

Better Start Bradford Partnership Board Minutes
Thursday 22 April 2021
Via Zoom

Meeting Started: 17:30

Meeting Ended: 18:45

Present:

Vipin Joshi	Community Board member (Chair)
Ruth Shaw	Senior Head of Strategy, Change and Delivery, Bradford District and Craven Clinical Commissioning Group
Alex Spragg	Programme Director, Better Start Bradford
Tracey Hogan	Voluntary and Community Sector Representative
Richard Padwell	Superintendent, West Yorkshire Police (items 1 to 8 only)
Jo Howes	Public Health Specialist, CBMDC
Ludmila Novosjolova	Community Board member (item 9 onwards)
Samina Begum	Community Board member (item 8 onwards)
Satnam Singh	Community Board member

In Attendance

Gill Hart	Funding Manager, The National Lottery Community Fund
Gill Thornton	Head of Programme, Better Start Bradford
Sara Ahern	Programme Manager, Innovation Hub (in place of Josie Dickerson)
Jill Duffy	Implementation Manager, Better Start Bradford
Guy Dove	Programme Administrator, Better Start Bradford
Suzanne Bairstow	Programme Administrator, Better Start Bradford

Apologies for Absence:

Mark Douglas	Tom McCulloch	Phil Hayden	Gwen Balson
Shaheen Khan	Karen Tetley	Salma Nawaz	Josie Dickerson

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Vipin welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the apologies.

Everyone introduced themselves to Suzanne who is a new Programme Administrator at Better Start Bradford.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 18 March 2021

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

3. Matters Arising actions table

Gill Thornton explained that the Commissioning Advisory Group has asked us to consider extending the timeframe for the review of Parents in the Lead. The task and finish group's work cannot reasonably be done in the original timeframe (reporting to the May Partnership Board). She had sent an email about the task and finish group this morning asking for Partnership Board members and others to volunteer to go on to the group. The suggested timeline is in the email, with the task and finish group to meet between two and four times, and to consider the review properly before reporting to the July Partnership Board.

Decision: The Partnership Board agreed to extend the timeframe for the review of Parents in the Lead, with a report now to be made to the July Partnership Board.

Alex advised that Gwen, Karen and Shaheen volunteered for a governance task and finish group, to review the induction process and materials for Community Board members and explore the development of a mentoring and buddying system. This is being supported by Fiona and Emma from the Better Start Bradford staff team and the group first met on 6 April. They will be reviewing all the information and pulling together what is appropriate, and identifying any gaps.

Gill Thornton confirmed that a business case for extending the Innovation Fund contracts of Womenzone and Sharing Voices, including more sustainability information for Womenzone, will be brought to the May Partnership Board.

Alex confirmed that the quarterly strategic update was circulated by email.

4. Declarations of interest

Those Community Board members who are present will not vote on item 7.

5. 'Getting to know you' session

Karen was going to cover this but has had to send her apologies. She hopes to give this at our May meeting.

6. Initial BiBBS data – review and discussion

Josie has had to send apologies and Sara provided a brief outline, explaining that Josie has a much more complete presentation. Her team have got all the data together for the pre-Covid BiBBS cohort and made sense of it. This was not a small task (2,600 families) and Sara said the team had done an incredible job.

They have done this so they are able to have a good understanding of what the BiBBS cohort and the BSB population looks like. In terms of reach the cohort was well represented in terms of Pakistani heritage and White British families, and less so for White Other families, which is also seen across the BSB programme. The team wanted to understand outcomes and the overlap with the BiBBS cohort and found it is largely the same families coming through the BSB programme. Less than 15 per cent of the 2,600 had not been to a single BSB project. Sara's team wanted an overlap, and now they can look at different ways of evaluation and at how families are moving through the wider programme.

Sara confirmed that Josie will present more details and new questions that the Innovation Hub will want to ask.

7. Community Board member terms of office

Alex is requesting that all the current Community Board members' terms of office are extended from two years to three. This would allow knowledge and experience of BSB to be retained. She explained that in the last two recruitment cycles, lots of new Community Board members have come on board. BSB would like to give the newer members the opportunity to enhance their knowledge which has been a challenge during lockdown. Also, the independent review by St Edmunds recommended we find ways to retain knowledge of the programme.

Alex confirmed that all four Community Board members whose terms would have ended in July 2021 are willing to continue for another year. The other Community Board members' terms also should be extended for a year, otherwise all the Community Board members would finish their terms at once.

Ruth commented that this seems like a sensible thing to do and Vipin noted the special circumstances we have had during the last 12 to 18 months.

Decision: The Partnership Board agreed to extend the terms of office of all the Community Board members by one year.

8. Little Minds Matter update

Sara explained that this is not the usual end of contract review, but her team have taken a good opportunity to get the project's data together, see how things are going, improve data capture and think about evaluation options. There is a need to review the evaluation plans.

Sara outlined the project which is part of the Babies and Bonding theme group and focuses on the parent-infant relationship. It is a complex project with four strands. The first strand is a community awareness one led by Family Action. Strand 2 involves training the workforce, raising awareness and understanding. Strand 3 offers consultation to the workforce and the final strand offers direct therapeutic intervention to families.

The report Sara presented only covers strands 2, 3 and 4 (delivered by Bradford District Care Trust) as the other one is led and delivered by another organisation. Progression criteria differ for each strand.

In strand 2, the number of training courses delivered exceeded the target, leading to a score of 117 per cent for Implementation and a 'Green' rating. Reach was complicated as the workforce shifted and the original targets became skewed, so Sara's team focused on the numbers attending the training, which massively exceeded the target. Satisfaction was the third progression criteria and was scored at 99 per cent.

The Consultation strand was rated at Amber with 251 sessions provided against a target of 328. Sara noted that numbers may have been affected by the pandemic and there was still quite strong delivery.

For the Therapeutic Intervention strand, under Implementation the number of families assessed was 104 per cent of the target. Recruitment was scored at 83 per cent and related

to the number of families attending at least one session. This was rated Amber though Sara said it is quite positive. Satisfaction scored 100 per cent though Sara noted that very few satisfaction questionnaires were received from the families. The Innovation Hub have now moved to online questionnaires instead of paper ones and hope for an increased response.

Sara moved on to the strands in more detail. Strand 2, Staff Training, has over-delivered especially in 2019 when it was really embedded and 16 full day training courses were delivered. The roles of the people attending were categorised into priority staff (those who worked most closely with infants, children and families) and non-priority staff, and 71 per cent of staff attending were priority staff. There is a need to consider how this affects the targets set for Reach.

234 practitioners completed and returned satisfaction questionnaires and feedback was very positive.

Sara said Strand 3, Consultation, is complex as there are four offers; triage, reflective discussion, ongoing consultation and drop in clinics. Triage began being offered before the others which may be why it over-delivered. Sara thought take-up of reflective discussions and ongoing consultation was reasonable. Drop-in clinic numbers are well below target and were affected by Covid but now this offer is improving.

It was mainly health visiting accessing the consultation strand and professionals from some BSB projects (Family Action, Doulas, Baby Steps). Sara suggested that the numbers accessing reflective discussions show good awareness. There was some inconsistency in workforce data from some of the offers which Sara's team is trying to address with the project – she needs the role of the professional as well as the name of the organisation.

At the drop-in clinics, 52 per cent of the families discussed were BSB ones but Sara noted there was significant missing data and 'unknowns' and her team have spoken to the project about this. 55 per cent of method of delivery for ongoing consultations was via video which Sara said was due to Covid and practicalities, and it will be interesting to see how that changes as lockdown is lifted.

For strand 4, Therapeutic Intervention, 30 parent/child 'dyads' per year were anticipated. 93 referrals were made of which 91 were accepted, and 62 out of a target of 75 families accessed at least one intervention. A range of interventions are offered and 98 per cent of referrals were accepted, and 83 per cent of accepted referrals went on to attend at least one intervention which Sara said are really good numbers compared with the rest of the BSB programme. Referrals were from a range of professionals. Only eight families completed a satisfaction questionnaire, which scored 100 per cent, and Sara hopes the new online version will be completed more.

Jo mentioned her work trying to push health visiting to adopt a universal attachment measure, which might shift referrals to Little Minds Matter. There is work to be done that will help this project. She asked if Sara's report was shareable and Sara confirmed it would be once BSB have signed it off and she plans to put it on her team's website. Vipin asked if the report would go on the data dashboard but Alex said the dashboard consists of wider information.

Jo confirmed she wanted to talk at other meetings about the project's positives, sustainability and what is working really well. She said there need to be more district wide conversations about infant mental health.

Gil Thornton noted we would always want to share information and mark things we do not want to share as confidential. Already there is Reducing Inequalities in Communities funding for Little Minds Matter, and a wider district post is being funded by BSB which should help to increase the impact of this project. Our ongoing function review has sustainability as a main workstream for BSB over the next four years.

Jo suggested that a universal attachment measure is put in the next contract. Jill asked that if Jo is interested in anything, she should let us know. BSB will be aiming to give more frequent routine updates instead of waiting for end of contract reviews.

Tracey asked why uptake was so low for the Watch, Wait and Wonder therapeutic intervention. Sara replied that she did not know and this is a mid-contract report. She is looking at evaluation plans and will bring these to the Partnership Board now that a new research fellow with an interest in perinatal mental health is in post. Tracey recalled that she worked on parenting in cases of substance misuse in Canada. Watch, Wait and Wonder was a key strand and a wonderful technique to use with people who felt disenfranchised and some great training videos were made with parents which were impactful. Sara confirmed there is an opportunity to further explore this and Little Minds Matter are a wonderful project to work with.

9. Programme monthly report

Gill Thornton mentioned the Aladdin Story Trail from Bradford Literature Festival which BSB are funding. This has just been launched and it will be good to give children more of a chance to explore parks etc.

We are looking to complete our function review by the end of June. This will lead BSB to have a greater focus on sustainability, legacy, an exit strategy, and more dissemination of knowledge which will be done in collaboration with the Innovation Hub. BSB have looked at its organisational structure, having new roles, workstreams and will build strategies, including an integration and change strategy. We need a blueprint for the future and a stronger influencing strategy. We have re-devised the workplan and will put more resource into the Programme Management Office to make our system work better. We are also looking at making the programme monthly report give more useful information.

Gill Thornton then referred to the recent A Better Start national event – Parents and Communities in the Driving Seat. Parents and staff were involved in a number of sessions, including a workshop which shared the role of parents and the community in our Better Place capital programme. Gill and Adele shared an outline of the Better Place project, Ludmila spoke about parental involvement and influence and Becky (research fellow) talked about involving parents in research. It highlighted that decision makers should not make assumptions about what parents want to see. Becky found out the parents wanted to use the woodland in Bowling Park which was perceived as somewhere unsuitable for families, so a nature trail was created and it was made more accessible and it is very popular. Finally, Shahid from Act Early talked about how our work is helping to inform what they do. There has been lots of very positive feedback to the event.

It was confirmed that NatCen are leading a consortium who are the new national evaluation partners, and they will be visiting BSB and discussing how we can feed into their work.

Gill Thornton confirmed that Horton Community Farm are delighted that we have agreed to continue their funding. The Parents in the Lead panel have recently agreed to fund eight new groups.

Credit is due to the BSB team who designed the project referral tool to be used by professionals, increasing their knowledge of the extent of BSB projects and making referrals more streamlined. There is a pdf version available on our website as well as a paper version. The project referral tool will be distributed widely. Vipin commented that the referral tool works really well with the project cards and is a continuation of them and is really useful for Community Board members.

Gill Thornton recalled that we always mark Infant Mental Health Awareness Week and on 9 June we will be holding a joint webinar with the other ABS sites. The theme for this year focuses on including infants in children and young people's NHS services.

A risk has been identified for Baby Steps in that there is no parental sensitivity measure. Jill explained this is different to the attachment measure mentioned when we discussed Little Minds Matter. The risk is the impact on the evaluation and we are discussing this with the Innovation Hub. Sara added that there are measures that exist but we need to find one that is appropriate and some of them do not work for our families and projects.

10. Any other business

Jo said she was intrigued by the function review and asked if the new posts would be supporting district-wide work. Gill Thornton confirmed that they would to an extent and their roles will be carefully planned and we will be looking at outcome areas. She gave an example of the Better Place manager who is based at the local authority and is also a consultant for age 0-3s for the Parks Department. Existing roles at BSB will also be used to work on sustainability. Jo noted that Public Health hold some joint contracts with BSB and Gill Thornton confirmed that this helps and we are keen to ensure that roles support and influence what happens in the district and spreading learning beyond Bradford.

Alex asked Jo to let us know if she can see specific areas and opportunities. Jo raised the Neighbourhoods work and said it would be good for the district to know more about it e.g. Fiona could present on it. Alex agreed that the Neighbourhood model developed by us could be shared more widely and Jo added that more needs to be heard about it. Gill Thornton observed that the Neighbourhoods work is a key part of the sustainability workstream and the Partnership Board asked us to do it. As part of the original bid, we need to build a 'Community of Influence.' She confirmed we will be bringing sustainability back to the Partnership Board.

Gill Thornton thanked Ludmila for her contribution to the ABS annual event. Ludmila shared that she has a new job as one of the BSB funded Neighbourhood engagement workers in BD5. She hopes to engage more families and pass on her knowledge of BSB. Vipin, on behalf of the Partnership Board, congratulated Ludmila on getting the post.

Alex raised the recruitment of two Vice Chairs to the Partnership Board. The roles have been shared with the Community Board members as agreed early last year, just before the first lockdown. Since then, new Community Board members have been recruited and annual reviews took place around Christmas. No applications for Vice Chair have been received as yet and the closing date has been extended to Sunday 25 April, with interviews next week.

Vipin thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He asked if everyone had felt they had an opportunity to contribute to this meeting and all agreed that they had. He also asked Jo to thank her colleagues in Public Health for keeping us safe.

11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is provisionally on Thursday 20 May 2021, via Zoom, starting at 9.30 am.

The meeting closed at 6.45 pm.