

Southend Health & Wellbeing Board

Report by

Alex Khaldi, Chair, A Better Start Southend

to

Health & Wellbeing Board

on

5th December 2018

Report prepared by:

Jeff Banks, Director, A Better Start Southend

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For discussion	<input type="checkbox"/>	For information only	<input type="checkbox"/>	Approval required
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A Better Start Southend - update

Part 1 (Public Agenda Item)

1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to:

- 1.1 Provide an update from the Chair of A Better Start Southend (ABSS) on key developments since the last meeting.

2 Recommendations

HWB are asked to:

- 2.1 Note the contents of the report and raise issues and opportunities with the Chair of the ABSS Partnership Board, Alex Khaldi.
- 2.2 Agree that ABSS present to the Board meeting in March 2019.
- 2.3 Consider attendance at training opportunity ‘*Strategic Approaches to Father Inclusive Practice*’ on 15th January 2019.
- 2.4 Consider attendance at the ABSS Conference ‘*Who’s the Expert? Innovation in Co-production and Service Design*’ on 11th April 2019.

3 Background

- 3.1 GOVERNANCE

a) *Partnership*

The Chair and Director of ABSS has been undertaking further meetings with strategic partners, including Malcolm McCann, Executive Director of Community Services & Partnerships at EPUT; Professor Vasilios Ioakimidis, Director of Centre for Social Work & Social Justice, School of Health and Human Sciences at the University of Essex; Clare Burns, Director of Operations for Planned and Scheduled Care at Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust; among others. There has been a particular focus on strengthening engagement with NHS partners.

It is intended to hold an event with partners and the Director of ABSS will liaise with Alison Griffin, the Chief Executive of Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, to develop proposals further. It is anticipated that this event will be held in the new year.

b) Big Lottery Fund

ABSS participate in a number of regular Programme feedback sessions with the Big Lottery Fund, at a Directorial and Programme Management level and the formal Quarterly Grant Management Meeting took place on 17th September. In addition to regular update items, ABSS shared work relating to Adverse Childhood Experiences and initiatives focussed on engaging Fathers. The next review is scheduled for January 2019 and will focus on review of the risk register along with the programme implementation plan and communications plan.

The Director participated in a meeting of the A Better Start National Advisory Group on 18th October at the ABS Lambeth site, LEAP. This was a useful opportunity to share insights across the wider national programme and meet national experts who support the programme and local stakeholders. The next meeting of the National Advisory Group will take place on 29th January 2019 and will be in Southend-on-Sea. The Advisory Group routinely receive a presentation from parents and it is suggested ABSS Partners save the date, as there may be benefit in key stakeholders attending the event to share practice, etc.

ABSS continues to be involved in a number of cross site / national initiatives, including:

- Development of Improvement Science techniques;
- Warwick Consortium national cohort study;
- 23Red joint national Communications Campaign;
- Flying Binary, national data dashboard;
- Various 'Communities of Practice' shared learning and development platforms.

c) Governance

Following the adoption of the new Governance structure, the first four Group meetings have taken place: Parents' Group, Programme Group, Finance and Risk Group and Insights and Analysis Group. Reports from these groups will be shared with the Partnership Board. The decision to engage parents in all governance meetings has been welcomed and there has been parent representation at all meetings. Terms of Reference for Groups establish that the meetings will be quorate when there are two or more partners represented and two or more parents. Three of the four meetings have been quorate and partners are working hard to strengthen representation at all meetings.

There have been two meetings of the 'Think Tank' working on strategic System Change and Community Resilience and the group is finalising the commissioning, with support from SBC,

of a system map and mapping tool which will help inform discussion around system effectiveness and opportunities.

The Finance and Risk Group and the Partnership Board reviewed and approved the Quarter Two Summary Management Accounts submission to Big Lottery. The summary is attached as Appendix One.

The Chair, Director and team remain grateful to the many partners and stakeholders who contribute so positively to the various governance processes at ABSS.

3.2 PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT UPDATE

a) Programme Management Office Capacity

The capacity of the core team has been enhanced with a number of recent appointments and new staff are now inducted and working well. A number of administrative roles are being recruited including two new posts and one to fill an existing vacancy. A further full time Project Manager is also being recruited as previously agreed and additional capacity will be established during the commissioning of the Social & Emotional work stream.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed between SBC Public Health and ABSS, facilitating the continued deployment of one Health Improvement Practitioner Advanced to offer strategic support for the ABSS Diet and Nutrition work stream, and establishing a further arrangement for a Senior Public Health Principal to support strategically with Social and Emotional programme development. These arrangements contribute significantly to core expertise/capacity and strengthen the ability of the partnership to respond to key strategic objectives of mutual benefit. The programme is extremely grateful for this support and looks forward to further developing the strategic relationship with Public Health, working with these much valued colleagues. Arrangements are being finalised to continue the current deployment of a 0.6 f/t/e Programme Manager from EPUT.

As reported previously, the Programme Management Office is looking at additional office accommodation, to complement the Alexandra Street office and options are being finalised.

The Director has been working with the team to establish a new operational management structure for ABSS.

b) Programme Activity

ABSS continues to make significant progress with implementing projects and programmes across the three key areas of focus: Diet and Nutrition, Communication & Language and Social & Emotional Development. A service delivery contract is currently being finalised with Family Action for delivery of a range of new programmes in Children's Centres including:

End of Winter Term

- Father Reading Every Day (FRED)
- Starting Solids Workshops

Spring Term

- Food for Life
- Basic Cooking Skills

- FRED
- Starting Solids

The Programme Management Office are finalising commissioning timescales for Social & Emotional work stream and a Preparation for Parenthood Programme supplier engagement event has been planned for 11th December. Through a task and finish workgroup, the detailed specification for the Family Support Project is being developed alongside key stakeholders, for presentation to the Programme Group on 9th January 2019. The universal offer for parenting, Empowering Parents, Empowering Communities (EPEC), is now in delivery with a further 6 programmes planned for the spring term.

The Programme Management Office are undertaking a review of the current suite of Communication & Language programmes undertaken through 'Let's Talk' and have met with the EPUT Principal Paediatric Speech and Language Therapist in order to differentiate, define and quantify each of the individual offers. The Speech, Communication & Language Family Support Workers are now in role within the SBC Special Educational Needs team and started supporting parents on the 5th November.

Pre-School Learning Alliance have been successful in gaining funding from the DfE to roll out elements of the ABSS Speech and Language work to five new areas – Leeds, Birmingham, North Yorks, Portsmouth and Lincolnshire. As part of this we have the opportunity of extending Let's Talk activity to the other non-ABSS wards in Southend. We are delighted with this success and Michael Freeston from the Pre-school Learning Alliance has worked closely with the ABSS lead Speech and Language Therapist on this.

The quarter 2 service reviews with current providers are currently being undertaken.

A training opportunity '*Strategic Approaches to Father Inclusive Practice*' is being offered to the Partner 0-3 workforce on 15th January 2019. Details have been shared with Board members and they are requested to encourage attendance from their agency.

An ABSS Conference entitled '*Who's the Expert? Innovation in Co-production and Service Design*' is scheduled for 11th April 2019 and Board members are asked to 'save the date'. Further information is provided at [Appendix Two](#).

A Case Study is included at [Appendix Three](#)

c) *System Change and Community Resilience*

ABSS is continuing to develop work exploring the GP Family Friendly approach and is currently working with partners to explore how to bring paediatrics into local primary care delivery models. On 8th November a co-production event was held with GP practices from the East Central locality to explore opportunities and secure 'buy in' for the proposed model of delivery, with the objective being to reduce A&E attendance for gastrointestinal disorders and respiratory illness. It is hoped that these approaches may be able to contribute to the reduction of winter pressures over the 2018/19 season.

ABSS has responded positively to a request from SBC to support the Children's Centres and has offered a proposal for a multi-agency pilot project, testing new models for managing and delivering integrated services at the centres.

Following the decision of the Partnership Board to undertake a review of the Engagement programme, the Programme Management Office have been exploring options through co-production and benefiting from formative evaluations. Colleagues have also engaged with SBC and partners to explore opportunities for using principles of Asset Based Community Development and Restorative Practice, to reinforce the value of this work in building community resilience and sustainability. Proposals were considered and approved by the Partnership Board on 12th November and an implementation plan will be discussed with the ABSS Programme Group on 3rd December.

ABSS has continued to be heavily involved in the development of 0-19 Children Young People and Families Services and staff are supporting a number of working groups in addition to the main Steering Group, looking to develop a new 0-19 model.

The 'Think Tank' continue to meet to support the work of ABSS as a catalyst for system change and community resilience.

d) Local evaluations

The Partnership Board have agreed to support the allocation of resources to undertake formative evaluations of key programmes of activity, and draft reports for the first three areas examined have been presented to the Insights and Analysis Group for review. These will be refined prior to circulation to providers for fact checking before publication. In line with the ABSS bid the decision to undertake these formative evaluation in-house has seen "*our local workforce further developing their research skills as an element of continuous professional development and reflective practice*". Three further formative evaluation reports are currently in production.

On 5th November, the Insights and Analysis Group considered a proposal to replace two temporary Research and Evaluation Officers with a permanent team – building evaluation capacity as detailed in the original ABSS bid. The Insights and Analysis Group also reviewed options for the commissioning of the programme-wide local evaluation and proposals will be brought to the Partnership Board on 21st January 2019.

e) National Cohort Study

Further discussions have taken place with the Big Lottery Fund and the Warwick Consortium regarding the implementation of the Cohort Study. It is now anticipated that the Cohort Study will commence later in 2019. The Partnership Board has expressed strong support for the Cohort Study and, operationally, staff continue to provide all necessary resource and information, as required.

4 Reasons for Recommendations

4.1 ABSS Governance have reviewed and approved activities at the appropriate level.

5 Financial / Resource Implications

5.1 None at this stage outside permitted programme projections.

6 Legal Implications

6.1 None at this stage

7 Equality & Diversity

7.1 None at this stage.

8 Appendices

8.1 Appendix One – Quarter Two Summary Management Accounts

8.2 Appendix Two – Conference ‘Save the Date’ flyer

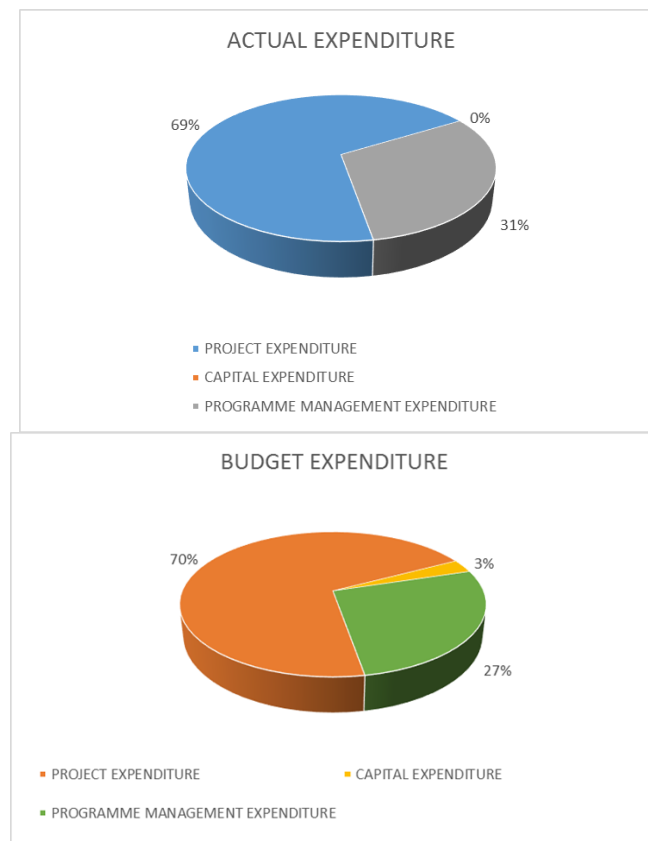
8.3 Appendix Three - Case Study

8.1 APPENDIX ONE – Quarter Two Summary Management Accounts

CONFIDENTIAL SIX MONTHS TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2018

The management accounts for the A Better Start Southend (ABSS) programme show income received and expenditure incurred during this financial year. Management accounts are presented to the ABSS Partnership Board quarterly, coinciding with the submission of returns to the Big Lottery Fund. More detailed monthly accounts are reviewed by the ABSS Finance and Risk Board.

The accounts for the financial period from 1 April 2018 to 30 September 2018 show project expenditure of £837,000, capital expenditure of £nil and programme management (PMO) expenditure of £375,000. These are represented as a percentage of total spend in the first chart.



Commentary regarding underspend

- Co-production – an element was returned due to non-delivery of part of the contract relating to cross-borough co-production strategy embedding
- Crèches – saving made due to employing directly and less reliance on agency staff
- Projects – delayed start to some project-linked staff roles
- Programme Office – delayed appointment to some PMO staff roles whilst the new team is embedded

Summary Management Accounts - Confidential
 Period: QUARTER TWO 2018-19

Period: APRIL to SEPTEMBER 2018

	Actual	Budget	Variance (adverse) or favourable
	£	£	£
INCOME			
REVENUE FUNDING RECEIVED FROM BIG LOTTERY FUND	1,288,000	1,445,000	(157,000)
CAPITAL FUNDING RECEIVED FROM BIG LOTTERY FUND	13,000	44,000	(31,000)
LEVERAGED INCOME	130,000	-	130,000
TOTAL INCOME	1,431,000	1,489,000	(58,000)
EXPENDITURE			
PROJECTS			
SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL	221,000	262,000	41,000
COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE	250,000	267,000	17,000
DIET AND NUTRITION	166,000	167,000	1,000
SYSTEM CHANGE	139,000	243,000	104,000
CRECHE SERVICES	26,000	55,000	29,000
MONITORING & EVALUATION	7,000	23,000	16,000
DATA ANALYSIS	28,000	26,000	(2,000)
PROJECT EXPENDITURE	837,000	1,043,000	206,000
SALARIES AND SECONDMENTS	230,000	273,000	43,000
OTHER PMO COSTS	145,000	128,000	(17,000)
PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT EXPENDITURE	375,000	401,000	26,000
TOTAL REVENUE EXPENDITURE	1,212,000	1,444,000	232,000
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	-	44,000	44,000
LEVERAGED COSTS	130,000	-	(130,000)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,342,000	1,488,000	146,000
NET FUNDING IN ADVANCE/(OWED)	89,000	1,000	88,000
CUMULATIVE FIGURES FROM START UP TO DATE	£		
INCOME	7,898,000		
PROJECT EXPENDITURE	3,497,000		
PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT EXPENDITURE	3,686,000		
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	570,000		
LEVERAGED	130,000		
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	7,883,000		
NET FUNDING IN ADVANCE/(OWED)	15,000		

CONVENTION: Brackets around a number signify either an amount owed by the Big Lottery or an adverse variance (ie income less than budget or expenditure greater than budget)

8.2 APPENDIX TWO – ABSS Conference – Who’s the Expert? Innovation in Co-production and Service Design



Save the Date

Who's the Expert?

Conference 11.04.19

A Better Start
our children
our community
our future

Innovation in Co-production and Service Design

With a range of speakers, including leading academics, practitioners and parents/carers, offering both theory and practical examples, this conference will explore best practice in engaging families in the design and delivery of the services they use.

Thursday 11th April 2019 (daytime)
South Essex College, Southend, Essex, SS1 1ND

For those supporting children under 4 and their families in health, education and social care sectors.

This is a parent-led, family-friendly conference and delegates are encouraged to bring partners and children. A range of activities will be available for children and families running alongside and contributing to the main programme.

Programme and booking will be available in January 2019

For further information, please contact
ABSSresearch@pre-school.org.uk
or call 01702 356050



**NATIONAL
LOTTERY FUNDED**

8.3 APPENDIX THREE – Case Study

Ileana

Ileana has been A Better Start Southend Parent Champion for over 16 months now, spreading the word about A Better Start and encouraging new parents to take part in the programme.



She describes herself as a stay-at-home mum with 3 children - twin boys 2.5 years of age and a daughter aged 5. She was attending play groups with the boys and starting to venture out more and as her life was full on with childcare she was not really thinking about work/volunteering etc.

Ileana met an SAVS Better Start Engagement Officer promoting opportunities to get involved in the A Better Start Programme in at her local primary school playground one day when collecting her daughter. This interested her and she provided her contact details so a follow up contact could be made. During a home visit she was informed about the Parent Champion Training course that was coming up. She was a bit hesitant at first as she likes to ensure she can see things through and knew there would be a level of commitment.

As the twin boys had never been away from her or looked after by anyone other than herself and her husband, Ileana was apprehensive about the crèche situation as she had previously tried a crèche but this was too challenging for the boys.

With the Parent Champion training, the team, together with the crèche workers and Ileana tested and learnt what works and what didn't with regards to settling the boys in crèche. She was able to stay in the training with the group and a volunteer was provided to engage the boys if they came out of the crèche and into the training room. This was a key fact that kept her engaged on the course.

Ileana's main aim and motivation to get involved related to her children and to help improve the lives of under 4s and their families. Ileana says: "The Parent Champion role has given me the opportunity to be involved so many different elements. I feel part of the decision making process and enjoy the experience of co-production meetings."

Ileana's role has included Partnership Board Meetings, Breastfeeding service design, Milton Gardens Focus Group, attending Parent Forums, Communications Group and community events. The impact on Ileana personally has been positive she is more confident, has built up a strong social network and continues to improving her IT/data entry skills.

Ileana feels volunteering is helping her with future goals as she will soon begin to think about returning to work. Being a Parent Champion has given her ideas for the type of work she wants to, and she has also now attended events with the Work Skills project.

Ileana adds: "The entire experience has been so enjoyable and feels like a meaningful use of my time and well worth doing it has changed my life".

Update November 2018: Ileana has recently found employment.