

Expert by Experience Board

14th April 2021

Attendees

Board members:

- Chris Hoyle (Chair)
- Jerome Harvey-Agyei
- Chris Wild
- Chloe Robinson
- Charmaine Orchard
- Judith Denton
- Sean Geoghegan
- Helen Bell
- Angela Fraser-Wicks
- David Akinsanya
- Esi Cathline
- Margaret Mulowska
- Arif Salarzai
- Julianne Bayford

Review Team:

- Josh MacAlister, Chair of the Review
- Duncan Dunlop, Independent Adviser to the Review
- Review team members

Apologies:

- Rhiannon Parkinson
- Janet Kay

Agenda Item 1: Check In

- The Chair welcomed the group and divided the group into small breakout group for the check in activity.

Agenda Item 2: Ways of working

- The Chair thanked the sub-group for drafting the ways of working document and read out the principles.
- Josh shared a slide and updated the Board on the Design and Evidence groups. Josh informed the Board of blog publication of the groups on Monday 19th April.

Discussion

- A question was asked if cameras were required during meetings, and the Chair confirmed that video was optional.

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- The Board formally accepted the ways of working document with no objections.
- Josh responded to a query about the formation of the groups and explained that the groups may attract debate because they include people with a wide range of perspectives.
- It was agreed that the appointed EbyE members should feedback to the Board from their respective groups, but other members of the EbyE Board can attend meetings or agenda items if they wish.

Agenda Item 3: Engagement and reaching different groups

- Review team member presented the slides on engagement approach. The Board was then divided into breakout groups to discuss and identify specific groups to engage with.

Discussion

- The discussion identified a range of different groups to engage with including: birth families, Black care experienced people, those living in care with disabilities, LGBTQI+ community, youth offenders, parents in prison, homeless people.
- Board members suggested a wide range of different methods for contacting and engaging these groups, including via LAs (and the various possible sub-LA teams) , social media, via shared lives organisations, community and social buildings and organisations (including job centres and citizens advice), addiction services, virtual schools and further education / universities, and using links through the care experienced community.
- Board members discussed ways to reach out to those who are under-represented and also reluctant to engage / hard to contact, including approaches to more generally raise awareness of the review. Critically, they want to represent the people who do not get support or any representation. To bring the review to all people not just those who volunteer or who are selected, and to enable others to speak on behalf of someone else as well to make sure their story is heard.
- Review team member told the Board that the team would come back with regular progress updates via our weekly Board newsletters, and a fuller update at the next meeting.

Actions


- The Board to follow up with review team member if they have further thoughts on engagement groups and how we could engage them, or connections with groups that might help (for example).

Agenda Item 4: Case for change

- Review team member presented some slides about the Case for Change and offered to share an early draft in May. 4 members of the Board volunteered to help draft and discuss specific chapters of the Case for Change.
- Alongside the case for change, there might be things the review could make public statements on, or write to Ministers about, before it concludes next Spring. The Board went into breakout groups and discussed what kind of things this could include.

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 The independent review
of children's social care

Discussion

- The Board discussed potential ideas to escalate in advance of the final report including: alternative places to prison for young care experienced people in trouble; discounted council tax for all care leavers; LA commitment to job and apprenticeship schemes for care leavers; sibling holidays; priority access to CAMHS; access to files; proper pathway planning; stop excluding children in care from schools; better trauma training in schools and dedicated pastoral / designated teaching team for children living in care.

Actions

- The Review Team to share an early draft of the case for change with the Board in May.
- Board members to get in touch if they wish to feed into specific chapters of the case for change. The Review Team to follow up with Board members who volunteered during the meeting.
- The Review Team to highlight upcoming decision points to the Board in the next newsletter.
- The Review Team to organise Minister Ford to attend an Expert by Experience Board meeting.
- The Review Team to reach out to the Board to gather some thoughts on how we could help us raise greater awareness of the review.
- Duncan to circulate “We do not need to wait” report from Who Cares? Scotland via email.