

Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 15 March 2017

Present:

Councillor Mrs Aspinall, in the Chair.

Councillor James, Vice Chair.

Councillors Mrs Bridgeman, Cook, Dann, Mrs Foster, Loveridge, McDonald (substitute for Councillor Tuffin), Sparling and Tuohy.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Dr Mahony and Tuffin (Councillor McDonald substituting)

Also in attendance: Councillor Darcy (Cabinet Member for Finance/ ICT), Councillor Mrs Beer (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People), Alison Botham (Assistant Director for Children, Young People & Families), Judith Harwood (Assistant Director for Education, Participation & Skills), David Northey (Head of Integrated Finance), Liz Cahill (Strategic Commissioning Manager), Emma Crowther (Commissioning Officer), Tracy Clasby (Livewell South West), Sarah Goodman (Livewell South West), Dave McCawley (CCG), Ross Jago (Lead Officer) and Helen Rickman (Democratic Advisor).

The meeting started at 3.00 pm and finished at 5.34 pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the Panel will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

1. **Declarations of Interest**

The following declaration of interest was made by a councillor in accordance with the code of conduct in respect of items under consideration at the meeting -

Name	Minute Number	Reason	Interest
Councillor Mrs Foster	4	Member of the Adoption Panel	Personal

2. **Chairs Urgent Business**

Under this item the Chair advised Members that the next business meeting scheduled for 5 April 2017 had been delayed for two weeks to 19 April 2017 in order to receive a final update on the situation surrounding GP surgeries and the 40% of patients that had not yet re-registered.

3. **Minutes**

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2016 were a true and accurate record.

4. **Children Services Budget and School Funding Reforms**

The Committee received the Children Services Budget and School Funding Reforms report presented by Councillor Darcy (Cabinet Member for Finance/ ICT), Councillor Mrs Beer (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People), Alison Botham (Assistant Director for Children, Young People & Families), Judith Harwood (Assistant Director for Education, Participation & Skills) and David Northey (Head of Integrated Finance).

The Panel heard that:

- a) a full breakdown of the £43.5m revenue budget was provided to Members in the agenda paperwork; the budget was on target to deliver savings;
- b) the Government had given permission to Local Authorities to charge schools for the Education Services Grant funding gap; officers were currently working with the Schools' Forum to discuss partnership working, specifically regarding statutory services;
- c) both the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and Council Officers were lobbying Government regarding better funding for Plymouth schools; Plymouth had received increased funding amounting to £0.058m whereas Coventry had gained £3.6m;
- d) legacy pension costs were a significant portion of the school funding Education Services Grant; this pressure was increased in 1998 when the Council became a unitary authority and some schools within the area allowed headteachers and staff to take early retirement.

The Panel agreed that:

1. a cross party motion on notice regarding school funding (high needs block) would be submitted to the 3 July 2017 City Council meeting;
2. a five year projection of figures relating to the legacy pension costs associated with the schools funding budget would be provided to Members once available;
3. a performance review report relating to Children's Social Care would be submitted to the first meeting of the municipal year 2017/18 specifically including the management of contracts.

5. **Residential Placements - Supply and Quality of Provision**

The Committee received the Residential Placements – Supply and Quality of Provision report presented by Councillor Mrs Beer (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People), Liz Cahill (Strategic Commissioning Manager) and Emma Crowther (Commissioning Officer).

The Panel heard that:

- a) 28 children were placed in residential placement providers in care; of the 28 placements Ofsted rated 20 as good/ outstanding, four had not been graded as they were new provision, three required improvement and one was inadequate. Officers worked closely with all providers and were supporting all to maintain their quality of provision or improve;
- b) for several years Officers had been working hard to increase the number and quality of residential provision in Plymouth whilst focusing on a model of care based on a family home; each provider had a car to enable children to meet friends, allow parents to visit and have friends over for tea putting great emphasis on normal life;
- c) a small number of Plymouth children requiring a residential placement were unable to be placed locally due to a variety of reasons however Officers worked closely with neighbouring authorities to share the scrutiny of placements;
- d) there had been an uplift in the placement budget ensuring that the package of care provided for children was right for their needs.

Members congratulated Officers for their hard work surrounding residential care and commended the report.

6. **Update Following Child Sexual Exploitation Review**

The Committee received an update following the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Review presented by Councillor Mrs Beer (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People).

Members were advised that –

- a) the recommendations from the review had been raised with the Police and Crime Commissioner and an advocacy service to support victims had been set up;
- b) young people in Plymouth that had been subject to CSE were currently required to travel to Truro or Exeter to be assessed; this was considered unacceptable and work was ongoing to try and find suitable premises in Plymouth;
- c) a National CSE Awareness Day was scheduled for 18 March highlighting issues

surrounding CSE and encouraging everyone to unite against it.

It was agreed that –

1. regular updates from the Safeguarding Assurance Board would be provided to Members as well as confirmation that these meetings were being held quarterly;
2. Members of the Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported the Cabinet Member and Officers regarding the lack of an assessment centre for CSE in Plymouth;
3. a progress report on actions required of current Cabinet Members would be provided to Members at the next committee meeting.

7. **CAMHS update**

The Committee received an update on the Children and Adolescence Mental Health Service (CAMHS) from Liz Cahill (Strategic Commissioning Manager), Councillor Mrs Beer (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People), Tracy Clasby (Livewell South West), Sarah Goodman (Livewell South West) and Dave McCawley (CCG).

The Panel was advised that:

- a) four key priorities included in the CAMHS transformation submission included crisis response, early intervention, children in care and specific service response; focus had shifted towards prevention and early intervention;
- b) the third sector, schools and Livewell South West worked together to provide a variety of support to young people accessing the service;
- c) some young people were using self-harm as a form of communicating distress and a lot of work from a variety of sectors was required the support these young people manage stress in a different way.

The Panel agreed that:

1. the number of children recorded as self-harming by the acute service team would be provided to Members as well as waiting time figures;
2. the number of children self-harming in Plymouth compared to the surrounding area would be provided to Members;
3. a Councillors guide to adolescent services and the process for dealing with CAMHS would be written and provided to Members to aid with relevant casework;
4. the number of children recorded as accessing treatment would be provided to Members;

5. Members would be provided with the Early Help Assessment Tool which enabled the holistic assessment of the needs of children.

8. **Tracking Resolutions**

Ross Jago (Lead Officer) advised Members that tracking resolutions listed on document had been completed.

9. **Work Programme**

Members agreed for the following items to be included on the work programme:

- end of life care (select committee review);
- transition of young people services to adults (select committee review);
- GP procurement (select committee review);
- update on Childrens and Adults safeguarding;
- Healthwatch.

The Chair advised Members that the 5 April 2017 meeting had been deferred to 19 April 2017.