

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, 13 FEBRUARY 2019

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS OF THE PANEL

N Bell, S Brown, L Chesterman, J M Graham, L J Greensmyth, 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, 13 February 2019 as circulated, copy annexed, conclusions were reached and are recorded below:

Note: A number of conflicts of interests were declared in relation to the Scrutiny of the Integrated Plan 2018/19 – 2021/22 and are recorded at 3.1 below.

PART I ('OPEN') BUSINESS

12. MINUTES

1.1 The Minutes of the Cabinet Panel meeting held on 6 November 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

1.2

2. PUBLIC PETITIONS

2.1 There were no public petitions.

ACTION

3. INTEGRATED PLAN 2019/20 - 2022/23

[Officer Contact: Simon Newland, Operations Director, Education (01992) 555738, Ben Jay, Acting Assistant Director – Finance (01992) 556257]

3.1 All Members who have a disclosable pecuniary interest arising from an allowance from the County Council, another local authority in Hertfordshire, or a body to whom they have been appointed by the County Council, have received a dispensation to allow them to participate in debate and vote on the Integrated Plan.

All Members have been granted a dispensation to participate in debate and vote in any business of the County Council relating to setting the council tax or precept when they would otherwise be prevented from doing so in consequence of having a beneficial interest in land which is within the administrative area of Hertfordshire or a licence (alone or jointly) to occupy such land.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

M A Watkin – by virtue of his wife being employed as a part-time teacher in the music service in Hertfordshire. He had been granted a dispensation by the Standards Committee to participate, debate and vote in business in which this Disclosable Pecuniary Interest is mentioned provided that the business to be considered did not directly affect his financial position or that of his wife; which he considered it did not.

Declarable Interest

T C Heritage – as she is a member of the Oaklands Corporation (the Further Education College) which derives part of its income from funds received from the County Council.

3.2 The Panel received a report highlighting the areas of the Integrated Plan which related to Children, Young People & Families order for Panel to consider these and provide comment on.

3.3 Members noted that Children’s Services had not been asked to make any major savings this year given the 2 year savings programme introduced to YC Herts in 18/19. Members were also informed of the demographic pressure in relation to Children Looked After.

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- 3.4 In response to a question about capacity within Hertfordshire for the Council to provide more residential care for young people, the Panel was informed that a former children's residential home was being recommissioned for older young people with learning difficulties and was to be run by an external provider. The Panel was also informed that the service was considering the development of a further two children's homes in the County, which would be commissioned by the Council.
- 3.5 In relation to the Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) Transformation Members noted that it was early days for the project and the Council was working closely with partners including schools, families, carers and health colleagues in the development of work going forward.
- 3.6 In response to a Member query officers confirmed that the savings relating to Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children could be met.

Conclusions:

- 3.7 The Panel:
- 1 The Panel commented to Cabinet on the proposals relating to the Integrated Plan in respect of Children, Young People and Families.
 - 2 The Panel identified issues that it felt that the Cabinet should consider in finalising the Integrated Plan proposals.

4. HERTFORDSHIRE INSPECTION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY CHILDREN'S SERVICES (ILACS) OFSTED INSPECTION REPORT OCTOBER 2018

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

- 4.1 The Panel received a report which presented a summary of the findings of the recent Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) Ofsted Inspection and the actions to address the report recommendations for further improvement.
- 4.2 The Panel were informed the inspection had taken place in October 2018 and the report was published in November 2018. An action plan was made following the inspection and was attached as Appendix A to the report. It was noted the outcome of the inspection was very pleasing. Members noted the overall judgement for the county council was 'Good' with the impact of leadership and management on social work practice with children

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and families being considered as 'Outstanding'. The other two judgements areas for the experiences and progress of children who need help and protection, and the experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers were also rated as "Good":

- 4.3 Members congratulated officers for the good work that was carried out in the lead up to the inspection and agreed that despite the reduction in resources, services were still being maintained.
- 4.4 Members heard that Inspectors highlighted that the county council should work with homeless young people who were 16-17 years old to move them into independent living if appropriate, officers confirmed this was being carried out through a protocol arrangement by working with district and boroughs councils and for example Herts Young Homeless. It was also noted that the assessment process had been changed to ensure that if the young person needed any additional services that this would be picked up.
- 4.5 In relation to a Member question it was confirmed that when children come into care Children's Services try to place them as near as possible to their local community as long as it is safe to do so. It was noted that twenty percent of children looked after (CLA) were placed over 20 miles from their home and this percentage equated to approximately 150 children, officers agreed to provide a briefing paper to Members on the number of children living outside the authority's boundary. Members also heard the biggest challenge for the council was placement stability and placing young people close to their main home.
- 4.6 In response to a Member question it was noted the county council was the statutory body to support and find accommodation if necessary for these young people. However, because the council were not a housing authority, where a young person over 16 years of age was at risk of becoming homeless work was undertaken jointly with district and borough councils.
- 4.7 Members also noted the training for the continued development of Motivational Interviewing for all staff was on target for February 2019. Members were informed that this training was rolled out a couple of years ago and it is reviewed continuously as part of the services quality assessment process.

Action Paul
Dryden

Conclusions:

- 4.8 The Panel considered the Ofsted inspection report and approved the proposed actions to address the areas requiring improvement.

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5. PERFORMANCE REPORT Q2 2018/19

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

- 5.1 The Panel received a report which summarised performance during Quarter 2 2018/19 (Q2). 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 on in-year monthly snapshot information. The presentation can be viewed [here](#).
- 5.2 Members were informed that the OFSTED Inspection stated the authority used top quality performance management information to manage the services for children and young people. It was noted there were challenges in some areas but officers now have action plans in place to address those challenges.
- 5.3 Members requested that an update report on the percentage of children looked after with more than three placements be presented to a future meeting. It was noted that in a few occasions a young person could have as many as ten placements, this normally related to older teenagers and the reason for the moves was sometimes for their own safety or for very specialist support.
- 5.4 In relation to the horizontal arrows showing the direction of travel for 'declining performance (within 5% margin of error)' Members wondered why it did not include the improving performance (within 5% margin of error) as well. Officers advised it was a corporate standard that was used in all reports of the county council and it was agreed that officers would take the query to the corporate centre for clarification.
- 5.5 It was noted that in relation to Black Minority Ethnic groups (BME) accounting for a higher percentage of referrals and Children in Need at March 2017. However, Members were informed that access to services for BME groups was monitored to ensure support was being provided.

*Action Jenny
Coles / Paul
Dryden*

*Action Paul
Dryden*

Conclusions:

- 5.6 The Panel scrutinised the current performance and commented on areas for improvement and interest.

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6. NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING (NEET) RATES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

[Officer Contact: Andy Manson, Head of Services for Young People, Tel. 01992 555014]

- 6.1 The Panel received a report which gave them an update on the current situation regarding not in education, employment and training (NEET) rates for young people and of the work that has been undertaken to prevent and address the issue. A presentation can be viewed [here](#).
- 6.2 Members heard the performance of Hertfordshire was very good and it placed the county council in the top quintile of Local Authorities for those who were NEET or not known.
- 6.3 The Panel were informed the funding for the programme managed through Hertfordshire Adult and Family Learning Services (HAFLS) Herts Youth Futures had been extended to 2022 to work with the hardest to help NEET young people. Members were informed that the council was looking to carry out more work in the areas of NEET to both the young traveller community and those from other vulnerable groups.
- 6.4 In relation to the Gatsby Benchmarks, Members were informed that although the council were still in the early days of their roll out, officers were successfully getting employers on board. Officers described how these benchmarks were particularly stretching for schools, yet Hertfordshire was still in the top quartile of LEPs for this work
- 6.5 In response to a Member question in relation to if the estimated cost to the economy of £56k per person of being NEET between the ages of 16 to 18 until retirement age and had the impact also been costed to the individual, officers advised they would research this and agreed to circulate details to Panel Members. It was noted there was some good work being carried out in Stevenage and the NEET rate had significantly reduced but not to the level in some other areas.
- 6.6 Members noted the percentage of 16- 18 year old CLA and care leavers who were NEET was one percent higher than last year and this equated to fifty nine young people, twenty nine of which had been NEET for six months
- 6.7 Members were informed that although YC Hertfordshire were going through a two year remodelling process and funding had been reduced, the service had been successful to date in securing external funding.

Action Andy Manson

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Conclusions:

6.8 The Cabinet Panel discussed and commented on the NEET figures within Hertfordshire and the work described in the Report.

7. CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (CAMHS) TRANSFORMATION UPDATE

[Officer Contact: Simon Pattison, Head of Integrated Health and Care Commissioning Team, Tel (01438) 845392, Elizabeth Biggs, Children, Young People and Maternity Programme Lead, Herts Valleys CCG (07825) 008623]

7.1 The Panel received a report which summarised the recent work across the county council with health partners in transforming mental health services for children and young people in Hertfordshire.

7.2 Members were given a presentation which gave an overview of CAMHS in Hertfordshire. It also gave an update on:

- The Thrive Model and the existing system
- New care Models
- Accessing NHS funded support
- Key Local Transformation Plan priorities
- Transforming CYP's mental health provision: a green paper

The presentation can be found [here](#).

7.3 Members were informed the county council had been selected by NHS England as one of only 25 areas to be a national trailblazer for the development of mental health support teams (MHST) in schools. Training for the teams would commence in January 2019. Officer agreed to circulate a list of other authorities who were also successful. Members noted that 21,699 children and young people could benefit from NHS funded mental health support.

*Action Simon
Pattison*

7.4 In relation to engaging with the children's voice Members were assured that CAMHS had a strong track record with including children in getting the right services for early intervention and prevention.

7.5 In response to a Member question if schools should be raising money to have counsellors in schools it was noted there was a range of support that schools should already have in place and if CAMHS could help it would. Members were invited to speak to officers outside the meeting if they required further information on

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support at individual schools.

- 7.6 In response to a Member question the panel were informed there were significant vacancies and CAMHS had difficulty in recruiting professionals such as psychologists and psychiatrists, it was noted it was a national challenge not just localised.
- 7.7 It was noted that although funding for the MHS teams was in place until March 2021, funding post 2021 had not yet been confirmed although the Green Paper ambition and NHS long term plan was to roll these team out across the country. It was noted that a reduction in CAMHS waiting times was a priority and the national ambition was that treatment would start within twenty eight days of a referral.

Conclusions:

- 7.8 The Cabinet Panel:
1. Noted and commented on the recent news that Hertfordshire had been selected by NHS England as one of only 25 areas to be a national trailblazer for the development of mental health support teams in schools.
 2. Noted the progress to date on the transformation of services to support children and young people with mental health issues.
 3. Noted the plans for further improvements over the remainder of the period of the Transformation Plan to 2020/21.
 4. Noted the alignment between the CAMHS and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) transformation programmes.
 5. Supported the additional NHS resource required to expand early intervention.

8. THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL HEAD

[Officer Contact: Felicity Evans, Virtual School Head
Tel: (01992) 555926]

- 8.1 The Panel received the annual report of the Hertfordshire Virtual School Head which sets out:
- The progress and attainment for children looked after and Care Leavers,
 - Progress against the county council's priorities for improvement and plans for future development.
 - The fact that educational standards for children have risen

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- at every key stage in 2018 and for Care Leavers post-16.
- The detail of the performance data for children looked after by Hertfordshire and Care Leavers in 2017-8 in Appendix 1
- Notes the extremely positive feedback on the work and impact of the Virtual School during the recent Ofsted ILAC Inspection.

The presentation on the Annual Report can be viewed [here](#).

- 8.2 Members were informed that some of the data contained in the report was provisional as the DofE do not release its data until March 2019.
- 8.3 Members agreed it was good to see the focus was on the child and not the school and the hard work had been reflected in the Annual Report.
- 8.4. The Panel were informed that in relation to SEN children, education advisors visited schools to scrutinise achievement to get the best support needed for the child.
- 8.5 In response to a Member question on how the council were supporting staff, it was noted there was a small government grant of £50k to help support the work of the Virtual School and extend the work to children who had previously been looked after e.g. children who had been adopted. Members were informed that it would not be know if it is a one off grant until the Government comprehensive spending review.
- 8.6 In relation to the delivery of the Bright Spots survey it was noted the Virtual School Head would work with schools around the outcomes of the survey. It was also noted that the OFSTED report was very positive about the Virtual School.

Conclusions:

- 8.7 The Cabinet Panel is noted and commented on:
- the summary of performance in 2018. (Appendix 1)
 - the impact of the redevelopment of the Virtual School as outlined in the recent Peer Review and Ofsted Inspection.

9. **HERTFORDSHIRE MULTI AGENCY SERIOUS VIOLENCE STRATEGY**

[Officer Contact: Kate Moore, Programme Manager Tel: (01438) 843150]

- 9.1 The Panel receive a report to seek Members views on the content of the Serious Violence Strategy which was produced in partnership with a multi-agency steering group. The presentation can be viewed [here](#).
- 9.2 Members heard that although knife crime had increased year on year in Hertfordshire the majority had not resulted in injury and was not considered to be gang related.
- 9.3 In relation to Stevenage and Watford a Member asked if hospitals shared information on the type of knife crime, in response officers informed Members that hospitals would not differentiate between self-harm or if it was an attack by someone else.
- 9.4 A Member referred to a video competition that was run by the Police and Schools in Stevenage, supported by local Councillors, to involve young people in making a film about serious violent crimes to enable young people to understand the potential outcomes of violent crime, he wondered if film making could be included in the action plan to address violent crime in Hertfordshire. He also suggested that Councillors could make a contribution from their locality budgets
- 9.5 Members were informed that prevention was a key element and funding from the Safeguarding Children’s Partnership and the Police and Crime Commissioner has resulted in a production company Alter-ego going into twenty two schools mid-February for two weeks to perform a production called ‘Breaking the Chain’ to help highlight the dangers of knife crime. A report would be presented to the Cabinet Panel in the Autumn.
- 9.6 In response to a Member query as if the wording in the strategy could be stronger. Members were informed the strategy was written by a steering group of six County Boards and the wording had been agreed by them.
- 9.7 In relation to how long the action plan would take to be finalised, Members were informed the action plan was not RAG rated as all actions were considered important. Agencies have already started to engage and safeguarding training has been completed and the six countywide boards have started to populate the delivery plan with specific actions in order to achieve the priority outcomes.

*Action Lindsay
Edwards / Jo
Fisher/ Gary
Ray /Tracy
Pemberton*

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Conclusions:

- 9.8
- 1 The Panel recommended to Cabinet that Cabinet agrees to adopt the Serious Violence Strategy, attached as Appendix A to the report for Hertfordshire and alongside Partners, implement the next steps including the priority outcomes detailed in the Serious Violence Delivery Plan.
 - 2 The Panel also noted the framework of priority action areas and note that over the coming weeks, the action plan will be populated with outcome measures and will be monitored and scrutinised via the Chairs of the Strategic Partnerships and the Children and Young Peoples' Families panel.

10. PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND LEARNING DISABILITY SERVICES FOR HERTFORDSHIRE

[Officer Contact: Anna Hall, Senior Commissioning Manager, Integrated Health and Care Commissioning Team
Tel: (01438) 843043]

- 10.1 *Note: A F Rowlands and L A Chesterman left the meeting prior to the consideration of this item.*
- 10.2 Members received a report outlining the council's intention to enter into a five year contract with Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (HPFT) for the provision of mental health services within the county.
- 10.3 Members expressed disappointment that the report had only been presented to the Panel two months prior to the current contract coming to an end, consequently providing no opportunity to consider other options that may be available. Some Members raised an overall concern that the contract had been rushed and had not been out for consultation.
- 10.4 The Executive Member stated she was pleased that children and young people with mental health issues were now recognised more within the contract.

PART II ('CLOSED') AGENDA EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

- 10.5 The Panel then decided to move into Part II ('closed' session')
- 10.6 *'That under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item/s of business on the grounds that it/they involve/s the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in*

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paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the said Act and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information’.

- 10.7 Following discussion on the Part II Report, the Panel moved back into Part I (open session) and discussed the recommendations
- 10.8 The Chairman invited Members to a vote on the agreement of the recommendations outlined for the provision of mental health services in Hertfordshire.
- 10.9 Following a vote by a show of hands six Members voted in favour of the recommendations as detailed in 10.9 below and three Members abstained.

Conclusions:

- 10.10 That the Children, Young People & Families Cabinet Panel recommended to Cabinet the following:

That Cabinet:

- (i) Agree that, subject as mentioned in (ii) below, the Council enter into a five year contract, with the option to extend for a further two years, with Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust from 1 April 2019, for the provision of a range of NHS and social care services for people with mental ill health and learning disabilities across Hertfordshire.
- (ii) The Director of Children’s Services in consultation with the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families, the Executive Member for Adult Care Services and the Director of Adult Care Services, be authorised to complete the negotiations and finalise the terms of the contract.

11. OTHER PART 1 BUSINESS

- 11.1 There was no other business

**KATHRYN PETTITT
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

CHAIRMAN _____

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