

Minutes



To: All Members of the Children's Services Cabinet Panel, Chief Executive, Chief Officers, All officers named for 'actions'

From: Legal, Democratic & Statutory Services
Ask for: Michelle Diprose
Ext: 25566

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES CABINET PANEL WEDNESDAY, 20 JUNE 2018

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS OF THE PANEL

N Bell, S Brown, L Chesterman, J M Graham, L J Greensmyth, D Hart, T C Heritage (Chairman), T Howard, G McAndrew (Vice-Chairman), A Plancey, A Rowlands, M A Watkin

OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

J Billing, T R Hutchings

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Children, Young People and Families Cabinet Panel meeting on Wednesday, 20 June 2018 as circulated, copy annexed, conclusions were reached and are recorded below:

Note: No conflicts of interest were declared by any member of the Cabinet Panel in relation to the matters on which conclusions were reached at this meeting

PART I ('OPEN') BUSINESS

1. MEMBERSHIP AND REMIT OF THE PANEL

The membership and the remit of the panel were noted by the Panel.

2. MINUTES

2.1 The Minutes of the Cabinet Panel meeting held on 8 March 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. PUBLIC PETITIONS

3.1 There were no public petitions.

ACTION

4. HERTFORDSHIRE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE 2018-2021

[Officer Contact: Karen Noble Performance Improvement Manager (01992) 588394]

- 4.1 The Panel received a report informing them of the Hertfordshire's Strategic Plan for Children and Young People 2018-21. The report outlined the vision of giving every child, young person and their family the opportunity to live happy and fulfilling lives. Members noted the plan had been development through discussions with staff, young people and partners and highlighted the Council's ambition for children and young people in relation to Children's Services 'Outcome Bees'.
- 4.2 The Panel acknowledged the vision and key themes within the plan and the new Outcomes Framework, known as the six "[Outcome Bee's](#)".
- 4.3 Members welcomed the plan and were informed that the plan was primarily for staff and the County Council however it would be circulated to Partners as it reflected the Council's priorities and was on the website. The plan would go through Schools and is on their 'grids', it would also go through the Health and Wellbeing Board and Communications to promote. It was noted the plan could be promoted at every point possible e.g. presentations to District and Borough's; M.P's; School Governors etc.
- 4.4 In response to a Member question around if the 'message' was getting through to the relevant agencies, Members noted that the plan was being supported through fostering events and Children's Centres. OFSTED had also been made aware of the idea of the 'Outcome Bees'. It was also noted that external agencies across Hertfordshire were framing their outcomes around the Outcome Bees..
- 4.5 In relation to monitoring performance it was noted that all areas of performance were equally important and they were not listed in any significant order. It was noted the performance outcomes would be reported corporately and through the Children's monitor once the performance dashboard was finalised. It was anticipated that some indicators may shift over the life of the plan.
- 4.6 In relation to funding Members were informed the plan was already resourced and planning with partners was in place to ensure the resource priorities were where they should be throughout the life of the plan. It was noted joint funding would be sought for various areas and bids for funding would be applied for when funding became available.

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4.7 Members thanked officers for the work undertaken compiling the plan.

Conclusions:

4.8 The Panel noted and commented on the plan and recommended to Cabinet that it recommends to Council that the Hertfordshire Strategic Plan for Children and Young people 2018-21 be adopted.

5. **PREVENTION INVEST TO TRANSFORM: CHILDREN'S SERVICES SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS / DISABILITIES TRANSFORMATION.**

[Officer Contact: Sally Orr, Head of Family Services Commissioning, Tel: (01992) 555680], Karen Noble, Performance Improvement Manager, Tel: (01992) 588394]

5.1 The Panel received a report asking for them to consider the business case, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, for Prevention Invest to Transform funding to support children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

5.2 Members noted the services aspiration to transform its approach to SEND service and noted the three priority areas for transformation as detailed below:

- Develop local multi-disciplinary teams and community support networks
- Maximise the benefits of digital technology
- Improve access to independent living, employment and training

5.3 Members were informed there had been an increase in use of specialist services and that unless the service was transformed the pressures faced would continue to grow.

5.4 Members welcomed the report and noted the clear benefits. They were informed it was a programme that would not be in isolation but would work alongside other processes. It was also noted the corporate priority was to do early intervention to be pro-active with the Family Centres playing an important role in ensuring the equality of services throughout the County.

5.5 Members noted the Invest to Transform programme was not about efficiency savings but about the cost avoidance from the transformation programme.

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Conclusions:

5.6 The Panel considered and commented on the report and recommended to Cabinet that Cabinet approves the proposed approach of Children's Services to transforming the system, services and approach to support children and young people with SEND and their families.

6. REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE 0-25 TOGETHER SERVICE AND 0-25 SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) COMMISSIONING

[Officer Contact: Andy Lawrence, Head of 0-25 Together, Tel: (07795) 811416], Oliver Barnes, Senior Commissioning Manager 0-25 SEND Commissioning, Tel: (01992) 556309]

6.1 The Panel received a report informing them of the progress made by the 0-25 Together Services since its launch on October 2016. The Panel were provided an update on the future vision for the 0-25 social care offer and the current priority work areas in 0-25 Together and 0-25 SEND Commissioning

6.2 Members were informed that the 0-25 service was the first stage to bring services together and the second stage was Invest to Transform. It was noted all services would be accessed via the Family Centres.

6.3 Members agreed this was a useful report and all children should have the chance to attend mainstream schools, they believed integration started at home with siblings.

6.4 It was noted that adult and child social workers had different remits but work was being undertaken to align their roles.

6.5 In relation to Community Navigation as detailed on page seven of the report Members were informed the social prescription approach was to assist families to spend direct payment to send out workers to assist them to find activities and services in the locality for their requirements.

Conclusions:

6.6 The Panel noted and commented on the progress of 0-25 Together and the future vision for the 0-25 SEND system.

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7. CHILDREN'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE REPORT Q4 2017/18

[Officer Contact: Paul Dryden, Performance Improvement Manager, Tel: (01992) 588196]

- 7.1 The Panel received a report which summarised performance during Quarter 4 2017/18 (January 2018 to March 2018). Members were referred to presentation papers for key performance indicators on Targeted Services and Early Help, Contact, Referral and Assessment (Safeguarding); Child Protection and Children Looked After (CLA). The figures were based using in-year monthly snapshot information.
- 7.2 Members noted that certain comparisons with other authorities in the eastern region could not be shared until information had been published nationally.
- 7.3 Members noted there was a reduction in first time referrals to the youth justice system and also referrals into children's social care.
- 7.4 In response to a Member question in relation to Specialist Guardian Orders (SGO's) taking on more children, it was noted the statistics in the fostering data shows family and friends convert quickly to SGO's.
- 7.5 In relation to children subject to an Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) it was noted that historically performance was not as strong but over the last two to three years it has improved significantly and end of year performance places Hertfordshire in the second quartile nationally.
- 7.6 In was noted that the number of children subject to a child protection plan (CPP) had reduced and Hertfordshire was one of the lowest in the Country due to Family Safeguarding. Officers agreed to circulate figures in relation to CPP and the reduction over the last four to five years.
- 7.7 In response to Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) it was noted the County Council was still receiving new arrivals of UASC. Members were informed there were two new projects set up to house UASC, there was a six bedroomed accommodation and a twelve bedroomed accommodation. In relation to UASC Members noted that age assessment was carried out by two social workers to determine age and placed into a foster placement if officers believed it was needed. If the social worker believed the UASC was older and refused the application the decision could be challenged by the UASC in court.

Paul Dryden to action

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7.8 Members noted that a report from Children in Care Council would be presented to the September meeting of the Cabinet Panel.

Conclusions:

7.9 The Panel noted and commented on the current performance.

8. HERTFORDSHIRE'S SUFFICIENCY STATEMENT 2017-2020 FOR THE ACCOMODATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

[Officer Contact: Lynn Knowles, Head of Commissioning, CLA & Safeguarding, Tel: (07740) 918847]

8.1 The Panel received a report which provided them with an update on the Sufficiency Statement for the accommodation of children and young people in Hertfordshire. Members noted the Sufficiency Statement, attached as Appendix A to the report had been prepared in response to the requirements of Section 22G of the Children Act 1989.

8.2 Members welcomed the report and agreed that it was important that the District and Borough Councils see looked after children as a priority.

8.3 It was noted the residential facility in St Albans would provide four permanent beds and a fifth bed for emergency placements. It was not intended that a short stay overnight service would be opened.

8.4 In response to a Member question it was noted the Mockingbird model was being used with Child Adolescence Mental Health Service to assess children that are taken into care. It was also noted there was multiagency representation for the adoption service.

Conclusions:

8.5 The Panel noted, commented and supported the activity proposed by Children's Services.

9. ADOPTION AGENCY ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

[Officer Contact: Sue Lowndes, Head of Adoption and Fostering, Tel: (07833) 484306]

- 9.1 The Panel received a report in relation to the Adoption Agency Annual Report 2017/18. The report considered the performance of the Hertfordshire Adoption Service. The report also updated the progress toward the regionalisation of adoption, the proposed arrangements to provide adoption services for Luton Borough Council and other development plans for 2018/19.
- 9.2 Members heard how the process of adoption had significantly improved and Hertfordshire was performing above the Eastern Region average of 79.9%.
- 9.3 It was noted that some children needed to wait some time for a match, this was due to children aged 4-11 which were in sibling group and therefore in order to keep them together it made the process harder. Officers agreed the score card attached at Appendix C to the report did not highlight the positive situation, this was due to all of the cases having individual reasons why the adoption process too longer for some.
- 9.4 Members heard one of the key issues with adopters is when the child goes to a new school. It is very important to understand the learning needs of the child and the progress they are making at school. It is crucial for both primary and secondary education to ensure adopted children and young people who are adopted receive appropriate support to achieve their full potential.
- 9.5 In relation to a question if early intervention for education support was being used, Members were informed officers were working with Virtual Schools and working on a model to assist and support adopted children. It was noted many primary schools were already working in a range of ways to support children and the Virtual School is working alongside schools.
- 9.6 In relation to placement of black and minority ethnic (BME) children it was noted the Adoption Service worked with the statutory guidance issued to avoid any delay in matching on the grounds of ethnicity. It was hoped with the work being carried out with Luton Borough Council that the authorities could share the 'pool' of adopters in order to match children with families.
- 9.7 In response to a Member question it was noted adoption breakdown was extremely low in Hertfordshire compared to the rest of the UK and although Hertfordshire was unsuccessful with its bid to Adopt East, adoption support is in place by purchasing individual therapies to assist families.

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- 9.8 Members also heard there was a designated teacher placed at schools to focus on the progress of adopted children, this also extended to those children on Special Guardianship Orders. It was noted there was also Pupil Premium Plus funding for extra support to improve educational outcomes.
- 9.9 Members agreed and congratulated officers on the work that has been carried out to change the adoption process.

Conclusions:

- 9.10 The Panel noted, commented and supported the content of the report.

10 OTHER PART 1 BUSINESS

- 10.1 There was no other business

**KATHRYN PETTITT
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

CHAIRMAN _____

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