

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

**WEDNESDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2018**

PRESENT:- Councillors Barbara Parry (Chair), Alan Bishop, Matthew Courtliff, Mary Martin, Barbara Parry (Chair), Paul, Carol Shelley, Roger Smith, Timothy Swinyard, Caryl Sydney-Smith and Nadine Watts.

Alison Paul (Association of Swindon Special Schools Headteachers), Jacquie Watt (Swindon SEND Families Voice).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fay Howard and Nick Martin and Steve Colledge (Swindon Association of Secondary Headteachers), Elaine Poulter (Parent Governor), Liz Townsend (Church of England Diocese) and Carol Willis (Healthwatch).

Also present: Councillor Mary Martin, Cabinet Member for Children and School Attainment.

## **11. 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 made a non-prejudicial personal declaration of interest in respect of Agenda item 6 (Children's Performance Summary on the grounds of her employment by the Ridgeway School.

Councillor Carol Shelley made a personal, non-prejudicial declaration of interest to Agenda item 6 (Children's Performance Summary) in her capacity as governor of Swindon Academy.

## **12. Public Question Time**

No public questions were asked or submitted for this meeting.

## **13. Minutes**

Resolved -That the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018 be confirmed as a correct record.

## **14. Multi-agency scrutiny on Swindon's response to Child Exploitation, Missing, Vulnerable Children and on-line Internet safety**

The Child Exploitation and Missing Children Manager submitted a report providing an overview of current work being done in Swindon to address the issues of Child Exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation and Missing Children. The report included the local response to these issues and provided up to date information on the numbers of children/young people at risk and what work was being carried out to address these issue within Swindon.

The Child Exploitation and Missing Children Manager together with the Head of Public Protection and the Children and Young People ICT Manager gave a presentation at the meeting highlighting the definitions of criminal exploitation, female genital mutilation, missing children, national and international trafficking, cyber bullying and online internet safety.

Following the introduction of the report, the Child Exploitation and Missing Children Manager together with the Head of Public Protection, Deb Smith, Detective Superintendent, Wiltshire Police and the Children and Young People ICT Manager, responded to the members' questions and comments in respect of the following matters:

- The recent recruitment of a missing child co-ordinator and confirmation that she has been undertaking preventative work and liaising with the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) team to support missing children.
- Demographics of missing children.
- County Lines violence, exploitation and drug trafficking.
- The work of the OPAL team to help and support traumatised children.
- The collaboration between the Local Authority, schools and the external agencies to raise awareness about the dangers of cyber bullying and sexual exploitation.
- The promotion of this work through the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (<https://www.swindonlscb.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>)
- The range of Councillor's engagement to support this work.
- The need to raise awareness through a social media campaign targeting young people.

Resolved – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Child Exploitation and Missing Children Manager be requested to circulate the presentation given at the meeting. (Please see Appendix 1)

(3) That the Committee requests the Cabinet Member to:

- a. Raise Awareness in schools to highlight and help to tackle the problem.
- b. Commit to adequate funding to be and to continue to be allocated to the Early Help Team, OPAL team and MASH to provide the right support to tackle the problem
- c. Call for cross-party support for the County Lines Agenda
- d. Call for Members from all parties to support the Police and the OPAL team in their County Lines strategic work
- e. Call for Members to raise the profile within their communities and encourage other community leaders to do the same
- f. Call for up to date County Lines compulsory training sessions for all Members, providing various dates to make this possible.

## **15. Children's Performance Summary 18/19 - Quarter 1 Year to Date Position**

The Performance Lead, Children Services, submitted a report providing an update on the performance within all services based on the provisional 2017/18 annual outturn. The report captured the key headlines from the appendix and provided additional service contexts and aspects of performance information which should be considered when reflecting on the overall direction of travel for Quarter 1 of 2018/19. The data from the children's social care benchmarking group included

the following areas:

- a) The number of troubled Families claims,
- b) The number of children in need (Section 17),
- c) The number of referrals and assessments
- d) The number of children on Child Protection Plans
- e) The rate of care leavers in education, employment or training
- f) The re-offending rates from the Youth Offending Teams,
- g) The Placements of Children Looked After,
- h) The percentage of pupils with Special Education Statements or Educational Health Care Plan,
- i) The percentage of pupils who were not in education, employment of training,
- j) The number of fixed term exclusions and
- k) The number of pupils educated at home.

Following the introduction of the report, the Performance Lead, Children Services, together with the Interim Assistant Director, Social Work and the Head of Education responded to the members' questions and comments in respect of the following matters:

- Future work to be conducted to assist pre-schools in completing Early Help records in preparation for children progressing into schools.
- The number of EHCP referrals from Reception and Year 1 class children.
- The number of health visitor vacancies.
- The process of electively home educated children in accessing an Early Help Record.
- Reasons for the increase in the number of children who self-harm and actions being undertaken to address this.
- The quality of training for social workers impacting on their retention.
- A general update on the Children's Services self-assessment exercise undertaken with external agencies including Ofsted.
- The number of children on Child Protection Plans and actions taken to support these children.
- The rise of Key Stage 4 children being home educated.
- The increase in the number of children screened by the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and the recruitment of staff to deal with this increase.

Resolved – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Performance Lead, Children Services, be requested to circulate the following information to members of the Committee before the next meeting:

- a) The number of EHCP referrals from Reception and Year 1 children.
- b) The number of successful EHCP referrals and the number of appeals received.
- c) The number of health visitor vacancies.
- d) The number of new mothers who received the 6 to 8 week review and actions undertaken for those who did not access a review.
- (e) The number of re-referrals to MASH.

## **16. Technology to Support Social Care Delivery and Quality of Practice**

The Performance Lead, Children Services, submitted a report setting out the progress and plans in relation to the ICT Pillar as outlined in the Children's Social

Care Strategic Improvement Plan. The report identified the key work streams and actions underway within Children's and the Central IT teams to improve the technology platform and devices the workforce can utilise to equip them with the right tools to effectively assist in the delivery of social care and early help service provision.

The Committee was advised that efficient technology was crucial in improving the data held and accessed in relation to children and families and the role this played in supporting and informing social workers in service delivery. The Performance Lead, Children Services referred to the improvements in the Councils IT infrastructure following the replacement of the Social Care system and implementation of a new Document Management system. The Committee was advised that training and support was available for the workforce and that this would help them achieve better outcomes for children in Swindon.

Following the introduction of the report, the Performance Lead, Children Services, together with the Interim Assistant Director, Social Work responded to the members' questions regarding the input of social workers in the implementation of the new system and how a parallel system would be in place whilst the new system was being embedded.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

## **17.**

### **Work Programme**

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Law and Democratic Services on the results of the work programme consultation and the suggested priorities for the work for the Municipal Year, 2018/19.

Resolved – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the work programme be updated to include items recommended by the Committee.