

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, 6 NOVEMBER 2018

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS OF THE PANEL

N Bell, S Brown, 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

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Children, Young People and Families Cabinet Panel meeting on Tuesday, 6 November 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

12. MINUTES

- 1.1 At 4.4 of the minutes, for clarification it was noted that Luton Borough Councils part of the service would be visible and it would be seen as one service operating from within Hertfordshire County Council.
- 1.2 The Minutes of the Cabinet Panel meeting held on 7 September 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. PUBLIC PETITIONS

- 2.1 There were no public petitions.

ACTION

3. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) STRATEGY 2018-23

[Officer Contact: Jennie Newman, Interim Head of Integrated Services Tel: (01992) 588541]

- 3.1 The Panel received a report providing them with an overview of the draft refreshed SEND strategy 2018-23. The report gave an overview of the work of the SEND Executive Board and the workstreams in place to deliver the refreshed Strategy.
- 3.2 Members were pleased to receive the refreshed SEND Strategy and hoped families would have a better relationship with more co-ordinated services. Members agreed it was important that the right provision and systems were in place and training with mainstream schools would mean that a child with SEND could access any main steam school of their choice
- 3.4 In relation to a £550k underspend it was noted it was the schools responsibility through the Delivering Special Provision Locally (DSPL) on how the funding was spent and not the responsibility of the County Council. Members heard that the DSPL did not always allow funding to send the child to the best schools for their needs.

Conclusions:

- 3.5 The Panel:
 - i. Noted and commented on the draft refreshed Strategy, the workstreams and the programme of delivery
 - ii. Endorsed to Cabinet the Strategy and the programme outlined in the new workstreams which were detailed on page 11 of the Strategy

4. PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION OF A CHILDREN'S COMMUNITY EQUIPMENT OFFER

[Officer Contact: Oliver Barnes, Senior Commissioning Manger, Tel: (01992) 556309]

- 4.1 The Panel received a report inviting them to endorse the implementation of the Children's Community Equipment Offer following the outcome of the public consultation.
- 4.2 Members heard the aim of the Equipment Offer was to give consistency to any child across the county that needed specialist equipment in various places e.g. if a specialist chair was needed at the child's home and school environments.

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- 4.3 Members heard that families may perceive that costs were being cut if it was agreed that the equipment could be transported with the child, but it was noted it was about sustainability and making better use of the equipment.
- 4.4 It was noted that although some of the equipment could be recycled, there were other pieces of equipment that could not be recycled and had to be replaced.

Conclusions:

The Panel:

- i. Noted and commented on the outcome of the public consultation
- ii. Recommend to Cabinet that it recommends the implementation of the Children’s Equipment offer as set out in paragraph 5 of the report.

**5. SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE IN HERTFORDSHIRE –
PROGRESS REPORT ON YC HERTFORDSHIRE
REMODELLING**

[Officer Contact: Andy Manson, Head of Services for Young People, Tel: (01992) 555014, Peter Hosier, Head of YC Hertfordshire, Tel: (01992) 555406]

- 5.1 The Panel received a report providing them with the results of a further consultation with stakeholders and a progress report on the proposals to develop the services provided by YC Hertfordshire.
- 5.2 The Chairman advised Members that she had requested the Director of Children’s Service and the Director of Public Health carry out a needs assessment on the activities that were available for young people.
- 5.3 In response to a Member question around the UK Youth Parliament funding being cut, it was noted the UK Youth Parliament was not currently funded and Hertfordshire had not had representation on the Youth Parliament for approximately eighteen months. The funding per year was approximately £34-36k to enable 5 young people to engage. The Chairman suggested that as Members were keen to have this funded that she may look to local political parties in the county to sponsor this funding. It was also suggested that local media groups be approached for funding as well. The Chairman agreed she was

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happy to put a business case together to seek alternative funding and she would be happy to receive any suggestions.

- 5.4 Concern was raised at the reduction of twenty percent of the budget and the impact on frontline staff. The Panel were advised that the Service were prioritising face to face work, the impact would be a reduction in youth work projects from 20 to 16 a week in each district / borough, a reduction in the length of these project to 2 hours and a reduction in the opening times of the Access Points, across the County. It was noted young people could continue to obtain information by accessing the YC Hertfordshire website.

Conclusions:

- 5.5 The Panel noted and commented upon the content of the Report and noted the:
- Positive results of the consultation regarding the focus of the work of YC Hertfordshire.
 - Progress achieved to date in remodelling the Service.
 - Ongoing involvement of a range of partners including district and borough councils in developing the early intervention and targeted prevention offer to young people.
 - Commitment of YC Hertfordshire to the inclusion of young people in the development of the local offer.

6. HERTFORDSHIRE FOSTERING SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT

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

- 6.1 The Panel received a report which summarised performance of the Hertfordshire Fostering Service in line with the National Minimum Standards and Statutory Guidance. The report provided details of the County Council's Fostering Service activity from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018. The report also set out plans for future development until March 2019.
- 6.2 Members heard the performance targets last year in terms of recruitment activity had not been met and officers were looking to address this. There had been a positive outcome from the 'Something is Missing' campaign which had helped promote the need for foster carers. Twelve foster carers had been approved so far this year [2018-2019] with a further thirty two being assessed. It was noted the service needs were for fifty five new fostering

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households. One of the challenges in recruitment was competition in neighbouring authorities who were also very pro-active and neighbouring authorities had recently raised their payments to foster carers.

- 6.3 Fostering services were recently inspected by Ofsted as part of a wider inspection of Children's Services with positive results. Members were informed the full report would be available on 19 November 2018.
- 6.4 In relation to a Member question regarding the need for more therapeutic help for young people, it was noted that CAMHS had refreshed its local transformation plan and this was available on the internet. It was also noted that CAMHS Commissioners had been asked to carry out a review of support to CLA including the targeted services for children in need and children looked after.
- 6.5 Members heard the first hub of the 'Mockingbird Family Model'; was launched in June 2018 and a further two had been launched since, two more would be launched by March 2019 giving a hub in each quarter of the county.
- 6.6 The Panel heard there was a national shortage of placements to accommodate children with a high level of need. The County Council was looking to commission more providers and a two bedroomed accommodation would be available in the near future and another accommodation would be available before Christmas. It was also noted that there was a discussion with Herts Living regarding looking to developing accommodation on Hertfordshire County Council's own land.
- 6.7 Members were informed if a placement broke down the next placement would be higher in cost. Each placement costs approximately:
- £450 per week in a Foster Care house
 - £900 per week in independent Foster Care
 - £3000+ per week in a Children's Home

Conclusions:

- 6.8 The Panel noted and commented upon the content of the Fostering Service performance and the proposed service development for 2018/19.

7. SERIOUS VIOLENCE NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGY

[Officer Contact: Gary Ray, Community Protection Manager
Tel: (01438) 843608]

7.1 The Panel received a report which informed them of the content of the Serious Violence Needs Assessment for Hertfordshire which was produced by the County Community Safety Unit. It also informed them of the development of the Serious Violence Strategy in partnership with a multi-agency steering group. The presentation can be found [here](#).

7.2 The multi-agency steering group was represented by:

- Children's Services
- Schools
- Public Health
- Adult Care Services
- Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC)
- Herts Police
- Probation Services
- District and Borough Councils
- Community Safety Partnerships

7.3 Members heard that the National Police figures showed that knife crime was currently at the highest level in the last seven years. Hertfordshire has shown the largest increase in the UK during this time, with a 44% increase over the last three years. It was also noted that the majority of knife crime in Hertfordshire was not considered to be gang related.

7.4 Members agreed that the Strategy was very constructive although the figures reported were concerning. Members heard that all schools and district and borough councils would feed into the strategy and cross boarder working was one of the priorities to be included in the Strategy. There had already been a good deal of work carried out to raise boarder awareness in relation to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's). There had also been training sessions with officers of looked after children and all senior managers across the County Council's Services.

7.5 It was noted that the stages of the Trauma Recovery Intervention Model which was trialled by the Youth Justice Board in Wales and detailed in the Strategy, mirrored that of the intervention model ARC that was used by Children's Services to identify those people that needed trauma or therapeutic assistance.

7.6 Members heard the Home Office had £22m fund which the PCC has applied to for funding to assist with the priorities within the

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Serious Violence Strategy. It was also noted there had been a successful bid with the Safeguarding Board and further funding secured with the PCC and Children's Services, there was currently a bid into the CCG's to assist with funding for training. It was also noted that a Universal Raising Awareness trainer was already lined up to start training programmes. The Chairman informed Members that the Director of Public Health had advised her that funding may also be able to be accessed from the National Lottery.

- 7.7 Members heard that work was being carried out to update the Countywide Sharing Protocol to assist with the barriers of sharing information. The Panel were informed that I.T. was seen as a barrier with a number of agencies to share information. It was noted there were overarching software available and the Chairman was also communicating with the PCC on how this could be taken forward to assist in the sharing of information. It was agreed that the County Council should look to how information was shared with all district and borough councils.
- 7.8 In relation to a Member question if there was much prevalence of young people carrying knives in or out of school times, it was noted that most hard evidence available indicated it was outside of school times and in the evenings. However it was known that young people did carry knives in school time but the information was not available and this was where the Police needed to have more schools working with them.
- 7.9 The Panel were informed that some children carried a knife because they thought it was normal, the aim of the Strategy was to get then message across that it was not normal, however, it was noted that the majority of children did not carry a knife.
- 7.10 In relation to a Member question on 'stop and search' it was noted that education of powers to frontline staff had been given on when to 'stop and search' or what were reasonable grounds to 'stop and search'. The number of 'stop and searches' were now more targeted which had resulted in an increase in the number of bladed articles found during searches.
- 7.11 Members agreed that the Strategy was a good piece of work and the message was strong that Hertfordshire have very good strengths in protecting families. It was noted the title of the Strategy mirrored that of the National Policy but there would be an opportunity for it to be changed if required.

Conclusions:

- 7.12 The Panel noted and commented upon the progress on the work to develop a Serious Violence Strategy for Hertfordshire including

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the key findings and recommendations from the Serious Violence Needs Assessment.

8. OTHER PART 1 BUSINESS

8.1 There was no other business

**KATHRYN PETTITT
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

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