

Birmingham Children's Partnership (BCP)

BCP Update

Issue 1 June 2019

Welcome and Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of the Birmingham Children's Partnership's (BCP) quarterly newsletter. We know that the services we offer for children and their families need to change. Working together we will be looking at how we can do things differently to improve the health, education and wellbeing of our children.

Through this newsletter we will aim is to keep you updated on the important work that is taking place to improve these services for children in our city as set out below.



Dawn Baxendale
Chair - BCP
Chief Executive
Birmingham City Council



Paul Jennings
Vice Chair - BCP
Chief Executive
Birmingham and Solihull CCG

Background

Birmingham Children's Partnership (previously known as Birmingham Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Executive), was formed as a result of the [Ofsted and CQC inspection](#) of special educational needs and disability (SEND) services in June 2018.

This inspection was one of a number of inspections, over the last two years, that found a lack of strategic partnership working as well as a lack of leadership for children's services in Birmingham.

Shortcomings in the system included the absence of a single multi-agency vision and a supporting strategy for children's services in Birmingham, which clearly explained how we would improve outcomes for our children.

We know that currently in our city not all children and young people flourish and we want to support them and enable them to live fulfilling lives and have the best outcomes possible. Parents have said that they find it difficult to get the help they need and in particular that there is a lack of joined up care and support for them.

[Joint local area SEND inspection in Birmingham](#)
[Joint local area SEND written statement of action.](#)

Our Aim

Our aim is, by working together, to facilitate the improvement of services for children in the city. Our ambition is for

‘Birmingham to be a city where children flourish’

The six organisations involved in this partnership have committed to working together, taking action that will see Birmingham as a great place to grow up. The BCP will lead the development, implementation and monitoring of an annual set of priorities to improve the health and wellbeing of children in the city.

Chief Executive of Birmingham City Council, Dawn Baxendale, who is the BCP’s Chair, says: “We are committed to ensuring that every child in Birmingham gets the help they need to enable them to achieve their full potential and lead fulfilling lives. We want health, social care, education, parents and carers to work together to achieve the best outcomes for our children and young people, to ensure that children and their families and carers have access to the services they need as quickly as practicably as possible.”

To make the improvements required, there needs to be a fundamental change in how our organisations work together, and also with children, their families and carers.

Andy Couldrick, Chief Executive of Birmingham Children’s Trust says: “Our focus is to improve the outcomes of the most vulnerable children, young people and families in the City. We continue to work hard both within the Trust and also with our partners, to support children and young people in achieving the best they can.”

Birmingham Children’s Partnership - Members

The Partnership members are drawn from all of the main public sector agencies in Birmingham:

- Paul Jennings, CEO, Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG);
- Dawn Baxendale, CEO, Birmingham City Council (BCC) and BCP Chair;
- Andy Couldrick, CEO, Birmingham Children’s Trust (BCT);
- Richard Kirby, CEO, Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Trust;
- Penny Thompson CBE, Chair, Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership;
- Kenny Bell, Superintendent, West Midlands Police (WMP);
- Michelle McLoughlin, Director of Nursing, Birmingham Women’s and Children’s Hospital.
- Rachel O’Connor, Assistant Chief Executive, Birmingham and Solihull Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP)
- Tim O’Neill, Director of Education of Skills, Birmingham City Council

A multi-agency ‘Improvement Team’ will report to the BCP members, and will ensure that the priorities are taken forward and improvements are made, to enable health and care professionals to offer the best care and support possible for children and young people in Birmingham

What we are doing

The five key work streams, as set out below, are the focus for 2019/2020:

- Services for children with **S**pecial **E**ducational **N**eeds and **D**isabilities (SEND) – lead Rachel O'Connor, Birmingham & Solihull CCG/ Birmingham & Solihull Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP);
- Children and Young People affected by youth violence/Contextual Safeguarding – lead Andy Couldrick, BCT;
- Reducing the number of primary school exclusions – lead Tim O'Neill, BCC Education and Skills;
- Reviewing the cost and benefits of high cost placements and out of city residential provision, where possible providing alternative care closer to home
Lead – Paul Jennings, B'ham & Solihull CCG;
- Ensuring that services for children are focused on making early help work – lead – Kenny Bell, WMP.

Paul Jennings, Vice Chair, BCP and Chief Executive, Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group says: "We are clear that services need to improve significantly, and as quickly as is possible, so that children and young people in Birmingham have their needs met and are properly supported to allow them to lead fulfilling lives."

To find out more about the work of the Birmingham Children's Partnership please email: rob.willoughby@nhs.net

Partner Organisations:



WEST
MIDLANDS
POLICE

