

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| MEETING<br><br><b>Health &amp; Wellbeing Board</b>                      | AGENDA ITEM   |
| MEETING DATE<br><br><b>20 Sept 2017</b>                                 | REPORT NUMBER |
| SUBJECT<br><br><b>A Better Start Southend (ABSS) Programme update</b>   |               |
| REPORT AUTHOR<br><br><b>Michael Freeston, acting Programme Director</b> |               |
| PRESENTED BY<br><br><b>Michael Freeston</b>                             |               |

## SUMMARY

The effective progress reported to the last H&WB in June has continued. The coproduction space in the SAVS building has been officially opened and is being used by parents and stakeholders to develop the programme's activities in partnership with the ABSS team. The financial review being undertaken by Big Lottery Fund has progressed to a point where two outstanding payments totalling £1.2m have now been received. The Service Design process to coproduce new activities in the areas of Breastfeeding Peer Support and Introducing Nutritious Foods has now begun with a range of sector specialists, service providers and parents all contributing.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Board members are asked to note progress and the current position.

### 1) GOVERNANCE

Following a successful quarterly review meeting in August and further progress on all aspects of the strategic and financial review, the Big Lottery Fund has transferred £1.2m of outstanding payments to the Partnership. Sarah Gibbs (BLF Finance Director) reported how pleased BLF were with recent progress. They share our view that ABSS is now on a firm footing with strong engagement from all partners and stakeholders, has a clear focus and sense of purpose. They agreed our priorities for the next phase should be on implementing new programmes through the service design process, extending links to universal providers across the borough and securing strong data management and evaluation arrangements.

At its August meeting the Partnership Board approved in principle use of the Liquid Logic data management system. With Southend Borough Council moving ahead with the use of this system for its social care and Early Help provision ABSS will be able to share relevant information in a safe and secure manner.

#### Appointments update

##### a) Programme Manager:

Two candidates were interviewed for the role of Programme Manager; Deborah Payne has accepted the role on a secondment bases from EPUT.

##### b) Director A Better Start Southend:

From the 20 applications two candidates were interviewed. The panel consisted of Kate Billingham (BLF advisor), Michaela Howell (Director ABS Bradford) Simon Leftley, Andrea Atherton, Jackie Dale (HR Manger Pre-school Learning Alliance) and myself. Candidates also spent an hour with parents. Their valuable feedback informed the panel's decision making.

The panel felt unable to offer the post to either candidate. Both were strong in a number of areas but tended to lean toward the operational side of management rather than demonstrating the necessary strategic leadership required for this role. This has led to a review of the focus and requirements of the role to reflect more closely the evolution of the programme around the enhanced healthy child programme. The revised role will be promoted more from a public health perspective on a rolling basis and potential candidates will be invited for an informal discussion about the role and our expectations before progressing to the formal application process.

This longer term approach is possible because the programme team is now well established and functioning effectively. The Director role continues to be covered by the Director of Quality Improvement for the Pre-school Learning Alliance. BLF have agreed proposals to extend the secondment of Deborah Payne from EPUT into the Programme Manager role until March 2018 and a further 90 days of James Boxer on a consultancy basis in the Project Manager role.

This core team will review the operational arrangements required by the Programme for the next phase of development and delivery. This review was to be undertaken once the new Director was in place but it is now felt that a delay pending that appointment is now viable.

##### c) Independent Chair.

No applications were received for this role by the deadline. This matter was discussed at the quarterly meeting with BLF and consideration may now be given to remunerating this role. As a result, a similar rolling process of appointment will now be applied to the search with initial, informal discussions with potential candidates being held in advance of the formal application process.

## 2) PROGRAMME UPDATE

### a) Office Move

The Programme Office moved to its new home in the SAVs office on Alexandra Street on 1<sup>st</sup> August and an opening event is to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> September. The creation of a coproduction space where stakeholders can contribute to the process of service design, delivery and evaluation is a tremendous step forward for the programme.

### b) Strategic Operations Group (SOG)

The review of the programme will be completed by October. This will steer the direction of the programme into its next phase. The review has been informed by research undertaken by Activmob to establish family perceptions of healthy eating in the Borough. Interviews took place with parents at children's centres, foodbanks local parks. Discussions focused on general lifestyles, behaviours, access to nutritious ingredients, prevalence of take away food outlets etc. The findings will be presented to a stakeholder event on 11<sup>th</sup> September; a verbal update can be provided at the H&WB on the key issues raised and proposals for future development within the ABSS programme and beyond.

## 3) PROJECT SERVICE DESIGN

The first two proposed new programmes to be considered by the Programme have begun their journey through service design. A range of subject experts, providers, academics and parents contributed to an initial consideration of *infant feeding* and *breastfeeding peer support* programmes. A series of task and finish groups have been established to carry forward the work, aiming for implementation through an approved provider in February 2018.

Following on from a cross-system Perinatal Mental Health mapping exercise facilitated by MABIM (Mothers and babies in Mind), a gap was highlighted around capacity to work with mothers with mild to moderate perinatal mental health illness. It was agreed by the perinatal mental health steering group that the most appropriate way of filling this gap was to employ a specialist health visitor with a background or interest in mental health. The proposal was taken to the ABSS partnership board as an innovation based project and was formally signed off to progress to service design immediately. We anticipate that the role will provide specialist support to clinical staff working within universal services, deliver face to face support in the home and community to a small caseload of mothers, and will develop innovative community based programmes alongside IAPT (Improved access to psychological therapies) to provide a time related, clinical intervention to support mental health needs of these mothers. The programme will seek to measure the long term impact of these interventions on both the maternal mental health and parent-infant relationships.