

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Thursday 1 March 2012

PRESENT:

Councillor Wildy, in the Chair.

Councillor Stark, Vice Chair.

Councillors Mrs Beer, Bowie, Mrs Bragg, Browne, Currie, Delbridge, Mrs Dolan, Haydon, Singh, Thompson and Tuohy.

Co-opted Representatives: Mr Kevin Willis, Alderman Purnell and Matthew Currie.

Also in attendance: Carole Burgoyne – Director for Place, Mairead MacNeil – Assistant Director Children’s Social Care, Tony Staunton – Lead Officer Safeguarding and Child Protection, Steve Waite – Chief Executive and Dan O’Toole, Director of Finance, Plymouth Community Healthcare, Fiona Fleming – Commissioning Manager, Jayne Gorton – School Organisation and Pupil Access Manager, Anita Martin – Group Accountant, Claire Oatway – Lead Officer and Amelia Boulter – Democratic Support Officer.

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 12.35 pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the committee 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.

65. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, the following declarations of interest were made, as follows –

Name	Minute	Reason	Interest
Councillor Mrs Beer	Minute 67 – tracking resolutions and feedback from management board	School Governor at Plympton St Maurice, Chair of Plymtree Children Centre and employed by Devon and Cornwall Police.	Personal
Councillor Mrs Bragg	Minute 67 – tracking resolutions and feedback from management board	Director of the Marine Academy Plymouth	Personal
Councillor Thompson	Minute 67 – tracking resolutions and feedback from management board	School Governor at Woodfield Primary School	Personal
Kevin Willis	Minute 67 – tracking resolutions and feedback from management board	Chair of the Admission Forum	Personal

66. **CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chair thanked panel members for their hard work over the last two years and for the enormous amount of work that had been undertaken.

67. **TRACKING RESOLUTIONS AND FEEDBACK FROM MANAGEMENT BOARD**

The panel considered the tracking resolutions and those present commented as follows –

- regarding minute 3 (2) – Current Parent Governor Representative. Kevin Willis reported that this would be his last meeting as a parent governor representative. The panel thanked Kevin Willis for his contribution as a Parent Governor Representative for the last 12 years;
- regarding minute 60 – Performance and budget report. The panel had repeatedly requested a more timely budget and performance reports and this was highlighted to the Director for People;
- regarding minute 19 (3) - SEN Transport. It was reported that discussions were taking place on the ageing fleet and the amount spent on servicing. It was hoped that in the next 2 to 3 months there would be a solution to the problem with a replacement of vehicles;
- regarding minute 42 (1) - Little Teds. Mairead MacNeil, Assistant Director Children's Social Care and Tony Staunton, Lead Officer – Safeguarding and Child Protection gave a verbal update on Little Teds. It was reported that a comprehensive plan was signed off last year by Plymouth Local Safeguarding Children Board (PLSCB). This was a hugely complex and emotional experience with lessons to be learnt from any Serious Case Review (SCR).

In response to questions raised, it was reported that -

- Ofsted had acknowledged a level of miscommunication with the local authority. As a result of this miscommunication a link person from Ofsted was identified to meet on a regular basis with PCC;
- the PLSCB had worked closely with the early years service to ensure appropriate safeguarding is in place;
- over 1,000 members of staff had received safeguarding training this included staff working in the third sector;

All other tracking resolutions were complete, progressing or added to the next municipal year.

Agreed that –

1. a letter of thanks is sent to Kevin Willis for his contribution as a Parent Governor Representative on the Children and Young People's panel for the last 12 years;
2. as a matter of urgency the school fleet is replaced in order to avoid further pressures on the school transport budget;
3. the Little Teds Action Plan Report is circulated to all members;
4. a short paper on safeguarding training is produced and submitted to the Corporate Parenting Group to review and make a recommendation on members training.

68. **BASIC NEED PROGRAMME**

The panel noted the Basic Need Programme report.

69. **UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR FOR PEOPLE**

Carole Burgoyne, Director for People gave an update on the People Directorate it was reported that –

- a. over the last 2 months has moved work to other directorates as well as organising the 4 new departments under the People Directorate –
 - Education, Learning and Families – Maggie Carter (interim);
 - Children's Social Care – Mairead MacNeil;
 - Joint Commissioning and Adult Social Care – Pam Marsden;
 - Homes and Communities – Stuart Palmer.
- b. she will continue to oversee the Life Centre project and reported that there were talented officers across the organisation that were focused on achieving the best outcomes for children and young people;
- c. the working relationship with health had improved over the last 2 years and would continue to work with GP commissioners, Derriford Hospital and Plymouth Community Healthcare as it was critical to have a close working relationships;
- d. it was important for this panel, the Corporate Parenting Group and Children's Trust to continue and to deliver against the Children and Young People's Plan 2011 – 14;

In response to questions raised, it was reported that -

- e. interviews to take place end of May beginning of June for a new Assistant Director of Education, Learning and Families. Maggie Carter is the interim Assistant Director and will continue to work on the school improvement agenda. John Searson will work alongside Maggie and will also sit in the management team;
- f. a Child Poverty Action Plan is in place and a meeting as agreed by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People is being set up by the end of March. A working group would be meeting to ensure delivery against the action plan;
- g. in the past it had been difficult to get GP's around the table in particular at CAF meetings. It was reported that Dr Sumrana Chaudhary has recently been appointment as the GP Clinical Commissioning lead for Children and Young People.

70. **CHILDREN'S EMOTIONAL WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH TASK AND FINISH GROUP UPDATE**

Steve Waite, Chief Executive, Dan O'Toole, Director of Finance from Plymouth Community Healthcare and Fiona Fleming, Commissioning Manager gave an update to the panel. It was reported that -

- a. there were no young people waiting over 18 weeks for an appointment;
- b. an external review had been commissioned to look at the CAMHS service and a report was due back shortly;
- c. it was recognised by Plymouth Community Healthcare the valuable contribution made by Youth Cabinet for the wellbeing of young people.

In response to questions raised, it was reported that –

- d. patients should not be kept waiting longer than 20 minutes for an appointment. If there are operational issues or clinical reasons this can lead to longer waiting times and staff should make apologies and give the option of an alternative appointment;
- e. a breakdown of appointments by age, gender and ethnicity will be provided to the panel;
- f. contract monitoring of the service was scrutinized on a regular basis and information can be provided to the panel;
- g. regular spot checks were undertaken to monitor appointment waiting times.

Agreed that –

1. a breakdown of appointments by age, gender and ethnicity is provided to the panel;
2. the commissioned external review of the CAMHS service is shared with the panel;
3. the panel to undertake further scrutiny on the emotional health of children and young people.

71. **UPDATES FROM PARTNER ORGANISATIONS**

- a. Corporate Parenting Group
Councillor Stark, Chair of the Corporate Parenting Group gave an update to the panel and it was reported that –
 - a. the “You Can Do It Too” Achievement Awards were taking place on the evening of 16 March and day of 17 March 2012. Sponsorship received had funded the event;
 - b. Plymouth’s children in care numbers had increased by 3 percent but had remained steady at around 388;
 - c. recruitment of foster carers and adoptive carers was very strong with 15 fostering assessments and 22 assessments of prospective adoptive parents taking place;
 - d. changes were being made to the adoption process with the Government looking to legislate for care proceedings to be completed within a 6 month timescale.
- b. LSP Wise Theme Group

The panel were unimpressed with the LSP update report and asked that the report be referred back to the LSP Wise theme Group and for a copy of the minutes to be forwarded to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

Agreed that -

1. the minutes of this meeting are forwarded to Cabinet Member for Children and Young People highlighting the report receive from the LSP Wise Theme Group;
2. the report submitted this panel be referred back to the LSP Wise Theme Group.

72. **PERFORMANCE AND BUDGET REPORT**

The panel noted the report.

73. **SCHOOLS BUDGET**

The panel noted the report.

74. **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS FUNDING**

Anita Martin, Group Accountant gave an update on Special Educational Needs (SEN) Funding. It was reported that -

- a. SEN funding would not be reduced and this is a commitment made by the Schools Forum which has been endorsed by Cabinet;
- b. looking at how schools use resources and when they look at the budget in April need to be thinking about contingencies;
- c. every school is audited on SEN and there are pockets of good and bad practice across the city. A programme of spot checks will commence after the Easter holidays on how schools are best using the funds.

Agreed that a further report on SEN funding is submitted to the panel at a future meeting reviewing evaluations that are taking place and any lessons to be learnt and advocacy services available for families in this respect.

75. **CSC ANNUAL COMPLIMENTS, CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS REPORT**

The panel noted the report and in response to questions raised, it was reported that due to complexity of a third stage complaint, it was important to take the time pull together all the information to provide a full and robust response which may lead to a delay in a response to a complaint.

76. **WORK PROGRAMME**

Recommended to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board that the following items be included on the Children and Young People OSP work programme:

- Free schools;
- Joint Commissioning (transition into adulthood);
- Children and Young People's Trust;
- Buy Back of services and consequences;
- Child Poverty Plan.

77. **MINUTES**

Agreed that –

1. minute 61 (a) should read, 28 percent and not 20 percent as stated;
2. subject to the changes above, the minutes of the 5 January 2012 are confirmed as a correct record.

78. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

There were no items of exempt business.