

CHILDREN'S HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND EDUCATION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 2016

PRESENT:- Councillors Gemma McCracken (Chair), Fay Howard, Colin Lovell, Teresa Page, Barbara Parry, Carol Shelley, Gary Sumner and Nadine Watts. Alison Paul (Swindon Association of Special Schools Headteachers), Steve Colledge (Swindon Association of Secondary Headteachers), Gary Evans (Swindon Association of Primary Headteachers), Liz Townend (Bristol Diocese), Mark Edwards (Healthwatch) and Doug Morris (Swindon Parent and Cares Group).

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Malcolm Davies.

Also Present: Councillor David Renard, Leader of the Council and Fionuala Foley, Cabinet Member for Children's Services. Peter Nathan (Head of Education), Maria Young (Interim Head of Children, Families and Community Health), Lyn Frith (Commissioner, Education), Mark Green (Integrated Service Manager), Gill May (Executive Nurse at NHS Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group) and Cherry Jones (Director of Public Health).

10. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting.

Councillor Barbara Parry declared personal and non-prejudicial interest in her capacity as an employee at Uplands Educational Trust.

Councillor Carol Shelley declared personal and non-prejudicial interest in her capacity as governor of Swindon Academy.

11. Public Question Time

No public questions were asked or submitted for this meeting.

12. Dr Peter Crouch - Update

The Chair introduced Mrs Gill May, Executive Nurse, Clinical Commissioning Group who advised the Committee regarding the passing of Dr Peter Crouch. The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, extended their condolences to his family.

13. Minutes

Resolved - (1) That the minutes of the meeting held on 21st June 2016 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

(2) The appointment of Doug Morris (Swindon Parent and Cares Group) as a non-voting co-optee be confirmed.

14.

Joint Local Area SEND Inspection

The Head of Education submitted a report to inform the Committee of the local area SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) inspection. Mrs Lyn Frith, Commissioner, Education invited the Committee to watch a short film entitled “Swindon EHC Animation (Subtitled)” and advised this was available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AnB04nbNCSI>. She advised that the animation explained the Education Health Care (EHC) Pathway for children and young people in Swindon with special educational needs and learning difficulties.

Mrs Frith explained that from May 2016, local areas in England became subject to joint inspections by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) where they would judge the effectiveness in implementing the Disability and Special Educational needs reforms according to the Children and Families Act 2014. She referred to the framework allowing evidence gathering of work being undertaken in Swindon and to the importance this had in other borough’s inspections.

Mrs Frith responded to the Committee members’ questions and comments in respect of the following:

- The transference of children with Statements to Education Health and Care Plans and how this backlog was being addressed.
- The confirmation that schools undertook annual assessments and that the department relied on the schools to undertake these earlier in the scholastic year to ensure conversions were completed on time.
- The reasons for the high percentage of pupils with a statement or EHC plan in Swindon and how this data compared with statistical neighbours.
- The effect of staff illness on the work to be undertaken.
- The reasons for continued dialogue with parents to ensure they were able to access local provision.
- The difficulty in balancing input and outcome of assessments and how the framework underpinned the work being undertaken. This allowed parents to get support without the need for their child to undertake a formal assessment.
- An explanation of the models being used by other local authorities.
- The actions being undertaken to support young people with special educational needs who were over 18 years old.
- The progress made on the development of the single pathway provision services for young people aged 19 to 25.

Resolved – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Head of Education be requested to submit an update regarding the self-assessment processes being conducted at a future meeting of this Committee.

(3) That the Commissioner of Education be requested to circulates links relating to models used by other local authorities.

15.

Provision at the Salt Way Centre

The Director of Children’s Services and the Interim Head of Children, Families and Community Heath submitted a joint report providing an update on the services being provided for children and young people with additional needs and disabilities at the Salt Way Centre.

Mr Mark Green, Integrated Service Manager, introduced the report and

explained that the report was structured to reflect themes providing an overview of services. He explained how the department responded to the increasing demand for services and referred to the various sources funding the service.

Mr Green, Mr Peter Nathan, Head of Education and Ms Gill May, Executive Nurse at NHS Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), responded to the Committee members' questions and comments in respect of the following:

- An update on the joint CCG and Council review of the Community Health Services and when this was likely to be undertaken.
- The previous contribution level relating to short break services in contrast to the current charge level.
- How parents were utilising their fifteen hours of funded child care within the early years care sector and that this was in addition to the short break service allocated hours.
- How the hard to reach families were being targeted to ensure they benefit from short break services.
- The support provided for young people accessing 30 hours of child care and on the work being undertaken with Great Western Hospital in implementing this.
- The number of pupils accessing long term Speech and Language therapy.
- The process of diagnosing children and young people with autistic spectrum disorder.
- The work undertaken by the Multi-Agency Assessment team regarding child integration.

Resolved – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Executive Nurse at NHS Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group be requested to include an update on the formal review of all Community Health Services in her next report to the Committee.

(3) That the Integrated Service Manager be requested to submit an update regarding the work being undertaken to target hard to reach families at a future meeting of this Committee.

16. Education Transport Appeals

The Head of Education submitted a report setting out the current financial and legislative position concerning home to school transport appeals. Miss Rebecca Mathis, Admissions Manager, introduced the report and advised that the report contained information on recent changes to the Education Transport appeals policy that came into effect from September 2016. Miss Mathis referred to the School Travel and Transport Guidance issued by the Department for Education in February 2014 and July 2014 regarding how appeals were to be undertaken to ensure uniformity across all local authorities.

Miss Mathis and Mrs Ann Crowley, Public Transport Network & Projects Team Leader responded to the Committee members' questions and comments in respect of the following:

- How the Admissions and Transport Departments ensured parents were able to access information and complete the application for a transport appeal.
- The difference between the submission of an appeal from a mainstream setting and a Special Educational Needs (SEN) setting. Miss Mathis confirmed that whilst the process was the same, the SEN team would be involved in the process when an appeal was received from an SEN setting.

- The demarcation of the process between the Admissions and Transport Departments.
- How the Admissions and Transport Departments differentiated between the catchment areas for the Eastern Village, Wanborough and Ridgway schools.
- How the Admissions and Transport Departments consulted when a review of school places was undertaken
- Confirmation that consultation on the 18/19 Transport Policy would be undertaken in the near future.

Resolved – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Admissions Manager be requested to circulate a copy of the leaflet sent out to parents when they submit a transport appeal.

17. NHS Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group

Commissioning Group (CCG) submitted a report updating the Committee on the performance and key issues relating to the service.

Ms Gill May, Executive Nurse at NHS Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), introduced the report and commented on the Groups' priorities and action being undertaken. In particular, Ms May referred to the appointment of a Designated Nurse regarding safeguarding children and to provide advice to the CCG, NHS England and the Council. She further referred to the provision of maternity care in Swindon.

Ms May responded to the Committee members' questions and comments in respect of the following:

- The use of the nationally recognised self-assessment tool in relation to the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) health action plan and the score attained by the CCG.
- The termination of the SEQOL contract and confirmation that funding for the Children's clinics was from a different budget.
- Confirmation that discussions were being undertaken with other providers to ensure continuity of services provided in Children's clinics.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

18. Work Programme

The Committee received a report from the Director of Law and Democratic Services detailing its updated work programme for the Municipal Year 2016/17.

Resolved – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That members be requested to submit any questions regarding Key Stage 2 results to the Committee Officer