

Better Start Bradford Partnership Board Minutes
Thursday 19 October 2023
Via Zoom

Meeting Started: 09:30

Meeting Ended: 11:25

Present:

Vipin Joshi	Community Board member (Chair)
Alex Spragg	Programme Director, Better Start Bradford
Emma Hamer	Head of Service, Intelligence & Sufficiency Service, CBMDC
Lisa Brett	Head of Service for Early Help and Prevention, Bradford Children's and Families Trust (items 1 to 7 only)
Ashraf Miah	Development Officer, Community Action Bradford and District
Rizwana Jamil	Ward Councillor, Bradford Council
Rugare Musekiwa	Assistant Head of Child Community Services, Bradford District Care Trust (in place of Michelle Holgate)
Sara Ahern	Programme Manager, Innovation Hub (in place of Josie Dickerson)
Sarah Exall	Consultant in Public Health, CBMDC
Sarah Worstead	Senior Manager of Integration and Change (Health and Care) for Women and Children, Bradford District and Craven Health & Care Partnership (in place of Ruth Shaw)
Gwen Balson	Community Board member (Vice Chair)
Samina Begum	Community Board member (Vice Chair)
Humera Mahmood	Community Board member
Karen Tetley	Community Board member
Ludmila Novosjolova	Community Board member (item 5, then item 7 onwards)
Salma Nawaz	Community Board member (item 5 onwards)

In Attendance

Gill Hart	Funding Manager, The National Lottery Community Fund (item 5 onwards)
Gill Thornton	Head of Programme, Better Start Bradford
Justine Bowman	Finance Manager, Better Start Bradford
Sola Onifade	Contract & Implementation Manager, Better Start Bradford
Guy Dove	Senior Programme Administrator, Better Start Bradford
Debbie Church	Programme Administrator, Better Start Bradford

Apologies for Absence:

Sarah Hinton
Gazala Taj

Ishaq Shafiq

Ruth Shaw

Carlton Smith

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Vipin welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the apologies.

A round of introductions took place and Emma, who is representing Children's Services, was welcomed to her first meeting.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 14 September 2023

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

3. Matters Arising actions table

Alex confirmed that Better Start Bradford have had a discussion with Josie about potential staff sharing with the Innovation Hub, but it has been decided to revisit this once our new Workforce & Learning Manager is in post (6 November).

Sarah Exall has made the introduction to the Health Education England training lead; the new Workforce & Learning Manager will explore the opportunities offered.

Alex asked for volunteers to cover the 'getting to know you' slot and has recruited someone for this month and November. Alex shall be contacting Partnership Board members who have not covered this to ask them to do so in future months.

4. Declarations of interest

It was agreed that Ludmila would not be present for item 6.

5. 'Getting to know you' session

Ashraf shared that he is married, with four children and two grandchildren. He was born in Bangladesh and his dad moved to the UK in the early 1960s, to work in shipping and then in textiles due to there being a shortage of labour in the UK at that time.

Ashraf's dad brought him over in 1975 and at first Ashraf lived in the BSB area (Parkside Road). He has also lived in Manningham, Gillingham, Frizinghall and he now lives in Cottingley.

Ashraf has been involved in community development for over 30 years. For the first 10 years he was manager of a Bangladeshi Youth Centre in Keighley. He then worked for the council in the Bradford West Strategy Office, working on an anti-crime partnership.

After 20 years of working in the voluntary and community sector, Ashraf went into business for 15 years. He did fairly well and is now back working in the VCS part-time (three days a week), for Community Action Bradford and District. CABAD supports voluntary organisations providing crucial services and is now part of the Here4BDCC partnership.

Ashraf's work is capacity building for VCS organisations, and he is one of five development officers (he covers Bradford East, including the BSB area). He works with organisations of various sizes and helps them with matters like funding and safeguarding advice. CABAD aims to be a one-stop shop and if Ashraf cannot answer a query, a colleague of his can usually help.

His interests include current affairs, eating out and socialising. Ashraf also works with charities in his spare time such as providing food parcels for the elderly and vulnerable.

Vipin thanked Ashraf for his presentation and commented it is good to know what people have done and where they get their passion from to help the programme.

6. Neighbourhood Project x2 contract review

Sola gave a Powerpoint presentation and explained that BSB awarded two commissions to deliver this project in August 2019 to BD4 Family and the West Bowling Consortium (West Bowling Advice Centre, Karmand Centre and Thornbury Centre). Across two contract periods, the projects were awarded £252k (BD4 Family) and £576k (West Bowling Consortium), totalling £828k.

The project aimed to increase uptake of the BSB programme through three strands., the development of models of engagement that can support families to access key messages and build knowledge of BSB projects and referral processes, engagement with communities not currently accessing BSB services and gathering information that can be used to develop a stronger knowledge of community need.

Sola explained that the Neighbourhood Workers work in partnership with other services such as Early Help, food, and clothing banks.

Sola proceeded to discuss the context in which the project was delivered. Early into the start of the first contract, Covid restrictions were imposed, and the project had to adapt its delivery approach to online and then hybrid.

The Neighbourhood project was expanded to cover a wider geographical area and included some specialities such as an asylum and refugee worker and an Eastern European worker. The Neighbourhood workers have hosted health visitor clinics, dental check-ups, and supported campaigns like 'Bin the Bottle.'

Sola explained that when the Thornbury Centre became unable to continue working with the project, the West Bowling Centre and the Karmand Centre maintained the consortium to continue to manage the geographical reach of the project.

Sola shared key successes which are common to both versions of the Neighbourhood project. The delivery model has been shared widely amongst other services and the Family Navigators role within the Start for Life Family Hubs have been developed from the Neighbourhood workers job description.

Neighbourhood workers have supported parents with funding applications for Happy Early Years (HEY!) Fund projects. The changes to delivery made during lockdown ensured families still stayed connected.

Having access to families at short notice has been possible thanks to the Neighbourhood workers. This has been invaluable for research purposes, events, and parent consultation opportunities.

The Neighbourhood workers are local residents, and this aids the engagement process, quickly developing trusted relationships which aids the acceptability of services.

BD4 Family set up coffee mornings for parents to attend with children aged 0-3 years. This enabled the Neighbourhood workers to reach families they had not been able to reach previously. The workers share key messages, campaigns and get parents signed up to courses and BSB projects.

BD4 Family have a culture of putting families and children at the heart of their work and this has allowed families to thrive within its centre.

The West Bowling Advice and Training Centre is traditionally an Advice Centre catering to individuals seeking out guidance. This was their first work with under-fours, and Sola said it has been incredible to see their growth in knowledge, confidence, and creativity within the period.

They organised an Eid Networking Party in May 2023 that had over 60 invited families in attendance which allowed networking and sharing of messages. West Bowling Centre also worked alongside BD5 in Bloom to encourage engagement and improve the area for all residents.

Sola moved on to key evaluation findings which are common to both projects. The Neighbourhoods project reached approximately 2,000 new families and made around 900 referrals to BSB projects and related activities over a four-year period. The figures understandably reduced during the pandemic and Sola noted that 'Year 4' only accounts for six months of data.

Key Challenges for both projects include that it was developed later than other BSB projects which made the referral pathways more difficult. Also, the logic model was reworked by the Innovation Hub because it was not reflecting how the project operated. This meant that some evaluation data was not captured, but Sola said this does not undermine the great impact of the project in the community.

BD4 Family is based at a church and must fit their programme around church activities taking place there. The centre is also on a major four lane road opposite the nearest residential area and crossing the road is a literal barrier, especially for families with young children.

The West Bowling Consortium reported that finding spaces for activities within some of the locality central to lots of families has been difficult. Their refugee and asylum families' worker noted that the families are quite mobile and are quick to move homes, sometimes out of area once their asylum has been approved.

Sola went on to 'next steps.' Both projects will continue to look for other funding and are aiming to align with Start for Life Family Hubs to look at the Hub and Spoke model and whether they can be involved more formally with that offer.

BD4 Family has a five-year development plan that they will begin to implement in autumn 2023. Part of this plan is to apply for additional funding from The National Lottery Community Fund and BBC Children in Need. BSB will provide necessary support to this process.

The Commissioning Advisory Group recommended that both projects close on schedule, 31 March 2024.

Sara presented some highlights from the Innovation Hub evaluation. The Neighbourhood project was newly designed and untested anywhere else. The evaluation was to understand how already established community organisations functioned in this model and what works and what does not.

Sara said it was hard to collect data, but this is not a criticism of the projects. Interactions between the Neighbourhood workers and families tend to be fleeting and it is not appropriate to collect data such as ethnicity – it takes time to build up relations.

The Innovation Hub were limited in what they could say from the data alone, so they undertook a qualitative evaluation. The qualitative work included interviews and the Neighbourhood workers' reflective diaries so that more could be learnt about what works. It was found that the characteristics of the Neighbourhood workers are key – they are representative of the area, and have skills, energy, and enthusiasm. They also demonstrated that they adapted well through Covid.

Sara noted that Blackpool Better Start ran a similar project which helps with evidence-building. There is now a theory of change and logic model which is important. Lots of work has gone into the Neighbourhood project and it has been very successful.

Gwen remarked that it is a shame that there were no findings about Reach, but lots of learning has been gained. She asked how 'new families' were defined, and Sara replied that they were families new to the West Bowling Consortium / BD4 Family, who are assumed to be new to BSB projects as well.

Gill Thornton commented that the Neighbourhood project has been a significant success. As Sola said, it has been used as a model for the Family Navigators within Family Hubs. The work done will be shared with partners to try to develop sustainability. BD4 Family have already secured some additional work and the learning for the hosting organisations has been significant as well, about how to support families in the community.

Rugare queried the figure of 840 new families reached by BD4 Family during 2021/22 on one of the slides which she said seems very high and she wondered what they had done differently. Gill Thornton replied that she will follow this up with the project, but the Neighbourhood workers would know who is new and this is a very successful project in terms of door-knocking and engagement. Sola suggested that there may have been a big increase just as Covid restrictions were lifted. Sara mentioned that lots of outreach and outdoor activities started then, and Alex agreed it was reflective of the post-lockdown period. The project did well with community engagement during lockdowns.

Action: Gill Thornton to arrange for BD4 Family's figures for reaching new families in 2021/22 to be followed up with the project.

Lisa raised the difficulty of collating data while building relations with families and wondered if there was any learning about this. Start for Life projects would need to report on data very soon after receiving funding but there is often a barrier. Sara agreed with this and said the Neighbourhood workers' aspiration was that projects would record their referrals as being from the Neighbourhood workers, but this did not always happen. Neighbourhood workers also do signposting and these are recorded as self-referrals. We will need to think of Start for Life and how their projects report referrals.

Gill Thornton mentioned Communities of Practice and that there are discussions about holding an event about the learning from the A Better Start programme. This would include what is useful for getting referrals and engaging with people and that Neighbourhood workers are about relationships, not just referrals.

Salma commented that she has accessed services at BD4 Family for 12 years and they have been brilliant, engaged families and held coffee mornings at schools. They engage parents, not just the children, are enthusiastic and get to know the parents. They know who is new, who needs support, and it is a very positive experience and 'you feel like you belong.' BSB project sessions were delivered there, and she said that BD4 Family were very supportive.

Decision: The Partnership Board decided that both versions of the Neighbourhood project should close on schedule, on 31 March 2024.

7. Breastfeeding Support contract review

Sola explained that the Breastfeeding Support project is delivered by Health for All who were appointed when the project began in October 2018. The project has been awarded Start for Life funding to March 2025, though the BSB funding ends in March 2024.

The project is a universal project for families of all babies born in the BSB area who would like to breastfeed their babies via an opt in/out offer and initial contact by the perinatal project administrators based at the BRI.

The expected outcomes of this intervention include that babies in the BSB area receive more breastmilk, mothers are supported with positioning, attachment, effective milk transfer, and coping with common barriers to breastfeeding, the service is found useful by breastfeeding mums, co-parents, and dads, more mothers report breastfeeding for as long as they want to and there is evidence of increased maternal self-efficacy, babies are supported to responsively feed, parents and wider family more able to recognise normal baby behaviour and feeding cues and fewer women stop or limit breastfeeding outside the home through increased confidence and/or improved support/welcome locally.

Sola turned to context, the project offers practical and emotional support to women and their families to breastfeed their babies for as long as they would like to while increasing local 'social supportiveness' for breastfeeding through co-creation and volunteering. It has two parts; firstly, a robust personalised support service to support women and their families at home when their baby is very small. The service will also develop community-based support for when women are 'out and about' with their baby and effect positive local shifts in the 'breastfeeding culture'.

Sola mentioned that Covid interrupted service delivery and the project returned to full in-person delivery in September 2021. Referrals through the perinatal project administrators

have been reduced due to various issues and self-referrals from outside the BSB area have increased.

The project has begun a pilot to offer Breastfeeding Support on the post-natal ward at the BRI in partnership with maternity services. They have also initiated regular Infant Feeding Leads meetings across the Bradford district to share knowledge and best practice, promote partnership working and shape future infant feeding service provision.

Sola shared the projects key successes which include launching a breast pump loan scheme in November 2021 to avoid formula feeding and now have ten breast pumps which are usually all out on loan each week. An additional five pumps will be ordered to support Start for Life delivery.

The language skills of the project's staff enable them to offer support in 6 community languages as well as English. The first 8 weeks of the BRI ward pilot saw 150 families accept support before they are discharged home. Over the life of the project, 1,906 referrals have been received from the PPAs and 277 referrals from other sources.

105 referrals were from outside the BSB area since the last year. As previously mentioned, the project has been successful in being awarded Start for Life funding for infant feeding. This has increased the wards covered to an additional 4 in addition to the BSB wards (Manningham, Toller, Great Horton, and Heaton).

The project has hosted several student placements since October 2021. Project staff have been invited to support the work of the Health and Social Care course lead at Dixons Sixth Form Academy.

Referrals into the project from community midwifery teams, health visitors, partner Better Start Bradford projects and self-referrals have all increased over the past two years. This is a result of the continued promotion of the service and the strong professional links formed since the start of the project in 2018.

The service is now fully embedded in the infant feeding support structure in Bradford district and continues to offer new and innovative ways for the voluntary sector to collaborate and work with the statutory sector.

Families have commented on the benefit of being supported in their own home without the need to re-visit hospital or other health facilities and they can be visited at a time that suits them.

The Key Challenges identified by the project include the decreasing trend in breastfeeding initiation rates at the maternity unit at BRI (currently at 58%) resulting in the loss of the Unicef Baby Friendly status and staffing pressures at BRI have provided a challenging landscape for the project. This is partly why the pilot project was put in place. Pressures on maternity services have led to a focus on clinical outcomes with support for infant feeding not prioritised.

Other breastfeeding support services cannot be reached directly and rely on a referral from another service or team. This has resulted in an increased number of families from outside the BSB area contacting the project office requesting support.

Lack of specialist breastfeeding support on the postnatal wards is resulting in many women choosing to switch to formula feeding to enable them to be discharged home.

Sola then moved on to next steps for the project. The pilot at the BRI will be appraised after 6 months to consider the impact on adoption of breastfeeding practices and the readmission rates due to infant weight issues. After 12 months the service design will be costed against outcomes measured in the hope of securing a contract with the hospital Trust to deliver in the long-term.

The current infant feeding funding streams from Public Health and Start for Life end in March 2025. Further funding opportunities are not yet ascertained, but BSB will continue to support the project through relationships with commissioners and identifying further funding opportunities.

Sola shared the recommendation that whilst service delivery will continue throughout the Bradford district as part of the Start for Life programme until March 2025, data collection for BSB evaluation purposes will terminate in March 2024. The Commissioning Advisory Group recommend to the Partnership Board to accept this scenario as the Innovation Hub's work on Breastfeeding Support is not part of the Start for Life programme.

Gwen remarked that an emotional case study had been sent out with the meeting papers. She said this was very useful as it gave a sense of how the project helps women. Vipin mentioned that there was a good community prep meeting where members were appreciative of the project. They thought that Breastfeeding Support was needed, and it needs to continue in the mainstream.

Sara outlined the Innovation Hub findings. She observed that Breastfeeding Support is an amazing project to work with and the data collection is very good.

A significant element of the service design is that the Breastfeeding Support service is proactively offered and that the service is offered quickly as breastfeeding tends to be abandoned early. Sara said the project has been successful in both as the PPA model has effectively recruited to the project and support has been offered to almost all women within 48-hour. The PPAs generated 87% of referrals and 98 per cent of participating women received their initial support contact within 48 hours of referral and 95 per cent within 24 hours.

Sara said that whilst the project did well to maintain contacts during Covid the qualitative research demonstrated that the home visit support was valued by parents and practitioners and the Innovation Hub recommend this remains part of the delivery model.

When measuring completion, Sara noted that nobody was sure how much support the women would need when the project started. Completion was defined as receiving three support contacts (which did not have to be home visits) but initially giving women three support contacts proved to be difficult. However, the project found in Years 2 and 3 that they were much nearer to achieving this (80 per cent by Year 3) so they can say that 3 support contacts are needed.

The reach of the project demonstrated the majority of participants supported across all years were Asian or Asian: British Pakistani women which Sara said reflects breastfeeding initiation rates. There was evidence that the project successfully recruited across a range of ethnicities and this grew proportionally as the project embedded.

In addition to the implementation evaluation the Innovation Hub undertook some qualitative work, interviewing staff and service users. The responsiveness of the service both initially and during the support period was appreciated and home visits were identified as key to building the trusting and supportive relationship.

Sara proceeded to the Innovation Hub recommendations, which are that the project should offer support as soon as possible, ideally whilst the women are still in hospital, that home visits should remain a central component of the offer, that an antenatal component of the project should be considered and further developed, and that additional consideration should be given to how best to support those with low or no English.

Rugare commented that she appreciated the work that went on to engage the families and that 48 hours is a very tight timescale, but meaningful relations have been created.

Salma shared that a friend who had recently had a fourth child had commented on the quality of the breastfeeding support she had received and that there is much more support now than when she had her previous children.

Lisa asked about breastfeeding support in the other ABS sites, noting that these may serve a different ethnic group. Lots of children in Bradford are removed at birth and she wondered if anything could be done differently, and she could have a conversation with BSB outside of this meeting.

Gill Thornton said that Start for Life are trying to support families that have removals at birth. She felt sure that the other sites would have breastfeeding support but not like our model, and the final 18 months of the ABS programme would have pooling of knowledge. Alex added that because of wider thinking about infant feeding, we have been able to involve Start for Life in those discussions. We have also supplemented the Public Health breastfeeding contract and the benefits of involving the voluntary sector are recognised.

Decision: The Partnership Board agreed to accept that while service delivery will continue throughout the Bradford district as part of the Start for Life programme until March 2025, data collection for BSB evaluation purposes will terminate in March 2024 as the Innovation Hub's work on Breastfeeding Support is not part of the Start for Life programme.

8. Draft Quarter 1 Accounts April-June 2023 with revised Year 9 Budget

Alex noted that the accounts spreadsheet and report had been sent to the Partnership Board in advance of the meeting.

There was an underspend of £198k over April to June 2023 against a budget of £1.82 million. This amounts to 10.9 per cent and continues the trend from the previous year. The report explains the main reasons for the underspend and describes the budget reprofiling that has been done. Since the budget was agreed, decisions have been made by the Partnership Board which require additional investment and some projects' budgets have been amended in adherence with programme protocols. There is an additional tab on the spreadsheet showing the proposed changes.

The report gives detailed information on the variances in Management Revenue. Some cost centres are budgeted equally throughout the year, but the actual spend profile can be different.

Learning Together shows an overspend of 28 per cent for the quarter, but Alex explained that the sponsorship of the Bradford Literature Festival and upfront costs for Baby Week have accounted for this, and the spending pattern should correct itself over future quarters.

There was an underspend on Salaries due to vacancies and high staff turnover in the BSB team, as a result the budget has been reduced by £41k, because we will not recoup this over the rest of the year. Recruitment costs have been increased due to the large amount of recruitment and the use of a recruitment agency for the finance manager post after trying two recruitment rounds and specialist advertising.

There has been front-loading of staff training and coaching so this budget has been increased by £1,500. Alex explained that this investment is part of the staff retention approach. Office costs have increased due to inflation and staff are using the office more now. There are face-to-face meetings where possible and a small budget increase of £1,000 is proposed.

There was a £3k overspend on Professional, Legal and Consultancy for the quarter but Alex explained the budget is evenly profiled over the year. In the reforecast this area has been increased to reflect an additional £2.2k of budget to account for the costs of the Public Health Fellow incurred up to August 2023. There is also an additional £4.9k relating to the Programme Management Office review that was not budgeted for.

Computers and Software have been reforecast to account for a one-off unexpected Microsoft licence relating to 2022/23, causing the overspend seen in the first quarter. Following the adjustments, the balance of the Management Revenue budget is reduced by £21.4k.

Alex moved on to Projects and noted that the Personalised Midwifery project has a very significant underspend. This is because they could not expand as intended and create a second team due to challenges in midwifery recruitment. The contract end is 31 March 2024 and we have had discussions about embedding the project within Maternity – this is the hospital trust's intention, and a further meeting is planned for early December. Some of this project's underspend is likely to be reprofiled and we have committed to explore project underspends at the next Finance & Audit Sub-Committee meeting.

Forest Schools had a £12k underspend at the previous year end and this has been reprofiled for their final year. A contract variation has been agreed for HENRY as additional costs have been identified. An additional £24.9k has been profiled in the 2023/24 budget and will eliminate their current overspend.

Alex explained that the underspend for Baby Steps during Quarter 1 was due to staff changes. Mitigations have been put in place which will affect future quarters.

Reprofiling for ESOL with Infants has been done after a reduced number of courses were run last year, resulting in an underspend of £11k. It has been agreed with the provider, Shipley College, that £6.8k of this underspend be used to offset the overspend on ESOL for Pregnancy for the period up to October 2022.

Due to an ongoing vacancy on the Contract & Implementation Officer team the costs have been reduced by £12.5k. We have now recruited to the post.

Alex moved on to the Innovation Fund projects. Four of these ended during the last financial year and an underspend of £36k has been repurposed to support the Innovation Fund oral

health project (HABIT) to move on to a different research phase. There is an underspend on the Innovation Fund domestic abuse project (HIDVA) as one half of a job share has not been recruited to – it has been agreed to extend the project to March 2024 with the underspend.

Alex explained that a HEY! Fund round of applications was completed in February 2023, but the awards were not processed until this financial year, so the underspend was rolled forward.

Following all these adjustments the budget for Projects has been increased by £120k, mostly from project underspend. The total adjustment to the Year 9 budget is an increase of £99k. The value of this adjustment is accounted for in the project underspends being carried forward and no additional resource is required to fund this.

Alex confirmed that the Finance & Audit Sub-Committee have scrutinised the accounts for the quarter and the revised Year 9 budget and recommend that the Partnership Board notes and accepts them.

Ludmila asked if BSB parents and families could be consulted about what to do with the underspend in the BSB programme. Alex said that the Finance & Audit Sub-Committee have asked to do a 'deep dive' into this at their next meeting, there is Community Board member representation in this group and any proposals will have to be approved by the National Lottery Community Fund.

Alex felt that there is not as much uncommitted underspend as some people seem to think and there will be 'unknowns', i.e., things not budgeted for. BSB will bring the 10-year budget to Partnership Board early in the new year and we will have proposals for what is needed. It is then that the Partnership Board will discuss if they agree with the proposals and if local parent consultations should take place, such as Ludmila suggested. We need to do this work first before any consultations. Future expense items are committed but we need ongoing dialogue with the Partnership Board and community.

Decision: The Partnership Board notes and accepts:

- **The management accounts for the period ending 30 June 2023**
- **The revised budget for year ending 31 March 2024.**

Vipin reiterated that the Finance & Audit Sub-Committee do scrutinise the accounts at a meeting before the Partnership Board which Justine attended and much financial detail was needed for the meeting.

9. Programme monthly report

Gill Thornton highlighted the MECSH (Maternal Early Childhood Sustained Home-visiting) celebration event on 22 September which was held to mark the project being rolled out across the health visiting service in Bradford district.

Our Early Years Specialist and Maternal and Child Health Development Lead presented their research poster about developing the new Talking Bradford (speech and language) pathway at the Institute of Health Visitors annual conference. The pathway was adopted this week which is a big success after a long period of work.

BSB have been appointed an Industrial Partner by Bradford College. This recognises our support for their students on early years courses. This makes their curriculum more rounded and realistic and their placements with us flag up what may not have been in their course, such as work in communities, and this is a legacy of our programme.

Gill Thornton remarked that BSB have been busy with 'spreading the word' and there will be more of this in the future. There will be a Policy Round Table with the Royal College of Midwives at which we will discuss our work undertaken in the antenatal period, the learning from evaluations and priorities for the sector going forward.

BSB were instrumental in the development of the District Adversity, Trauma & Resilience strategy. A strategy reset day has taken place to review the original priorities and take the district work on adversity, trauma, and resilience forward.

The local authority is conducting an enquiry into the impact of child poverty on children in the district. BSB will be hosting sessions with the members of the enquiry at which they will meet local parents and children aged 0-3 so that the early years voice can be heard, and ensuring the message that the earlier child poverty is addressed, the better is conveyed.

We have also been sharing our knowledge through publication in sector specific journals, an article about our antenatal work has been published in 'The Practising Midwife.'

BSB now have recruited two Family and Community Engagement workers and Gill Thornton said they have 'hit the ground running' as they were both previously Neighbourhood workers.

A new Contract & Implementation Officer will start in post in two weeks. The new Workforce and Learning Manager begins on 6 November and this person shall work on the dissemination and sharing of learning, in partnership with the Innovation Hub.

Gill Thornton moved on to project monitoring and evaluation and said Shipley College are doing well with the two ESOL projects. Baby Steps have had a loss of capacity and have also been impacted by the loss of one of the PPAs.

5,000 families have been recruited to the BiBBS cohort, reaching the initial target. The Innovation Hub are currently undertaking retrospective recruitment to ensure as many eligible children as possible are included in the cohort.

Gill Thornton mentioned that we are recruiting event volunteers who will support Baby Week and other events.

A celebration event was held by the Early Years Alliance, celebrating the Quality Toolkit which was developed in partnership with our Early Years team.

Gill Thornton referred to the latest monthly News Update and that shortlisting for the Community Star Awards is going on. We hope that some Partnership Board members will attend the award ceremony in December.

There is lots going on in advance of Baby Week and Gill Thornton referred to the Baby Week wiggle video that has been filmed and will be shared as part of the promotion.

Gill Thornton proceeded to Family and Community Engagement and mentioned the Baby Wellbeing event held at Airedale Shopping Centre. A long-standing member of the HEY! Fund panel has decided to step down who we wish well in the future, and we have recruited a new parent to it.

A review of our Programme Management Office has taken place, to ensure that our focus is right for the final part of the BSB programme.

Gill Thornton proceeded to emerging risks and issues and mentioned the risk to project recruitment due to PPAs leaving. The previous PPA's are offering support to the remaining PPA, who has also increased her hours and will be line managed by the Innovation Hub Programme Manager moving forward. A replacement PPA has also been recruited subject to references.

There have recently been a couple of *Insight* articles written for the National Children's Bureau, one about the PPAs and the other by our former Leadership Fellow Claire Gilbert, about her year's placement with us.

Finally, Gill Thornton mentioned that our HEY! Fund co-ordinator has just left, but BSB will put together a team internally to run the panel and consider the 12 outstanding HEY! Fund applications.

10. Any other business

Gill Thornton mentioned that Doula training is now taking place in the BSB area which Partnership Board members made a condition of the extension. They are finding that training in our area works just as well and there are more BSB participants. Vipin said that at the recent community prep meeting it was felt that Community Board members should have been made aware that the training was happening and when, so they could have publicised it more. Gill Thornton apologised for this and agreed that this should have been done.

Guy said a review of our risks has taken place and it was found that some Partnership Board members have not completed a register of interests form for several years and we need to guard against potential conflicts.

Action: All Partnership Board members who have not completed a register of interests form for 12 months to do so (Guy will email the form out).

Finally, Vipin asked everyone if they had felt able to participate in this meeting and all agreed that they did. He thanked all for attending and said it was good to see so many of our statutory partners here.

11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is on Thursday 16 November 2023, via Zoom, starting at 5.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 11.25 am.