

DUDLEY HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Agenda Item no. 8(b)

DATE	14th March 2024
TITLE OF REPORT	Report of the Children and Young People's Partnership Board
Organisation and Author	Neill Bucktin – Dudley Managing Director, Black Country ICB, Chair, Dudley Children and Young People's Partnership Board
Purpose	To advise the Board of matters considered by the Children and Young People's Partnership Board
Background	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Children and Young People's Partnership Board is responsible to this Board for the oversight of a number of partnership activities that contribute to the overall health and wellbeing of Dudley's children and young people. 2. This report describes the recent activities of the Board.
Key Points	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Growing Up in Dudley" report received with implications for partnership bodies. 2. Self-Harm action plan, developed based on the experiences of School Health advisers, implemented. 3. Premature baby pathway being developed. 4. Refreshed Early Help Strategy being developed including Lead Practitioner role. 5. New Emotional Health and Wellbeing group established and all age mental health needs assessment to be completed by October 2024. 6. SEN/D Partnership Board focussing on new SEN/D Strategy and readiness for potential OFSTED/CQC inspection. 7. Positive feedback following recent ungraded OFSTED inspection relating to children in care.

Emerging issues for discussion	Growing Up in Dudley raises a number of issues that will require a system wide response across a number of partnership bodies.
Key asks of the Board/wider system	Further consideration to be given to the implications of Growing Up in Dudley.
Contribution to H&WBB key goals:	The Board's activities contribute to the goal of improving school readiness
Contribution to Dudley Vision 2030	The Board contributes to the aspiration of :- "A place of healthy, resilient, safe communities with high aspirations and the ability to shape their own future"

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1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Board of matters considered by the Children and Young People's Partnership Board.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Children and Young People's Partnership Board met on 6 February 2024. This report sets out the main issues considered by the Board.

3.0 GROWING UP IN DUDLEY

- 3.1 The Board will be aware of a comprehensive needs assessment carried out relating to the lived experience of children and young people's services across the life course called "Growing Up In Dudley".
- 3.2 The Board has received the report and reviewed an animated summary. These are now available on the All About Dudley website <https://www.allaboutdudley.info/>
- 3.3 The needs assessment involved engaging with children, young people and families in some of the most challenged parts of Dudley and has raised issues which affect a number of partnership bodies including the SEN/D Partnership Board, the Safe and Sound Board and the Forging a Future Board. Work is now taking place to review the recommendations and agree responsibilities for responding to these.

4.0 SELF HARM ACTION PLAN

- 4.1 In 2023, the Council commissioned School Health Adviser Service identified an increase in the number of instances of self-harm amongst school age pupils.
- 4.2 As a result of this intelligence, an action plan was developed to address the issues raised. The Board has noted that all actions have now been completed and the number of reported self-harm cases have reduced.

5.0 PREMATURE BABY PATHWAY

- 5.1 The Board has noted progress with the development of a premature baby pathway. A further report will be considered as the work nears completion.

6.0 PREVENTION AND EARLY HELP STEERING GROUP

- 6.1 The Board has reviewed the progress of this Steering Group in developing a clearer and more accessible early help offer.
- 6.2 Workstreams have been established which complement the development of Family Safeguarding and the redesign of children's services. A key element of this work is the refreshment of the Early Help Strategy with a focus on the first 1001 days of life and an inclusive approach to help and support.
- 6.3 It is recognised that a mature Early Help System requires Lead Practitioners who co-ordinate the activity of the team around the family, ensure the assessment and the family plan responds to all needs identified and leads on ensuring the family co-produce the plan. Developing such roles across all partners will be a priority.

7.0 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING GROUP

- 7.1 The Board has received a report on the establishment of this Group which brings all relevant partners together to address the emotional health and wellbeing needs of children and young people.
- 7.2 To inform its work, the Council has commissioned an all-age mental health needs assessment. This is being carried out by the University of Wolverhampton and is expected to be completed by October 2024. This will form the basis of a refreshed all age emotional health and wellbeing strategy.

8.0 SEN/D PARTNERSHIP BOARD

- 8.1 The Board has received a report from the SEN/D Partnership Board.
- 8.2 The Board has focussed on the readiness of the local system to respond to an anticipated OFSTED/CQC inspection. This has involved ensuring that actions from its Accelerated Progress Plan are completed and developing a Self-Evaluation Framework that will inform a refreshed SEN/D Strategy.

- 8.3 In addition, the Board now receives an updated performance report which will form the basis for a focussed “balanced score card”.

9.0 OFSTED THEMATIC INSPECTION

- 9.1 The Board has received an update on an ungraded inspection, reviewing decision-making in relation to children in care.
- 9.2 The inspectors’ feedback was highly positive and staff were praised for their restorative practice.

10.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 10.1 That the matters considered by the Children and Young People’s Partnership Board be noted.

Neill Bucktin

Chair – Children and Young People’s Partnership Board

February 2024