

Better Start Bradford Partnership Board Minutes
Thursday 15 July 2021
Via Zoom

Meeting Started: 09:15

Meeting Ended: 09:45

Present:

Vipin Joshi	Community Board member (Chair)
Tracey Hogan	Voluntary and Community Sector Representative
Alex Spragg	Programme Director, Better Start Bradford
Josie Dickerson	Programme Director, Innovation Hub
Jo Howes	Public Health Specialist, CBMDC
Gwen Balson	Community Board member (Vice Chair)
Samina Begum	Community Board member (Vice Chair)
Karen Tetley	Community Board member

In Attendance

Carlton Smith	CEO, Bradford Trident (in place of Sarah Hinton)
Christina Holloway	Associate Director, Living Well, Bradford & Craven CCG (in place of Ruth Shaw)
Gill Hart	Funding Manager, The National Lottery Community Fund
Gill Thornton	Head of Programme, Better Start Bradford
Jill Duffy	Implementation Manager, Better Start Bradford
Kerry Bennett	Integration and Change Manager, Better Start Bradford
Shaista Ahmed	Finance Manager, Better Start
Guy Dove	Programme Administrator, Better Start Bradford

Apologies for Absence:

Ruth Shaw	Mark Douglas	Phil Hayden	Ali Jan Haider
Tom McCulloch	Alison Powell	Sarah Muckle	Therese Patten
Satnam Singh	Salma Nawaz		

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Vipin welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the apologies.

Everyone introduced themselves to each other.

This will be a brief meeting followed by the theory of change workshop.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 17 June 2021

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

3. Matters Arising actions table

Alex confirmed that we have written out to Tabia to thank her for her service as Commissioning Advisory Group Chair. Christina said that Alex's email 'made Tabia's day'. Alex noted that we will continue to work with Tabia.

The other action point about sending a diary note for the theory of change workshop has been completed.

4. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. 'Getting to know you' session

This was not covered this month.

6. Year 6 final accounts

Shaista went through the written report that accompanied the accounts. There is a £1.9 million underspend to 31 March 2021.

The accounts are broken down into management, project costs and capital. The bigger underspends are noted and explanations given in the written report, such as salaries which were anticipated to be greater as Better Start Bradford planned some recruitment during the year, but the function review which was conducted to identify the roles was delayed due to the pandemic. There was also an underspend on Learning Together as the delivery of events was significantly impacted by Covid. There have also been significantly less expenditure on things such as travel and conferences.

There have also been underspends within the Projects due to the pandemic, although delivery has continued for the majority using digital technology there have been reduced costs overall. Five Innovation Fund projects were approved but delivery was delayed due to Covid. There was an intention to commission further Innovation Fund projects but this did not happen during 2020/21.

Gill Thornton noted in relation to the salaries underspend, BSB are now recruiting with six jobs currently being advertised and a further recruitment round planned for the autumn. These need to be promoted to the local community and a recruitment workshop is being held tomorrow on which ten people have booked in.

Shaista and Vipin noted that the accounts have already been scrutinised by the Finance & Audit Sub-Committee.

Decision: The Partnership Board notes and accepts the accounts for the year ending 31 March 2021.

7. National Lottery Community Fund annual review

Alex confirmed that BSB's annual review with the NLCF took place last month. This was well attended by our partners and Vipin represented the Community Board members.

At the review meeting, we looked at what has happened since the previous review (which was less than 12 months ago, as it was delayed), achievements and learning. We also discussed our priorities for the next year and the NLCF's priorities.

Alex shared that there had been lots of achievements despite us having to work remotely and other difficulties arising due to the pandemic. The independent review report conducted by St Edmunds was completed and most of its recommendations have been implemented or are being so. We have co-produced our community engagement service design in very challenging circumstances of Covid and the evaluation work on community engagement is progressing.

Comms have been crucial over this period and BSB's team won a national Nursery World award. We have looked at what is reaching who, and our Instagram account has really taken off. We have developed the series of podcasts as a Learning Together resource, embracing a new media and bringing a range of voices and subjects to Bradford and beyond.

The progress of the Better Place sites and the completion of much capital work has been significant and we have seen the impact on the community in terms of usage of green spaces. The capital work has now started in the control area and will all be completed by next year. Better Place funding has been used to leverage in additional funding in the district complementing some of the Better Place sites and contributing to the work to reduce harmful emissions. BSB have worked with different partners to ensure that Early Years is taken into account with capital and landscape works.

There has been traction in relation to our sustainability work, BSB have several joint commissions with Public Health including breastfeeding support, perinatal infant mental health support and the joint funding of the ACEs Co-ordinator post, and we have been involved in partners' commissioning planning. As for strategic influence, we are members of the Prevention and Early Help partnership with BSB represented on all the sub-groups, and are involved in the development of the Prevention and Early Help strategy. We contribute to a number of the Local Maternity Services and Act as One maternity workstreams. BSB programme and project staff have also played a major role in the work to develop a District wide perinatal mental health pathway. Alex also mentioned the partnership work with Public Health to develop the work identified in the District, Adverse Childhood Experiences, Trauma and Resilience Strategy with the local community, staff and partners involved in the various sub groups leading this work.

Josie shared insight from the Innovation Hub including how learning is embedded. The Innovation Hub's research on the impact of Covid on pregnant women and babies, the impact of Covid on project delivery and how this is informing how we are going forward with evaluations was shared along with some of the insights gathered from the BSB Cohort study. The work underway will help to increase our evidence base, showing what works for BSB communities and supporting a number of the projects to demonstrate effectiveness.

BSB's priorities for the next 12 months include working towards the scaling up and mainstreaming of some of our programme, and some of this is already in train. Alex mentioned the three-way funding of the Personalised Midwifery project, Reducing Inequalities in

Communities funding which is expanding a few BSB projects and the pilot of MECOSH within the Bradford East Health Visiting team. There is also the introduction of ELIM (Early Language Identification Measure) into the district and we have had discussions about how this will work with Talking Together and the potential for this to grow as a result.

Alex then mentioned our development of social capital work, the review of Parents in the Lead and capacity building in the community. The Little Minds Matter Moments That Matter campaign is a great example of co-production and co-design to share key messages to families within the community. The ongoing development of the community engagement work remains a priority, as does workforce development and wider systems change work such as the Case for Change work in early years and ongoing ACEs work.

The NLCF priorities for the next year including widening their influence, including on central government and key stakeholders by using our evidence. There is interest from the Royal Foundation, there is the cross-party review of children's services, the work of Andrea Leadsom MP and the NLCF are trying to get more evidence to influence initiatives like these.

Alex said it was a really positive annual review meeting with the NLCF. Their priorities are aligned with BSB's going forward. Vipin commented that it was a well-attended meeting and he thanked our partners for their support.

8. Theory of Change workshop

The workshop is a separate session following this meeting.

9. Any other business

Vipin asked if everyone had felt they had an opportunity to contribute to this meeting and all agreed that they had. He wished everyone a good summer.

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is on Thursday 16 September 2021, provisionally via Zoom, starting at 5.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.45 am.