

Minutes

of the Meeting of the

Children & Young People Services Policy & Scrutiny Panel

Friday, 12th September 2014

Item 4

held at the Town Hall, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset.

Meeting Commenced: 10.00 am Meeting Concluded: 12.50 pm

Councillors:

P Colin Hall (Chairman)
P Sonia Russé (Vice-Chairman)

P Mary Blatchford	P Donald Davies
P Bob Garner	P Catherine Gibbons
A Hugh Gregor	P Anne Kemp
P Clare Kingsbury-Bell	P Linda Knott
P John Norton-Sealey	P Terry Porter
P Annabel Tall	P Arthur Terry
P Richard Tucker	P Liz Wells
A Deborah Yamanaka	P Charles Cave

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

Also present: Councillors Jeremy Blatchford (Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services), Dawn Payne and Lisa Pilgrim (Assistant Executive Members)

Added Members: Helen Fenn (Diocese of Bath and Wells), Justin Templer (Diocese of Clifton) and Rachel Ling (Parent Governor Representative)

Officers in attendance: Sheila Smith (Director of People and Communities), John Wilkinson, Sally Varley, Mike Newman (People and Communities Directorate), David Jellings (Corporate Services)

Apologies: Councillors Hugh Gregor and Deborah Yamanaka

CAY Public Discussion (Agenda Item 2)

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Adoption Support

Mr Sandy Hore-Ruthven addressed the Panel, outlining his experience as an adopter and the experiences of his adopted children, both of whom were dyslexic with complex needs.

Mr Hore-Ruthven referred to the support that the family had received from the Council. He commented that from his perspective, early intervention would not only have had a more positive effect but would have cost less to the Council. He queried why extra and necessary support did not seem to occur until there was a crisis situation.

Panel Members engaged in dialogue with Mr Hore-Ruthven regarding his family's experiences. His frustrations were acknowledged whilst it was commented that that the Council was doing its best with less resources.

The Chairman on behalf of the Panel thanked Mr Hore-Ruthven for his attendance.

**CAY
10 Declarations of Interest by Members (Agenda Item 3)**

None.

**CAY
11 Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th June 2014 (Agenda Item 4)**

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting be approved as a correct record.

**CAY
12 Health Inequalities Updates (Agenda Item 5)**

The Panel considered this reference from the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel asking that this Panel-

(1) reconsider in the light of recent developments, including on their work plan a review of the process for claiming free school meals, and

(2) reconsider undertaking a scrutiny review of the implementation of schools travel plans and the wider issue of safe walking and cycling routes and the problem of car parking on restricted areas outside of schools.

The representative of the Director of People and Communities explained that this matter had previously referred from the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel in early 2011 but had not been taken on by the Children and Young People's Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel as a priority topic when reviewing and agreeing its work plan in June 2011.

It was pointed out that circumstances had changed and that all the requirements regarding free school meals had been successfully implemented. The action taken was outlined.

The Panel congratulated Sally Varley, Service Leader, Planning and Access Service and her staff on the successful implementation.

The policy on home to school transport and the requirement for each school to have a school transport plan was also outlined.

The Panel took no further action on the reference.

CAY 13 Re-commissioning of Children’s Community Health Services (Agenda Item 6)

The Panel considered a report on this subject matter as services as part of the wider tendering process for children’s community health services across Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) whilst keeping the focus on local integrated provision.

Mary Adams, Patient and Public Engagement Manager and Fiona Halloran, Project Lead for this re-commissioning process at North Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) responded to Members’ questions and queries. The key points raised were-

- The results of the survey were being compiled into a report and this would be made available to Panel Members.
- The Panel commented that groups such as Our Voice Counts and Supportive Parents should have been consulted. In reply, it was confirmed that the CCG had engaged with Supportive Parents and would continue to engage with all parent and carer groups
- The re-commissioning process was due to be completed by 2016. The Panel sought an assurance that services would be provided in the interim period. This would be referred to the Director of Nursing to respond.
- The Panel expressed concern about the quality of provision from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS).
- Engagement with local colleges - The Panel commented that in addition to Weston College, the CCG should also engage with Bristol colleges and with Bridgwater and Cannington College, as many young people in North Somerset also attended there.

It was confirmed that engagement with the Bristol colleges was taking place. Schools would also be engaged.

Funding for the engagement programme would be met from existing resources.

- All appropriate methods of effective communication (including the use of social media) were being looked at.

Concluded: that the report be received and that the approach to pre-procurement engagement and further involvement and consultation be supported.

CAY 14 Proposed Changes to St Nicholas Chantry C of E School, Clevedon (Agenda Item 7)

The representative of the Director of People and Communities introduced the report and responded to Members’ comments, questions and queries. These included parking, travel plans, provision of school places in Clevedon and

neighbouring areas, the surrounding area, demographics, the consultation process, the use of the dedicated schools grant and the cost of transporting children to schools outside Clevedon, and Ofsted's stipulation that schools can be considered for expansion when they show good or outstanding inspection outcomes.

A Member pointed out that the focus for the Panel must be whether or not they were satisfied with the process that had been followed to enable a recommendation to be made to the Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services regarding the publication of a Statutory Notice.

The Panel thanked all the contractors and officers who contributed to the Universal Free School Meals construction and update programme.

A vote was taken and it was,

Concluded: that the Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services be recommended to approve the publication of a Statutory Notice to expand the provision at the St Nicholas Chantry C of E Primary School from a 315 to a 420- place primary school formally with effect from 1st September 2015.

(There were two votes were against the proposal and Councillor Garner requested that his vote against be recorded in the minutes)

CAY 15 Report of the Respite Care and Short Breaks Working Group (Agenda Item 8)

The Panel and the Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services complimented the working group on their thorough investigation and for producing an excellent report. The involvement of, and consultation with parents and carers was particularly highlighted.

Councillor Kemp, Lead Member of the Working Group expressed thanks for the support provided and the work carried out by Gail Smith, Strategic Commissioning Officer and Mike Newman, Strategic Commissioning Team Leader. The cross-cutting issue of the wider transition to adulthood would be taken up by the Life Course (Cradle to Grave) Working Group.

Concluded:

(1) that the Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services be recommended to endorse the process for extending the current NCH contract for one year, on the basis that this will allow North Somerset to develop an innovative, effective and cost efficient new service which will be exposed to the wider market of care providers;

(2) that the Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services be recommended to support the development of a 14-25 service which will provide more effective transitional arrangements between children's and adults' services, will promote individuals' journey towards independence, and which will make the best use of existing council assets and buildings;

(3) that the Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services be requested to recognise the efforts of the Respite Care and Short Breaks Working Group to see the service as part of a wider transition to adulthood, including the need to work closely with Adult Services; and that arising from this, he agrees to the monitoring of the continued development of the 14-25 service;

(4) that the officers be recommended to present this report to the Joint Commissioning Group (under the auspices of the People and Communities Board) as part of the governance/decision making process.

CAY 16 Report of Councillor Lisa Pilgrim, Assistant Executive Member (Agenda Item 9)

Councillor Lisa Pilgrim updated the Panel on her work and responded to Members' questions and queries regarding the following areas of activity-

Invest to save, Adoption Social Impact Bond - IAAMs (It's all about me), the sharing of services and foster carer recruitment

Councillors were reminded that an all- Member briefing on Social Impact Bonds was taking place on Wednesday, 17th September at 5.00 pm in the New Council Chamber.

CAY 17 Performance and Financial Monitoring (Agenda Item 10)

The representative of the Director of People and Communities presented the report covering core information on finance and performance. The following topics were highlighted, details of which were set out in the report.

(1) Inspection and Improvement

The overall picture was good.

The representative of the Director of People and Communities responded to Members' comments and queries regarding individual schools.

(2) Key Corporate Performance Indicators

One of the five key indicators on pupil attainment was annual and performance for three of the remaining four indicators (75%) was better than their targets, with the fourth not being on target.

(3) Numbers of Children Looked After

There had been a gradual, but steady increase in the number of children looked after and at the end of July 2014 the total was 234. The target for March 2015 was 210. The reasons for increases and decreases in numbers of Children Looked After were complex and all requests for a child to be Looked After were closely monitored.

(4) Financial Monitoring

There was a significant projected overspend for 2014/15 mainly due to the costs of placements for Children Looked After, particularly those with complex needs.

(5) Case Trends

Regular case auditing was undertaken by managers in the Support and Safeguarding Branch. Overall, 69% of case audits had resulted in a good grading.

(6) The Trends in Numbers of Children Looked After Children with A Child Protection Plan and Children in Need Receiving Support and Safeguarding Services

The number of Children Looked After had increased during 2014, but the rate was still lower than the England average. However, the rate per 10,000 0-17 year olds was significantly above the average rate of North Somerset's family of similar authorities.

The number of children with a Child Protection Plan had decreased recently and the rate per 10,000 0-17 year olds was now significantly lower than both the average of North Somerset's group of similar authorities and the England average.

(7) Indicative GCSE and 'A' Level Results by School

It was noted overall examination results were encouraging, particularly at GCSE level, with some variations for individual schools and for individual subjects.

The representative of the Director of People and Communities undertook to respond to a Member's query regarding GCSE results for Clevedon School.

CAY 18 Work Plan (Agenda Item 11)

The Panel had received the report of the Respite Care and Short Breaks Working Group and this matter would be relocated on the work plan under the section headed "Awaiting response from the Executive Member".

The Chairman proposed to set up a Child Sexploitation Working Group in light of the recent Rotherham case. The Director of People and Communities advised that the working group should focus on the process and transparency of information-sharing.

The Panel concurred with the proposal and the following Members agreed to join the working group –

Councillors Colin Hall, Donald Davies, Bob Garner, Catherine Gibbons, Anne Kemp, Linda Knott, Sonia Russe.

Concluded: that the work plan be updated to reflect work in progress.

Chairman
