

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

WEDNESDAY, 21 MARCH 2018

PRESENT:- Councillors Gary Sumner (Chair), Matthew Courtliff, Colin Lovell, Gemma McCracken, Barbara Parry, Carol Shelley, Gary Sumner (Chair), Caryl Sydney-Smith and Nadine Watts

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Fay Howard.

Spencer Allen, Swindon Association of Primary Headteachers, Tori Jones (Healthwatch), and Liz Townend (Church of England Diocese).

Also present: Councillor Fionuala Foley, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and School Attainment.

An apology for absence was received from Elaine Poulter (Parent Governor).

32. 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 Gary Sumner made a personal, non-prejudicial declaration of interest in respect of agenda item no. 7 (Children's Performance Summary Quarter 3 17/18) on the grounds that his wife was a deputy Head teacher at a Swindon School.

Councillor Matthew Courtliff made a personal, non-prejudicial declaration of interest in respect of agenda item no. 7 (Children's Performance Summary Quarter 3 17/18) on the grounds that his wife was a teacher at a Swindon School.

Councillor Carol Sydney-Smith made a personal, non-prejudicial declaration of interest in respect of agenda item no. 7 (Children's Performance Summary Quarter 3 17/18) in her capacity as governor of Swindon Academy.

Councillor Barbara Parry made a personal, non-prejudicial declaration of interest in respect of Agenda item 29 (Education Standards Update) on the grounds of her employment by Ridgeway School.

Councillor Carol Shelley made a personal, non-prejudicial declaration of interest to Agenda item 29 (Education Standards Update) in her capacity as governor of Oliver Tomkins Primary School.

33. Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

34.

Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 24th January 2018 be confirmed and signed subject to the addition of Councillor Courtliff in the list of apologies for absence.

35.

Great Western Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Teresa Harding, Divisional Director, Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, submitted a report providing the Committee with an update on key issues relating to the Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, specifically in relation to:

- Latest rating by the Care Quality Commission (CQC)
- Overall Children's Unit (inpatient ward)
- Community Paediatrics
- Building projects on the Children's Unit
- Sixty seconds for the best start in life
- Premature births
- Neonatal Peer Visit 7th November 2017 update.

Ms Harding responded to questions and comments by Councillors McCracken, Courtliff, Shelley, and Sumner in respect of the following matters:

- A room for children/adolescents who are in hospital and struggling with mental health conditions
- Funding for high-dependency care
- Community paediatrics
- The number of services rated good or outstanding
- The number of patients who have waited longer than the average time for an ASD assessment.

Resolved – (1) That the report be noted

(2) That this Committee records its thanks to Doug Morris for his work as he has now retired from the Committee.

36.

NHS Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group - Local Digital Roadmap

Gill May, Executive Nurse, Swindon CCG, submitted a report providing the Committee with an update of performance and key issues relating to Swindon CCG specifically with regard to:

- Safeguarding
- Primary Care
- Mental Health
- Targeted Mental Health Service (TaMHS)
- Kooth, an award winning, online counselling service
- Mental Health Hospital Liaison Workers
- Autistic Spectrum Disorders
- GWH paediatric services
- Additional Training Funding from NHSE

Councillor Barbara Parry read out a series of questions that she had submitted to and had been answered by Ms. May.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

37. Children's Performance Summary Quarter 3 17/18

The Corporate Director, Childrens Service and the Head of Education submitted a joint report providing an overview of performance in children's services based on the position at the end of quarter 3. A performance overview showing detailed numbers and trends over time was attached at appendix 1. The report captured the key headlines from the appendix and noted significant aspects of performance information including the impact of this for the service overall during the year to date. It gave comparator data performance from the children's social care in year benchmarking group. This related to current trends in other local authorities and consideration of how the Council's activity compares in relation to social care. The report highlighted areas of performance which are positive as well as areas where there are challenges, and provided the Committee with an understanding of the areas of performance where Swindon is compared to other local authorities, and how that information is used by external bodies such as the Department of Education and OFSTED.

Resolved – (1) That the key performance messages from the detailed performance information as set out in appendix 1 to the report be noted.

(2) That this Committee recognises and acknowledges where and how improvements are being made and successes achieved.

38. MASH, Referrals Assessment and Threshold

Ceri Woszczyk, Service Manager Children's Social Work Team, Children Families and Community Health, submitted a report providing the Committee with an update on progress of the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and Thresholds decisions that are made to determine which children receive statutory services and at what level. The information presented in the report draws on the findings and recommendations of a peer review of the MASH by Oxfordshire local authority and some work on demand management by Newton Europe. The report provided a brief outline of what is known about the new children's OFSTED inspection framework: Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS).

Resolved – That the report be noted.

39. Social Work Update

The Quality Assurance and Review Service Manager and Principal Social Worker, Children, Families and Community Health, submitted a joint report providing the Committee with an update on the progress in the quality of social work, feedback from the Principal Social Worker and an update regarding the Social Work Health Check.

Fiona Francis, Service Manager, Quality Assurance and Review, advised the Committee that the current vacancy rate sits at 17% (without investment posts the rate sits at 10%) (below the national average of 17%); she commented that keeping the workforce vacancy rate low continued to be a challenge. Over the past 3 years 101 new Social Worker/Social Worker Manager posts had been recruited to, with only one Team Manager post and one Assistant Team Manager vacancy.

She commented that the requirement to reduce social work caseloads to between 15-18 children, a nationally acceptable level, had been approved and resources to start the recruitment campaign were being progressed.

Resolved – That the contents of the report be noted.

40. Update on Child Sexual Exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation, Honour Based Violence and Domestic Abuse

Fiona Francis, Service Manager for Quality Assurance and Review, submitted a report providing an update to the Committee on work being undertaken regarding Child Sexual Exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation, Honour Based Violence and Domestic Abuse.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

41. 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, and would be undertaking, during the course of the year, with the aim of producing evidence based recommendations intended to provide service improvements for Cabinet and external agencies/bodies to consider.

The Committee also considered the priorities and suggestions of Cabinet as detailed in the Cabinet Work Programme and Forward Plan when considering the work programme.

Resolved – That the report be noted.