

Minutes of Children’s Strategic Partnership Board

Education Committee Room / Microsoft Teams

Monday 17th January 2022

1230hrs-1430hrs

Attendees
Department /Organisation
<p>Minister for Children and Education, Chair Minister for Health and Social Services Assistant Minister Children and Education and Health and Social Services Interim Director General of CYPES Head of Office, CYPES Head of Policy, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance Head of CYPES Informatics Group Director of Integrated Services and Commissioning Director of Safeguarding Head of Communications CYPES Head of Early Years Head of Commissioning and Service Redesign, Health and Social Services Representative for Jersey Child Care Trust Representative Brighter Futures CEO Family Nursing and Home Care Private Secretary to the Minister for Children and Education Research and Administration Officer taking minutes Children’s Commissioner Chief Probation Officer Representative of Children, Education and Home Affairs Panel Group Director of Education Pan Island Chair of Safeguarding Partnership Board Best Start Programme Manager Programme Director, Education Reform</p>
Apologies
<p>Minister for Home Affairs Chief Inspector, States of Jersey Police Director of Public Health Assistant Minister Children and Education Group Director of Policy, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance</p>

	Item
1	<p style="text-align: center;">Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>The Minister for Children and Education welcomed everyone and noted that the last meeting of the Board was 4th October 2021.</p> <p>The following apologies were noted:</p> <p>Chief Inspector, States of Jersey Police Director of Public Health Assistant Minister Children and Education</p>
2	<p style="text-align: center;">Review of Minutes and Actions</p> <p>The Minister noted that most action points would be completed within the presentations from the Outcome Forums.</p> <p>In relation to children’s dental health there was a plan in place to reduce the length of waiting lists by working with private dentists. The Minister noted that an update had been circulated in the meeting pack and that he had received a briefing on the children’s dental catch-up program. The Minister for Social Security had also arranged a one-off oral health catch-up scheme for children in families who receive Income Support. There would be some real progress on this issue in the next year. Anyone interested in a further update or briefing should contact the Research and Administration Officer. The Head of Policy noted that oral health was a key indicator for other health or neglect issues. The Minister confirmed that the whole programme was looking at dental services, but services for children were a vital component of the programme. Money had now been received for children’s dental health. The Head of Commissioning and Service Redesign Health and Social Services noted that this was a vital component of the Health and Wellbeing Forum outcomes.</p> <p>The Minutes and actions of the meeting of 4th October 2021 were approved.</p>
3	<p style="text-align: center;">Domestic Abuse Update: Children Growing Up Safely Outcome, including Safeguarding Partnership Board Plan (Pan Island Independent Chair Safeguarding Partnership Boards)</p> <p>The Pan Island Independent Chair Safeguarding Partnership Boards outlined the update for the Growing Up Safely Outcome, noting that three papers had been circulated connected to this item. There was a key aim to reduce the number of children involved in domestic abuse cases. There were a number of programmes underway to deliver this outcome, including the Healthy Relationships Programme, IRIS, IDVA and Adapt. The Adapt programme was working with male perpetrators. The domestic abuse strategy was being reviewed and drafted to</p>

build on the previous strategy, working with partner agencies and people with lived experience to look at the best practice models and how to achieve the best outcomes. The Domestic Homicide Review had highlighted the issue of coercive control. The strategy would also look at the impact of Covid-19 and learning from the pandemic. There was to be the new Domestic Abuse Law, creating offences of domestic abuse and controlling and coercive behaviour. The new Law would provide for the making of Domestic Abuse Protection Notices and Orders in addition to a register of those who commit domestic abuse offences. This would ensure the Police have clearer powers. The Pan Island Independent Chair Safeguarding Partnership Boards also highlighted the work of the daily domestic abuse and safeguarding meeting. There was to be a renewed communication focus on treating each other with care and respect, prevention and early help and challenges to sexual harassment. It was noted that during lockdown there had been a 22% decrease in reporting, but this had made a recovery in 2021. Referrals to JDAS also went up. The figures were correcting themselves after the pandemic and it was expected that referrals would rise further.

The Pan Island Independent Chair Safeguarding Partnership Boards highlighted the key points for the CSPB to consider regarding domestic abuse. Support was required in order to ensure the Domestic Abuse Law was passed before the next election. She wished the Board to encourage the progress of draft legislation on post custodial supervision which will give greater powers to the probation service to manage violent offenders. The Domestic Abuse Law draft does not cover perpetrators who go on to breach bail conditions. She wished for support to commission a review of MARAC which is the co-ordinated multi-agency response to domestic abuse. MARAC and other forums (JMAPP) had become ineffective because agencies rely solely on service user engagement rather than following trauma informed practice models and seeking to engage them. She wished for support to implement statutory guidance that informs a Jersey-wide whole school approach to domestic abuse through exploring practices and programmes to raise awareness and develop young people's expectations of healthy and positive relationships. Normalisation around bullying and harassment in schools needed to be challenged.

The Chief Probation Officer enquired whether Adapt had been superseded by individual domestic abuse programmes. New programmes were undertaken in prisons too. He also enquired about the lack of understanding around trauma informed working, noting the Children's Services and the Police had undergone training in these areas. The Pan Island Independent Chair Safeguarding Partnership Boards highlighted that it was positive that separate organisations had been trained, but there was still a need for a joined up, whole-island approach to trauma informed practice. The Chief Probation Officer agreed. Regarding the effectiveness of MARAC and JMAPP he requested some examples of cases which caused concern. The Pan Island Independent Chair Safeguarding Partnership Boards agreed to follow this up with the Chief Inspector.

	<p>The Minister was interested to hear more about the draft Domestic Abuse Law and noted that prosecutions for Domestic Abuse on the island was very low. He enquired if deficiencies in the draw law were being addressed. Police colleagues had highlighted deficiencies with bail provisions, and this needed to be amended before the draft law was brought to the States Assembly. The Head of Policy agreed to check whether the law was being re-drafted to make provision for perpetrators who go on to breach bail conditions.</p> <p>The CEO Family Nursing and Home Care enquired if the new legislation would cover child on adult abuse. The Head of Commissioning and Service Redesign noted that the figures for child to parent violence were increasing and that a new multi-agency parent /carer support programme had been commissioned. The ‘Who’s in Charge’ programme could be accessed via the Children’s and Families Hub. The Director of Safeguarding noted that this was being looked at as a practice area. This was especially a problem for parents looking after children with complex needs and short breaks and respite had been provided. The Minister enquired if training in the area had been provided to foster carers. The Director of Safeguarding confirmed support was available to foster carers managing children with complex needs. The Head of Policy suggested that this work should be joined up with bullying prevention in schools. The Pan Island Independent Chair Safeguarding Partnership Boards noted that the new daily domestic safeguarding meeting was working well for joined up practice.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Children’s Health & Wellbeing Outcome Forum: Update (Head of Commissioning and Service Redesign CYPES)</p> <p>The Head of Commissioning and Service Redesign presented on behalf of Director of Public Health, who was the new Chair of the Children’s Health and Wellbeing Outcome Forum. A number of the population level indicators were improving, including the ‘obsession’ area of children’s mental health and wellbeing. Now more children were accessing the online counselling service Kooth, available to those between 10-25. CAMHS services were moving into the Family Hub, with an open front door policy. There was more support for families in the early years. There was the PPP Parenting programme and an extension of a number of other parenting programmes.</p> <p>The Head of Commissioning and Service Redesign outlined the overarching service transformation and redesign, working in co-production with children and families. There was to be a focus on understanding good mental health and support in schools and early interventions. Waiting times for specialist pathways had been reduced through work with external providers. During the pandemic there had been an increase in eating disorders, which was a cause for concern. The new model was to be based around a ‘Thrive’ focus on good mental health, building resilience and early intervention. There had been a successful funding</p>

	<p>bid in the Government Plan for Phase 1 funding to focus on Early Intervention, CAMHS as a specialist service and development of intensive youth support. There would be £6 million investment in 2022-24 and £2.25 million recurring. Phase 2 would involve a Home Treatment Team, providing in-patient and on-call services. This would receive £2 million in 2022, with £3.8 million recurring from 2023.</p> <p>The Head of Commissioning and Service Redesign presented the key metrics, including a reduction in children and young people feel embarrassed to talk about their mental health and an increase in the number of professionals who feel confident working with children and young people with mental health needs. There were reduced waiting times for assessment and treatment and an increase in out of hours support. There was also a reduced number of children in Robin Ward, where previously these figures had been going up.</p> <p>The Head of Commissioning and Service Redesign recommended that the strategy delivery plan was regularly reported and signed off at the CSPB. She also suggested that there should be further representation on the CSPB. The Minister agreed that metrics could be brought to the Board to judge the success of the strategy, and if metrics were not improving the Board could help address these issues. The Head of Commissioning and Service Redesign enquired if someone from HCS should be on the CSPB. The Minister for Health and Social Services suggested the new Mental Health Director might be invited to the Board to provide more operational insight in relation to CAMHS. The Group Director of Integrated Services and Commissioning also suggested including more consistent representation on the CSPB beyond mental health. She suggested including areas such as Primary Care. The Head of Policy agreed that whilst health was fully represented in the Outcome Forums, the CSPB also needed to include representation from a health strategic perspective. The Minister agreed to discuss CSPB representation with the Interim Director General of CYPES.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Best Start Programme Plan and Key Indicators: Early Years Learn and Achieve (Best Start Programme Manager / Head of Early Years)</p> <p>The Head of Early Years and the Best Start Programme Manager outlined the Learn and Achieve update. The key ‘obsession’ area of focus was improving the number of children achieving Early Learning Goals year on year. The Head of Early Years noted that this should be seen as a key strand running through to all age groups and four outcome indicators. Constantly striving for children and young people to achieve key goals and targets. The Best Start Programme Manager outlined the new programme with the challenges and approach. There were challenges surround the hybrid provision across public, private and third sector and unclear funding position and prioritisation. There were a large list of stakeholders and it was important to ensure full stakeholder representation. It was important to clearly prioritise actions and align these with funding and establish the Best Start programme as a single change programme rather than</p>

multiple different plans. The Best Start Programme Manager outlined the Best Start mission statement: “To implement a programme of Best Start and Best Start Plus initiatives to support preparation for parenthood, parents-to-be, children up to 5, and their families, by working together to give children the best start in life”. The Covid social recovery funding had been agreed in principle, including Best Start Coordinators, funding for Practitioner CPD, an additional 20 families to receive Best Start Plus funding, and the ‘50 Things to Do Before you are Five’ app. Two Speech and Language Therapists were to be funded as a pilot. Further funding needs would be review and additional bids would be requested via the Government Plan. The Best Start Programme Manager outlined the structure of the programme, led by the Best Start Partnership Board. It was a cross section of members incorporating the charity sector and the Government. The strands of listening to the voices of parents, children, and practitioners would run throughout the programme. The Head of Early Years provided some examples of mapping aspects of the programme to align with outcome goals.

The Head of Early Years presented some key metrics. She highlighted that the percentage of pupils achieving Early Learning Goals had remained relatively stable at 61% in 2021, despite the pandemic. However, the Jersey Premium gap had widened in 2021. Physical development had not declined significantly, and communication and language achievement had also remained relatively stable. There had been a decline in achievements in personal, social and emotional development. This was due to a lack of social connection during the pandemic. Initiatives such as the ‘50 Things’ app were aimed at improving social wellbeing.

The Minister was pleased to see the realisation of the strategy for Early Years Achievement. The Chief Probation Officer enquired if the Best Start programme would recruit and train volunteers to assist with the programme. The Programme Director Education Reform confirmed that there were several training activities set up and funded for 2022. The Minister for Health and Social Services enquired how this strategy would map together with Brighter Futures. The Representative for Brighter Futures noted that these schemes complemented Brighter Futures’ goals and that there needed to be discussions moving forwards on working side-by-side. She was confident that Brighter Futures would work alongside these strategies, but the detail needed to be worked out. They were moving forwards to co-ordinate together to put a huge focus on families and early years. The Interim Director General confirmed a meeting had been arranged with Brighter Futures to look at the great opportunity of progressing this work.

Minister enquired about working with industry and identifying capability, capacity and need to extend services. The Head of Early Years confirmed that there had been engagement and consultation with industry to understand the impacts of working from home on the childcare industry. They were working on an accurate and appropriate bid. There was engagement with industry to understand what people do and how they could contribute.

	<p>The Pan Island Chair of Safeguarding Partnership Board enquired about the ante-natal period and the need to strengthen connections with health. The Head of Early Years highlighted that the Best Start Partnership were key partners supporting parents to be. The Best Start Plus included voices from different sectors. The CEO Family Nursing and Home Care highlighted the Baby Steps programme, with more people applying and more fathers involved in the programme. Whilst the programme had been delivered online during the pandemic, it was more impactful if attended in person.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Children’s Cluster Group Update (JCCT Representative)</p> <p>The JCCT Representative provided a brief update on the Children’s Cluster Group. The Cluster Group enabled all stakeholders to work creatively and innovatively in close partnership. It enabled members of the Children’s voluntary sector and relevant Government officers to regularly share information, collaborate and work towards achieving common goals. The JCCT Representative highlighted some feedback and service developments. She particularly enquired about the Due Regard Law, its purpose and future training. She also enquired about DBS checks for Ministers and volunteers in the charity sector. She enquired where the responsibility lay for ensuring that those working with children in the charitable and voluntary sectors were DBS checked. She highlighted that there was no one agency that was responsible for checks in the voluntary sector.</p> <p>The Minister also considered the possibility of DBS checks for election candidates before the nomination process. He noted that it was important that politicians had DBS checks as they worked in areas of trust. However, a DBS being a pre-requirement before nomination might be seen as an additional barrier and cost for candidates standing. He highlighted the very public effect of any disclosures appearing on the DBS check.</p> <p>The JCCT representative noted that for volunteers it was not within the remit of the Charity Commissioner to require DBS checks. The Minister for Health and Social Services suggested that the Charity Commissioner might have this as a requirement for registration, and compliance could be demonstrated in annual reporting. He was concerned that the Government should not legislate too heavily for the charity sector. The Minister highlighted that the Charity Commissioner was appointed by the Minister for External Relations and Financial Services. The Pan Island Chair of Safeguarding Partnership Board highlighted the Safeguarding Partnership Board’s Memorandum of Understanding required a DBS check for all those registered. This provided some assurance regarding the voluntary sector organisations. The CEO of Family Nursing and Home Care noted that there was a fit and proper person check for Charity Commission registration. The Director of Safeguarding noted that the Government recruitment policies</p>

	<p>were also followed if a charity was commissioned to provide a service for the Government. The Head of Policy noted that the statutory guidance needed to be clearer in this regard. The Pan Island Chair of Safeguarding Partnership Board highlighted recommendations regarding the charity law to amend the definition of fit and proper person to include a sexual offense barring clause. The CEO of Family Nursing and Home Care noted that regulated service providers needed a DBS check for all for children and adult services.</p>
<p>7</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Review of Children’s Plan (Head of Policy)</p> <p>The Head of Policy suggested a review of the Children and Young People’s Plan, which was timely for the upcoming elections. After the Independent Care Inquiry the Plan was used to focus on priorities. The Plan should be refreshed each term of Government. The Election was an opportunity to look at achievements and also look at potential changes and future recommendations. After the elections there would be many decisions to be made regarding priorities and outcomes. He suggested that next Plan should be based on a review of the current Plan, incorporating learning and insights. He asked the CSPB for thoughts on which aspects of the Plan should be included in the scope of the review. The Children and Young People’s Plan had a legal foundation going forward.</p> <p>The Minister highlighted the achievement of delivering much of the Children and Young People’s Plan. He was keen to acknowledge and document these achievements. The review would sit with the next Minister for Children and Education. The review would require larger input from multiple stakeholders. The Children’s Commissioner was pleased to support the Children and Young People’s Law, which made the Children’s Plan statutory. She enquired about the legal status of the CSPB and suggested that the law could go forward to make this Board statutory. However, she highlighted that the Board should not become the only place where children’s rights were discussed as children’s lives were touched by every Department and Minister. There needed to be wider Governmental consideration of children’s rights. The Group Director of Integrated Services and Commissioning agreed with the Children’s Commissioner regarding the importance of linking across different Departments. She suggested reviewing the successes and achievements before the new Council of Ministers was elected. This included highlighting areas of priority, such as the Youth Justice Agenda or the Inclusion Review. There were a number of big issues and these needed to be reviewed in conjunction with the work of the CSPB. On an officer level there had been a number of changes, including a new CEO. She suggested some Workshops for the CSPB looking at re-affirming priorities.</p> <p>The Minister noted that making the Children’s Law statutory would be one of the big key strategic policy pieces to be delivered by the election. It was important that there was a document to hand over to the new Council of Ministers. The</p>

	<p>Head of Policy suggested that the CSPB should try and identify some key recommendations for the new Government, with an aim to building on the last Children and Young People’s Plan. The Minister suggested that Youth Justice was a key area which had been highlighted by the effects of the pandemic. The Head of Policy also suggested the need to understand how the key metrics and indicators had changed during the life of the plan. The Children and Young People Survey would also provide more data and insights.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">AOB</p> <p>The Representative of Children, Education and Home Affairs Panel highlighted that it would also be worth engaging with the Scrutiny Panel, who could provide further insights to the Board going forward. He agreed that every States Member should have a DBS check. The Minister agreed that Scrutiny should contribute to the Board to help achieve the best outcomes.</p> <p>The Children’s Commissioner wished to clarify the position of the Children’s Strategic Leadership Board in relation to the Children’s Strategic Partnership Board. The Interim Director General agreed that the Boards needed to be reviewed to refresh their focus. The Boards needed to be streamlined to avoid overlap and repetition and make them more impactful. He was reviewing all meetings and implementing changes going forward.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pan Island Independent Chair Safeguarding Partnership Boards agreed work with the Chief Inspector to identify case study examples of weaknesses in MARAC and JMAPP. • The Head of Policy to check whether the Domestic Abuse Law was being re-drafted to make provision for perpetrators who go on to breach bail conditions. • Admin staff to invite Mental Health Director to attend next CSPB. – Complete. • The Minister for Children and Education to agree further health representation on the CSPB with the Interim Director General of CYPES. • The Brighter Futures Representative to provide an update on Brighter Futures work alongside Best Start programme. • The Pan Island Chair of Safeguarding Partnership Board to follow up with the JCCT Representative regarding DBS checks within the voluntary and charitable sector.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Achievements, Outcomes and Recommendations document of the Children and Young People’s Plan to hand over to the new Council of Ministers in July 2022. To be overseen by Interim Director General.• Interim Director General to review the Children’s Boards with a view to refocussing their purpose. |
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