

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL

EARLY YEARS, CHILDREN AND YOUTH POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Monday, 23rd March, 2015

Present:- Councillors: Sally Davis (Chair), Sarah Bevan (Vice-Chair), Liz Hardman, David Veale, Michael Evans and Nicholas Coombes

Co-opted Non-voting Members:- Chris Batten

Also in attendance: Ashley Ayre (Strategic Director, People and Communities), Sally Churchyard (11 – 19 Preventions Service Manager), Mike Bowden (Deputy Director, Children & Young People, Strategy and Commissioning), Richard Baldwin (Divisional Director, Children & Young People Specialist Services) and Margaret Simmons-Bird (Head of Education Improvement)

Mandy Round and Sam Shrubsole, CAMHS Operational Service Managers

85 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

86 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure.

87 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

David Williams, Church of England Diocese and Ed Joseph, Member of Youth Parliament had sent their apologies to the Panel.

88 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

89 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There was none.

90 ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS - TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING

Councillor Eleanor Jackson had requested to make a statement relating to Agenda Item 8 (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)) and would do so when that item was reached on the agenda.

91 MINUTES - 26TH JANUARY 2015

The Panel confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true record and they were duly signed by the Chair.

92 CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (CAMHS)

Councillor Eleanor Jackson addressed the Panel. She informed them that she is the Secretary of the Radstock Youth Partnership and that she saw this issue as an important matter.

She explained that the Partnership had been awarded £20,000 in 2011 by the Council and that there was a high prevalent of issues in the area. She said that a local GP had estimated that 70% of 13 – 19 year olds in the area had some level of clinical depression.

She said that following a survey of young people in 2011 their requests for support and work in relation to education, healthy living, healthy eating and physical activities such as cycling and archery had been responded to.

She said that depression was like a cloud that can simply envelope young people and that she was aware that staff at Radstock College were concerned over the welfare of some students.

She stated that following a meeting of the trustees of the Partnership they would like to request that the remainder of the grant (£2,500) be devoted to the Secret Garden project. The project would be open to young people of all ages and seek to improve their mental health and wellbeing.

The Chair said she was unsure of the Panel's role in relation to this request as they were not a decision making body, but that they could if inclined show their support for the request. She asked that the Panel discuss this further following the presentation.

Mandy Round and Sam Shrubsole, CAMHS Operational Service Managers gave a presentation to the Panel, a copy of which can be found on the Panel's Minute Book and a summary is set out below.

Range of services

- Community CAMH service providing specialist therapeutic work
- Outreach service working flexibly to engage hard to reach young people and families
- Crisis wraparound and intensive support– in and out of hours. Alternative to admission and facilitating early discharge from inpatient services

Additional benefits & strengths

- Out of hours support
- 7 day a week service
- Counselling service

- Additional support to schools
- Strong and effective multi agency partnerships and working

Dispelling the myths

- Long waiting times
 - Referrals are screened on the day they are received
 - Emergency referrals are seen the same day and any urgent referrals are seen within 7 days following a telephone contact
- Under resourced services
 - The service is fully resourced with a multi-disciplinary team of professionals, no front line posts have been lost since 2010.
- Terrible services
 - Staff are trained to a high standard and investment in training, development and maintaining professional standards is an ongoing commitment within the Trust
 - Feedback from children, young people and families is positive

Challenges

- Number of young people requiring support increasing
- Loss of early help, preventive services
- Ensuring that increasing number of routine referrals does not further impact on waiting times

New developments

- Introduction of direct access for 16 and 17 year olds
- 18-25 service for care leavers
- Joint transition protocol between CAMHS and Adult Mental Health and monthly transition meetings held
- Emotional resilience in school hubs

Councillor Nicholas Coombes asked if extra resources were available for the service what they would look to spend it on.

Sam Shrubsole replied that as the numbers of referrals were on the rise she would increase the workforce in preventative services.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked how many cases were referred to the service each month.

Sam Shrubsole replied that the service receives between 80 – 120 referrals a month.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked who was able to make a referral.

Sam Shrubsole replied that any professional person can, but it should be the person that can present the case in the best way. She added that most referrals are made by GP's, but they can come from the School Nurse or Youth Workers.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked how the loss of early help services had affected the service.

Sam Shrubsole replied that the loss had coincided with the increase in referrals of children that were entering school for the first time. She added that she felt that the change to targeted youth services had also had an impact.

Councillor Sarah Bevan asked how 16 / 17 year olds were being made aware of the self-referral service.

Mandy Round replied that posters had been circulated at schools and doctors surgeries alongside credit card style contact details cards. She added that some visits had also taken place at some schools.

Councillor Michael Evans what were the current staff levels for the service and how much did it cost to run the service.

Mandy Round replied that the OSCA team has 12.8 FTE and the CAMHS team has 9.2 FTE. She added that the cost to run the service was around £500,000 per year.

Councillor Michael Evans commented that B&NES, Bristol & North Somerset were in the top 10 for young people admitted to hospital through alcohol and drug abuse. He asked if the service were involved in these types of cases.

Sam Shrubsole replied that they do assess young people who are admitted to the RUH and that they do work closely with Project 28.

The Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children & Youth, Councillor Dine Romero asked if they worked with any colleges or sixth forms.

Sam Shrubsole replied that they do work quite closely with Norton Radstock College and other further education establishments.

The Strategic Director for People and Communities commented that he believed that the Council receives a good service from the CAMHS team. He added that there had been an increase in Mental Health referrals, young people with emotional behavioural needs and distressed children about to start school.

The Chair asked if feedback were given to the person that makes the referral.

Mandy Round replied that most cases should be assessed within two weeks and that a response is written to the person that makes the referral.

The Chair asked for the Panels approval to the suggestion proposed by Councillor Jackson relating to the use of funds for the Secret Garden project.

The Panel agreed with the proposal.

The 11 - 19 Preventions Service Manager introduced this item to the Panel. She explained that a target was set for this period to improve the rate of first time entrants by 10% (i.e. reduce to a rate of 511). She said that the rate of first time entrants had reduced (i.e. improved) from 556 to 505, a reduction of 15.1%, exceeding our local target. This represents 78 young people entering the youth justice system for the first time and the rate is lower (better) than the Avon and Somerset average but higher than other comparator groups.

She stated that 45 of the 151 young people in the October 2013-September 2014 cohort re-offended (29.8%, a slight reduction on our previous cohort). She said that this rate remains much better than all comparator groups. However, these 45 young people committed a further 163 offences between them, giving a frequency rate of 1.08. This is equivalent to the national average but higher (worse) than other comparators. It represents a small number of young people within this cohort re-offending very prolifically.

She explained that for the rate of custody, the indicator is the number of custodial sentences passed by the Courts, presented as a rate per 1000 young people in the general population aged 10-17. We set a local target of reducing our already low rate of custody to 0.10.

The latest data available is for the period January – December 2014, compared with the baseline January to December 2013. There were no custodial sentences passed between April to December 2014 and so the local rate is now 0, a reduction of -0.19, exceeding the local target. Our rate of reduction is better than most comparators and Bath and North East Somerset is currently one of only four Local Authorities within England and Wales to have a zero custody rate.

She stated that work is currently underway to produce a Youth Justice Plan for 2015-16, to be taken to Council for approval in July 2015. Emerging priorities include:

- Reducing first time entrants – continuation and evaluation of a project to divert young people arrested for Possession of Cannabis away from the youth justice system and into support from Project 28
- Reducing re-offending – employment of a tracking tool produced by the Youth Justice Board to improve understanding of the re-offending cohort, together with focused work with the small group of young people who are re-offending most prolifically

Councillor Liz Hardman asked what factors had helped in the reduction of custody figures and first time entries into the youth justice system.

The 11 - 19 Preventions Service Manager replied that the work of Mentoring Plus and Compass has helped significantly alongside assigning key workers to work with individuals.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked if they worked with the Connecting Families project.

The 11 - 19 Preventions Service Manager replied that they did work closely alongside the project and believed in taking on the whole family approach.

Councillor Nicholas Coombes commented that the attendance of young people at school should be monitored as that could be used as a preventative measure.

The 11 - 19 Preventions Service Manager replied that a lack of school attendance can be a factor and said that she would make a note as to whether any data relating to this could be used in the next plan.

Councillor Michael Evans asked if the rate of first time entrants had decreased because of the increase in detection rates by the Police.

The 11 - 19 Preventions Service Manager replied that she was aware of this and that the Police had improved their work on community resolutions.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to:

- i) Note the progress made in the partnership's statutory work of preventing youth offending
- ii) Support the identification of priority areas for the Youth Justice Plan 2015-16

94 EDUCATIONAL RESULTS 2014

The Head of Education Improvement introduced this item to the Panel.

She explained that schools within Bath and North East Somerset are in the bottom 25% nationally for the percentage of children and young people from low income (disadvantaged pupils and eligible for Pupil premium funding) families who achieve a good level of development in the EYFS (33% compared to 60% national); L4+ in reading, writing and mathematics at the end of KS2 and 5 A* - C passes at GCSE or equivalent including English and mathematics (32% compared to 62% national).

She said that at KS4 the local authority gap for disadvantaged pupils compared to other pupils achieving 5A* - C including English and mathematics narrowed from 39.1 to 34, this compares with the national gap of 27.5.

She stated that in 2014 the gaps in the EYFS increased and the proportion of disadvantaged children who achieved a good level of development was below the national for other children.

She explained that high ability pupils are those who started secondary school at L5 or above and are referred to as high prior attainment group in the national data. A higher proportion of high prior ability pupils in Bath and North East Somerset achieved the English Baccalaureate than nationally, and this performance was significantly above national. She added that Bath and North East Somerset was also significantly above for Science and above for every other measure except for Languages, where it was in line. Progress for high prior ability pupils is in line with the progress of higher ability pupils nationally. Value added for high prior ability

pupils rose substantially from 998.6 in 2012 to 1000.8 in 2013, and is almost exactly in line in 2014 (999.9). This shows that high prior ability pupils are achieving the outcomes they should.

She said that the overall picture was a positive one and highlighted some more of the key successes and future challenges.

Councillor Michael Evans asked how the value added levels can be increased for our disadvantaged pupils.

The Head of Education Improvement replied that it is the expectation that the Pupil Premium funding will assist in narrowing the gap and that we should look to raise the levels of all pupils and seek that they achieve their best possible results.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked if the results in relation to disadvantaged pupils were due to a lack of funding and if the Pupil Premium was being spent in other areas.

The Head of Education Improvement replied that she wished to remind the Panel that these were small cohorts and felt assured that the funding will make a difference.

The Strategic Director for People & Communities commented that he was sure that schools were honouring the funding appropriately.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked what strategies are in place to improve the current levels.

The Head of Education Improvement replied that all schools are visited twice a year. She added that the Pupil Premium Wheel provides a range of strategies to support schools in narrowing the achievement gap and is currently being piloted with a small group of primary and one maintained secondary school. In addition she said that schools will be encouraged to participate in the Achievement for All, a national project with a proven track record in narrowing the gap for all disadvantaged groups.

Councillor Nicholas Coombes commented that receiving this information was one thing, but would like to have seen more as to what the Council can do to help those pupils that need it most.

The Chair said that she wondered whether schools had taken on board the difference in schooling for those of different nationalities.

The People & Communities Director commented that he was aware that Polish parents were supporting fellow parents with children entering the school system. He added that this remained a challenge for the future.

The Head of Education Improvement added that supplementary schools were in place for Chinese, Polish and Afro-Caribbean pupils.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to note the report.

95 ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE WITHIN SCHOOL

The Head of Education Improvement introduced this item to the Panel. She informed them that a key aspect of the drive for education excellence in Bath and North East Somerset was the establishment of the Education Excellence Board (EEB). She said that all primary schools including academies are members of the Education Excellence Board.

She added that the Strategic Forum of the EEB is a representative group of all of the key partners, including Headteachers from each cluster, the Diocese of Clifton, the Diocese of Bath & Wells, The Teaching School, National and Local Leaders of Education and the Local Authority. She stated that the work of the Strategic Forum has a clear focus on achieving education excellence for all children as set out in their Terms of Reference.

Councillor Michael Evans asked if secondary schools were to be included on the Education Excellence Board.

The Head of Education Improvement replied that the Board was set up for primary schools as they are maintained by the Local Authority in the main. She added that talks are likely to take place with secondary schools about a similar project.

Councillor Michael Evans commented that he felt that the tone of recommendation 2.1 was too positive and proposed that it is amended to:

The vast majority of children and young people in Bath and North East Somerset are currently attending a school that is at least **'good'** or **'outstanding'**; the performance of children and young people overall are amongst the best **by UK standards**. There is a determination and commitment by all the key partners to achieve education excellence for all children and young people irrespective of their starting points or social circumstances.

The People & Communities Strategic Director commented that he felt that the Government should stop changing the goalposts in terms of examinations as they recently decided to change the GCSE curriculum mid cycle. He added that he would welcome a Royal Commission to look into the education system and for it to be left alone in the main for ten years.

Councillor Dine Romero, Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children & Youth said that she was concerned about the message that would be sent to our schools if the amendments by Councillor Evans were approved.

Councillor Liz Hardman said that she felt that the recommendations should remain as printed.

The Chair commented that she felt that there was no need to change the recommendations.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to agree that:

- i) The vast majority of children and young people in Bath and North East Somerset are currently attending a school that is at least good or outstanding; the performance of children and young people overall are amongst the best in the country. There is a determination and commitment by all the key partners to achieve education excellence for all children and young people irrespective of their starting points or social circumstances.
- ii) The draft School Improvement and Achievement Policy is brought to the next Panel meeting as part of the consultation process on the Local Authority's approach to school improvement.

96 CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

The Divisional Director for Children & Young People, Specialist Services introduced this item to the Panel. He explained that the public profile in relation to issues of Child Sexual Exploitation continues to be very high. He said that this heightened profile and continued scrutiny means that it is vital that the Council and the LSCB continue to develop a strong, co-ordinated response to these challenges.

He informed them that the Council's Multi-Agency Risk Management Panel was set up in October 2013. He explained that the Panel monitored and risk-assessed cases of CSE alongside cases where young people were using drugs, were absent from home and putting themselves "at risk".

He stated that the focus of the panel has been reviewed and that it now has a sole focus on CSE/Missing issues. He added that the core membership of the panel had reduced to those agencies with a statutory role in addressing these types of concern. He said that the membership of the panel now comprises; Police, Council (representation covering Social Care and school attendance) and Health. The panel will now meet on a monthly basis and has met twice in its new format.

He explained that over the past six months the LSCB sub-group had commissioned another round of training for staff across all LSCB agencies. As previously highlighted, the members of the Willow Project have all received three days of intensive training on the key issues relating to CSE and in how to successfully sustain relationships with vulnerable young people.

He said that in addition to this we have set up training for 100 staff across the LSCB which is aimed at being more specialist and builds upon the training which was provided last year.

He informed the Panel that along with six other regional Local Authorities, B&NES recently agreed to become a partner in a joint bid to the Home Office Innovation Fund which is also being co-ordinated by the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner. He said that if successful the bid would provide additional resources into the region to tackle CSE. He added that the bid will enable the region to provide additional training capacity that can reach out into rural areas and ensure that

awareness and recognition are priority issues for agencies outside of the urban centres in the region. He said that the bid will also provide funding for provision of a regional CSE co-ordinators post that will assist in consistency of thresholds and decision making across the seven Local Authorities.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked if the Panel could receive the results of the LSCB self assessments by schools at some stage.

The Deputy Director for Children & Young People, Strategy and Commissioning replied that he would be happy to share the results in the future.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked if any schools had become involved with the LSCB since the last meeting of the Panel.

The Deputy Director for Children & Young People, Strategy and Commissioning replied that one headteacher had recently offered to join the LSCB.

The Divisional Director for Children & Young People, Specialist Services added that one headteacher was also now on the CSE Sub-Group.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked if the figures quoted on page four of the report were the number of individuals or cases identified.

The Divisional Director for Children & Young People, Specialist Services replied that the figures relate to 19 different children. He added that reoccurring cases will be reviewed.

The Chair thanked the officers for their continued work on this matter on behalf of the Panel.

97 CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

The Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children & Youth, Councillor Dine Romero addressed the Panel. She said that she wished to inform them of the very good work of the Student & Community Partnership and its recent safety campaign 'Got Your Back'.

She informed them that the subject of the Healthy Weight Strategy was to be discussed on March 25th at the Health & Wellbeing Board.

She stated that CSE and child abuse must remain a focus for the Council and its Councillors and said that the role of the Corporate Parent must be highlighted following the elections in May.

She concluded by saying that she had always been happy to attend Panel meetings and felt that there had always been a good working relationship.

Councillor Liz Hardman wished to thank Councillor for her role and for her presence at Panel meetings. She also thanked the officers for their work.

98 PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES STRATEGIC DIRECTOR'S BRIEFING

The People and Communities Strategic Director addressed the Panel. He said that the School Improvement and Achievement Policy would further address the issue of narrowing the gap.

He explained that he had recently held a meeting with the head teachers of the local secondary schools and discussed amongst other issues; lack of attendance by pupils, narrowing the gap and the use of the Pupil Premium.

He informed the Panel that twenty schools had offered to take part in the Achievement for All project.

He said that future Medium Term Service & Resource Plans would remain a challenge with the Council as a whole having to save around £38m, and the likelihood that the People & Communities department will have to find £22m of that figure.

He said that next incarnation of this Panel will have to make its own decisions on how and what to scrutinise, but advised that CSE monitoring should remain a priority.

On behalf of the officers associated with the Panel he wished to offer his thanks to Councillor Sally Davis for her work as Chair.

99 PANEL WORKPLAN

The Chair introduced this item to the Panel. She called for the Pledge to Children in Care to form part of the agenda for the first Council meeting following the local elections in May.

Councillor Liz Hardman suggested that the Panel receives a report on the Transitional Funding of Children's Centres and Services and that the draft School Improvement and Achievement Policy be added to the workplan.

The Panel agreed with all of the above proposals.

The meeting ended at 7.25 pm

Chair(person)

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services