

Notes

of the informal Meeting of the

Children & Young People Services Policy & Scrutiny Panel

Thursday 16 June 2022

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

Meeting Commenced: 10.05 am Meeting Concluded: 12.18 pm

Councillors:

P Wendy Griggs (Chairman)

Marc Aplin	P Caroline Cherry
P Ciarán Cronnelly	A Mark Crosby
P Don Davies	Hugh Gregor
Ann Harley	P Nicola Holland
Ruth Jacobs	Huw James
A Lisa Pilgrim	Tim Snaden
A Richard Westwood	Vacancy
Vacancy	

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

Other Councillors in attendance: None

Officers in attendance: Nicholas Brain, Sheila Smith, Pip Hesketh, Becky Hopkins, Sally Varley, Steve Devine, Brent Cross.

Right to Speak: Kenton Mee, North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together (The Parent Carer Forum in North Somerset)

CAY 01 Election of Vice-Chairman for the 2021/22 Municipal Year (Agenda Item 1)

Recommended: that Councillor Donald Davies be elected as Vice-Chairman for the 2022/23 municipal year - to be ratified at the formal Panel meeting on 20 October 2022.

CAY 03 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (Agenda item 4)
None

CAY 03 Minutes and Notes (Agenda item 5)

Minutes of the meeting of 10 March 2022, to approve as a correct record.

Recommended: that the minutes of the meeting on 10 March 2022 be approved as a correct record at the next formal Panel meeting on 20 October 2022.

CAY 04 Annual Directorate Statement, Children's Services (Agenda item 7)

The Director of Children's Services presented the report which recommended that the Panel note the directorate plans for 2022/23, and take the statement into account when setting the work plan. The statement provided directorate-wide commitments, as well as commitments for the specific areas of Children's Support and Safeguarding and Education Partnerships.

Recommended: that the report be received and comments be forwarded to officers in the form of minutes.

CAY 05 Overview of Findings from CAMHS Working Group (Agenda item 9)

The co-Chairman of the joint CYPS/HOSP working group presented the report of the working group which was investigating parity of funding for CAMHS across the BNSSG CCG (Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group) area.

This was followed by the report of the Senior Contract Manager at the BNSSG CCG, which provided an NHS response to the findings of the working group, and outlined additional funding and support that had been provided to children's mental health services since 2020.

Members raised the following concerns (officer replies in italics):

- Why were there no primary infant mental health service in North Somerset? *There was support in place (i.e. health visitors), but not specifically in a mental health role. There were differences in provision across the BNSSG CCG area, and the budget constrained the ability to respond to this need.*
- Lack of continuity of treatment for mental health with the cut-off at 18 years for CAMHS. *Issues such as post-Covid anxiety were wellbeing issues, not necessarily mental health. There were issues with transition, but the cut-off age for children's treatment at 18 was universal to services provided by the NHS.*
- The non-recurrent nature of the funding for the Autism Intensive Service and the funding for additional mental health support in schools. *The £250 000 schools funding was introduced while the Mental Health Support Teams were implemented, and the Autism service was a pilot scheme which received the non-recurrent funding to test viability.*

- The level of investment required to drive recruitment, and what would change the trajectory of improvement for CAMHS? *A transformation programme was needed for CAMHS, with multidisciplinary teams becoming the norm to cope with the increase in demand. The teams within schools would be easier to recruit for, and would also boost early intervention as well as building a resilient practitioner community.*

Recommended that:

- (1) the report be received; and
- (2) that the findings and recommendations set out in the report be endorsed, with the following amendments: a progress report compiled by the respective commissioners (CCG / ICB) and Public Health showing the trajectory of progress be provided to CYPS Panel by no later than March 2023 outlining the steps that have been taken to improve parity from a funding and service delivery model perspective, and where gaps remain, what steps will be taken to improve these; and an update on the basic needs assessment come to the CYPS Panel meeting on 20 October 2022.

CAY 06 Resetting the Education Agenda for North Somerset (Agenda item 10)

The Assistant Director for Education Partnerships introduced the presentation which provided context, an overview of the SEND data dashboard, and the principles behind the Education Strategy for North Somerset. Members were also updated on the SEND Improvement Plan.

In discussion, the following questions and comments were made by Members:

- The recent launch of the EHCP (Educational Health Care Plan) consultation by government. *This was a standard 20-week consultation on picking up on needs.*
- Why had the special school for children with SEMH (Social, Emotional and Mental Health) issues almost closed? *The original provider had concerns about the safety of the site, community response to the school, and the level of funding being received. The new provider had successfully taken on the school, and there were plans to expand it to up to 65 pupils aged 6-15.*

Recommended: that

- (1) the report be received, and comments be forwarded to officers in the form of minutes; and that
- (2) an updated SEND dashboard be provided at future CYPS meetings.

CAY 07 Executive Member / Assistant Director Education Partnerships Report – Community of Practice SEND (Agenda item 11)

The Assistant Director for Education Partnerships presented the report. The presentation included an explanation of Community of Practice, how it worked in North Somerset, and some examples of the work carried out.

Recommended: that the report be received, and comments be forwarded to officers in the form of minutes.

CAY 08 North Somerset's Annual Children's Social Care Complaints and Compliments Report for 2020/21 Financial Year (Agenda item 12)

The Complaints & Directorate Governance Manager presented the report which covered the Council's actions and responses to complaints and compliments about Children's Social Care for the 2020/21 financial year.

This had not been reported to the Panel previously, and the report for 2021/22 would be considered at the 20 October 2022 CYPS Panel meeting.

Members sought clarification on the following:

- Why was there still one outstanding stage 2 complaint? *This had since been resolved, with some aspects upheld and some not.*
- What were the 'miscellaneous' complaints listed in section 5.5 of the Appendix? *These were issues that may have resolved themselves, or could be classified as complaints that were redirected elsewhere.*

Recommended: that the report be received, and comments be forwarded to officers in the form of minutes.

CAY 09 Ofsted's Inspection of Adoption West (Agenda item 13)

The report was presented by the Director of Children's Services, and summarised the outcome of the recent Ofsted inspection of Adoption West, in which it was found that Adoption West provided effective services that met the requirements for 'good'.

The Director updated the Panel on the background to the sub-judgement on the effectiveness of leaders and managers being 'requires improvement to be good'.

Recommended: that the report be received, and comments be forwarded to officers in the form of minutes.

CAY 10 Performance Monitoring (Agenda item 14)

The Assistant Director, Family Support and Safeguarding, presented the performance monitoring update to the Panel.

Members requested clarification on: what the key things to look out for in the report were (*referrals to social care; comparisons to statistical neighbours; children subject to a child protection plan for the second time or more; children with three or more placement moves*); whether the Care Leavers NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) working group could receive information on what how the Care Leavers EET had achieved their successes; what the Ofsted reports were for out-of-area schools.

Recommended: that the report be received, and comments be forwarded to officers in the form of minutes.

CAY 11 Month 12 Children’s Services Budget Monitor (Agenda item 15)

The Principal Accountant, Children’s Services was unable to attend the meeting, but it was requested that where possible future reports provided information on home-to-school transport.

Recommended: that the report be received, and comments be forwarded to officers in the form of minutes.

CAY 12 The Panel’s Work Plan (Agenda item 16)

Members discussed the Work Plan.

Recommended: that the work plan be received and updated as required.

Chairman
