

Southend Health & Wellbeing Board

Report by

Alex Khaldi, Chair, A Better Start Southend

to

Health & Wellbeing Board

on

22 January 2020

Report prepared by:

Jeff Banks, Director, A Better Start Southend

	For discussion	X	For information only		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.

3 Background

GOVERNANCE

a) Partnership

The Partnership remains strong, with regular attendance at Partnership Board meetings from all partners and stakeholders, which take place every two months. A Partnership Agreement has been developed enabling Southend Association of Voluntary Services (SAVS) to become a Partner to the Programme – previously SAVS has attended meetings representing the voluntary and community sector, but was not a formal Partner.

As a reminder for Members, the ABSS Partners include the following organisations and agencies:

- Early Years Alliance
- Southend Borough Council
- Essex Police
- Southend University Hospital

- Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT)
- NHS Southend CCG
- University of Essex
- Family Action
- SAVS

b) The National Lottery Community Fund (TNLCF)

The TNLCF and ABSS continue to participate in periodic reviews to ensure the Programme remains on target and delivering anticipated outputs/outcomes.

The Programme has been advised that Sarah Gibbs, TNLCF's Head of Funding (A Better Start) will be moving roles within the TNLCF. The Chair and Director of ABSS similarly extend their thanks to Sarah, who has been a superb advocate for the A Better Start Programme nationally and a great support to ABSS here in Southend. The Fund is working to secure her replacement and in the interim, is being supported by very able Funding Managers, supported by the Emma Ackerman (Deputy Director, England) and Laura Furness (Head of Funding), both of whom are very familiar with the ABS Programme.

c) Governance

As there has only been a short interval between the last Health & Wellbeing Board and the current meeting, there has not been significant development with regards to governance of the Programme.

As a reminder for Members, the ABSS Programme Governance structure comprises the following Groups:

- Partnership Board – Chair Alex Khaldi
- Programme Group – Chair Krishna Ramkhelawon
- Insights and Analysis Group – Chair Michael Freeston
- Finance and Risk Group – Chair Paul Grout
- Parents Group – rolling Chair (parent)

The Chair of the Partnership Board has undertaken a review of the Governance framework, which was represented in November 2018, and this will be presented to the next full Partnership Board on 10th February 2020.

The Chair and Director of ABSS extend their thanks and those of all the partners and beneficiaries of the Programme to Simon Leftley, formerly Deputy Chief Executive (People) at Southend Borough Council, for his considerable support for the Programme since its inception.

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT UPDATE

a) Programme Management Office

The Programme Management Office continues to provide effective management of the Programme under the leadership of Jeff Banks, Director of ABSS.

Recruitment is under way to replace the Communications and Marketing Manager, and the new post will focus more on disseminating findings from the Programme's test and learn projects and developing opportunities for sustaining the activity long-term. The ABSS, SBC and SAVS joint Co-production Champion has taken up post and is in her induction period.

b) Programme Activity

Delivery across all work streams continues to be strong, and Members of the Health & Wellbeing Board can review detailed notes on individual projects and programmes in the papers for the Health & Wellbeing Board of 4th December 2019

(<https://democracy.southend.gov.uk/documents/g3509/Public%20reports%20pack%2004th-Dec-2019%2017.00%20Health%20Wellbeing%20Board.pdf?T=10>).

Since the December meeting, the contract to deliver a **Volunteer Home Visiting** service for ABSS has been awarded to Home-Start Essex (www.home-startessex.org.uk). Under the leadership of the charity's Chair, Sarah St-Pierre and CEO, Nic O'Brien, the service is now in mobilisation with volunteer recruitment underway and the delivery of home visiting due to commence in March/April.

Following review, the **Empowering Parents, Empowering Communities (EPEC)** programmes run by South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLAM) will be ceased from the end of March 2020. The learning from the pilot EPEC courses is informing wider delivery of the ABSS Programme.

The **Your Family** project has completed the substantive design phase and the full business case will go to the Programme Group on 20th January 2020.

Current Programmes in Delivery are as follows:

Work stream: Diet and Nutrition

- **121 Breastfeeding**
One-to-one support is provided in the mother's home during the first six weeks' post-birth, typically by fully-trained Infant Feeding Support Workers.
- **Group Breastfeeding**
Mothers are offered support for up to one year from birth and are encouraged to attend the weekly sessions both ante- and postnatally.
- **3-4 Month Contact**
An additional Health Visitor contact to share knowledge with parents about early healthy eating at the weaning stage, to contribute to an increase in the number of children entering Reception at a healthy weight.
- **HENRY**
HENRY Healthy Families delivers an evidence-based childhood obesity prevention programme to support the Public Health England national Start4Life initiative.
- **Food and Growing Project**
Starting Solid Workshops - to contribute to an increase in the number of children entering Reception at a healthy weight.
Food 4 Life Programme - to support parents and their children to gain new growing skills and knowledge of home-grown produce.
- **Southend Supports Breastfeeding**
Encourages venues across the borough to welcome families who want to breastfeed.

Work stream: Social and Emotional

- **Family Nurse Partnership**
An intensive, structured home visiting programme currently offered to first time and parents under a defined age.
- **Volunteer Home Visiting service**
The programme will work alongside families to build parenting confidence and self-esteem and provide emotional and practical support and guidance to families.
- **Preparation for Parenthood antenatal support**
A mixed approach programme for all expectant parents, which considers the factors impacting new parents such as economic/social issues; adverse childhood experiences; cycle of poor aspiration and healthy relationships.
- **Perinatal Mental Health service**
Specialist Health Visitors for Perinatal Mental Health work to support parents with adjusting emotionally to becoming parents, from the antenatal period to around one year of baby's life.
- **Work Skills**
Focusing on activities related to skills, enterprise, employment and wider economic development, aiming to encourage parents into work or training.
- **EPEC (Being A Parent)**
The Being a Parent course helps parents learn practical communication skills and to develop their abilities to bring up confident, happy and co-operative children.
- **EPEC Coordinator**
Supports the work of the EPEC programme through marketing and promotion of the programme within ABSS wards.
- **Family Support Workers for Social Communication Needs**
A service for families whose child is currently on the Multidisciplinary Assessment waiting list and with concerns around development in (at least) two of the following areas: communication; interaction; imaginative play (often early indicators for autism).

Work stream: Communication and Language Development

- **Let's Talk**
Let's Talk aims to reduce the demand for statutory speech and language services by providing a universal preventative speech and language pathway/offer for children aged between 0 and 4.
- **Wellcom Screening**
Developed to engage and ensure that early years providers working with our youngest children are encouraged to further their understanding of the role they play in developing young children's language development
- **Talking Transitions**
Develops collaborative working between Primary schools and their feeder early years settings, creating satellites of speech, language and communications expertise.
- **First and Foremost**

Supports speech, language and communication development, narrowing the communication gap at age 5.

Work stream: Community Resilience

- **Engagement**
Development workers engage parents using a co-production model, enabling them to bring systematic change that improves the lives of families with children 0-4 years old. Includes volunteer roles as Parent Champions and Parent Ambassadors.
- **Engagement Fund**
An allocated resource for Parent Champions working with the local community to identify ideas which provide opportunity for local community engagement.
- **Resilience Fund**
Designed to encourage local innovation and engagement in the design and delivery of activities that will help local families and children.

Work stream: System Change

- **Welcome to the UK**
A user-led group that supports families from overseas who have newly arrived in the UK to engage positively in Southend-on-Sea. ABSS provides the crèche for this service.
- **Joint Paediatric Clinic**
The primary aim is to design and test a Paediatric Clinic in primary care as a new model of care, bringing together primary and secondary care to share learning and skills.
- **Data Input- ESTART**
Family Action is commissioned to input ABSS data onto the ESTART system to enable tracking of outputs and outcomes.
- **SBC Data Analysis**
Southend Borough Council is commissioned to analyse the data that has been input onto the ESTART system.
- **Programme Evaluation Partnership**
The University of Essex has been commissioned to perform formulative evaluations of all ABSS projects.

Community Resilience

Ten applications were received from community-based partnerships for the ABSS **Resilience, Ideas & Innovation Fund** (RIIF) which closed for applications on 30th November 2019. Four projects made further representations on 10th January 2020 and the successful projects will be announced shortly.

Workforce Development and System Change

Work is continuing on Workforce Development and System Change initiatives and the Programme again refers Members of the Health & Wellbeing Board to the notes contained in within papers for the Health & Wellbeing Board of 4th December 2019.

'Case for Change' Legacy Planning

Following detailed feedback from the Members of the Health & Wellbeing Board and broader ABSS Partners, the Chair and Director of ABSS continue to refine the process for developing a sustainable legacy from the ABSS programme from 2025, whilst reinforcing the need to maintain progress on achieving short/medium-term programme outcomes and scaling of the work to non-ABSS wards.

c) Knowledge Research and Evaluation (KRE)

Research and Evaluation

Research activity has been continuing, and the University of Essex making good progress on developing new tools and approaches to maintain ongoing formative (process) evaluations of current programmes in delivery. The Specification for the independent summative evaluation is in development and it is planned to go to the market shortly.

A case study is attached for reference.

Outcomes Framework

The refreshed Outcomes Framework has been agreed by Partners.

Data Development and Analytics

Data Dashboard

There is no updated quarterly 'Data Dashboard' since the December meeting.

4 Reasons for Recommendations

4.1 ABSS Governance have reviewed and approved activities at the appropriate level. The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to note the contents of the report.

5 Financial / Resource Implications

5.1 There are not financial/resource implications for this report.

6 Legal Implications

6.1 None at this stage

7 Equality & Diversity

7.1 None at this stage.

8 Appendices

Appendix One – Case Study – Let's Talk Speech and Language Development

Appendix Two – NA – no quarterly Data Dashboard summary since last meeting.

Appendix Three – NA – no quarterly Summary Management Accounts since last meeting.

Jeff Banks, Director, ABSS

13th January 2020

Appendix One – Case Study

ABSS PROGRAMME: Let's Talk Speech and Language Development; Delivery Partner: EPUT

CASE STUDY TITLE: Successful early identification, support and referral

Background:

G attended an **ABSS Talking Walk-In (drop-in triage) session** in March 2019 aged 2 years 7 months. His mother expressed concerns about the development of G's spoken language skills as he was using just a couple of vowel sounds to communicate. She felt that his understanding of language and social skills were appropriate for his age but wanted support and ideas to develop his ability to express his wants, thoughts and needs.

Intervention:

Following discussion with his mother and brief assessment during the **Talking Walk-In session**, the Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) agreed that G was presenting with difficulties using spoken language at the level expected for his age. She recommended that G attend the **ABSS Talking Toddlers course** – a series of 5 sessions for families looking to learn more about language development and gain ideas of fun activities to support their child's communication skills at home.

G attended the **Talking Toddlers course** during April - May 2019. G's mother was observed following the advice given and there were opportunities to discuss her concerns individually at each of the sessions so that the SLT team could provide more specific advice based on G's difficulties.

During the final course session, G's progress was discussed. G was able to use 5 words to communicate but continued to have significant difficulty using spoken language. G was therefore offered a series of 4 VERVE therapy sessions during July - August 2019. This therapy approach acknowledges the importance of the interaction between the parent and child in developing communication skills and uses video of play sessions to help the parent and therapist explore the skills the parent is using to support their child's communication. It offers the opportunity to consider adding additional skills that may also be of benefit for the child. Following completion of the VERVE sessions, the SLT carried out a nursery visit in September 2019 to meet with G's key worker to share examples of the videos (with Mother's consent) and make recommendations of how to develop his language skills in the setting.

Outcomes and benefits:

Following completion of the sessions, G is now able to use a wider range of vocalisations and is using some signs to support his communication skills. He uses much more communicative intent and is able to take the lead in interactions, giving him many more opportunities to try and share his ideas. His increased ability to 'face watch' enables him to regulate his emotions through mirroring his mother's positive emotions in response to him. He is also gaining much more information about how his mother is putting words together and he can control the pace of the interaction to meet his needs. G's mother has expressed that she feels more empowered to support his communication attempts.

G is currently presenting with disordered spoken language skills. He has therefore been transferred to the clinical SLT team for further assessment and ongoing intervention.

Test and Learn:

G participated in the trial of offering VERVE sessions to children with specific language and communication needs on the **ABSS caseload**. Through the successful implementation and outcomes of the therapy the Speech and Language Therapy team have been able to identify how best to offer these sessions to families in the future. They are in the process of creating specific criteria for access to these sessions and have incorporated the therapy approach into their care pathway for the **ABSS service**.