

**GOWM PROJECT BOARD MEETING  
FRIDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2007 AT 9.30 AM  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, HEREFORD**

**Present:**

|                       |   |       |
|-----------------------|---|-------|
| Kathy Lee Cole        | Government Office for the West Midlands   | (KLC) |
| Rob Willoughby        | Government Office for the West Midlands   | (RW)  |
| Councillor Jenny Hyde | Cabinet Member Children's Services        |       |
| Sharon Menghini       | Director of Children's Services           | (SM)  |
| Anne Heath            | Head of Integrated Services & Inclusion   | (AH)  |
| George Salmon         | Head of Commissioning and Improvement     | (GS)  |
| Marcia Perry          | Directorate Manager – Children's Services | (MP)  |
| Philippa Granthier    | Children's Trust Business Manager         | (PG)  |
| Hillary Hall          | Performance Improvement Manager           | (HH)  |

**Apologies:**

Shaun McLurg                      Head of Safeguarding & Assessment Services

**1. Welcome**

KLC welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The following corrections were noted:

Marcia Perry's job title should read "Directorate Manager – Children's Services".

School Review

Staunton on Wye - RW would try to take forward the issue of keeping the money in Herefordshire rather than it going back into a central pot.

APA – RW would be attending the APA meeting on 27 September 2007.

**3. Report from DCS**

SM went through her report that had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Children's Trust

- SM highlighted that the Children's Trust arrangements were moving forward. However, more work was still required re commissioning. There had been a re-organisation so that there was an Executive Level, then a Management Group, followed by five outcome groups which were multi-agency. The outcome groups had been requested to look at their terms of references.
- The outcome groups have set out what they are working on. SM handed out a document which set out the roles of each group. The outcome groups were aware that they would need to work across the different

areas.

#### Herefordshire Partnership LSP Group

- This group was a small executive group of which SM was not a member. SM would be attending the next meeting. SM was aware that the different partners needed to “knit” together and work out a more streamlined approach.
- RW requested that the latest strategies be discussed at this meeting.
- SM’s impression was that work on drugs issues start from community safety rather than from the Children’s Trust. SM’s view was that there should be some link with the Children’s Trust.
- With the new style LAA, there may be different priorities.
- KLC offered to talk to the Hereford Lead with regard to the matrix structure.
- SM had had discussions with the Leader with regard to children’s issues.
- KLC said that given the geographical spread of Herefordshire, there would need to be more connectivity.
- Cllr Mrs Hyde said that children issues were at the top of the agenda and that a significant amount of funding does go to children.
- The PST proposals had been approved by both the Council and the PCT. The PST Chief Executive interviews were due to take place on 27 September. There were four candidates. SM said that the issues would need to be discussed and monitored carefully to ensure that they were right for Herefordshire. However the appointment of a Chief Executive was seen to be positive. RW said that the DCFS would want to know how it would work for children. SM indicated that Neil Pringle had not wished to get caught up in a debate with regard to the structure / restructure at this stage as the new Chief Executive would like his own input.

Action: **Copies of the latest documents would be requested from Russell Hamilton, Project Manager.**

#### Flood Damage

- All schools were opened.
- Cllr Mrs Hyde had visited all affected schools to view the damage and has had a review visit.
- Cllr Mrs Hyde said that all the staff had shown tremendous commitment.
- There were still concerns with regard to future flooding at Holmer and Bosbury. It was possible that a capital bid may be made to install some flood prevention measures.
- GOWM’s help in transferring monies from the Staunton on Wye project would be appreciated.

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#### New Head of Service

- The interviews would take place at the end of October and would provide support with regard to commissioning for the Children's Trust.

#### APA

- APA was imminent and staff were working hard to prepare as much as possible.

#### Extended Schools

- The recent meeting had been very positive. SM was grateful for colleagues' efforts
- KLC indicated that she was very proud of the work and that it had been noted regionally.

#### Safeguarding

- Recruitment was still high profile and that we were on target to meet Government targets.
- ICS was being implemented via Herefordshire Connects and was across the Council. There would be a link with Adult Social Services. RW asked whether there was a link in with the Cap GEM. The Council need to make sure that there was communication and that Cap GEM were kept up to speed. If ICS was not implemented by April 2008, it would mean a red rating. The Council needed to ascertain whether the paper basis can be ICS rated.

**Action: SM to find out from Derek Forknall and feed back to RW.**

- KLC indicated that integrated youth support issues were high on the agenda and that more work would be expected. AH said that Jon Ralph had pulled together a multi-agency team to look at the issues in conjunction with CAF. There would also be a consultation on 25 November with young people to ascertain their engagement. Work on the 14-19 area was moving forward.
- Yvonne Clowsley had been seconded to the Council for six months and was being funded by health. YC would be dealing with specific activities which had been set out.

#### Three Success Criteria

- SM had asked for a group of RADAR PIs to be reported monthly as well as the quarterly digest.

#### 4. **Update on Performance Management**

Hilary Hall presented her report.

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> quarterly digest would be more informative as more comparative information and graphical representation of the Best Value Performance Indicators was included in it. The 1<sup>st</sup> quarter was just a starting point..
- SM reminded those present that the digest would be presented to Scrutiny, Cabinet, Children's Trust.
- RW said that the quarterly report was a real achievement and exactly what GOWM were looking for.
- RW – the RADAR PI's are a step in the right direction. However he would feel reassured if the children's protection PI's were also in there. HH passed out a document which illustrated that the children's protection PI's were there.
- RW asked about a further development of comparators and suggested Worcestershire or the creation of teams within Herefordshire to act as comparator groups.
- HH indicated that learning from best practice is the next step and that this was coming out in the performance clinics that had been held.
- SM said that HH had given her a copy of a Needs Analysis which was really useful. The PowerPoint presentation could be used to start a debate with other colleagues.
- RW was interested to know what the perception of IPC was. GS said that it was good quality training. The only concern for some staff was that a dissertation was required and that this was hard for staff given their workload. The Council had made the dissertation optional provided they had completed the course. However, some staff had done the dissertation.

### 5 Update on Change Management – Schools Re-Organisation

GS presented his report.

- There would be a meeting on 9 October with the secondary schools.
- The primary school heads had met yesterday (20 September) to start the debate.
- The review was on track.
- The technical work was now starting.
- The feedback from schools was that proposals on the next stage would not be welcomed just before Christmas and that it would be better to send them out in possibly early January.
- RW said that he was pleased that the schools were engaged and that the proposals were increasingly strategic.
- SM said that while visiting schools, the review is brought up in discussions

discussions.

- Members were collectively aware of the big picture
- The meeting with the Schools Commissioner Office in July had gone well.
- SM indicated that a wider accommodation review was taking place.
- MP said that work on the integrated teams had started.
- SM indicated that the review needed to think about the community and not just facilities all on one site.
- RB suggested that the review should reflect the new commissioning language

## 6 Children with Disability

AH presented her report. Due to technical difficulties, RW had been unable to print off the Children with Disability strategy. RW would feed detailed comments back on the Strategy to AH, copy to SM.

### **Action: RW to feed back comments**

- AH reported that a significant amount of work had been done on the strategy by Richard Watson. Richard had worked with multi-agency colleagues and had taken on board all comments that he had received.
- Further work was still required, however, we were on target to meet the deadlines.
- MP reported that this time the process felt different and that group felt stronger. Comments were still being received and were wide-ranging. However, there had been a significant improvement. The strategy was more robust and user friendly.
- MP – thought needed to be given on how to join the NFC / ECM agenda to the disability strategy.
- SM said that she had attended the Health Commissioning Group and the Hereford Hospital Trust and given a presentation with regard to the Children's Trust which had been well received.
- RW said that he could see that progress had been made.

## 6. Next Steps

SM reported that more work was still needed.

KLC reported that she and RW would discuss. They would wait until after APA to prepare a Ministerial briefing.

KLC said that the partnership working over the last few months shows that significant progress had been made

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