

**MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
MEETING  
HELD AT 7PM ON THURSDAY 3 JANUARY 2019  
BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOMS, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

**Committee Members Present:** Councillors D Over (Vice Chairman acting as Chairman), S Bashir, G Casey, A Dowson, D Fower, A Ellis, M Farooq, D Jones, S Lane, J Stokes, R Brown, B Saltmarsh  
Co-opted Members: A Kingsley, P Cantley, F Vettese and Parish Councillor S Lucas

**Also Present:** Councillor Ayres, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University  
Andy Elvin, Chief Executive of TACT

**Officers Present:** Lou Williams, The Service Director for Children's Services and Safeguarding  
Jonathan Lewis, Service Director, Education  
Dee Glover, Head Teacher of Peterborough Virtual School  
Gary Perkins, Assistant Director Education  
Kathryn Goose, Senior Commissioning Manager – CAMHS  
Lee Miller, Head of Transformation and Commissioning (Children and Maternity)

**35. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Rush and Councillor Goodwin. Councillors Brown and Stokes attended as substitutes.

**36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING DECLARATIONS**

Councillor Casey declared a non-statutory pecuniary interest in that he was a trustee of Family Voice Peterborough, however this would not impact his discussion on the item. There were no other declarations of interest or whipping declarations.

**37. MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 1 NOVEMBER 2018.**

The minutes of the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 1 November 2018 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

**38. CALL IN OF ANY CABINET, CABINET MEMBER OR KEY OFFICER DECISIONS**

There were no requests for call-in to consider.

### 39. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE MENTAL HEALTH & SERVICES

Senior Commissioning Manager, Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Cambridge and Peterborough and the Head of Transformation and Commissioning (Children and Maternity) Cambridge and Peterborough introduced the report which provided the Committee with an overview of the issues pertinent to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and the changes that have occurred over recent years.

The Committee were advised that revised prevalence mental health data had been received and that the new data showed an increased demand to one in eight as opposed to one in ten in 2004.

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- There was no hard evidence to explain why there had been an increase in mental health issues.
- Officers were not aware of any national studies or research being carried out into why there was an increase in mental health issues. Most research concerns the interactions and improvements which could have an impact however it could take up to 15 years to implement the findings.
- The transformation and resource funds had been invested into specialist services to reduce waiting lists. Backlogs had been addressed and patients were now seen for assessment within the 18 week target.
- There had been over 50% increase in investment in children's mental health since 2015.
- The service in Cambridgeshire was available to young people up to the age of 25 but in Peterborough the service was only available up to the age of 18. This was a historical provision and funding for 18 – 25 year olds had been provided from the Local Authority funds rather than the Clinical Commission Group (CCG). There were no plans to adjust the age limit in either county at present.
- There were other mental health services available in Peterborough for 18-25 year olds which were slightly different to those available for younger people. Alternative options could be considered similar to the Cambridge model.
- Members were surprised that the data source used previously was 14 years old.
- Triage staff (crisis element) received training to ensure all staff had the same baseline skills as all came to post with different skills and experiences within the mental health arena.
- The purpose of transition support service, which, despite recruitment issues was now up to full capacity, was to support 18 year olds when leaving mental health services.
- 18 year olds would access adult services however alternative services were available for 17 year olds.
- The access targets for children and young people with mental health needs were set to double by 2021. The increased target would be met by ensuring pathways were as smooth as possible, and the team were working closely with Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing Service (CHUMS). Targets which increased year on year were currently being met and provisions were in place to meet the increased demand.
- CHUMS provided low level early intervention support, such as one to one group workshops, recreational support for young people, resilience, anxiety and behavioural groups, which also offered support to parents. This included recreational groups associated with sport and music.
- The Keep Your Head Application was managed by Centre 33 with an investment of £14,000 per annum to manage and update the website. This service had originally set out to support young people, however it had evolved into a website increasingly accessed by professionals. The focus would remain on reaching young people. Data on the website

usage would be available at the next meeting in January 2020, however Members were asked to note that each time the website was updated, this data was reset.

- The Blue Ice App data would be available after the next quarterly meeting with CHUMS as it was only introduced in the autumn term.

#### **AGREED ACTIONS:**

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to note the investment, improvements and challenges regarding the provision of children and young people's mental health support services.

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee also **AGREED** that:

The Senior Commissioning Manager (CAMHs) would provide the Committee with the details outlining the training undertaken by staff to ensure that they could support both children and adult mental health issues.

#### **40. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE UPDATES – PETERBOROUGH VIRTUAL SCHOOL**

Head Teacher of Peterborough Virtual School, introduced the report which provided the Committee with an update on the progress of Children and Young People in Care on the role of Peterborough Virtual School.

Members were advised that some of the data within the report was un-validated and the data used for reporting was always almost a year after the SATs and GCSE results were published.

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- The Personal Education Plan (PEP) Reviews were conducted each term and this had provided the children with an opportunity to be heard before, both during and after the review. Children must feel comfortable when talking to a trusted adult and feel they can talk in confidence and it was therefore not appropriate to record everything that had been discussed. Children were given the opportunity to share their views in a suitable environment. The Mind of My Own (MOMO) Application provided children in care with the opportunity to record their views online and these were monitored by officers.
- There were currently 334 children in care on role, the number had reduced due to some children attaining the age of 18.
- A significant number of children in care were placed outside this authority.
- There were challenges faced in having children in care admitted to academies. This had been raised by the National Association of Virtual School Heads as a major issue, with the problem set to increase as more schools converted to academies status.
- The Head of Virtual Schools would contact academies to discuss the reasons why a child in care should attend that specific school and support was available for both the child and the school.
- Designated teachers for CiC would normally attract an increased workload such as attendance at PEP meetings which may be a contributing factor to the intake issues currently being experienced.
- The placing of children outside the city was care-needs lead rather than educational-needs lead.
- Children in care placed outside the city were likely to have more complex emotional and health and well-being needs and placed in a specialist placement or foster care. Children in care were placed out of area to secure the most appropriate care for their needs and

Members were given an example in the area of autism. There were only three schools in the country specialising in a particular type of autism and learning disability because the numbers were so small.

- Every effort was made to place children within local communities however in a small number of cases some CiC were better placed out of the area.

### **AGREED ACTIONS**

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to

1. Note the content of the report in relation to the function of Peterborough Virtual School and actions being taken to maintain and improve educational outcomes.
2. Note the actions taken following the inspection of children's services by Ofsted in June/July 2018.

### **41. OUTCOME OF OFSTED INSPECTION OF PETERBOROUGH CHILDREN'S SERVICES, SERVICE DIRECTOR REPORT AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER REPORT**

The Service Director for Children's Services and Safeguarding introduced the report which provided Members with an overview of key performance measures within children's services, including information on the action plan introduced following the Ofsted inspection in June and July 2018, and updated the Committee on relevant activities and functions completed by the Cabinet Member for Children's Services.

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses included:

- Performance was currently lower than should be expected for completion of single assessments undertaken on time, a target many Local Authorities found difficult to meet.
- A 20 day checkpoint had been introduced to assist managers when monitoring support workers to assist in completing the reports on time.
- The Front Door safeguarding services had been remodelled jointly with Cambridgeshire.
- There had been a small turnover of social workers in Peterborough.
- The 90% benchmark was considered a stretched target; it will not be easy to achieve however it would be difficult to agree to aspire to less.
- Hertfordshire developed the Family Safeguarding Approach and Peterborough, along with four other Local Authorities had received government funding through the Innovation Programme to copy the model for trial purposes. The government requested five local authorities to implement the approach to ensure it could work outside of Hertfordshire.

A proposal was received and seconded to amend the wording of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services recommendation. A vote was taken on the amendment, which was **DEFEATED** (8 against and 3 in favour).

### **AGREED ACTIONS:**

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note the content of the report in relation to performance by children's social care and actions being taken to maintain and improve this in certain areas;
2. Note the content of the action plan following the inspection of children's services by Ofsted in June/July 2018 and the arrangements in place to assure that these were completed;
3. Note the work of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services in carrying out her duties.

4. Receive an update on the progress of the Ofsted action plan within future Service Director reports.

#### **42. EDUCATION ATTAINMENT AT EYFS, KEY STAGE 1, KEY STAGE 2 AND KEY STAGE 4, INCLUDING RURAL SCHOOLS AND SCHOOLS CAUSING CONCERN**

The Assistant Director Education introduced the report which provided Committee with an update on standards of attainment and rates of progress made by children in Peterborough Infant, Junior, Primary and Secondary schools in the 2018 Early Years and National Curriculum assessments.

The Committee were advised that the final table in Appendix 2 contained incorrect information and revised data would be circulated to Committee Members.

The Assistant Director Education provided background information and explained that the three largest ethnic groups were White British, White Other and Pakistani Heritage. Members were also asked to note that 231 children who were listed as White British also had English as an additional language.

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses included:

- The number of children within the Pakistani Heritage group varied between 11-13% within the last five years.
- There had been an increase in the number of children in the White Other category however this may change over the next few years,
- Members wanted to know the population trends to enable effective planning for future educational needs.
- There were a relatively small number of rural schools with more in Cambridgeshire than Peterborough. A project was being considered where like schools from both areas had been grouped together to help towards improving attainment.
- Some rural schools had a wide catchment area and were predominantly smaller than urban schools which could impact outcomes.
- Key Stage result trend comparisons were considered useful, however caution was advised when comparing individual years as it was better to consider several years together to determine a trend rather than consider one year in isolation.
- A small number of schools had not performed as well as expected. Standard practice in these cases would be for an agreement between Peterborough City Council and the Regional Schools Commissioner regarding action required. No actions had been issued to those schools this year. Comparative data for these schools could be useful and could be made available with the school's agreement.
- The key stage 4 results were incomplete as not all data was available.
- Members expressed concern that there had been little improvement in standards and Peterborough was below the national average with specific issues around reading and writing which needed to be improved.
- Reading, writing and English language skills needed improvement. The success at the end of Key Stage 2 was largely related to reading for inference.
- Members were advised that several projects were in place to support the improvement of educational standards.
- There was an improvement in the number of children prepared for secondary school in comparison to 2016.
- Recruitment of high quality teachers was imperative and the local authority could support this.

- Schools, including academies were encouraged to collaborate to help one another with the Council setting groups, however schools were not required to participate. Collaborations were also being sought from other local authorities.
- A meeting had taken place at Jack Hunt School with the Muslim Council of Peterborough in order to encourage more governors from within the Pakistani community. This resulted in 26 additional governors being appointed. It was also felt that similar governor meetings within other communities.
- An English as an Additional Language (EAL) strategy was created in 2013 to drive forward the achievement of non-English speaking children and it was time this was reviewed.
- Children were now being prepared to start pre-school. The new framework from September 2019 would focus on readiness for each year group to move to the next.
- There were currently six supplementary schools in Peterborough including Polish, Latvian and Lithuanian Saturday schools operating across the city with 500 attending the Polish Saturday school. The council were keen to develop relationships further and provide guidance on safeguarding training and first language GCSEs. Families were also attending the Saturday school and they had been encouraged to develop their own association to provide resilience. Funding received for Changing our Communities could be directed towards the supplementary school offer.
- Some children were linguistically gifted as many may not have spoken English two or three years earlier and were now achieving high results.

#### **AGREED ACTIONS:**

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note the contents of the report; and
2. Support Elected Members and Officers in their work to support and challenge schools to improve standards of attainment and rates of progress for children in Peterborough Infant, Junior, Primary and Secondary schools.

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee also **AGREED** that:

1. The Assistant Director, Education would provide Members with an amended version of appendix 2 Key Stage 1 outcomes.
2. The Service Director, Education would invite the Regional Schools Commissioner to a future meeting to discuss the interventions being undertaken for schools that had caused concerns following the outcome of the Key Stage 1, 2 and 4 results.
3. The Assistant Director, Education would provide the Committee with a confidential briefing note about the outcomes of individual rural schools, to accompany the aggregated data already supplied, and all schools individual Key Stage 1, 2 and 4 results.
4. The Assistant Director, Education would provide performance information about Key Stage 1, 2 and 4 results by gender within future reports.
5. The Service Director, Education would organise a seminar for Rural School Governing Boards to help support Key Stage 1, 2 and 4 results.

#### **43. MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Democratic Services Officer introduced the report which enabled the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee to monitor and track progress of recommendations made to the Executive or Officers at previous meetings.

## **AGREED ACTIONS:**

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to note the progress made on recommendations made to the Executive or Officers and previous meetings.

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee also **AGREED** that the report due at the September 2019 meeting in respect of the un-validated examination data for Key Stages 1, 2, 4 and 5 from all schools across the City should also include rural Schools.

## **44. FORWARD PLAN OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

The Committee received the latest version of the Council's Forward Plan of Executive Decisions, containing key decisions that the Leader of the Council anticipated the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Members would make during the course of the following four months. Members were invited to comment on the Forward Plan and where appropriate identify any relevant areas for inclusion in the Committee's work programme.

**Non-Key Decision - Implementation of School Transport Policy for children aged 4 to 16 years** - Members were concerned with the distances pupils travelled to some schools. Members were advised no major changes to the policy were proposed.

**Expansion and Remodelling of Marshfields School – KEY/11DEC17/03** - Members were informed that the need for additional places in special schools was recognised and that discussions were ongoing with both Marshfields and Heltwaite schools. Members were also advised that proposals would be available in late Spring.

## **AGREED ACTIONS:**

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to note the latest version of the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions.

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee also **AGREED** that The Service Director, Education:

1. Would provide Members with further information about travel distances and school catchment areas being reviewed within the School Transport Plan and the School Organisation Plan.
2. Would provide information in respect to school place provision for Great Haddon as the site developed.

## **45. WORK PROGRAMME 2018 - 2019**

Members considered the Committee's Work Programme for 2018 - 2019 and discussed possible items for inclusion.

## **AGREED ACTIONS**

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to note the work programme for 2018 – 2019.

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee also **AGREED** that the following items should be discussed at the next agenda setting meeting, which was due to be held on Tuesday, 8 January 2019:

1. External placements for children with specialist needs and the actions being undertaken to provide placements within the City.
2. Shared services with Peterborough and Cambridgeshire for Children's services and plans for the future.
3. The Regional Schools Commissioner to be invited a future meeting to discuss the intervention being undertaken for schools that had caused concerns following the outcome of the Key Stage 1, 2 and 4 results.

**46. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

12 February, 2019 Joint Scrutiny of the Budget Meeting  
14 March, 2019, Children and Education Scrutiny Committee

CHAIRMAN  
7.00pm to 8.55 pm