

Minutes

of the Meeting of the

Children & Young People Services Policy & Scrutiny Panel

Thursday, 11th October 2018

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

Meeting Commenced: 10.00am Meeting Concluded: 12.30pm

Councillors:

P Ann Harley (Chairman)

P David Oyns (Vice-Chairman)

Karen Barclay

Ericka Blades

P Donald Davies

Judith Hadley

A Denise Hunt

P Liz Wells

P Roz Willis

P Ruth Jacobs

(substituting for Mary Blatchford)

P Michael Bell

A Mary Blatchford

P Bob Garner

David Hitchins

P Kate Stowey

Martin Williams

P Deborah Yamanaka

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

Other Councillors in attendance: Lisa Pilgrim

Officers in attendance: Linda Bunting, Alun Davies, Wendy Packer, Philippa Penney, Eifion Price, Katherine Sokol

CAY 10 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (Agenda item 3)

None.

CAY 11 Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 June 2018 (Agenda item 4.1)

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

**** Change to agenda order ****

The Chairman agreed to consider agenda item 6 later in the meeting

CAY 12 Independent Safeguarding Reviewing Officer's Annual Report (Agenda item 7)

The Independent Safeguarding Reviewing Officer presented the Annual Report, which contained a summary of work carried out during the period 01 April 2017 – 31 March 2018.

Following ensuing discussion, Members were advised that the report served a specific statutory service and was not intended to highlight the specific issues raised at the meeting. Members therefore requested sight of a wider set of indicators to enable questions not included within the report to be answered in more depth.

In response to a question regarding Business Support, it was confirmed that any interruption to service should be resolved by mid-November. It was also noted that further budget savings had been identified in the Medium Term Financial Plan.

Members referred to the Action Plan containing information on case-loads; dispute challenge; participation levels and form tracking, with significant improvements due to be delivered in December 2018.

There was also discussion of the role and identity of the Children's Champions Group and whether members considered that this should be a public meeting

Concluded: that the Panel received and commented on the Independent Safeguarding Reviewing Officer's annual report.

CAY 13 Young People in North Somerset Democracy Project (Agenda item 8)

The representative of the Director of People and Communities presented the report updating the Panel on progress with this project. Weston College had confirmed support for their film production team to develop a DVD/media release working with Ellie Varley who had founded the project. The film would be launched in January 2019, to coordinate with a question time event with MPs in February/March 2019.

Members suggested engagement with the forthcoming local elections, as engagement with young people at local elections was notoriously lower.

Concluded: that the Panel received and commented on the report.

CAY 14 Month 4 Children's Services Budget Monitor (Agenda item 9)

The Finance Business Partner for People and Communities presented the report which summarised the forecast 2018/19 for spend against budget for children's services.

The majority of the forecast overspend was attributable to the cost of placements for children looked after. There was encouraging stabilisation and improvement when compared with last year, and this was reflected in the activity and unit cost data. A children's transformation programme had been established to address the situation, and work was underway to address the pressures on staffing and associated costs.

Members were pleased to hear that the regional partnership with educational establishments had been nominated for an award.

Members discussed issues around sustainability with particular reference to the home to school transport [SEND] overspend, and discussed the benefits of earlier identification of need as part of the Education Care Health Plan assessment to ensure transport needs are identified in the timeliest manner. It was agreed that Members should engage with the current home to school transport policy review across the directorates.

The Panel thanked the Finance Business Partner for the excellent report.

Concluded: that the Panel received and discussed the forecast 2018/19 spend against budget for children's services and the risks and opportunities associated with the medium-term position.

CAY 15 Performance and Finance Monitoring (Agenda item 10)

The Assistant Director Children's Support and Safeguarding presented the report which provided an overview of recent Ofsted inspections, safeguarding audits together with an analysis of performance against key corporate performance indicators.

Members discussed 'One Front Door' and agreed that this should be considered at a future CYPS Panel meeting.

Members discussed the impact of cuts to prevention services and the resultant impact this could have on other areas.

There was a request that future reporting should also include schools from out of area that educated our North Somerset Children. Local authorities were now working more closely with the CCG to address mental health in children, and Trusted Relationships funding had been identified to increase early awareness in schools.

Concluded: that the Panel received the financial and performance information presented in the report and commented on both areas for improvement and areas of good performance.

CAY 16 Special Educational Needs and Disability (Agenda item 6)

The Vulnerable Learners' Service Lead presented her report on the Statement of Action following the recent Care Quality Commission inspection

of the local area's systems and practices. This was a succinct report as information was still being collated, but a full report would be available once agreed by Ofsted.

Members discussed the actions identified to mitigate in a number of areas, including: SEND Board partnership and strategic overview; additional funding for the SEND team for prevention and re-engagement; joint work to ensure appropriate support access for EHCPs; and improved engagement with parents.

Members discussed the need for any SEMH school to be included in the Commissioning Strategy to make it more favourable for the local authority to identify land potential, and requested that the Panel should continue to review progress in this area.

Concluded: that the Panel considered and engaged with the actions that are being taken to address the SEND strategy, and would continue to do so.

CAY 17 The Panel's Work Plan (Agenda item 11)

Members discussed progress with each of the Panel's work areas and received further information as follows:

- Green Paper: Transforming Children and Young People's Mental Health Provision – Further information on the government's response was circulated to members last month. This remained on the work plan to keep in view as the review progressed;
- High Impact Families – a successful event for members was held last month. This remained on the work plan to monitor for future progress;
- Adoption West – a review of first 6 months of new joint arrangements would be reported to the next Panel meeting in January;
- The North Somerset Annual Adult Complaints report for Children's social care would be reported to the next Panel meeting in January

Concluded: that the work plan be updated and agreed.

Chairman
