

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

WEDNESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2017

PRESENT:- Councillors Gemma McCracken (Chair), Malcolm Davies, Fay Howard, Colin Lovell, Barbara Parry, Carol Shelley, Gary Sumner and Nadine Watts.

Mark Edwards (Healthwatch), Doug Morris (Swindon Parent and Cares Group), Alison Paul (Swindon Association of Special Schools Headteachers) and Liz Townend (Bristol Diocese).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Teresa Page and Steve Colledge (Swindon Association of Secondary Headteachers), Gary Evans (Swindon Association of Primary Headteachers), Michelle Howard (Equalities Advisory Forum) and Dr Wendy Woodhouse (Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust).

Also Present: Councillor Fionuala Foley, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, and Gill May, (Executive Nurse, Clinical Commissioning Group), Peter Nathan (Head of Education Services), Karen Reeve (Director of Children's Services) and Maria Young (Head of Children, Families and Community Health).

30. 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 Carol Shelley made a personal, non-prejudicial declaration of interest to agenda item 8 (Education Standards and Performance Report) in her capacity as governor of Swindon Academy.

31. Public Question Time

Mr. Paul Sunners, Swindon resident, submitted questions relating to the Swindon Challenge Board.

The Chair thanked Mr Sunners for his questions and advised that a written response would be provided.

32. Minutes

Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2016 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

33. NHS Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group

The Head of Communications and Engagement, NHS Swindon, Clinical 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), commented on the work

being undertaken to improve the Children's Mental Health Pathways and how this was being developed in line with the national ambition to have a tier less service, where assessments were faster and more seamless. She highlighted the additional project management being undertaken to address concerns regarding the pace of the review change.

Ms May drew attention to the strong participative work being undertaken with Great Western Trust regarding Autism Assessments and advised that a proposal was being submitted to the GWH governing body that would secure investment for a speech and language therapy and an educational psychologist. Ms May confirmed that an updated report will be circulated to the Committee covering additional data on patient waiting numbers and referral times.

In response to a query regarding service user involvement, Ms May confirmed plans were underway to improve engagement with children, young people, their parents and carers.

Resolved: (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That an updated report regarding the work being undertaken to improve Children's Mental Health Pathways, be circulated before the next meeting of the Committee.

(3) That further to (2) above, Members be requested to submit any questions that they might have to the Committee Officer for circulation to the Clinical Commissioning Group for response.

34. 30 Hours Free Childcare

The Strategic Planning Manager submitted a report informing the Committee of work being undertaken as part of Swindon Borough Council's role as an Early Implementer of the government initiative to offer working families '30 Hours Free Childcare'. Mr Gareth Cheal, Strategic Planning Manager, referred to the work being undertaken by the Council in support of this initiative by Ms Fiona Le Bon, Early Strategic Lead and Children Commissioner. Ms Le Bon advised that Swindon's work as an Early Implementer had been recognised by Caroline Dineage, MP, Minister for Early Years and Equalities, and that the scheme was being rolled out nationally in September 2017.

Ms Le Bon confirmed that the number of children participating in the scheme had increased and uptake was now at 85 per cent of the available places. She referred to the participants taking part in the trial, including Great Western Hospital and Thames Water Utilities, and advised that discussions were being undertaken with the Ministry of Defence staff take-up of this provision. Members noted that the scheme was well received by parents and Ms Le Bon highlighted the challenges in meeting the anticipated demand and the work being undertaken to encourage further take up. Mr Cheal commented on the Capital bid submitted to the Department for Education for a share of the £50m grant funding allocated to assist the delivery of the 30 Hour places by September 2017.

Following their introduction of the report, Mr Cheal and Ms Le Bon responded to members' questions and comments in respect of the following matters:

- The inclusion of childminders in the scheme.
- The offer of weekend childcare.

- Reasons for the low take-up of the scheme at Great Western Hospital and if car parking problems at the Hospital were a contributing factor.
- How shift workers within the various participating groups were encouraged to take up the scheme.
- Marketing of the scheme to encourage take-up.
- The breakdown of how the £150K was being allocated. Members noted that the scheme was self-financing.
- Work of the Engagement Officer in assisting families where English was a second language.
- The current exclusion from the scheme of Teaching and Early Years staff.
- The scheme would be on offer to all families from September 2017. This includes Teaching and Early Years staff with children.
- The participation in the scheme by the large nursery chains.
- The criteria for the scheme and confirmation that these would not change once it was implemented nationally.
- How any subsequent criteria change would affect parents of children with special needs.
- The availability of funding for providers to support children with special needs and their carers.

Resolved – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the work being undertaken to inform and shape government policy be noted.

(3) That the likely future demand from parents to access this entitlement when it was rolled out nationally from September 2017 be noted.

(4) That the Strategic Planning Manager be requested to circulate a breakdown of where the 360 pupils accepting the 30 Hour places were attending and a list of the schools willing to develop additional provision.

(5) That a vote of thanks to Ms Fiona Le Bon and Ms Danielle Maundrell, Education Place Planning Commissioner, be noted.

35. Young People's Participation in Education, Employment and Training

The Corporate Director, Economy, Regeneration and Skills, submitted a report detailing the actions taken to address the issues raised at the Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 9th November 2016, regarding post-16 participation. Mr Martin Casey, Strategic Needs Analysis Consultant, introduced the report and he summarised for members the Participation Strategy work being undertaken with Swindon schools, colleges, other providers and council services that work together to minimise the number of young people who were not in education, employment or training (NEET).

Following his introduction of the report, Mr Casey responded to members' questions and comments in respect of the following matters:

- How schools and colleges' operate and deliver outcomes for young people. This included information on the restructuring at colleges, new leads working on this area and the work of the pastoral teams.
- Youth Engagement workers based within localities and the referral work they undertake with providers to help those who were Not in Education, Employment or Training.
- Data relating to young people attending for one term only due to inappropriate course choice and the follow-up work being conducted to

advise them and inform choices.

- The reasons why 223 young people were in the “unknown” category and the work being undertaken in relation to the new “NEET plus unknown” national indicator.
- Services provided by Job Centre Plus and the National Career Service and Level 3 providers. to assist young people in updating their curriculum vitae and prepare for further education or employment.
- The data accumulated over the past year indicating that young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) were achieving better outcomes.
- The number of internship being offered by colleges.
- The role of the virtual headteacher and the impact of her work in schools and colleges, particularly regarding care leavers.

Resolved: (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Strategic Needs Analysis Consultant be requested to circulate information on the number of students who do not complete their first year in Further Education.

(3) That the Strategic Needs Analysis Consultant be requested to circulate data on the number of care leavers aged 16 to 18 who were in education, employment or training and that this be reflected by age to show actual number of young people.

36. Education Standards and Performance Report

The Head of Education Services submitted a report setting out how well Swindon children and young people had performed in their public assessments in primary and secondary schools. It highlighted where there have been improvements in performance and where there had been declines in standards. The Head of Education Services advised that the data provided a measure against national averages and included information on attendance and behaviour which could be an indicator of pupil and school performance. The report also included reference to Ofsted inspection outcomes. The Committee noted that the report reflected the work of the Education Strategy Board since its establishment in July 2015, and the new governance arrangements proposed for the Swindon Challenge Board.

Following his introduction of the report, The Head of Education Services responded to the members’ questions and comments in respect of the following matters:

- The publication of Key Stage 5 data by schools and colleges.
- The difference in remit between the Swindon Challenge Board and the Education Strategy Board and the success criteria for the Swindon Challenge Board.
- Methods of improving the quality of teaching and learning and how buddying up between teachers, recruiting the right staff and upskilling existing staff supports this.
- Future trends for Key Stage 1 and 2 data.
- The re-moderation of Year 6 exam data.
- Support for schools in improving progress for disadvantaged pupils.
- The ability of schools to support those children who do not have access to IT equipment at home.
- The effect of new schools opening in relation to established schools in Swindon.

- The degree of influence over academies and the relationship with them to improve standards.
- Collaborative working with out of borough schools to improve standards in Swindon schools.
- Proposals to improve the Council's engagement with staff at the new schools.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

37.

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 the Head of Education Services be requested to circulate Key Stage 5 data once it was validated.

(3) That further to (2) above, the Head of Education Services be requested to include this information in a future report to the Committee in the next Municipal Year.

(4) That further to (2) above, if required, Members be requested to submit any questions they might have to the Committee Officer for circulation to the Head of Education Services for response.