

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

WEDNESDAY, 13 APRIL 2016

PRESENT:- Councillors Gemma McCracken (Chair), Michael Bray, John Haines, Cathy Martyn, Gemma McCracken, Teresa Page, Maureen Penny, James Robbins, Eric Shaw, Carol Shelley, Nadine Watts, Steve Weisinger and Julie Wright, and Jo Garton (Swindon Association of Primary Headteachers), Liz Townend (Bristol Diocese), Steve Henderson (Equalities Advisory Forum), Kevin McNamara (Great Western Hospital) and Karen Reeve, Interim Director, Children's Services.

Apologies for absence were received from David Dawson (Catholic Diocese), Gill May (Clinical Commissioning Group), Alison Paul (Swindon Association of Special Schools Headteachers), Wendy Conaghan (Swindon Association of Secondary Headteachers) and Valerie Johnstone (Governor).

33. Declarations of Interest

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

Councillors Gemma McCracken, Maureen Penny, Julie Wright, Nadine Watts and Carol Shelley declared personal and non-prejudicial interests in their capacity as school governors. Councillor James Robbins made a personal and non-prejudicial declaration of interest as he was a governor and also a foster carer for Swindon Borough Council.

34. Public Question Time

No public questions were asked or submitted for this meeting.

35. Minutes

Resolved -That the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd February 2016 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

36. School Admissions

The Chair welcomed Miss Rebecca Mathis, Admissions Manager to the Committee meeting.

Miss Mathis addressed the meeting, referring to the contents of the report submitted by the Head of Education outlining the responsibilities of the Admissions team throughout the year regarding their statutory duties. She responded to questions put by members regarding the following issues:

- Advice to parents applying for a school place that assistance with transport to the new school was not provided by the local authority.
- English as an additional language not being a barrier to obtaining a school place.

- Assistance available for parents for whom English was not a first language.
- Confirmation that school application forms were available in all formats on parents' request.
- Diversity Impact Assessment undertaken on the School Admissions Arrangements.
- Explanation as to how the University Technical College (UTC) administered their school admissions and referred to details regarding the UTC's catchment area.
- The number of pupils applying to attend the UTC from September 2016.
- The process followed by the Admissions Department when parents had not submitted a school primary or secondary transfer form.

Resolved – (1) That the School Admissions report be noted.

(2) That, before the next meeting, the Admissions Manager be requested to advise members of the number of girls applying to attend the University Technical College.

(3) That further to (2) above, the Admissions Manager be requested to also advise members of the number of pupils who transferred to the University Technical College for a period, before opting to return to their original school.

37. Education Place Planning Update

Mr Gareth Cheal, Strategic Planning Manager, introduced a report regarding the number of education places required to meet Swindon's long term education needs until 2026, covering early years, primary, secondary and special education.

Mr Cheal explained that the report brought together information from a range of sources and sets out the issues the Borough might encounter and would need to address in order to meeting its statutory responsibilities. He explained that the report provided an overview of present and predicted future pupil numbers on roll, together with information about birth rates, school capacity and new housing. Mr Cheal referred to the increase in demand for special education needs places and advised that Crowdys Hill Special School would be admitting further pupils.

Mr Cheal responded to members' questions on the following issues:

- The type of communication being undertaken with planning teams regarding the new development areas.
- The extensive property development within the Northern Sector of Swindon and how this would affect school placement in that area.
- The reasons for opening Free Schools in Swindon and the effect on school admissions within their catchment area.
- The effect of opening a Free School in Wichelstowe in 2018 as this would be earlier than the need for school places in that area.
- The opening of a Free School in Wichelstowe and how this might affect the allocation of school places for pupils living in the area and its impact on funding for schools in the Wichelstowe catchment area.
- The submission to Cabinet of timescales for the construction of Free Schools.
- The timescales for work being undertaken at schools in the Central and Urban areas.
- The intention by the White Horse Federation to open a new school and its effect on the Education Other Than At School (EOTAS) service.

- The actions being taken to address the predicted growth in demand for Catholic Education.
- School Standards at Key Stage 4 and if this affected Swindon schools' admissions on the basis that parents were sending their pupils out of Borough for education.
- The effect on school place planning of pupils attending out of borough schools.
- The need to ensure a marketing campaign was undertaken to promote the new schools.
- The scale of population growth and how this had been reflected in school place planning.
- School place planning and the review of the need for secondary schools places for pupils moving up from primary schools.
- New housing development and its effect on the school place needs forms of entry (FE).
- Possible transport issues if pupils were unable to attend a local school.
- The consultation process undertaken on the need to lower the age range at Crowdys Hill Special School and the current position with regard to the outcome of that consultation.
- Schools' funding and the effect of the Dedicated Schools Grant.
- The location of new schools. .
- The recruitment of schools governors for new schools.
- Additional provision for Early Years children with special needs, particularly children on free funding.

Resolved - (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Head of Education be requested to include in future Education Place Planning Update reports, data regarding the number of pupils transferring out of borough during the primary and secondary allocation process at a future meeting of this Committee.

38. Annual Report for Care Leavers

The Committee received a report by Ms Valerie Williams, Service Manager, Children Looked After, regarding the Council's duties and responsibilities arising from the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000. Ms Williams introduced the report, expanding on issues relating to progress and identifying challenges for the department. She explained that the report reflected the case history of some young carers. Ms Williams referred to the framework for the policy, the arrangements in respect of young people leaving the care of the local authority, after care services provided and elaborated on the success of some young carers.

Following the submission of her report, Ms Williams responded to members' and representatives' questions and comments on the following issues:

- The data presented in the report covering the number of care leavers aged 19 to 21 by type of accommodation highlighted as "Not Known" reflected the eleven care leavers who were in a transition period.
- The need for clarity on the assessment of needs requiring further improvement.
- How the Pathway Plan accurately captured and recorded the voice of young people and ensured that actions arising from their wishes and feelings were acted on and results fed back.

Resolved - (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Service Manager, Children Looked After, be requested to set up a meeting with carer leavers during the next Municipal year.

(3) That the Transition Task Group Report submitted to the Adult's Health, Social Care and Housing Overview and Scrutiny at its meeting on 24th March 2016 be circulated to members of the Committee for information.

39. Introduction of Youth Forum Members

The Chair welcomed Chloe Townsend, the newly elected Member of Youth Parliament, Danielle Wells, Deputy Member of Youth Parliament and Jacob Patterson, Deputy Member of Youth Parliament to the meeting. Members noted that Chloe attended Swindon Academy, Danny attended Churchfields Academy and Jacob attended Highworth Warneford School. The Committee noted that a report from the Youth Parliament members would be submitted at a future meeting of the Committee.

40. NHS Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group

Ms Gill May, Executive Nurse at NHS Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) submitted a report updating the Committee on the performance and key issues relating to the service, particularly to the one year Operational Plan and Sustainable Operation Plan, the Community Children's Services Swindon Review and the MUSE development.

In Ms Gill May's absence, Mr Kevin McNamara, Director of Strategy, Great Western Hospital (GWH), responded to questions and comments from the Committee on the following:

- The outcome of the Community Children's Services Review.
- Attendance at the "Breaking Soil" event.
- The impact on patient care when patients are unable to be seen by primary care services due to lack of routine appointment slots.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

41. Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Update

The Committee received a report by the Chief Executive of the Great Western Hospital (GWH) NHS Foundation Trust on key issues and developments at the Great Western Hospital.

Mr Kevin McNamara, Director of Strategy, Great Western Hospital (GWH), presented the report and highlighted matters of significance, particularly the results of the recent Care Quality Commission inspection. He referred to patient flow through the hospital, maternity support for mother and baby, the recruitment of midwives, the national shortage of nurses recruited to work in emergency care and the focus to recruit in this area.

Mr McNamara referred to weekly management meetings to address actions arising following the Care Quality Commission inspection, particularly relating to the A&E Department. Mr McNamara commented on local demographic growth and its effect on secondary care provision in Swindon. In particular, he referred to the paediatric Emergency Department provision that is now under the leadership of the

Paediatric team and the work being undertaken by the Trust to address budgetary considerations whilst continuing to maintain a high level of care quality.

Mr McNamara responded to questions and comments from the Committee regarding the following:

- The effect of the net increase in Swindon's population on secondary care provision.
- Future expansion plans for Great Western Hospital to respond to the increase of Swindon's population.
- Bed blocking and the need to ensure this did not impact on children's health services.
- The percentage of patients attending the accident and emergency (A&E) department who were under eighteen years old.
- The junior doctors' strike and to contingency plans being set up to maintain service provision.
- The comparison between waiting times in children's A&E department and the general A&E department.
- The effect that a PFI contract had had on Great Western Hospital's financial position.
- Staff recruitment.
- The comparison and trends between paediatric and general demand for services.
- Delayed discharge of care and whether this was an issue for children in Swindon.
- The mental health training provided for A&E staff to improve linkages with other service providers in Swindon.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

(2) That the Director of Strategy, Great Western Hospital be requested to circulate a range of data on patients who were under eighteen years old.

42. Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) Task Group Report

The Committee received a report and recommendations from its Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Task Group, established to review the implementation of the SEND reforms in Swindon since they became law in September 2014. In the absence of the Task Group's Chair, Councillor Carole Shelley responded to members' questions and comments regarding membership of the task group, attendance at meetings, the higher than average national figure of SEND pupils in the area and the work being undertaken to address this.

Resolved - That the Committee welcomes this report and acknowledges the hard work of the Task Group in undertaking this review to inform the development of future work in light of timeframes governing the Council's implementation of the reforms.

(2) That due to the range of the subject matter and the limited opportunity to influences change and improvements, the work of the Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) Task Group be continued into the 2016/17 Municipal Year.

(3) That all officers and Members involved in the Task Group review be thanked for their continuing hard work.

43.

SACRE

The Committee received a report from the Director of Law and Democratic Services detailing the work undertaken by the Swindon Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) for the period September 2014 to August 2015.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

44.

Work Programme

The Director of Law and Democratic Services submitted a report on the Committee's work programme for the current Municipal year, detailing the activities that the Committee had undertaken during the course of the year.

Resolved – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That contributions received from Councillors and stakeholders for consideration for inclusion in the Committee's Work Programme for the Municipal Year, 2016/17, be welcomed.