

# Newsletter



Issue 08

July 2016

Aiming High for Children

## Summer 2016

Dear Colleagues,

I want to take the opportunity to thank you for your commitment and hard work over the last period and hope that you all have some well earned rest with family and friends over the summer.

When I wrote the last newsletter in March 2016 communicating amongst other things the new leadership team, it would have been difficult to envisage the social, economic and political changes at a national and international level. Bradford Council and its partners, as is the case of all Local Authorities, are beginning to understand fully the impact of Brexit on the economy and the District. The message remains the same that we carry on as normal.

At a local level, there have been changes to both Portfolio Holders for Children's Services. Councillor Imran Khan has taken over from Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe on Education, Employment and Skills and likewise Councillor Val Slater on Health and Social Care from Councillor Ralph Berry. I know both are keen to meet with you and get out and about. I do want to thank both Councillor Berry and Councillor Hinchcliffe for their commitment and contribution to Children's Services.

I continue to be impressed by how staff across the Council, partner agencies and Schools, continues to work tirelessly and go the extra mile to deliver excellent services. There are numerous examples which I see on a daily basis.

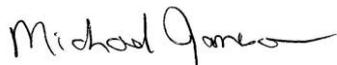
Whilst we continue to focus on the core services we have also taken the opportunity to continue to look upwards and outwards and take forward some key strategic developments. These include:-

- Successful joint bid with Leeds City Council for European Social Investment Fund Monies (ESIF) to support families into work and employment. This will closely align with our Early Help Hubs and is worth around £1.8m to Bradford over two years.
- We have also been successful in getting to the final stage of Department for Education Innovation Fund. We submitted a proposal "Rethinking Social Care" which fits neatly into the Journey to Excellence to improve the wraparound support for vulnerable children as part of a broader whole District reform in terms of how we work with families on a strength based model called Signs of Safety. Only 25% of bids have got to this stage and if successful this will provide around £2m over the next 2 years.
- 700 frontline workers have now been trained in Signs of Safety. We now have the opportunity to embed this approach as "the way we do things across the Bradford district". If you have not yet booked on training please ensure you do so.

- We have also submitted another bid to the DfE Innovation Fund to develop the Education Safeguarding Hub. This is a truly cutting edge initiative and there has been great commitment from the Police and Health in terms of how we work together to safeguard children in and out of education and the settings they attend.
- We are also planning to submit a bid to the Early Intervention Fund on the back of the success of the Literacy Hub which is beginning to show marked improvements in literacy with those schools which they work with.
- On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2016 we also launched the outcome of the Review of Post-16 education and training and the need for change. The review had representation from head teachers, Colleges, the University of Bradford and the business community. This is proposing some key changes to improve our Post-16 offer.
- We are beginning to digest the outcomes of the Primary results including Phonics, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Because of the curriculum changes, we won't know the outcome of Key Stage 2 until September 2016 but there have been good improvements in Phonics and Key Stage 1.
- The review of SEN support offer is making good progress. The review options should be available in September 2016.

The above initiatives and investment opportunities are some examples of how we are thinking creatively and differently to support our strategic ambitions. As always, it's what we do on a day to day basis which makes a difference in people's lives so, a big thank you to you one and all and enjoy your summer.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Jameson  
Strategic Director – Children's Services