

Title:	Report back from Children's Services Partnership Forum Event 1 st December 2014: Young people – Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health
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Purpose/Key Messages:	To inform Brighton & Hove Connected about the most recent forum event, focussing on young people , mental health and emotional wellbeing
Significance to BHC and Delivering SCS outcomes:	The Children's services partnership forum has been supported by Brighton & Hove Connected since its inception. This was its second meeting
What is BHC being asked to do?	At this stage the item is for information and discussion
Next steps and report back mechanism:	A further meeting is scheduled for next summer, and the forum will take place twice per year

1. Event:

The event was held at the BRIGHTHELM Community Centre and was well attended with over 50 people signing in.

Tony Mernagh chaired proceedings and explained that much work had progressed in the six months since the first event in June, including the circulation of a high level data sharing agreement for the city.

Cllr Sue Shanks welcomed people to the event, spoke about the difficulties we were facing in terms of budgets and the need for collective service providers and users to work closer together in future.

Pinaki Ghoshal then introduced some of the current context for children's services across the city. This included recent developments such as establishment of an early help hub and our multi-agency safeguarding hub, work progressing on school place planning across the city, a drive to get more apprenticeships and of course recent budget proposals.

2. Guest speakers:

Wook Hamilton spoke about the Right Here project that has been running for five years in Brighton & Hove. It's a young people led project promoting mental and emotional wellbeing. She also shared a video which can be viewed on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A14hY4GHseo>

Richard Chamberlain is the Deputy Head at Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form College and spoke about the range of pressures facing secondary aged young people in the city. He gave an interesting insight in to the range of mental health issues that are affecting young people at the moment.

Helen Gulvin is an Assistant Director within Children's Services at the council and she gave an overview of a proposed new service directly targeted at our most vulnerable young people in the city. This new service would look to better support those at risk of entering the care system in adolescence and to provide a more holistic day and night service.

3. Themed discussions:

The four themes were

- Mental health in schools
- Family support and emotional wellbeing
- Drugs, alcohol and mental health
- Crisis services

Here is a summary of what was heard across all four of the themed discussion groups

- Let's get things right first time
- There is appetite and a need for more 24/7 services
- Remember some of the things we used to do – don't always need to reinvent the wheel
- Let's deliver services around children and young people – not the other way around
- Relationships are key – having a trusted adult at the centre of the work
- The interface between services for children and young people and then adults is really significant
- Information sharing across agencies is a key concern and / or solution
- Do services users (or professionals) always know where to go for the right help?
- The role of parents / carers is really important

4. Feedback:

30 feedback forms were completed – with the vast majority of respondents scoring highly or very highly that it was interesting, a good use of their time and relevant to their job.

It was clear that the speakers and the discussion time were valued equally with 25% of respondents citing 'All of it' as the best part of the day.

There were many useful suggestions made on potential topics for future events. These include importance of transition points (eg starting school, primary to secondary, exams or into adult services), early help and prevention, early years, child sexual exploitation, domestic violence and skills and employment.

5. Next steps:

A facilitated conversation will happen with a group of young people representatives (likely to be from the youth council) to talk through the four themed discussions. These young people will be asked to input their experiences and thoughts on solutions as well as provide comment on the points raised during in our discussions.

A final report will then be produced later in the new year and shared with all members of the Children's Services Partnership Forum.

A future event will be planned for June / July 2015 and a date will be shared for this soon.

6. Contact:

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