

Medway Council
Meeting of Children and Young People Overview and
Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 25 March 2015

6.35pm to 8.30pm

Record of the meeting

Subject to approval as an accurate record at the next meeting of this committee

Present: Councillors: Avey, Cooper, Gilry, Pat Gulvin, Iles, Irvine, Kemp (Vice-Chairman), Price, Royle (Chairman), Smith, Turpin and Watson

Co-opted Members with voting rights on educational issues only:

Clive Mailing (Roman Catholic Church representative)

Added members without voting rights:

Adrian Cole (Governor representative), Nathan Lee (Medway Youth Parliament representative), Daniel Quirk (Medway Youth Parliament representative), Alan Street (Healthwatch Medway CIC representative) and Karen White (Substitute - Headteacher representative)

Substitutes: Councillors:
Willey (Substitute for Purdy)

In Attendance: Jo Cross, Head of Service, Looked After Children and Proceedings
John Drew, Independent Chair of Medway Safeguarding Children Board
Dick Frak, Mental Health Social Care Commissioning Manager
Michael Griffiths, Partnership Commissioning Lead, Children and Families
Jan Guylor, Legal Adviser
Jacqui Hackwell, Integrated Youth Support Service
Helen Jones, Assistant Director, Partnership Commissioning
Barbara Peacock, Director of Children and Adults Services
Teri Reynolds, Democratic Services Officer
Tina Russell, Sussex Partnership Trust
Ian Sutherland, Deputy Director, Children and Adult Services
Phil Watson, Assistant Director, Children's Social Care
Andrew Willetts, Action for Families Programme Coordinator

872 Record of meeting

The record of the meeting held on 14 January 2015 was agreed and signed by the Chairman as correct.

873 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Craven and Purdy and from Alex Tear (Church of England Diocese representative) and Lauraine McManus (Teacher representative).

874 Urgent matters by reason of special circumstances

There were none, however, the Chairman took the opportunity to welcome Ian Sutherland (Deputy Director, Children and Adults) and John Drew (Independent Chair of the Medway Safeguarding Children Board) to their first meeting of the committee.

875 Declarations of interests and whipping

Disclosable pecuniary interests

There were none.

Other interests

There were none.

876 Medway Youth Parliament Annual Conference findings

Discussion:

The two Medway Youth Parliament (MYP) representatives introduced the report, which provided the Committee with the findings and outcomes from the MYP Annual Conference held in October 2014. They summarised their report, drawing Members' attention to the key themes of the conference, which were the topics of three workshops and included; human trafficking, female genital mutilation and domestic abuse. They explained that the MYP had planned to take the outcomes to schools to check whether awareness of these issues had been improved and had also worked with partners such as the Medway Soroptimists and the Medway Safeguarding Children Board to develop further the work from the conference.

Committee Members welcomed the report and supported the innovative methods of interaction which were used at the conference and some of those that had attended the conference commended the event. It was also suggested that this item become an annual report to this Committee. Members then asked the MYP representatives questions which included: -

- **Feedback from schools on action they have taken following the conference.** The representatives confirmed that no feedback had yet been received directly from schools but this would be sought and reported back on in the future. They added that feedback via MYP members had been positive and found the event informative.
- **How much opportunity was there in schools to engage in debate?** The representatives explained that there was disparity amongst schools in the levels of opportunity, particularly in schools, which did not have citizenship within their curriculum. However, their view was that young people were interested in politics and it was important for them to have an opportunity to voice their opinions and MYP provided that opportunity.

Decision:

The Committee noted the report and thanked the Medway Youth Parliament for their detailed presentation.

877 Medway Safeguarding Children Board - update report

Discussion:

The Independent Chair of the Medway Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB) introduced the report, which updated the Committee on the work of the board. He drew Members' attention to particular sections in the report such as; child sexual exploitation awareness, ensuring the voice of children and young people is heard, arrangements for scrutiny and challenge and MSCB performance dataset. He also highlighted the section of the report on the LGA Peer Review and explained that the pace of change referred to in the review had been slow but there had been good reasons for this, for example, a permanent Business Manager had only recently been appointed.

The Independent Chair then answered questions from Members, which included: -

- **Vacancy rates of social work staff.** In response, the Independent Chair explained that improvements had been made in recruiting permanent staff and that this had been demonstrated as being a Council wide priority.
- **Financial contributions from agencies.** A Member asked if these were statutory. The Independent Chair explained that some organisations used set formulae to determine their contribution but others did not. There were currently investigations into some contributions being made by agencies to ensure there was proportionality.
- **How MSCB can identify and measure its outcomes and impact.** The Independent Chair explained that the current Action Plan was too long and needed to be more focused to drive forward the work of the Board,

therefore, the MSCB would be working on refreshing the Action Plan and adapting it to make it more business orientated and user friendly.

Decision:

The Committee noted the report.

878 Update on Medway's Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)

Discussion:

The Mental Health Social Care Commissioning Manager introduced the report, which updated the Committee since its previous report on 15 July 2014. He specifically drew Members' attention to; the developments of a Tier 2 service, the specification of which had been agreed with the Sussex Partnership Trust (the provider of the CAMHS Service); the establishment of a CAMHS service for Medway Looked After Children; transition arrangements from CAMHS to adult services and the development of an Emotional and Mental Health Wellbeing Strategy for Children and Young People. Officers also confirmed that this report would be presented to the Corporate Parenting Board.

Officers then answered questions from Members, which included: -

- **Waiting times for Tier 3 services.** A Member asked why this remained higher in Medway than other Kent localities. In response officers confirmed that this was a concern that they shared and that although waiting times had reduced they remained too high and this was being taken up through existing contractual arrangements and with the provider directly. Another Member asked how the reduction in waiting times would be achieved and officers explained that this would be through contractual arrangements.
- **Transition arrangements.** A Member expressed a view that this remained an area of concern. Officers explained that lots of work on this had been undertaken with both the providers of CAMHS (Sussex Partnership Trust - SPT) and adult mental health services (Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust - KMPT). A more rounded approach was now being taken to transition issues so that, where young people did not meet the threshold for adult services, more thought was being given to ensure other services, for example primary care, were involved to ensure support is continued for that young person. It was added that the Carers Act 2014 requires that all young people who may have used CAMHS services are assessed for social care as they reach their eighteenth birthday if it is considered there is a "significant benefit" to the person in doing so. Furthermore, it was reported that there were more referrals being made from SPT to KMPT (which could take place six months ahead of a young person turning 18) and more of these referrals were being accepted. In addition, young people referred from CAMHS are treated as a priority group. These

referrals are not added to the waiting lists at KMPT, but assessed and, where appropriate, allocated to a treatment pathway.

- **Waiting times for assessment to treatment.** The Healthwatch Medway representative raised concerns on behalf of a number of parents about waiting times from assessment to treatment. Officers stated that this had been raised separately via Healthwatch with Public Health colleagues and these issues were being investigated. It was confirmed that the average waiting time should be 12 weeks and this was the experience for approximately 60% of patients currently.
- **Capacity of schools to provide emotional wellbeing support.** The Headteacher representative raised concern about the ability of schools to continue providing services around emotional wellbeing support, owing to continuing budget pressures and asked if this was being considered as part of new contract developments. Officers confirmed that it would be very difficult for the contract to substitute funding for services currently provided by schools. Schools played a very important role and therefore needed to be included in the broader work on the Medway Emotional and Mental Health Wellbeing Strategy.
- **Resources from Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)** – The Assistant Director, Partnership Commissioning, explained that CCGs were instructed to provide additional investment into mental health services to ensure there was parity of esteem with other health services. In Medway this equated to an additional 2.8% (approximately £900,000) across children and adult services. The Assistant Director and Director of Children and Adult Services had met with the CCG to discuss possibilities of directing more of the additional investment into CAMHS which, in Medway, had historically received under investment. It is hoped that further investment would be made into Tier 2 services, services for looked after children and transition arrangements.

Decision:

The Committee noted the report.

879 Support for Care Leavers Task Group

Discussion:

The Chairman, on behalf of the Members of the Support for Care Leavers Task Group, introduced the final report attached at Annex A to the report, which included a completed Diversity Impact Assessment as an appendix. He thanked the officers that had supported the review and thanked all the internal and external representatives that had contributed to the work. He also referred the Committee to some new statutory guidance which had been issued in March for Local Authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups and NHS England on promoting health and wellbeing of looked after children. The guidance supported some of the Task Group's recommendations and requested that this

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be reflected in the final review document, which would be presented to the Cabinet on 14 April 2015. He added that an update on progress of the recommendations would be presented to the Committee in 6-12 months time and would also be monitored via the Corporate Parenting Board.

His comments were supported by other Members of the Task Group who made particular reference to the visit to Hampshire County Council, detailed in the report, which had been useful in gaining ideas of best practice.

The Head of Service for Looked After Children and Proceedings reported that she had met with some care leavers to discuss the draft report and the work of the Task Group and stated how pleased the care leavers had been to learn of this work that had been undertaken.

Decision:

The Committee endorsed the report, subject to the recent statutory guidance on promoting the health and wellbeing of looked after children being referenced, and recommended it to the Cabinet, and the Health and Wellbeing Board in relation to recommendation 1, for approval.

880 Sufficiency report 2015-16

Discussion:

The Assistant Director, Partnership Commissioning introduced the report, which had been updated from the previous year's report. She added that a replacement copy of page 153 of the agenda had been tabled owing to a printing error on the agenda, which had not displayed a graph. She added that the Council had entered a tendering process in relation to accommodation for young people aged 16+ which was focussed on improving standards and there had been good interest from the market in this.

Following a question from a Member it was confirmed that on page 171 of the agenda, the age range for homeless should read 16-25, not 65 which was a typographical error.

Decision:

The Committee recommended the sufficiency report 2015-16, as attached at Appendix A, to the Cabinet for approval, subject to the typographical error being corrected.

881 Update on Early Help

Discussion:

The Assistant Director, Partnership Commissioning introduced the report which updated the Committee on the work being undertaken to ensure that the multi-agency, whole system early help offer for Medway was as effective as possible

and was designed to meet the needs of children, families and young people. She drew Members' attention specifically to the first phase of the early help strategy, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, and to the four priority areas agreed by the Medway Children's Action Network (CAN) which were: emotional health and wellbeing; domestic abuse; language and discourse and raising aspirations

In responding to comments from Members officers confirmed that the previously named 'Early Help' Service had been renamed the 'Integrated Family Support Service'. Part of this service provides targeted support for families with complex needs. The Director of Children and Adult Services drew Members' attention to the diagram on page 186 of the agenda. This shows the continuing of support from universal to specialist services.

Decision:

The Committee noted the report.

882 Proposed Development of an Integrated Children's Community Nursing Service for Medway and Swale

Discussion:

The Partnership Commissioning Lead for Children and Families introduced the report which advised the Committee of a proposal to develop an integrated Children's Community Nursing Service (CCNS) for Medway and Swale. He explained that the current service was providing good care but had been developed over time by the provider and therefore would benefit from a review and re-specification.. The aim was to extend operating hours of the service and to extend the age range of children and young people able to access to service. The Committee was requested to decide whether they considered the proposals to be a substantial service reconfiguration. The report outlined that the Medway Clinical Commissioning Group did consider the developments substantial.

In response to a question about the consultation itself, the Partnership Commissioning Lead explained that a workshop had recently been run to re-engage with partners on possible options. Most work had so far been with colleagues in the NHS and local authority but once formal consultation commenced this would be in-depth with families and users of the service to test the model in order to make an informed decision.

Decision:

The Committee agreed that the proposals were a substantial service reconfiguration and would therefore receive a further report at a future meeting of the Committee.

883 Council Plan Quarter 3 2014/15 performance monitoring report

Discussion:

The Director of Children and Adult Services introduced the report which updated the Committee on the performance for the third quarter of 2014/15 of the Council's key measures of success, as set out in the Council Plan 2013/15. The drew Members' attention specifically to the indicators that were below target, in particular: -

- A1 – the average time between a child entering care and moving in with adoptive family
- N15 – timeliness of initial Child Protection Conferences
- N23 – Vacancy rate of social workers

The Director then responded to questions and comments from Members, which included: -

- **PH8 (Percentage of children and young people achieving a lifestyle improvement as a result of completing a young people weight management service)** – A Member suggested that this target was not challenging enough as the target was set at 50% but the actual achievement had been over 60%. The Director undertook to report this back to her colleagues in Public Health.

Decision:

The Committee noted the report.

884 Work programme

Discussion:

The Democratic Services Officer introduced the report and explained that she would liaise with officers with regard to scheduling the item on Children's Community nursing Service to a future meeting of the Committee.

Decision:

The Committee noted the report.

Chairman

Date:

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