

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 TUESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2019

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS OF THE PANEL

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

OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

N Quinton, R G Tindall

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Children, Young People and Families Cabinet Panel meeting on Tuesday, 12 November 2019 as circulated, copy annexed, conclusions were reached and are recorded below:

Note: L A Chesterman declared an interest and this is recorded at item 5.

PART I ('OPEN') BUSINESS

1. MINUTES

- 1.1 The Minutes of the Cabinet Panel meeting held on 10 September 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. PUBLIC PETITIONS

- 2.1 There were no public petitions.

3. QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE REPORT 2019/20

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

- 3.1 The Panel received a presentation providing a summary of performance during Quarter 2 2019/20. Members were referred to

ACTION

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 on in-year monthly snapshot information.

- 3.2 Members were pleased to note there was positive movement overall and acknowledged in some areas there was increasingly good work being undertaken.
- 3.3 In response to a Member query in relation to the Government agreeing that the Troubles Families Programme funding could be carried forward to March 2021, the Chairman advised the Panel that the County Council were pressing the Government to maintain this funding and had submitted evidence on early intervention to support this plea. The Panel were informed that although there was an increase in demand for Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) assessments, families did not need an EHCP to get the support they needed. It was also noted the rise in children with higher needs put the DSG, education and high needs budgets under pressure for this financial year.
- 3.4 In response to a Member question in relation to the drop-in numbers for Children subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP) the Panel were informed there was at least 40 Child Protection Conferences each month and the intervention work being carried out attributed to the numbers falling. It was agreed a report on this area of work would be presented to a future meeting of the Panel.
- 3.5 In relation to the increase of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) Members heard the increase in numbers was normally due to spontaneous arrivals i.e. entering through ports on lorries or reports of asylum to local police stations. Members also heard there was a regional rota which was working well and was an exemplar of good practice. Hertfordshire's limit to accommodate UASC's was 5 per month, if more spontaneous arrivals then Hertfordshire would come off the rota for that period. It was noted that Hertfordshire supported UASC through the process to obtain their right to remain. It was also noted there was no additional funding available once the UASC reach 18 years of age and they could not legally study or work
- 3.6 Members noted the decrease in CLA with 3+ placements and congratulated officers on the work carried out to achieve this.
- 3.7 In response to a Member concern in relation to the net children's services budget per capita and how the County Council were going to protect its service for CLA, the Panel were informed that although the Council was seeing an increase in the need for fostering the CLA service would be included in the Invest to

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**CHAIRMAN'S
INITIALS**

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transform (ITT) case and would include the following:

- To have 31 more care home beds available in Hertfordshire, some will be solo accommodation for those children that were considered to need higher level of support
- Supporting fostering by refreshing foster caring and reviewing allowances which would help to recruit and retain carers.
- A specialist team is being developed to deal with young people on the threshold of care and a rapid response team to work with parents to settle a young person back into their home.

3.8 In response to a Member question in relation to Hertfordshire's SEND High Needs Block (HNB) funding being one of the lowest in the country and how the Council was ensuring the budget was spent properly, it was noted that representation had been made to the DfE and the County Council was working with schools to review the Designated Schools Grant (DSG) and how it was spent. It was agreed that information on how the DSG was being spent would be circulated to Members.

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3.9 In relation to the cost of independent placements for CLA the Panel heard that those children who were difficult to place were often on the autism spectrum and were children who had self-harming behaviours or put themselves at risk in other ways. Children's Services looked to place these children in children's homes as it was difficult to place them in foster care as they were extremely troubled, and it was hard for a single carer or a couple to look after the young person 24 hours a day. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find children's homes placements for children with complex needs and risk-taking behaviours and It was noted this situation was not unique to Hertfordshire but evident across the country.

Conclusions:

3.10 The Cabinet Panel scrutinised current performance and commented on any areas for improvement and/or interest.

**CHAIRMAN'S
INITIALS**

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4. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (LGA) EARLY YEARS PEER REVIEW UPDATE

[Officer Contact: Melanie Knowles, Strategy Manager, Family Services Commissioning, Tel: (01992) 555874]

4.1 The Panel received a report which gave an update of the progress made in exploring and delivery the recommendations of the LGA Early Years Peer Review in March 2019.

4.2 A Member raised a query in relation to the recommendation to highlight early years issues within all Delivering Specialist Provision Locally (DSPL) Partnerships and noted this was the work of the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) offer. It was agreed a report on this subject would be brought to a future meeting of the Panel.

Action Jenny Coles

4.3 In response to a Member question the Panel were informed that families did not need to attend the family centres to be referred to the free early education for two-year olds, they could apply on-line for this service. It was noted there was a DfE eligibility criteria based on financial income and the DWP sent a list to the County Council of those families who may be eligible, this information is shared with the family centre. The Panel were informed that although the early education for two-year olds was free, many families believed their child was too young to participate. Families were encouraged to access the family centre offer and they were supported by officers to access the online process. The Panel noted that if a family was not eligible for free early education then there was a fee that could be paid, the average amount was £12 to £15 per session.

4.4 The Panel heard that parents were able to stay with children and the staff at the family centres would encourage them to leave once the child was settled into the group.

4.5 In response to a Member suggestion it was agreed that officers would contact GP surgeries to inform them of the services available at the family centres so they could refer families to the services on offer.

Conclusion:

4.6 The Cabinet Panel commented and noted the progress of the Early Years Strategic Group in addressing the recommendations from the Early Years Peer Review.

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS

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5. FAMILY CENTRE SERVICE UPDATE

[Officer Contact: Joella Scott, Strategy Manager, Early Help Commissioning, Tel: (01992) 588451]

5.1 L A Chesterman declared a personal interest in this item as she is the Chair of the Advisory Board at the Meadows Short Break Centre, Welwyn Garden City.

5.2 The Panel received a report which provided an update to how the family Centre Service was embedding across the county and the progress being made to meeting its commissioning ambitions in delivering improved outcomes through more aligned and accessible services.

5.3 The Panel were introduced to representatives from the YMCA, Barnardo’s and Inspire All who were partners of the County Council which focused on the family support side of the family centres.

5.4 In response to a number of questions raised by Members it was noted that the joint EqIA with Public Health which was two years out of date was being updated and would be circulated to Panel Members once completed. Officers were surprised to hear that several partnership meetings had been booked but subsequently cancelled, however advisory board dates for the forth coming calendar year had been set for all partnerships to attend over a two-week period.

Action Joella Scott

5.5 A Member raised a concern that sometimes timings for sessions on offer were not always suitable to families, an example given was parents returning to work and not being able to access services at scheduled times. Officers informed Members the hub opening hours were 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. with some evening and weekend sessions available these also included ante-natal sessions. If families were unable to attend sessions at these times partners would always be willing to arrange a mutually convenient time so families could be informed on what services were available to them. Members heard some meetings could take place in other community venues so families were able to access the services provided by the Family Centres. Members were further informed phone contact was always available to families during the opening hours of the Family Centre.

5.6 The Panel heard that there are interpretation services available for those families where English was not their first language.

5.7 Following on from discussion and a request for KPI’s to be provided to the Panel, it was noted there was a range of performance measures in place that were being evidenced and

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CHAIRMAN’S INITIALS

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reviewed and these KPI's would help inform the EqIA. It was agreed a further report would be presented to a future meeting of the Panel which would also include information on staff retention. The Panel were also informed there were integrated leadership courses with health and team leaders to enhance the support available.

- 5.8 In relation to the case studies detailed in the report a Member asked if the parents were more willing to engage with the Family Centres than the previous service. Members were informed families have key contacts in the early years to support them, including mandated health visitor visits who would be able to assess if targeted work was needed to support a family and refer into the Family Centre Service. It was noted there was also parenting groups to help with a range of presenting needs.
- 5.9 In response to a question in relation to some families not getting the same universal services, Members were informed that there is a consistent offer of targeted support across the county, with some local nuances and universal sessions are still available under a cost recovery model. GDPR legislation has meant that all previously registered families needed to re-register for the new service, but this is progressing well and Officers were confident that the 95% target of registrations would be met. Members of the Panel were also encouraged to refer families to the family centres.
- 5.10 Some Members agreed it was a good report and noted although the Family Centres had only been operating six months there had been some good achievements. The partnership between the Family Support element and Public Health Nursing had supported a robust pathway enabling early identification of issues and a responsive offer to families.

Conclusions:

- 5.11 The Cabinet Panel noted and commented on the content of the report.

6. CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (CAMHS) PROVISION UPDATE

[Officer Contact: Deborah Sheppard, Senior CAMHS Commissioning Manager, Integrated Health and Care Commissioning Team]

- 6.1 In June 2019 the Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board received a report from Hertfordshire Partnership University Foundation NHS Trust (HPFT) which included its plans for 2019/2020, which included an update on issues pertaining to

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS

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Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). A motion was placed before County Council in July and referred it to this Panel for its consideration. The full details of the motion can be found [here under Item 6.](#)

6.2 In covering the motion the report informed Members on the important developments in the system of support for Children and Young People with emotional wellbeing and mental health needs. The report explained the emerging system redesign and an overview of current performance and new developments around Mental Health Support Teams for schools.

6.3 R G Tindall who raised the motion at County Council in July raised concerns of the serious situation of the mental health provision which was not being met. The review of CAMHS in 2014, which was closely followed by the Department of Health's report, Future in mind – promoting protecting and improving our children and young people's mental health and wellbeing, this report also announced additional funding of £1.25 billion to transform CAMHS over five years.: He raised the following concerns:

- 67% of children and young people are not being treated
- 18% of those sufferers under 18 are not being treated
- The Trailblazer scheme is a postcode lottery
- Every school should have a Mental Health lead and questioned how many did have one currently?
- Any funding arising from CAMHS should be ringfenced
- It is a good service but has limited resource

6.4 In response to R G Tindall's concerns raised, the Panel were informed funding had been increasing year on year and was also being audited by NHS England against the Mental Health Investment Standard. In terms of access 34% of young people requiring support from NHS services received support (exceeding Future in Mind targets) but the national access indicator is a narrow target which does not account for the significant capacity provided by council funded and voluntary sector support. The ambition is that more mental health support teams (MHST's) will come through the Trailblazer scheme which would initially be funded by central government up to March 2021. This would see the MHST's addressing the needs of children and young people with mild to moderate difficulties through schools.

6.5 In terms of MHST's, the Panel were informed there was a pilot currently underway working with a small group of schools, it was envisaged this would be expanded going forward. Members also heard there were approximately 100 schools that had not engaged fully with the Mental Health Lead in Schools programme

**CHAIRMAN'S
INITIALS**

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and it was accepted that some schools would not engage. Some Members were keen to know which schools were not engaging.

- 6.6 Officers re-iterated to Members that when speaking about 34% of children that may be being supported other areas of support were not being counted towards this figure. There was a waiting list for the Specialist CAMHS team however there has been short term investment to address this and it was anticipated by the New Year these young people will be seen within normal waiting times.
- 6.7 In response to a Member question on how officers were working with schools to improve knowledge and expertise the Panel heard that schools participate in a full day training every two years with twilight session to all teachers, there was a range of Mental Health first aid training, two trainers in MIND were commissioned to deliver training, there was also an expectation that schools would be doing positive things, i.e. adopting a whole school approach to improving mental health and wellbeing including through the school curriculum. The Panel were informed there was no charge to schools for the training, this was funded by the NHS.
- 6.8 Following discussions, it was noted the review of demand and capacity as mentioned at 6.7 of the report would be undertaken by P A Consulting and would be an analytical review more than a broader review. The outcome would be shared with the board once completed. Officers reiterated that CAMHS was a system not a service and HPFT and HCT had come together as a collective to deliver accessible services. Officers informed Members the redesigned system would be delivered on a need led basis but it is a significant piece of work which would take some time to complete. To stabilise the system whilst developing the new system, existing provision has been recommissioned for two years.
- 6.9 Officers informed Members that both CCG's spent NHS funding on mental health needs, in Hertfordshire funding had been spent on CAMHS, however NHS England advised the access targets. A previous review looked at which services needed investment. Members heard that the NHS England mandate was for the spend on Perinatal mental health services, Community Eating Disorder services and crisis support. The CAMHS Transformation plan was a whole system local ambition to change the way mental health support was delivered to children and young people. Members heard there had been mental health support leads in schools for the last 4 to 5 years as well as the development of the two-school mental health trailblazor projects. It was noted there were three thousand children who were getting mental health support through Kooth online counselling. It was also noted that over the past four years Hertfordshire had delivered a better approach to mental

health and wellbeing to schools and developing services in social care and we are working towards an integrated offer for mental health support in Hertfordshire.

- 6.10 The Panel were informed there was a dedicated eating disorder team and in response to a Member question it was noted that GP's could refer young people directly to this team via the single point of access.
- 6.11 Members were pleased to hear of the good progress in Partnership working and also pleased that Hertfordshire was working towards better services and communication.
- 6.12 N Quinton who supported the motion to Council but was not a Member of the Cabinet Panel raised concerns in relation to the following:
- Lack of a timetable for delivering the transformation plan
 - Nothing mentioned about public health
 - Nothing mentioned about integration
 - The transformation plan was not a coherent strategy
 - Wants to see a single point of access for 1:1 mental health provision
 - Pupils that have stopped attending school as a result of mental health issues
- 6.13 Officers reiterated that the mental health support teams in schools would be fully operational in January 2020 and the priority would be to support those children who have stopped attending school as a result of mental health issues.
- 6.14 The Executive Member for Children, Young People & Families reminded the Panel that the motion which was referred by County Council was in relation to CAMHS. She summed up by reiterating there had been an enormous amount of work with Partners to join up care and the work with the NHS was exceptional. The Panel were also reminded this was a national issue and was not unique to Hertfordshire.
- 6.15 The Chairman invited Members to vote on the recommendation as detailed in the report. Upon a vote being taken 10 voted in favour of supporting the recommendation, 3 abstained. Therefore, the vote was won.

Conclusions:

6.16 The Cabinet Panel:

- (i) Considered the motion as detailed in 1.1 of the report
- (ii) Noted and commented on the redesign of the CAMHS system detailed in the Report;
- (iii) Noted the current levels of performance of existing services, the challenges in meeting high levels of demand and the work being undertaken to manage this;
- (iv) Noted the funding for two further Mental Health Support Teams for Schools awarded to Hertfordshire and West Essex STP.

7. SUSTAINABLE HERTFORDSHIRE STRATEGY

[Officer Contact: Mark Kemp, Director of Environment & Infrastructure, Tel (01992) 556130]

7.1 The Panel received a report which gave an update on the work and progress made in responding to the declaration of a Climate Emergency made at County Council on 16 July 2019. The report presented the scope of future work identified in order to meet the December 2019 deadline to prepare a Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy.

7.2 The Chairman informed Members of the Cabinet Panel that as the strategy developed it would focus on young peoples views and would include those views from CHICC and YC Herts, it was also suggested that it be circulated to district and borough youth councils and schools and it should also include the voice across the generations.

7.3 Members were asked for their suggestions on ideas that they thought could be implemented to assist in the climate change emergency. Some suggestions were as follows:

- Smart working
- How Members / staff attend / drive to meetings
- Going paperless
- Use of electric vehicles

**CHAIRMAN'S
INITIALS**

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- Review EPC ratings on council owned building and those that are purchased in future to ensure they are energy efficient
- LED lighting
- Transport investment i.e. low emission vehicles
- Solar panels and using renewable energy
- How services are delivered

7.4 The Chairman informed the Panel that the Leader of all district and borough councils meet as a top priority as did the Chief Executives. Individual strategies would be produced but it was hoped to have one over-arching strategy for the whole of Hertfordshire.

Conclusions:

7.5 The Cabinet Panel noted the content of the report, the project Scope prepared by consultants WSP attached as Appendix A to the report, the Hertfordshire County Council project briefing note attached as Appendix B to the report and the programme timetable attached as Appendix C to the report.

8. OTHER PART 1 BUSINESS

8.1 There was no other Part I business

**QUENTIN BAKER
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

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