

 Brent NHS North West London	Health and Wellbeing Board 25 July 2023
	Report from the Chair of Brent Children's Trust
Brent Children's Trust update: January 2023 – June 2023	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
Open or Part/Fully Exempt:	Open
No. of Appendices:	None
Background Papers	None
Contact Officer(s): (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Nigel Chapman Corporate Director Children and Young People Nigel.Chapman@brent.gov.uk Wendy Marchese Strategic Partnerships Manager Wendy.Marchese@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. Brent Children's Trust (BCT) is a strategic body that encompasses a local partnership of all commissioners and key partners. The primary function of the BCT relates to commissioning, joint planning and collaborative working, in ensuring that resources are allocated and utilised to deliver the maximum benefits for children and young people.
- 1.2. The BCT has a strong strategic relationship with the Brent Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB), Brent Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) and the Brent Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP). It also has links with working groups charged with taking forward specific priorities at an operational level. These working groups are held to account by the Trust.
- 1.3. The Health and Wellbeing Board maintains oversight of the BCT activity and as part of this governance arrangement, the BCT provides the HWB with a 6-monthly update report.
- 1.4. This paper provides an update of the BCT work programme covering the period January 2023 to June 2023.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the strategic oversight activity of the Brent Children's Trust for the period January 2023 to June 2023.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1. The BCT is chaired by the Corporate Director, Children and Young People and meets every two months to review progress against the priority areas of focus and consider any emerging local and national issues.
- 3.2. The responsibilities of the BCT include:
- Develop a joint vision and strategy for improving outcomes for children, young people and their families in Brent.
 - Work in partnership with all key delivery agencies (public, private and voluntary) to ensure delivery of key priorities and associated aims, targets and inspection criteria.
 - Set a clear framework for strategic planning and commissioning promoting integration and collaborative working between all partners.
 - Monitor an agreed suite of performance information, including national and local, and quantitative and qualitative indicators in conjunction with other partnership boards.
 - Ensure that priorities are informed by the views of children, young people, their families and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).
 - Develop initiatives between the council and health services partners to improve health and wellbeing for children, young people and their families focusing on tackling Brent's health inequalities.
 - Keep the workforce informed and involved, providing clear direction and identifying opportunities for joint training and development when appropriate.
 - Ensure that legislation relating to services for children and young people is implemented in the borough.
 - Ensure close links with the Brent Health and Wellbeing Board, Brent Integrated Care Partnership, Brent Safeguarding Children Partnership and other key partnerships as necessary.
 - Share good practice emerging from the work of the Trust.
 - Agree an annual work programme for the Trust.
- 3.3. The BCT has strategic oversight of three partnership priority groups tasked with implementing specific priorities across the partnership. These are:
- Inclusion Board
 - Early Help and Prevention Group
 - Looked After Children and Care Leavers Partnership Group
- 3.4. In January 2023, the BCT agreed the work plan programme and priorities for 2023. Each BCT meeting focuses on a strategic theme, that includes annual reports from each partnership priority group.
- 3.5. The BCT previously had strategic oversight of the work of the CYP Mental Health and Wellbeing Reference Group until May 2023. During the May meeting it was formally agreed that this group would report into the Brent Integrated Partnership Mental Health and Wellbeing Executive Group. This decision was taken to:

- Ensure there is no duplication of work between the two groups.
 - Provide create clarity with the purpose and function of the reference group, and
 - Enable the group to have clearer governance arrangements that fit within the overall governance structure of the Brent Integrated Care Partnership.
- 3.6. The BCT and priority groups continue to have consistent attendance with representation from Brent Council and NWL Integrated Care Board. In January 2023, it was agreed to expand the membership of the BCT to include representation from Brent health service providers. The membership now includes representation from Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust (CNWL), Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust (CLCH) and London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust (LNWH).
- 3.7. The Brent Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) Director is a standing member of the BCT to enable strong links between the Trust and Brent ICP. A progress update on the Brent Integrated Care Partnership Children’s Services priorities, implementation and emerging issues is discussed as a standing item at each meeting.
- 3.8. In May 2023, the Terms of Reference of the BCT were reviewed and updated to reflect the expansion of the membership and the agreed amendment to the governance arrangements of the CYP Mental Health and Wellbeing Reference Group.
- 3.9. The BCT met three times during the period covered within this report:
- 31 January 2023
 - 28 March 2023
 - 23 May 2023
- 3.10. The BCT examined three main strategic themes at these meetings:
- a) Preparation for Ofsted/CQC Inspection Framework – This theme considered:
 - i. Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Inspection Framework
 - ii. Inspecting Local Authority Children’s Services (ILACS) Inspection Framework
 - b) Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) – This theme considered:
 - i. SEND local area self-evaluation
 - ii. SEND strategy implementation plan progress
 - iii. A progress update on Delivering Better Value
 - c) Early Help – This theme considered:
 - i. a progress update on Supporting Families Programme
 - ii. a progress update on Best Start for Life Programme

Preparation for Ofsted/CQC Inspection Framework

- 3.11. In January 2023, the BCT considered the Brent preparation for both the SEND Ofsted/CQC inspection and the ILACS inspection.

- 3.12. The Brent SEND inspection is expected towards the end of 2023 and the BCT considered the changes to the updated inspection framework which includes a stronger focus on frontline practice and children's lived experience.
- 3.13. The BCT were reassured by the preparatory activity being undertaken in Brent ahead of the expected upcoming SEND inspection.
- 3.14. Following the preparation discussion for the ILACS inspection during the January 2023 BCT meeting, Brent Children's Services were subject to a ILACS inspection from 13 February to 24 February 2023 and received a judgement of 'Good'.

28 March 2023 - Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

- 3.15. There is a clear vision and set of ambitions outlined in the Brent SEND Strategy 2021-2025 that was co-produced with children, young people and their families alongside professionals from across the SEND system.
- 3.16. The BCT continues to maintain oversight of the progress on delivery of the SEND Strategy (2021-2025). The focus of the improvement plan is based on the experiences of service users and aims to work collaboratively to ensure inclusion and best outcomes are achieved.
- 3.17. In March 2023, the BCT reviewed progress on the Brent SEND strategy implementation plan. The BCT recognised that progress has been made towards meeting the objectives of the plan, whilst also recognising that services are stretched due to increasing demand.
- 3.18. It was also recognised that further work is continuing to be undertaken across the following areas:
 - independent living opportunities
 - community engagement
 - the transition between children and adult services
- 3.19. The BCT will continue to have oversight of the implementation of the strategy and will scrutinise the progress of the implementation plan on a regular basis.
- 3.20. The BCT were assured that progress is being made with the Delivering Better Value programme following the Department of Education approving this programme proposal
- 3.21. Delivering Better Value (DBV) is a programme working to identify and implement local and national opportunities to improve the outcomes for children and young people with SEND as early as possible and to ensure resources are used effectively. Preparation is underway in Brent to enable the programme to begin in September 2023.
- 3.22. The BCT acknowledged that a key theme from the SEND Inspection Framework is the self-evaluation and provided strategic input into the Brent Self-Evaluation.
- 3.23. The self -evaluation focusses on the development of an evidence-based assessment that addresses three principal questions:

- What is known about the impact of the arrangement of children and young people with SEND?
- How does this arrangement impact the children and young people with SEND?
- What are your plans for the next 12 months?

23 May 2023 - Early Help

- 3.24. In May 2023, the BCT reviewed the current position on the local implementation of the Supporting Families (SF) programme, including progress, outcomes and future challenges.
- 3.25. The latest Supported Families programme commenced in April 2022 and is scheduled to continue until 31 March 2025. The funding enables the investment in the Council's Early Help service, specifically the key workers that work with families who meet the SF criteria and resources for families. The sustained funding is enabling this part of the service to be further embedded in the Family Wellbeing Centres with ease of access for vulnerable families in need of support.
- 3.26. The new outcomes framework went live in October 2022. There are now 10 outcomes for families to be identified against and they must meet a minimum of 3 criteria at the start of intervention. Overall, the framework has been well-received and due to the broad nature of the criteria, it is anticipated that it will increase the identification of families at a lower level of need, i.e., a child not accessing an early years place, families at risk of breakdown and those that have minor debts.
- 3.27. The BCT also provided strategic input into the progress update on the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme in Brent.

Governance arrangements between the Integrated Care Partnership and Brent Children's Trust

- 3.28. In May 2023, the BCT reflected upon a partnership working session that was held in April 2023 to review the development of the governance arrangements between the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) and Brent Children's Trust (BCT).
- 3.29. The purpose of the meeting in April was to consider the current governance arrangements between the ICP and BCT to determine what is currently working well, what hasn't worked as anticipated and what requires improvement.
- 3.30. The BCT acknowledged the following areas that are working well:
- Stronger relationships between the Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Brent Council through creating integrated working arrangements
 - Prioritisation of children's needs across the ICP Executive Groups
 - Integrating the needs of children and young people into all ICP priorities
 - Expansion of BCT membership to include health service providers
- 3.31. The following areas were identified as areas that haven't worked as anticipated and requires further improvement:
- Delay in development and approval of Brent borough specific business cases and further understanding needed of interface with NWL ICS

- Duplication in the ICP Mental Health and Wellbeing Exec Group and Children's Trust Mental Health and Wellbeing Priority Group.

3.32. The BCT agreed that the following actions would take place to enhance the integration of the governance arrangements:

- Refresh priority areas of focus for Children and Young People of all ICP Executive Groups
- CYP membership on all ICP Executive Groups to be confirmed
- Use partnership influence to address ICB levelling up decision making
- Children's Trust Mental Health and Wellbeing Group to become partnership stakeholder reference group reporting to the ICP Mental Health and Wellbeing Executive Group.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications as a result of this update report.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications as a result of this update report.

6.0 Equality Implications

6.1 There are no equality implications as a result of this update report.

Report sign off:

Nigel Chapman

Director Children and Young People