

**Better Start Bradford Partnership Board Minutes
Thursday 15 November 2018
Parkside Community Centre, Avenue Road, BD5 8DB**

Meeting Started: 9.35

Meeting Ended: 11.00

Present:

Vipin Joshi	Community Board member (Chair)
Talat Sajawal	Ward Councillor, CBMDC
Julia Elliot	Interim Head of Children's Services, BDCFT
Sarah Hinton	Board Member, Bradford Trident
Ruth Hayward	Head of Commissioning (Women & Children), Bradford and Craven CCGs
Michaela Howell	Programme Director, Better Start Bradford
Ludmila Novosjolova	Community Board member
Shaza Omer	Community Board member

In Attendance

Gill Hart	Funding Manager (Investment), Big Lottery Fund
Gill Thornton	Head of Programme, Better Start Bradford
Jo Howes	Integration and Change Manager, Better Start Bradford
Lizzie Hughes	Community Engagement Specialist, Better Start Bradford
Zebunnisa Ahmed	Programme Co-ordinator, Better Start Bradford
Guy Dove	Programme Administrator, Better Start Bradford
Ola Kassar	Founder, Kangaroo Group, (item 6 only)
Samina Begum	Panel Member, Parents in the Lead (item 6 only)

Apologies for Absence:

Gwen Balson	Yaqoob Ayooob	Sarah Muckle	Peter Horner
Amanda Braithwaite	Satnam Singh	Caroline Tomes	Sara Keogh
Kev Taylor	Zuhair Bashar	Children's Services	

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Vipin welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the apologies.

Everyone introduced themselves to Zebunnisa who is Better Start Bradford's new Programme Co-ordinator and who has come from an NHS background.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 18 October 2018

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

3. Matters Arising actions table

Michaela noted that Neighbourhood support work and Parents in the Lead is on the agenda for this meeting.

Biographies of Partnership Board members have been circulated for 'buddying' purposes with their contact details. Michaela observed that these can be updated and Partnership Board members can ask BSB for help with buddying arrangements if necessary.

Michaela noted we need a volunteer to cover the 'getting to know you' slot in December.

The evening 'drop in' Comms surgery did not suit Partnership Board members but Michelle Thompson has met separately with interested members. Michaela noted the idea follows Shaista's finance surgery and we can hold these or Partnership Board members have an open invitation to just ring the office to arrange information meetings.

Gill Thornton said there has been a slight delay to the launch of the Innovation Fund but it will be on the BSB website shortly.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no new declarations of interest.

5. 'Getting to know you' session – Michaela Howell

Michaela agreed to be recorded for this session.

Michaela said she was born in Lancashire and was a baby in Bolton and she has a younger brother. She lived in a close and remembers street playing, particularly cricket. Michaela did well at languages at school and went on to do A-Levels. She nearly became an accountant but instead went to Cardiff University where she did a four year degree in European Community Studies which included a year in Germany so, for her, Brexit is a big deal.

Volunteering has always been important for Michaela and for six months she was a live-in volunteer at a women's hostel in Wolverhampton before returning to Cardiff and volunteering for various organisations like Women's Aid and a drug and alcohol charity. Michaela also organised the first needle exchange in her area. Michaela added to this experience by doing a Social Studies diploma at college, then she helped to set up the Community University for the Valleys, delivering community education in Welsh ex-mining towns, mostly to women. She then moved to northern England for family reasons with her partner and two daughters then aged 7 and 4, and got a one-year job at Bradford University which involved much partnership working.

Michaela then set up Café West Healthy Living centre in Allerton with Lottery money. After this she took a job in Kirklees in housing which lasted seven years which also involved partnership and community work. The travelling became an issue and she changed jobs to Bradford Trident.

Michaela has helped out with the Brownies for many years and actually set up a group at the Mayfield Centre. She has recently joined the Board of the local Age UK.

Her 'themes' are partnership work and volunteering. Her children have now left home so Michaela is now on a new phase of her life. Volunteering is part of it and Michaela said there is space for two Partnership Board members to join Vipin and her at the Community Stars Awards ceremony on 6 December which is a fantastic and uplifting evening.

The Partnership Board thanked Michaela for her presentation.

6. Parents in the Lead

Lizzie said she has produced a written update about Parents in the Lead for this meeting but it is a good idea for the Partnership Board to hear from some of the people involved directly. She introduced Ola who first came to a 'Spark session' which is used to bring in potential Parents in the Lead ideas and Ola's was very impressive and was awarded Parents in the Lead funding. In her project, she works in partnership with Communityworks.

Ola said she was originally from Syria and is married with two children and moved to Saudi Arabia before moving to the UK. She lost a lot in the troubles in the Middle East including friends and family and she remarked that Better Start Bradford has done so much for her.

Her Parents in the Lead idea was to form the Kangaroo Group, so called because baby kangaroos have skin-to-skin care, kangaroos have great energy and are social animals. Each weekly session has a topic with a story, craft, movement activities and a song. The sessions also include healthy food and parenting advice and each parent takes away a written healthy recipe and written tips on parenting advice to do with encouraging a child's autonomy. Finally Ola shared some photos from her group and a poster.

The Partnership Board thanked Ola for her presentation.

Lizzie then introduced Samina who is a Parents in the Lead panel member who agreed to be recorded today. She has three children and a background in mental health and took a break from her career when her daughter was born. She became involved in HENRY in 2015 at Burnettfields Children's Centre then in 2016 did training to become a volunteer HENRY practitioner.

The Parents in the Lead panel can see that parents have good ideas but that they just need resources, funding, volunteers and paid staff. The panel was small initially with four or five members supported by Sheila Brett. The first meeting was very daunting for Samina with community Board members leading the meeting and the others were very inexperienced in comparison.

Lizzie asked about the application process and Samina said the panel receive applications and these are looked at and feedback is provided beforehand. At the meetings the panel go through the funding criteria and the FACE team have helped with guidance for the decision-making process. Samina lacked financial training at the start but this has been built up. She confirmed, in reply to a query from Lizzie, that her involvement as a HENRY volunteer allowed Samina to see parents' ideas and it is all about supporting them. Community empowerment is best and she is on the panel for that reason.

The Partnership Board thanked Samina for her presentation.

Lizzie reported that we have had three rounds of Parents in the Lead applications this year and the applications are listed in the report. There is one more round of Parents in the Lead applications to go in 2018 and then there are 11 prospective new panel members for January. There will be a focus on training and also Lizzie and Samina have visited unsuccessful applicants to explain their decision and to help them with resubmission so that they meet the criteria.

Julia asked about prioritising new applications or repeat applications and remarked that sustainability is important. Lizzie said there are now more successful applications with better knowledge of the fund and its criteria and the maximum grants have increased from £2,000 to £2,500. The fund may be used up so we are looking more at additional funding for groups from other sources which is a new piece of work for us. Michaela noted there is a risk that the BSB team will be doing too much work on advising groups about other funding sources. We should use other support networks in Bradford and Lizzie advised that Sheila does this.

There will also be a celebration event in February including other funders. The pot is not big enough to support the same groups year on year. Ruth said there should be a pathway into guidance to other funders or the groups should become sustainable.

Michaela said we need to look at what we can do and Julia said we need to co-ordinate all the funding coming into Bradford. Sarah remarked that a lot of knowledge is needed to get funding with the amount available decreasing and competition against big organisations. Julia said the learning should go around the district with integrated teams and she would take this forward.

Action: Julia to look at co-ordination of funding opportunities and sharing learning with integrated teams in the district.

Talat said he thought Ola's group was fantastic but asked how long the funding would last for. Ola gave a list of activities that are planned before Kangaroo Group would have to re-apply and Lizzie observed they are also supported by Communityworks. Talat noted we have been talking about sustainability and said £2,500 is not enough to cover 12 months. Lizzie confirmed that Ola did not apply for the full £2,500 and could apply for the rest this year. Groups can try a small idea at first and not everything will work.

Gill Thornton asked how much has been funded and Lizzie replied that 35 applications were funded totalling £35,000. Talat remarked that it is hard for a group to be 'stop-start' and £35,000 is a drop in the ocean but Vipin noted there is a higher funding tier represented by the Innovation Fund. Gill Thornton said we cannot permanently fund all 35 groups and we need to know if something is working. If we are investing more in something then it needs measuring and the Innovation Fund is an opportunity to try something. Vipin said we need to reassess the funding when we come to look at the budgets and Ruth observed that the capacity of the BSB team to offer support may be an issue.

Julia raised budget cuts and said Parents in the Lead needs to be the bedrock if parents are to come forward with ideas and if anything is successful we could try to roll-out district-wide. Sarah observed that this is community development and we should be doing this as we approach the end of the BSB programme to lead to sustainability and leaving a legacy. Michaela said this should include sharing learning.

Julia mentioned evaluation and Gill Thornton noted the demands on groups are very different for very small groups and Parents in the Lead recognises that. Lizzie said that Parents in the Lead groups do a brief self-evaluation report but even that is very challenging for some of them.

7. Neighbourhood support work

Lizzie observed that a paper about this is in the meeting pack and Sarah is on the steering group. This work has come out of the lasting change part of the original lottery bid and the need for sustainability. The work involves creating a strategy with community organisations to support relevant grassroots activity and enables the community to play its rightful role alongside other partners in delivering BSB's objectives.

The steering group consists of four community organisations (Shine, Thornbury Centre, BD4 Family and West Bowling Advice Centre), community Board members (including Shaza) and others (there is input from Womenzone). All of the BSB council wards are represented.

Lizzie said that a 'hub and spoke' model is being considered with the BSB core team being the hub and community organisations being the spokes. A logic model is included and we will take this out to a much wider group of community organisations at a December meeting with expressions of interest being sought in the New Year with the launch in April 2019. The first year's budget is £173K with increases year-on-year. We want four or five community workers to be based in the successful organisations, funded out of this budget.

The Expression of Interest decisions will be made by the Commissioning Advisory Group and we want to broaden its membership. A co-production model has been used and Lizzie noted there had been fantastic support from community organisations. We need to work to support collaboration among small voluntary groups and not have more competition in a decreasing funding situation and this fits in with sustainability. Sarah agreed that Shine have been very much part of the work so far and co-production is so important and it has been great.

Julia remarked that all of this fits in with integrated teams and learning should be shared and she will look at how this could work.

Michaela said the neighbourhood support work is important as it comes out of Partnership Board discussions and is BSB responding to changing contexts. Ruth observed that this also feeds into community partnership work and there may be opportunities to link in and Michaela asked if Ruth could help with BSB getting membership of some of these partnerships.

Michaela noted that after the Commissioning Advisory Group has assessed the expressions of interest in March, the neighbourhood support work will need to come back to the Partnership Board for approval.

8. Eat, Live, Love and Healthy Bradford

Jo recalled that it has been a long time since the Partnership Board had a presentation about a theme group though some projects like HENRY have been back for review recently. Theme groups are being re-established to make them as helpful as possible.

Jo then went through the projects in the Eat, Live, Love theme group other than HENRY. HAPPY supports pregnant women with a BMI over 25 – standard care in Bradford only covers

a BMI over 40 so this is 'filling a gap.' A Trial within a Cohort Study was considered but recruitment has been low so this is not yet in progress. We are trying to address recruitment and to make the support more accessible and friendly.

Breastfeeding Support is a project that was launched recently. The two perinatal coordinators' role is important with recruitment (as with other projects) and they both speak community languages. Ludmila asked where the Breastfeeding Support is advertised and Jo noted that the perinatal support workers speak to the mother just after birth, and offer a first home visit within 48 hours from Health for All, or the women get the offer by phone call.

Cooking for a Better Start has now been running for five or six months. Jo said it is going really well and we are trying to identify and recruit families who are not engaging with BSB and we are working hard with health visitors and midwives as they are universal services.

Full delivery of Pre-schoolers in the Playground began in September. There has been lots of interest and it is going well, with five sessions a week at Killinghall Primary School and they are learning all the time. Both Killinghall and Bowling Park Primary are focussing on healthy eating. These are the only schools involved (although Bowling Park has two sites) and the main issue is writing up the data which is time-consuming.

Jo moved on to Healthy Bradford which is a partnership between Bradford Council and Leeds Beckett University to consider a whole system approach to obesity in the district. We have given them our learning and tried to keep children under two on the agenda, and raised habit-forming, school meals and cooking skills. Michaela will replace Jo at their meetings once Jo has left BSB. The plan includes the 'Living well movement' working alongside self-care to improve health messaging, campaigns and initiatives and Parents in the Lead is relevant here.

9. Programme Monthly Report

Gill Thornton confirmed she will continue to present the programme monthly reports to the Partnership Board, but in future Zebunnisa will put them together. There is a focus on Communications this month because Baby Week is next week. The 'Resilience' film screenings have gone very well, in terms of attendance and then the panel discussions after the showings. They have added momentum to the development of the ACEs hub. Vipin observed there have been some good discussions on Twitter.

It was suggested there could be a screening of the 'Resilience' film to the Partnership Board and Sarah is doing a screening in March.

Michaela noted the Baby Week launch is on Monday 19 November at the Great Victoria Hotel and other Baby Week events are on the BSB website.

10. Any other business

Vipin observed that this is Jo's last meeting before she takes up her new role at Public Health England. Jo has been involved from the start and her true passion for the BSB programme shows through and the Partnership Board appreciates the work she has done, Jo's energy and commitment and wishes her good luck in the future.

Vipin noted that Michael Jameson has left Bradford Council. He was the previous Chair of the Partnership Board and helped to set BSB up, with a strong network and partners. We are a

lot stronger with where he has taken us to and we wish to record our thanks. Michael believed in what we are doing and we hope to get the same from his successor.

Vipin also noted the passing of Councillor Ian Greenwood who was a great supporter and who is a great loss. Gill Thornton said that none of us would be here without Ian who started Bradford Trident and won the original funding.

Finally, Vipin asked if everyone had felt they had an opportunity to contribute to this meeting and all agreed that they had. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is on Thursday 13 December 2018 at the Mayfield Centre starting at 5.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 11.00 am.