the snow and this is now planned for 24th April 2018.
- Programme 3 reported that they have not yet been able to establish a comprehensive data dashboard, however work has commenced through the Somerset Commissioning Academy (Somerset County Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group). Data flows across the service will continue to be developed in Year 3.
- Service Level agreements with Support Services for Education (SSE) in relation to Special Education Needs (SEN) support services are not yet finalised. A review of the High Needs Budget has resulted in consultation on changes in funding arrangements for some services - this has to be completed before Service Level Agreements can be finalised.
- There has been limited progress with the completion of Early Help Assessments (EHA's) in relation to agencies supporting children with SEND; the Early Help Advice hub is working with partners to address this. Agencies need to build confidence in the overall system and its benefits; this will be further developed in Year 3.
- Services for disabled children and their families have not been reviewed by Children's Social Care this year due to insufficient capacity in the Commissioning Unit.
- The Think Family Strategy has not been signed off at the end of Year 2; however governance arrangements are in place for sign off in Year 3.

ISSUES:

- Rates of exclusion remain high, the number of pupils being home educated continues to increase and pupils from vulnerable groups are disproportionality represented. The TAS model will be utilised to ensure that pupils subject to repeated fixed term exclusions, reduced timetables and/or poor attendance are referred to the local TAS to ensure that, where appropriate, multi-agency support is provided to support improved attendance.

- The Partnership Team have observed that the capacity for Programme Leads and Action Owners to produce reports and report on time has diminished considerably. This appears to be mainly due to staff turnover and time pressures.

RISKS:

- Programme 3 has reported the lack of capacity within the system to deliver at the scale and pace required.
- Whilst progress is being made in relation to SEND changes, and Programme 4 are aware of the areas that need to be addressed; it remains likely that, at a Joint Area Inspection, significant areas of concern may be found. We anticipate that inspection should find that our self-evaluation is effective and that we have clear plans in place to address concerns.
- Programme 6 highlight that a limited and variable quality market place locally increases costs of placements, beyond what is financially sustainable to the Council.
- Programme 7 reports that the 75% permanent workforce recruitment target has not been achieved by the end of Year 2. Retention has not been contained appropriately. A robust retention programme is being developed for Year 3 in order to ensure that recruitment results in net gains.

Emerging work for next quarter:

- Building on the model set up by Adult Social Care with Village Agents, a community led Parents Forum that will work alongside the Library Service to provide advice and information to parents with nursery and school age children.
- A parenting event has been planned by Public Health for April 24th to promote website resource, agree a local process for supporting parents and develop a pathway and menu of interventions.
- Programme 3 reports that an additional 80 primary phase staff will be trained in Emotion Coaching between May and July 2018.
- Programme 4 will begin to develop a Workforce Strategy to address issues around recruitment and retention of teaching staff particularly in shortage areas, leadership development and to support the recruitment of high quality school leaders
- Programme 5 has proposed a business case for a Pilot in West Somerset for Parent and Family Support Advisors (PFSA's) who work across schools to have access to the Early Help Case Management System to provide a case management framework. Additionally this would enable oversight of cases and provide a reporting functionality.
- Following the Ofsted judgement of Childrens Services as Requires Improvement the Programme 6 action plan is the Ofsted recommendation plan which will be reported upon throughout year 3.
- Programme 7 reports that the Think Family Strategy will be signed off and promoted in Year 3.
- The Partnership Team will commence the writing of the next Children and Young People's Plan in 2018.

Decisions Required:

That the SCT Executive approves the progress for all 7 Improvement Programmes at the end of Year 2.

Governance Arrangements:


This is the final quarter of reporting against the second year of the plan and covers the period January to March 2018. The Partnership Business Manager and the Partnership Team support the delivery groups and the Somerset Children's Trust Executive and Board in monitoring activity across all 7 Improvement Programmes to ensure the impact of the CYPP is realised.

The second annual report of the progress and impact of Year 2 of the CYPP will be published in July 2018. The Children's Trust Board has met twice in 2017/18 with 'Family Support Services' and 'Engaging with Communities' as its meeting themes.


Action plans for 2018/19 have now been developed over a number of weeks working with partners and each delivery group. This should ensure that the right arrangements are in place to achieve the desired outcomes of the Children and Young People's Plan 2016-19.

The Scrutiny Committee for Policies, Children and Families receive quarterly reports on the 7 Improvement Programmes and a monthly update specifically on Programme 6 - *Achieving effective multi-agency support for more vulnerable children and young people and developing an excellent children's social work service*. Five member champions work alongside the chairs of the delivery groups in support of the 7 Improvement Programmes which strengthen the impact of the programmes and provide advocacy for each of the groups at point of scrutiny.


1. Supporting children, families and communities to become more resilient

Current Status:	GREEN	Status Trend:	
Reason for current status:	The majority of actions have now been completed, however, additional work identified in the year regarding the improvement to the Local Offer, the plan for stronger advocacy to parents and the development of a charter mark for inclusive communities have not developed as quickly as anticipated, and will roll into Year 3 of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2016-19.		


2. Promoting healthy outcomes and giving children the best start in life

Current Status:	GREEN	Status Trend:	
Reason for current status:	Most agreed objectives have been achieved		




3. Improving emotional health and wellbeing

Current Status:	GREEN	Status Trend:	
Reason for current status:	Progress has been made at a steady rate, but developing new areas of work have taken longer than initially anticipated. Five actions remained at a RED RAG rating at the end of March 2018; however there are remedial actions which take them into Year 3.		

4. Building skills for life

Current Status:	GREEN	Status Trend:	
Reason for current status:	Whilst actions have been completed outcomes for vulnerable groups remain a concern both in terms of the comparison between vulnerable groups and their peers, and the disproportionate number of pupils from vulnerable groups subject to exclusion, the application of reduced timetables, and leaving the school system to become Elected Home Education.		

5. Providing help early and effectively

Current Status:	GREEN	Status Trend:	
Reason for current status:	The action plan is on target for all agreed actions for completion by end March 2018; however there is more work to do particularly in the area of Early Help Assessments (EHA's) in relation to SEND, this will roll into Year 3 of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2016-19, in order to report this programme rated as green (complete).		
6. Achieving effective multi-agency support for more vulnerable children and young people and developing an excellent children's social work service			
Current Status:	AMBER	Status Trend:	
Reason for current status:	There has been significant progress throughout the year; some areas have not made the progress throughout the year. Some areas have not made the progress anticipated, with key slippage in placement sufficiency and frontline recruitment targets.		
7. Embedding a think family approach across the workforce			
Current Status:	AMBER	Status Trend:	
Reason for current status:	This programme is multi-faceted and requires sustained attention. Now that Ofsted has taken place within Children's Social Care, energy can be refocused on a wider programme of getting to good. The workforce programme is key to this, but other aspects will also be important such as the links between Children's Services and the wider organisation and the increase in multi-agency working.		