



Minutes

Name of meeting	POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES
Date and time	THURSDAY, 25 JANUARY 2018
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Vanessa Churchman (Chairman), Debbie Andre, John Howe, Tig Outlaw, Chris Whitehouse
Cabinet Members Present	Cllrs Paul Brading, Clare Mosdell
Members Present	Cllrs Rodney Downer, Dave Stewart
Parent Governor Representative	Shaun Arnold
Partners Present	Sue Lightfoot, Clinical Commissioning Group
Officers Present	Stuart Ashley, Jennifer Beresford, Kathy Marriot
Apologies	Cllrs George Cameron, Karl Love

13. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED:

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2018 be confirmed.

14. [Declarations of Interest](#)

No declarations were received at this time.

15. [Public Question Time](#)

A written question had been received from Mr Richard Hards in relation to the Children's Services Annual Complaints Report (PQ 09/18). The Chairman read out the written response.

16. [Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Briefing for Children's Scrutiny Committee](#)

The committee considered the report presented by the Head of Commissioning for Children's Services at the Isle of Wight CCG. It provided an update on key significant issues relating to the delivery of Community Childrens and Adolescent Mental Health Services and introduced the transformation plan for the service.

It was noted that nationally there was a big drive around emotional and mental health. On the Island there had been a move from silo working to cross-organisational working. The transformation plan had been put together with partners including the Isle of Wight Childrens Services, families and young people.

Consideration was given to the benchmarking of the Islands position in comparison to the national average. Areas of concern included caseloads, non-attendance and the therapeutic options available. The transformation plans priorities were listed as:

- Improving Perinatal and Infant Mental Health
- 24/7 All Age Single Point of Access
- Improving Access to Support CYP IAPT
- Eating Disorder Service

Future in Mind Funding had been received for Mental Health Services. £77k had been allocated for Eating Disorders which were subsequently increased to £103k. £159k had been given to the trust to for single point of access. Funding had also been secured for a Frankie Worker as part of the Barnardo's service.

Additional monies had been secured for Improving Perinatal and Infant Mental Health and a band 6 mental health nurse and a nursery nurse had been appointed who would link to NHS specialist provision at the Southern NHS Trust. These posts would continue to be funded on an ongoing basis.

In order to ensure treatment for eating disorders was sustainable a bigger footprint was needed. Conversations were underway with Hampshire to pool budgets and agree pathway and standards. How these would work locally would then be explored.

Concerns were raised regarding the quarter by quarter increase in self-harm figures and it was acknowledged that the Island benchmarked high in this area. Members questioned if there was a link between reductions in funding for Barnardo's Early Help services and the increase. Discussion took place regarding spotting the signs of mental ill health in children. All self-harmers were admitted to the emergency departments and immediate flagged to the mental health team. A mental health nurse would then assess and signpost accordingly. Closer work with schools was needed to raise awareness as self-

harm was often hidden. There were issues around the recording of self-harm and in part the increase was due to better reporting. Work was being undertaken across partners and it was hoped figures would be in line with statistical neighbours in 2019.

The committee also expressed disquiet regarding the high numbers of children admitted to hospital on the Island in comparison to their peers. It was suggested there were some issues regarding the understanding of CAMHS thresholds by professionals from partner organisations who worked with children. Members were advised that work needed to be undertaken in this area. A paediatric assessment unit had been set-up and would be looking at producing clear thresholds.

Members questioned if there was access to the specialists needed and capacity in the community and sought reassurance combined working models would not lose sight of Island needs. They were advised that while it was necessary to commission specialist services such as eating disorder support jointly, as services couldn't be delivered with the available funds, services would be delivered locally unless there was a clinical need for very specialist care off the Island. In relation to the sexual abuse referral unit which was located in Cosham, it was agreed that a relationship with Island and local delivery was needed.

The committee requested clarification on the status of autism diagnosis following the closure of the assessment unit in Southampton in October. There was currently no provision in place for delivery due to the 'on Island' service being set-up to replace the Southampton based unit (ADRC) not yet being operational. The negative impact of this on children, families and educational settings was raised and the number of children affected questioned. There were 150 outstanding assessments, 30 of which would be fast tracked when the new service opened.

Discussion took place regarding 'One Public Service' and the Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP). Members were informed that a local care board had been set-up to facilitate joint commission of health services by the Isle of Wight Council, the NHS and the CCG. It was noted that an all age approach needed to be taken as MLAFI had been adult focused.

Further detail regarding the case loads of CHAMHS staff were requested as they were reported as higher than average,. It was agreed the information would be provided after the meeting.

RESOLVED:

THAT further information relating to staff caseloads be received.

17. **0-19 Public Health Nursing Service**

The committee considered a report which detailed the arrangements for the provision of 0-19 public health services, namely the health visiting (pregnancy to five years of age) and school nursing programme (5 – 19 years).

Concerns were raised regarding the delivery of the services following the failed tender. Members were reassured a provider had been secured to meet the council's statutory requirements and anxiety there would be challenges around the financial aspects of providing services would be met through wider commissioning.

Discussion took place regarding the arrangements after the contract with the trust expired on 31 August 2018. Members were advised an integrated children's commissioning unit was being created which would bring together children's services and public health commissioning. The integration would reduce duplication and pool money and resource. It was agreed a briefing on the integrated commissioning plan would be provided to the committee. Children's centres would be reviewed as part of this work to ensure they were being used to their full potential.

Clarification was provided that the percentages provided were based on the number of mothers who had received a first face to face antenatal contact with a Health Visitor. Members sought clarification regarding what percentage of pregnant mothers had received face to face contact and it was agreed the information would be provided to the committee. Members were advised face to face visit figures could be affected by the mother's right to decline visits which was common when the child was not the first born or if the infant or mother remained in hospital within the reporting time frame.

Members questioned the absence of Family Nursing (support for teenage mothers on the Island) and were advised the Island was too small. Additional information on the decision not to commission the service would be provided.

RESOLVED:

- (i) THAT the committee receive a briefing on the Children's Integrated Commissioning Unit.
- (ii) THAT the committee receive a copy of the report relating to the withdrawal of the Family Nurse Service on the Island.

18. **Children's Services Quarterly Performance Data**

Members received a presentation which provided key children's services performance data for Quarter 3 2017- 2018 (attached to and forming part of these minutes). The priorities from the Isle of Wight Children and Young Peoples Plan and the Council's Corporate Plan were outlined to provide context. The key areas highlighted included:

- Rates of looked after children

Rates of looked after children nationally were increasing as they are on the Island. It was considered that the high numbers of children in care were the result of historic failings in the service (2012) and the complexity of the cases on the island. Reassurance was provided targets would be needs led and numbers would not be reduced unless it was safe and appropriate for the children involved.

- Repeat Referrals

The Island and Hampshire's rates of repeat referrals (33%) were higher than comparators. There were a number of factors influencing these figures such as change not being sustained by families' long term or disguised compliance. However, the processes within the service can artificially inflate this figure and work was needed to change these processes.

- Timeliness of Assessments

It was noted that the number assessments completed within timescales had not met the locally set target. Teams were being given clear instructions to improve performance in this area. Spikes in the number of referrals due at the start and end of school terms and other factors also impacted on figures. Members were reassured that there was no immediate risk to any child as a result of the performance as these related to non-safeguarding / child protection assessments.

- Dental and Health Checks for Looked After Children (LAC)

The Trust was recruiting a second LAC nurse. There had been issues around accessing dental care for LAC, Work was being undertaken with NHS England and the CCG in these areas. A significant improvement was expected.

- Care Leavers

The Island was performing well in these areas and it was expected Ofsted would rate the service as at least good. Members noted that Housing continued to be a challenge and that there would always be a number of care leavers not in education or training due to the complexity of their needs.

An update on Foster Care recruitment was requested and it was agreed the strategy would be distributed to the committee when it was finalised.

Staffing levels were discussed and it was noted that there were three agency social workers employed by the service and a further agency vacancy was being advertised. The use of agency staff had been significantly reduced through investing in staff and engendering a positive working culture.

RESOLVED:

THAT the committee receive the Foster Care recruitment strategy on completion

19. **Council's forward plan and the committee's work plan**

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services provided an update on the consultation on school term dates. The consultation had closed on the 12 January 2018. 1,800 responses had been received which was very positive in comparison to previous consultations. The responses were being analysed but it was expected results could be shared with the committee on the 20 February 2018.

RESOLVED:

THAT an extraordinary meeting of the committee be held on 20 February 2018 subject to the analysis of the consultation being complete.

20. **Exclusion of Public and Press**

RESOLVED:

THAT under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that there is likely to be disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

21. **Child Sexual Exploitation**

The committee received a confidential presentation on Child Sexual Exploitation from the Service Manager for Permanence and representatives from Hampshire Constabulary.

RESOLVED:

THAT the committee note the presentation

CHAIRMAN