



Minutes

Name of meeting	POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES, EDUCATION AND SKILLS
Date and time	28 NOVEMBER 2019 COMMENCING AT 5.00PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Vanessa Churchman (Chairman), George Cameron, John Howe, Karl Love, , Rodney Downer
Officers Present	Stuart Ashley, Marie Bartlett, Steve Crocker, Kathy Marriott, Brian Pope, Paul Thistlewood
Cabinet Member	Cllrs Paul Brading, Dave Stewart
Apologies	Cllr Gary Peace

1. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2019 be confirmed.

2. [Declarations of Interest](#)

There were no declarations received at this stage.

3. [Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2018-19](#)

Derek Benson Independent chairman of the Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children's Board presented the annual report. From September 2019 the board had become a partnership which included Isle of Wight Council, Clinical Commissioning Group and Hampshire Constabulary.

Very effective work had been undertaken by sub groups on the Isle of Wight and the Corporate Parenting Board was considered very beneficial and working well.

The Committee asked what the difference was between the Safeguarding Board and the newly formed partnership, specifically around resources and strengthening existing arrangements. They were advised that a national review had taken place of safeguarding arrangements within authorities and it was believed a partnership between Police, Health and Local Authorities

would enable more focused discussions. No increase in resources was expected.

Concern was raised regarding safeguarding arrangements for language students staying with families on the Island. Members asked if DRB checks would be made on families accommodating students, they were advised that the Children's Safeguarding Board was engaged with language schools and had a better insight into how they worked. Officers advised that anything under 28 days stay with a family would not require a DRB check.

RESOLVED:

THAT the Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2018-19 be noted.

4. **Hampshire and Isle of Wight Children and Young Peoples Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Local Transformation Plan**

The Senior Transformation Manager, from the Isle of Wight Clinical Commissioning Group, Catherine Barnard, advised the Committee that funding through NHS England had been provided to produce a transformation plan to increase access for young people. The plan was to be used as a base with updates made through the year, using engagement from young people and families.

The target by 2021 was to increase access for children and young people by 35%. For 2019 the target was 34% this was exceeded for 2018/19 due to autism services coming on board. The IT infrastructure had been updated and data uploaded over the last 12 months.

Local progress had included Hampshire was successful in mental health support team in schools bid within secondary schools. The Isle of Wight had not been able to apply for this in the past however we are now able to apply. It was believed that if successful the Island had been earmarked as a potential pilot site.

A bid for winter pressure support, to include crisis support for children and young people in emergency departments at weekends and weekdays, had been submitted and a decision was expected early December 2019. The local transformation plan would need to be signed off by various bodies, including Children's Scrutiny and Health and Wellbeing Board, An easy read version would be produced once signed off. An action plan would be produced to enable service delivery to be monitored.

Concern was raised regarding mental health for children, and members asked if funding was agreed for winter pressure how quickly the changes could be made. There needed to be a longer term solution in place to help children and young people with mental health issues. The Committee were advised that the winter pressure funding would be used immediately. A crisis team in the trust already existed although there were no specific staff for children. CAHMS had been providing training to the team to rectify this.

A new pathway for children from 3 years and above for immediate treatment, intervention by primary intervention service i was being procured to help treat children at a younger age to assist when starting school.

Engagement events had been organised for children and parents which provided parents with support. These had been well attended and would continue to be arranged.

RESOLVED:

- a) The Transformation Plan be endorsed.
- b) THAT the proposed action plan be circulated to the Committee

5. Performance Budget

a) Quarterly Performance data

The Assistant Director for Children and Families outlined how the performance framework operated within the Directorate. There were links with the priorities contained in the Children's and Young People's Plan, the service plan and key business activities. t There had been a lot of work undertaken since the OFSTED inspection in 2018, particularly on the four areas of improvement had been identified and focused on. It was likely that OFSTED would undertake a further inspection in the near future.

The Council had agreed to finance a multi agency approach from corporate funds. This was aimed at supporting families within the limited resources available..

There had been a significant reduction in the number of B&B's used as accommodation for homeless families due to closer working with Adult Social Care and housing services.

Reference was made to the effectiveness of the Corporate Parenting Board.

RESOLVED:

- a) THAT the Quarterly Performance data be noted
- b) THAT the power point presentation detailing the data be circulated to the Committee after the meeting

c) Budget 2019/20

The Director of Children's services informed the committee that the budget position was no different to that of another Local Authority due to a gap in funding around cost of care. Working in different ways but still achieving the same or better outcomes was being investigated.

The Committee raised concerns regarding the cost of external suppliers

and were advised that the team responsible for commissioning placements ensured best value, and these are continually monitored. Partnership working with other Local Authorities gave an opportunity to manage the market and reduce costs.

RESOLVED:

THAT the budget 2019/20 report be noted

6. Fostering and Adoption

a) Fostering Progress report

The Head of Strategy and Operations informed the Committee of key activities delivered by the fostering service since 2012 when the partnership with Hampshire commenced. There had been a significant increase in the number of looked after children and pressure on resources.

In 2013 there was a reduction in the number of foster carers. Recruitment had been successful year on year since and for 2019/20 the aim was to recruit 20 carers which would reduce the use of Independent Fostering Agencies.

Regular events were held for carers and children, with buddy schemes put in place to support new carers. A review of carer impact scheme had been completed and was found to have delivered the intended outcome.

The Committee asked about the information available regarding the connected carers, where broader family members took on responsibility for a child. They were financially supported by the authority and expected to attend training sessions etc.

RESOLVED:

THAT the Fostering Progress report be noted and the next annual report should include greater detail about connected carers.

b) Adoption annual report

The Assistant Director for Children and Families advised the Committee of the progress made and strengths during 2018-19 which included:

Matching Island children to Island adopters when it was appropriate and safe, had significantly improved and was now happening more frequently due to processes being put in place. The work plan for 2019-20 included the full integration of the new care adoption process across the region.

The Head of Strategy and Operations informed members that there were no children waiting and a significant improvement to match children's needs.

RESOLVED:

THAT the Adoption annual report be noted

7. **Council's Forward Plan and the Committee's work plan**

It was noted that the item listed for 5 March 2020 regarding OFSTED would be to receive the outcome of the recent inspection. The item regarding sixth form provision needed to be moved to November 2020.

RESOLVED:

- a) THAT the OFSTED Inspection be updated to receive the outcome of the recent inspection

THAT the sixth form provision be moved to the November 2020.

CHAIRMAN