

Children and Young People's Trust

Annual Event, 10th November 2017

Update Newsletter, January 2018



More than 45 leaders and practitioners from across a range of partnership organisations attended the **second annual Children and Young People's Trust (CYPT) Partnership event** including public health, district and borough councils, schools, colleges, housing, voluntary sector, police services, local businesses and adult and children's social care services. We were also joined by representatives of the current cohort of ESCC apprentices.

With the current Children and Young People's Plan coming to an end in 2018, the first discussion of the morning focused on the current CYPP priorities and whether they remained fit for purpose. Groups also felt it was important to acknowledge the current climate of austerity and financial challenge; therefore it will be important to maintain a clear sense of reality within the future plan. Adjustments will be made to the priorities to reflect the views of attendees. Key discussion points on the six priorities are highlighted below and will be used to inform the development of the new plan.

Aims of the morning:

Engage with partner organisations in relation to the six priority areas of the Children and Young People's plan (CYPP) – in readiness for work to update the plan for 2019.

Review progress against the priorities and consider approaches across partners to support personal and community resilience.

ONE

Improving the school readiness of young children, particularly early communication, language development and numeracy

It was felt that this priority needed to be widened and clarified to ensure the incorporation of school transition at Year 6. Performance within early years is positive, therefore the focus could move more to primary to secondary transitions, whilst retaining all transitions as a priority and drawing on the early years success.

THREE

Improving the quality of life of low income families in other ways where possible

Groups felt there was some overlap with priority two, as work and quality of life were intrinsically linked. The issue of housing was raised as a key area of concern, with many service users not having access to either permanent or temporary accommodation. The impact of not having stability with housing and home life was highlighted.

TWO

Helping more parents enter, sustain and progress in work

Discussions agreed that this priority should remain, as this is an important factor to support children and young people within East Sussex. This priority should also focus on supporting parents to be more engaged. Engaged parents should also mean engaged children, highlighting the value of learning and helping to teach parents to express this and its importance. Discussions recognised that the unskilled work market is unstable, and we need to look at how we support people into skilled work.

FOUR

Maintaining and strengthening early help for vulnerable families; and ensuring effective safeguarding for all children and young people

Discussions highlighted that it would be helpful to have a baseline here. Smarter indicators were discussed to make them easier to measure. A review of the current CYPT dashboard was discussed – this will also link to the proposed review of the plan for a 2019 launch.

FIVE

Improving skill levels of young people 14-19, including through better access to a wider range of apprenticeship, vocational training and work experience opportunities as well as a strong academic route

Given the Apprenticeship Levy and the need for wider options and pathways for young people, it was felt that this priority remained important. Much discussion was around the promotion of the choices available to young people, with apprentices attending the event also highlighting this point.

SIX

Improving support to children, young people and families to help maintain and enhance emotional well-being and mental health

Mental health and wellbeing remains high on the agenda for partners. Discussions highlighted potential gaps for young people who are too old for CAMHS, but who do not meet the Adult's threshold. Some groups felt this priority should hone in to focus on anxiety and depression, which often do not meet the mental health support thresholds.



Personal and Community Resilience

Chris Cook Sussex Clubs for Young People

Atiya Gourlay Equality & Participation ESCC Children's Services

The second session of the morning looked at Personal and Community Resilience - Attendees were asked to identify how to progress the Children and Young People's Trust (CYPT) priorities, using an 'asset-based' approach, with each table taking one of the six priorities to discuss.

Personal and Community Resilience (PCR) looks to engage and utilise the energy of the community - therefore attendees were asked to identify how volunteering and community involvement could be harnessed to progress the CYPT priorities.

Discussions included the successful volunteer programme within East Sussex Children's Centres, where over 9,500 people have been able to attend volunteer led groups since the programme began. Recognition was also given to the fact that volunteering is a key part in the back to work journey for DWP, with voluntary work also a good pathway for offenders to be reintegrated back into society.

It was, in addition, felt that there is a need to improve the perception of volunteering and the promotion of the wide range of volunteering opportunities available, perhaps through a volunteering hub, where opportunities can be proactively promoted and success stories shared.

Project Search in Eastbourne Hospital runs 12 placements a year and has seen positive success with 90% of volunteers employed after a year.

Subsequently children and young people took part in the **East Sussex Annual Takeover Day** on the 24th November and also discuss personal and community resilience; giving their views on how they can contribute to a vibrant and resilient community.

The event was attended by children from a diverse range of backgrounds: Children in Care Council, children with disabilities, school councils and Youth Cabinet to work together to voice their views. The young people identified projects for small grants for activities with the aim of improving health and social care.



Low Cost No cost 2017 Update

At the 2016 CYPT partnership event partners were asked to suggest low or no cost ideas that could be taken forward using existing resources, please see a summary update below on areas of activity and success over the last twelve months.



Improving school readiness:



of children attending a Children's Centre crèche progressed in their development



Use of social media to increase reach to parents

Offering the right support in the right format



Promoting volunteering as a strategy to get people back to work:



Over 9,500

people have attended volunteer led groups since the programme in our Children's Centres began.

Whole family approach around mental health and wellbeing:



of volunteers in children's centres have demonstrated a higher level of mental well-being following their training



Supporting work readiness:



152

young people took part in Open Doors, visiting employers work places and learning about different industries and job roles



185

vulnerable young people completed a bespoke work experience placement, working with employers who were offered additional support.



3,819

students took part in STEM related activities with employers from industry, such as the Big Bang Eastbourne, STEM in-school activities and university lectures.

STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths



have a better understanding of what employers require from their employees

Targeted marketing of apprenticeships:



42

apprentice ambassadors trained to support apprenticeship events



32

workshops in schools in 2016/17 with

2,443

students attending

Six

events delivered in March 2017 by **Apprenticeships in Sussex** that engaged

181 parents and 171 young people



283

young people supported to apply for apprenticeships by the **Youth Employability Service**



The event received lots of positive feedback and a selection of comments are added here:

'Discussing apprenticeships with young people participating'

'Networking and updates on strategic objectives'

'All useful - good to speak with colleagues from other organisations'

'I really liked [the table discussions] as hearing and participating in debates and discussions to overcome issues can help new ideas and solutions be found'

'Receiving an update from partners regarding their work and achievements, also exploring links between different work programmes, strategies and approaches'

All respondents were also positive about the format of the event with 100% saying that they would recommend a colleague.

Recommendations for the 2018 event included:

- ☺ More table discussion
- ☺ More activity based feedback
- ☺ More involvement of partners in the agenda
- ☺ Information on housing for young people
- ☺ More partnership updates
- ☺ Apprenticeships - letting schools and communities know about them
- ☺ VCS and development potential
- ☺ How we can work together in a more joined up way

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who attended the event. Details of the event and our discussions will also be shared at the East Sussex Strategic Partnership Board.



A date for your diary!

We are planning to hold the next CYPT annual conference on the morning of **Monday, 5th November 2018** at the Hardwick Suite, International Lawn Tennis Centre, Eastbourne BN21 4JJ

Further details will follow a little nearer to the event.

Cypt.Enquiries@eastsussex.gov.uk