



## Minutes

of the Meeting of the

# Children & Young People Services Policy & Scrutiny Panel

Friday, 9th January 2015

Item 4

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

Meeting Commenced: 10.00 am Meeting Concluded: 12.05 pm

### Councillors:

P Colin Hall (Chairman)

P Sonia Russé (Vice-Chairman)

P Mary Blatchford

P Donald Davies

P Catherine Gibbons

P Anne Kemp

P Linda Knott

P Terry Porter

P Arthur Terry

P Liz Wells

P Charles Cave

A Bob Garner

P Hugh Gregor

P Clare Kingsbury-Bell

P John Norton-Sealey

- Annabel Tall

P Richard Tucker

P Deborah Yamanaka

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

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

**Added Member:** Helen Fenn (Diocese of Bath and Wells), Rachel Ling (Parent Governor Representative)

**Right to Speak:** Fiona Walters (Weston College)

**Officers in attendance:** Sheila Smith (Director of People and Communities), John Wilkinson, Eifion Price, Sue Ivermee (People and Communities Directorate), Dali Sidebottom (North Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group), Dr Trish Tallis (Weston Area Health Trust), David Jellings (Corporate Services)

**Apologies:** Councillor Bob Garner

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## **Justin Templar**

The Chairman referred to Justin Templar, representative of the Catholic Diocese of Clifton, who had died suddenly of a heart attack the previous evening. At the request of the Chairman the meeting stood for a minute's silence in Justin's memory.

The Chairman on behalf of the Panel and officers paid tribute to Justin's service and commitment.

### **CAY 30      Declarations of Interest by Members (Agenda Item 3)**

None.

### **CAY 31      Minutes of the Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2014 (Agenda Item 4)**

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

### **CAY 32      Presentation by North Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group (Agenda Item 6)**

The Panel received a powerpoint presentation on this subject matter (this would be emailed to Members and a copy placed in the signed minute book).

It was explained that the presentation would be on "Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Children and Young People in North Somerset" and would be broader than indicated by the agenda title (Re-commissioning of CAMHS).

Dali Sidebottom (North Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group) and Dr Trish Tallis (Weston Area Health Trust) responded to Members' questions and queries. The key points raised were-

- Taunton and Musgrove Health Trust would be taking over responsibility for the CAMHS currently provided by Weston Area Health Trust. It was confirmed this would not involve job losses.
- Would support be provided for individual households – The officers undertook to pursue this matter.
- What level of support would be provided post-CAMHS engagement?
- The Weston Area Health Trust was being asked to provide short-term funding to address the backlog which was causing

some delays to starting treatment. The aim was to provide a more effective and efficient system and ensure that assessment and treatment were better aligned.

- The provision of school nurses was a local authority responsibility. All schools had a named nurse but capacity was limited and they were not necessarily based on site.
- Pattern of referrals – There were referrals from all areas of North Somerset although the greater number were from Weston-super-Mare and areas of high deprivation.
- Brief reference was made to out of hours cover which was provided across Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset .
- What was working well (this included)
  - (i) Peri-natal and infant mental health pathway
  - (ii) North Somerset schools allocated time from the educational psychologists and advisory teachers through Vulnerable Learners' Service
  - (iii) Early Help services co-located within community hubs
  - (iv) Multi-agency partners providing a comprehensive programme of evidence-based parenting groups such as the 'Strengthening Families' programme, as part of their Early Help provision for children and young people aged 0–18 and their families
  - (v) Social care and family support staff were developing good relationships with local families and children
  - (vi) Specialist CAMHS were offering an effective, evidence based service to children and young people
  - (vii) Specialist eating disorder service within tier 3 had developed good networks to facilitate appropriate referrals and early treatment.
- The areas where there was scope for improvement were highlighted on the slides together with the proposed action to be taken.
- Timetable for re-commissioning CAMHS – this had slipped, partly due to the pending General Election.
- It was hoped that over the longer term the Public Mental Health Strategy would lead to a change in cultural attitudes and de-stigmatise mental illness.
- A mental health workshop had been arranged on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2015 for Members of this Panel and the Adult Services and Housing Policy and Scrutiny Panel and the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

**CAY 33 Annual Report of the Adoption Panel 2013 - 2014 and Targets for 2014 – 2015 (Agenda Item 7)**

The Panel agreed to defer consideration of the above report to the Panel's next meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

The Scrutiny Officer would send an e-mail inviting Members to send any questions, queries or comments relating to the report to the Adoption Team Manager in readiness for the next meeting.

**CAY 34 Response of the Executive Member to the Recommendations of the Respite Care and Short Breaks Working Group (Agenda Item 8)**

The Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services presented the report. He supported the recommendations and welcomed the initiatives contained therein.

The Chairman on behalf of the Panel thanked the Executive Member for the report.

**Concluded:** that the report be received.

**CAY 35 Report of the Assistant Executive Member, Councillor Lisa Pilgrim (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.

Adoption

It was confirmed with regard to Adoption West that the situation remained unchanged the last Panel meeting.

Fostering – recruitment, retention and matching

It was commented that it was important that the meeting with Agilisys to look at how the call handlers can deal with fostering enquiries. This would involve training, possibly a script and also a call length which would allow a good first contact.

The Assistant Executive Member was asked to keep the Panel informed.

Invest to save

The draft specification for the project related to the detailed feasibility work to be carried out by the consultants. Summary information could be circulated to Members.

Care Leavers

Relevant statistics would be provided to Panel Members.

The new fostering strategy would focus on the recruitment and retention of foster carers.

**Concluded:** that the report be received.

**CAY 36 Performance and Finance 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 and responses made to Members' questions and queries.

**(1) Inspection and Improvement**

Priory Community School was inspected in November 2014 and was judged to be outstanding.

St. Peter's Church of England Primary School in Portishead was inspected in October 2014 and was judged to be good.

**(2) Key Corporate Performance Indicators**

The quarter 2 performance against the key indicators was shown in the previous report to the Panel. The quarter 3 performance would be reported to the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2015 Panel meeting.

**(3) Numbers of Children Looked After**

The representative of the Director of People and Communities gave a powerpoint presentation on the budget for Children Looked After which compared North Somerset Council with coastal councils, similar councils in the South West and neighbouring councils (this would be emailed to Members and a copy placed in the signed minute book).

Key points-

- Out of 16 councils only 4 (including North Somerset) saw a decrease in the numbers of children looked after over the past 5 years, 10 saw an increase whilst 2 reported no change
- The reduction in the number of Children Looked After had been achieved by a combination of fewer children starting to be looked after and increasing the number who exit care. However, it was pointed out that leaving care did not end the Council's financial liability and that as numbers decreased special guardianship and residence order payments increased.

- As adoption performance improved, the spend on adoption and adoption allowances increased. Adoption allowances are usually very long term commitments given that most children were very young when adoption orders were made.
- Financial Analysis
  - (i) Although the use of IFAs had increased, the spend had reduced
  - (ii) The fall in the number of in-house foster placements had seen a small reduction in spend
  - (iii) Despite residential care budget pressures budget pressures of £370,000 in 2013/14 the budget was reduced by £320,000 immediately producing nearly £700,000 in pressure
  - (iv) Although the use of children's home had increased the actual spend had reduced
  - (v) The kinship budget had been overspent since 2009/10. The financial commitments had grown to Court and legislative pressures on local authorities to increase the number of kinship arrangements receiving financial support.

#### **(4) Financial Monitoring**

The People and Communities Directorate was projecting to overspend its budget in 2014/15 by £1,682,000 (6.3%), due to the increase in Children Looked After costs and some Medium Term Financial Plan savings not being delivered at the pace previously anticipated. It was noted that the Children Looked After 'placements budget' included some costs for supporting children after they had left care, such as adoption allowances, special guardianship allowances and Care Leavers' support.

#### **(5) Case Audits**

Overall, 56% of case audits in the Support and Safeguarding Branch resulted in a good or outstanding grading. It was explained that the terminology for grading case audits had changed to reflect the Ofsted system.

#### **(6) How well are children achieving in North Somerset Schools and how does this vary between areas?**

Overall the performance in North Somerset primary schools was good with results at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 better than the national average.

Changes in the examination system for secondary schools meant that it was difficult to compare performance between years.

The representative of the Director of People and Communities, in response to a Member's request, undertook to provide information on the individual pupils achieving excellent examination results.

It was confirmed that the Council as LEA challenged performance in all North Somerset schools on a regular twelve monthly basis so that they knew what they needed to do to improve outcomes for children

Officers responded to Members' comments and queries regarding the Pill cluster of schools and how educational attainment at St Katherine's School (which had a significant number of pupils from Bristol) compared with Chew Valley School (attended by many North Somerset pupils).

Reference was made to work placements. There was an increasing focus on work placement as part of a programme of study with the emphasis on 14-19 year olds gaining work place skills. This was based on the ethos of getting children ready for work and addressing the skills that employers require from them.

**Concluded:** that the report be received.

**CAY 37      The Panel's Work Plan (Agenda Item 11)**

The Scrutiny Officer updated the Panel as follows-

**CSE Working Group**

With regard to the issues involved and the need to ensure a thorough investigation, the Working Group would report back to the Panel meeting in June 2015.

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

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Chairman

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