

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

**WEDNESDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2016**

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

Steve Colledge (Swindon Association of Secondary Headteachers), Mark Edwards (Healthwatch), Liz Townend (Bristol Diocese) and Doug Morris (Swindon Parent and Cares Group).

Apologies for absence were received from Alison Paul (Swindon Association of Special Schools Headteachers), Gary Evans (Swindon Association of Primary Headteachers), Paul Dobson (Project Manager, Swindon Ten to Eighteen Project), Sarah Merritt (Great Western Hospital).

Also Present: Councillor Fionuala Foley, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, and Claire Smith (Participation Manager), Karen Reeve (Director of Children's Services), Peter Nathan (Head of Education Services), Maria Young (Interim Head of Children, Families and Community Health), Kevin Leaning (Head of Service, Early Help), Matt Bywater (Service Manager, Restorative Youth Services), Steve Smith (Operational Manager, Early Help), Gill May, (Executive Nurse, Clinical Commissioning Group), Johanna Bryant (Manager, Swindon Ten to Eighteen Project), Chloe Townsend, Dani Wells and Mr Jacob Patterson (Members of the Youth Parliament).

## **19. 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 9 (Children's Services Performance Report) in her capacity as governor of Swindon Academy.

## **20. Public Question Time**

No public question were asked or submitted for this meeting.

## **21. Minutes**

Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## **22. Progress Update of Youth Participation**

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Mrs Johanna Bryant (Manager, STEP (Swindon Ten to Eighteen Project), and Miss Chloe Townsend, Miss Dani Wells and Mr Jacob Patterson, elected Members of the Youth Parliament.

Mrs Bryant addressed the meeting, referring to the contents of the report

submitted by the Director of Adult Services, updating the Committee on the performance and key issues relating to youth participation, Swindon's Members of Youth Parliament, Swindon Youth Council and the Young Inspectors and Thought Tank. She referred to the continuing work with Great Western Hospital on feedback received from young people following a consultation regarding their experiences in hospital and how this might be improved. Members noted that the Youth Parliament would be conducting a survey of young people regarding emotional health and well-being in the future.

Mrs Bryant, with the council's Director of Children Services and Head of Education Services responded to questions put by members regarding the importance of data sharing between the hospital and schools of children not receiving mainstream education due to ill health.

Resolved – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Manager, STEP, be requested to circulate to members a summary of the emotional health and well-being survey being conducted before the next meeting of the Committee.

(3) That the Manager, STEP, be requested to submit an update regarding the emotional health and well-being survey to the Committee meeting in March 2017.

(4) That the Manager, STEP, be requested facilitate a meeting between Mr Patterson and Highworth Town Council to enable him to update the Town Council on the work being undertaken by the Youth Parliament.

(5) That the Manager, STEP, be requested to circulate to members an update on the recommendations identified within the Hospital School Questionnaire before the next meeting of the Committee.

## **23. Restorative Youth Services Work Programme 2016/17**

The Head of Children, Families and Community Health and the Director of Children's Services submitted a joint report on the Restorative Youth Service Work Programme for 2016/17 for the Committee's information and approval.

Mr Matt Bywater, Service Manager, Restorative Youth Services (RYS), invited the Committee to watch a short film entitled "Repairing the Harm Caused by Crime" that was located on a new website called "The Dock" and advised this was available at: [www.thedockswindon.co.uk](http://www.thedockswindon.co.uk). "The Dock" was a joint venture between RYS and Create Studios and managed by RYS.

Mr Bywater and the Director of Children's Services responded to questions put by members' on the following issues:

- The collaborative work being undertaken by the team with School Improvement Advisors located in schools where challenges were highlighted and support offered.
- Housing provision for 16 and 17 year old young people.
- The inclusion of support on "The Dock" website for young people with eating disorders and that this issue may be tied in to stress, alcohol or substance misuse.
- The external review of the YOT undertaken by the ex-YOT manager of West Berkshire on work associated with safeguarding and risk management.
- The reasons for the high number of referrals on the On Trak Youth Counselling Service and the actions being taken to address this.
- Actions being undertaken to address the factors behind the high re-offending rates.

- The rate of young people re-engaging with the Youth Offending Team.
- The anticipated effect on the Youth Offending teams' work as a result of the pending publication of the Government review into Youth Justice provision.
- Delivery of the anti-crime programme in Swindon schools.

Resolved – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Service Manager, Restorative Youth Services, be requested to liaise with the Youth Parliament regarding topics to be included on "The Dock".

(3) That the Service Manager, Restorative Youth Services, be requested to circulate information on the number of "hits" on The Dock.

(4) That the Service Manager, Restorative Youth Services, be requested to advise members of the number of and waiting time for referrals on the waiting list for the On Trak Counselling Service.

## **24. Targeted Mental Health Services (TaMHS)**

The Director of Children Services submitted a report providing an update on performance and key issues relating to Targeted Mental Health Services. Mr Steve Smith, Operational Manager, Early Help, introduced the report and explained that it encompassed work commissioned with a range of providers. Members noted that the report had been structured to highlight the improvements that had been made and areas where further work would be undertaken.

Mr Smith referred to the improvement of referral to assessment and assessment to treatment times and explained that funding from the Transformation Fund helped towards the recruitment of staff to undertake this work. He advised that schools bought the Early Help Teams' services through the Traded Service process and this helped ensure staff capacity.

Mr Smith and Ms Gill May, Executive Nurse at NHS Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), responded to the members' questions and comments in respect of the following matters:

- The percentage of assessments undertaken within 28 weeks of referral.
- The main causes of inappropriate referrals and the actions being taken to address this.
- Follow up actions undertaken for young people missing assessments.
- The identification of links between young people on fixed term exclusions and the services utilised and how the availability of such information might be beneficial in determining appropriate care packages.
- The engagement of young people in care package assessments.
- The length of referral times as compared with the scholastic timetable and how this may have an adverse effect on educational attainment.
- The benefits of using technology to ensure appointments were not missed and how data sharing through technology could also be used by schools and service providers to the benefit of the child.

Resolved – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Operational Manager, Early Help, be requested to liaise with the Youth Parliament regarding work being undertaken by the Early Help team.

(3) That the Operational Manager, Early Help, be requested to circulate a breakdown by age of the number of young people referred.

(4) That further to 3.2.3 of the report, the Operational Manager, Early Help, be requested to circulate the number of assessment s fulfilled due to the young person being brought to the clinic at a future time.

## **25. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)**

The Associate Director, Out of Hospital Care, Commissioning Group (CCG), the Head of Service, Swindon, Wiltshire and Banes and the Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust submitted a joint report providing an update on the position of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in Swindon.

Dr Wendy Woodhouse, Clinical Director, Oxford Health, highlighted the increase in referral rates for children and young people with moderate to severe mental health and confirmed this was in line with national trends. Dr Woodhouse referred to the work being undertaken with the Clinical Commissioning Group to stream line processes between CAMHS and Targeted Mental Health Services (TaMHS) to improve access to services and promote early intervention. She explained that a new service to help young people with eating disorder had been set up following investment from three CCGs that would see referral to assessments being undertaken within 4 weeks.

Dr Woodhouse and Ms Gill May, Executive Nurse at NHS Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), responded to members' questions and comments in respect of the following:

- The benefits of group therapy for young people, particularly those with eating disorder or who self-harm.
- The timescale to redesign the CAMHS and TaMHS services.
- How the services provided by the new Eating Disorders Clinics would help young people.
- The live-in facilities available within clinics for young people with eating disorders in Swindon.
- The support available for young people with an eating disorder when they transit into adulthood.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

## **26. Children's Services Performance Report**

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report providing an update on the performance within all service commissioning for the first quarter to June 2016. Mrs Maria Young, Interim Head of Children, Families and Community Health, introduced the report and explained that the report had been structured to highlight the strengths and challenges of the work that had been undertaken, making specific reference to the increase in demand for services. She referred to the difficulty in recruiting experienced social workers, the increase in the number of looked after children resulting in pressure on foster carers, the decrease in the number of referrals to social care and the success of the multi-agency safeguarding hub.

Mrs Young, with the Director of Children's Services and the Head of Education Services, responded to the Committee members' questions and comments in respect of the following:

- The number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children looking for placements, if there were any language barriers and the support being provided by the department.
- The number of families seeking help from the Early Help Services
- The Department of Communities and Local Government's monitoring of the Troubled Families Programme.
- The reasons for the increase in fixed term exclusions, how schools dealt with

them and the support provided by the local authority.

- The number of pupils with special educational needs that were permanently excluded and whether they were in the right educational setting for them.
- The number of young people benefitting from long term stable placements.
- The number of newly qualified social workers and Swindon's current vacancy rate.
- The age range of looked after children that have an adoption decision granted to them and the actions being undertaken to promote adoption.
- The performance quartiles for 2014/15 as compared to 2015/16.
- The reasons for the decrease in 12 month health checks within the Health Child Programme.
- Free school meals and its correlation with the decrease in obesity figures.
- How other local authorities record and report the statutory assessment to be completed within 45 days.
- The screening of looked after children for substance misuse.
- The U-Turn service provided by the local authority for looked after children. Members noted that additional support was also available through other providers.
- The actions being taken to address the number of 16 and 17 year old young people, particularly those with disabilities, who were taking on employment without an element of training in it.

Resolved – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Director of Public Health be requested to circulate information regarding the correlation between free school meals and obesity figures.

(3) That further to 3.8 of the report, the Routes to Employment Commissioner be requested to present a report on the actions being taken to address these issues.

(4) That further to (3) above, the report should also reflect information given to young people with Special Educational Needs.

(5) That the Head of Education Services be requested to circulate information regarding the age of pupils who were permanently excluded.

## **27. Great Western Hospital 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.

Resolved: (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That members be requested to submit any questions to the Committee Officer for circulation to the Trust to provide written responses.

## **28. 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), introduced the report and commented on the Group's priorities and action being undertaken. In particular, Ms May referred to the reasons for the waiting time for autism assessment and diagnoses in children and young people and how this initiated a review of the action plan. She confirmed that following the changes with SEQOL, the Young People's clinics were still operational and in

response to parents and carers' feedback, the opening times were revised to address fluctuations in demand.

In response to a specific query regarding hospital visits made by young people, members noted that data gathering would indicate if young people made unnecessary visits to the hospital and the primary care and would reflect the demand on both services.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

(2) That the Executive Nurse at NHS Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group be requested to submit a revised action plan for noting at the next meeting of the Committee in January 2017.

## **29.**

### **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 note that the meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017 will be held at Great Western Hospital.