

At a meeting of the CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in COMMITTEE ROOM 1 of the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on TUESDAY 28th JUNE, 2016 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor P. Smith in the Chair

Councillors Beck, Bell, Francis, Jackson, O'Neil, Tye and Walker, G. with Ms. R. Elliott and Mr S. Williamson.

Also in attendance:-

Councillor N. Wright, Chairman Scrutiny Committee
Councillor L. Farthing, Lead Member
Councillor K. Waters, St Anne's Ward Member

Ms. Karen Brown, Scrutiny Officer
Mr. James Diamond, Scrutiny Officer
Mr David Gallagher, CCG
Mr Ian Holliday, Head of Reform and Joint Commissioning, CCG
Ms. Janette Sherratt, Joint Commissioning Manager, CCG
Ms. Jane Wheeler, Participation and Engagement Lead
Ms. Joanne Stewart, Principal Governance Services Officer

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Hunt and Stewart and also on behalf of Ms A. Blakey

Minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Shadow Committee on 28th April, 2016

In response to a query from Councillor Walker regarding the appointment of Co-opted Members to the Committee, Ms. Karen Brown advised that there was a statutory requirement to appoint co-opted members with particular roles to the committee and that no members were co-opted beyond those set out in legislation.

When asked further about representation from colleges in the city, she advised that once the work programme was created, members could be co-opted to support a particular piece of work the committee may want to undertake such as a policy review or to give information on a subject matter which is specialist to them.

Ms Elliott referred to page four of the minutes and commented that food parcels being given out at the YMCA were not all being donated to younger males as may have been suggested at the prior meeting.

Councillor Wright asked what was happening with regards to meeting with a group of social workers and was informed that prior to the meeting the Scrutiny Officer had met with Ms. Debra Patterson, Director of Children's Social Care, who had advised

that arrangements were in place to meet with a number of social workers two to three times a year, with the first meeting looking likely to be arranged for September and then further meetings following that.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the of the last ordinary meeting of the Shadow Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee held on 28th April, 2016 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as correct records.

Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)

Councillor Tye made an open declaration in Items 4 and 5 of the agenda as he was Chairman of a citywide youth project and volunteer service but stated that he could consider these items with an open mind and no predetermination.

Councillor Wright made an open declaration in Item 5 of the agenda given that she was a patron of Washington MIND.

Participation and Engagement – Progress Report

The Director of People's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which informed Members of the progress being made with regard to the participation and engagement of children and young people in Sunderland and to outline areas of development and emerging issues and to also consider the opportunities available for Members to be involved in participation and engagement of children and young people.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Jane Wheeler, Participation and Engagement Lead presented the report advising that the vision of the participation and engagement framework is that all children, young people and their families have the opportunity to actively participate in the decisions that affect their lives, in the delivery of the services they received and in the development of the policies that impact on them as part of everyday processes.

Councillor Smith commented that it could be very difficult to involve young people and to keep them engaged and that it was important to ensure they were included at the right level. She asked that Ms. Wheeler look to invite two young people who would be interested in coming along to the scrutiny committee in future to be involved in discussions. Ms. Wheeler advised that young people like to be involved and that they would tend to be more vocal if they were able to support each other and not in attendance on their own and agreed to have discussions with the Scrutiny Officer to arrange future attendance of young people.

Councillor Tye referred to the LGBT forum and felt that it was key to take into consideration elements of other young people in the city and asked if he could receive more feedback on them as it developed.

With regards to the Youth Parliament, Councillor Tye commented that he would like to see membership of such groups strengthened, as a lot of young people feel disengaged and he stressed that it was important to consult other groups for nominations than just schools to ensure that all young people were represented and not just those who may be academic and articulate.

Councillor Walker referred to paragraph 5.3 of the report and asked for clarification around the problems the MOMO tool had encountered, Ms. Wheeler advised that there had been initial issues around the fact that Wi-Fi was needed to access MOMO but that ICT had look to remedy this, smartphones could now access using 3G and 4G, and that this would be continued to be monitored so that as many people as possible could continue to access the service.

In response to a query from Mr Williamson, Ms. Wheeler confirmed that participation and engagement held a budget of approximately £8,500 for all of the activities excluding Change Council which Social Care had a statutory budget for. She advised that it was managed quite well without having to request further funding from the Council and that some schemes were paid activities such as the Sunderland Young Inspectors. Mr. Williamson referred to the Department for Education carrying a £6million budget to target mainly 5-16 year olds and commented that this may be a possibility to access further funding in the future if it was required and that there were always other schemes where further funding could be attracted from but it could be difficult to measure outcomes.

Councillor Francis commented that in future reports, it may be useful to have a glossary of acronyms as an appendix to the report and there were a lot of them used throughout the report. He also referred to paragraph 8.2 of the report and the reduction in financial support for the Young Achievers and was advised that at present, it was not determined as to whether the event would take place as they had no sponsor. Conversations were being held with Gentoo who could not promise to sponsor it and discussions were being had with Sunderland Live to see if they could look to take forward the event as it would be such a shame for it not to go ahead and would cost no more than £12,000. As the event benefited a number of young people from across the city they were looking to speak with a number of external partners to see if contributions could be made so that the event could continue to go ahead. Councillor Tye commented that as Director on the board of Gentoo he was happy to take up the issue with them directly and also suggested that it may be possible to charge a small fee for attendees to help cover future costs.

There being no further comments or questions for Ms Wheeler, the Chairman thanked her for her attendance and it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the progress being made in terms of participation and engagement and the opportunities available for Members to be involved in participation and engagement of children and young people in Sunderland be received and noted.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) – Implementation of Transformational Programme

The Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group submitted a report which provided a progress update on implementation of the CAMHS Transformational |Plan for 2015-202 and to introduce the needs based THRIVE model to the Committee.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman welcomed Ms. Janette Sherratt, Joint Commissioning Manager, Children, Mr. Ian Holliday, Head of Reform and Joint Commissioning and Mr. David Gallagher of the Sunderland CCG to the Committee.

Ms. Sherratt apologised that there was no representation from the provider at the Committee but advised that any questions herself and colleagues may not be able to answer could be taken back to them for a response. She then took Members through the report giving background and information on the progress made to date in the implementation of the Transformational Plan advising that the delivery was based upon the THRIVE model with delivery work streams being led by the most appropriate agency, supported by CAMHS.

Mr. Williamson opened discussions by commenting that the presenters may have misunderstood the purpose of the report being submitted as the previous Shadow Committee had requested a plan be presented to them so that Scrutiny could ascertain that CAMHS were able to deliver those services necessary as concerns were being raised over the delivery and effectiveness of them.

He went on to comment that Scrutiny had concerns that CAMHS needed to improve and therefore were expecting to see an improvement plan, identifying how improvements were to be measured, what the objectives of the service were and the broad aims linking in to the new THRIVE model. There were no key milestones outlined to show date specific achievements that could show that the services were on track and no numerical measures as to how they were being monitored and to give assurances that clear, specific outcomes were being used to absolutely ensure the delivery of the services was on target.

Ms. Sherratt advised that they had undertaken a detailed self-assessment and that had resulted in a high level plan which identified where gaps in the service provision may be. At the first meeting with Debra Patterson a working group would be established to break down into a more detailed plan to assess risk, outcomes, etc. At present they were only at the very start of the process and that this very high level plan was what had been required by NHS England and that timescales would be set out within each of the groups delivering work streams.

Throughout the whole process the outcomes from CAMHS were continually assessed to ensure service delivery was being met satisfactorily, through a number of goal based outcomes which were reported so that the level of need could be assessed and benchmarked against others. Performances were assessed where the results were indicating better than average such as through Peer Reviews, waiting times which were well below the national average, lower level specialist services and other national benchmarks that the services were doing quite well in.

Mr. Williamson went on to reiterate that for Scrutiny to have assurances that the transformation was to be delivered they needed to have key milestones and outcomes and a robust plan to be scrutinised and monitored. In response Ms. Sherratt explained that the key milestones they had been requested from NHS England were of a very high level and over a 5 year period. At present they were just at the position where groups and Chairman had been established and passed by NHS England and that more detailed plans would be introduced as these developed.

Mr. Gallagher went on to comment that as the commissioner for Sunderland they wanted the best service for the city. The current service and level of work in

progress needed a lot of work to improve and they had to take into account what they were asked to do nationally whilst looking at the needs of the locality and ensuring that both sets of needs were met. He explained that there were complexities and that they had to continue to meet national requirements but that it was more important that the local delivery requirements were met.

Ms. Sherratt advised that the self-assessment process had shown that there was a general level of good practices and that there was a lot already in place so that they were able to focus on very specific areas that needed attention.

Councillor Wright agreed with the comments made by Mr. Williamson and referred to a report on the findings of a review into intervention that had been undertaken whereby the findings and recommendations of the review had been subsumed under one heading whereby the CCG had been invited to comment and stated that improvements were taking place.

Mr. Holliday commented that he had not had sight of the report Councillor Wright referred to and that Ms. Sherratt had fairly presented what the plan for Sunderland was, with the recognition that areas could improve, with the provision of regular information to interrogate what is happening in series in the city to continue to monitor quality and performance outcomes.

With regards to concerns that's had been raised by Members in relation to waiting times he advised that the services were currently receiving twice as many referrals and that they were trying to understand the whole picture as to why there were so many children and young people being referred to services. He explained that in tier 3 of the service there were a number of young people, around 20%, who would not turn up to the first appointment and that it was about looking at delivering services in a way that they wanted to engage. Sometimes just referring a young person to CAMHS was not the solution and it required a more coordinated approach within partner agencies so that young people were not 'bounced' between different areas. They were looking to try to provide a more holistic approach to supporting young people where referral to psychiatry services may not be the correct approach.

In closing he did reiterate that they were still in the very early stages and it would need time to develop further and that it would only work if all services and agencies were joined together in providing services to young people.

Councillor Tye asked the CCG professionals if they thought that the CAMHS service was failing the children and young people of the city to which they responded no, they did not.

Mr. Williamson commented that he was furious that some things had obviously not been presented as previously requested and went on to ask how much public money CAMHS was costing and was advised that in total it was £4.75 million with £440,000 being the contribution from Sunderland City Council. Mr. Williamson commented that for that amount of financial input he would expect to see a more in depth plan providing the level of outcomes, etc. which had been requested.

Councillor Smith commented that there had obviously been some disparity between that which was asked of by the Shadow Committee and what had been presented and asked the Scrutiny Officer to have discussions with the CCG and providers to

ensure they had full clarity of what had been requested and that they be invited back to a future meeting of the Committee once all of the information could be provided.

There being no further comments or questions for the CCG representatives, the Chairman thanked them for their attendance and it was:-

3. RESOLVED that report be received and noted and a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

Notice of Key Decisions

The Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements submitted a report (copy circulated) providing Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions for the 28 day period from the 21st June, 2016.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

4. RESOLVED that the Notices of Key Decisions be received and noted.

Annual Work Programme 2015/16

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) attaching for Members' information, the work programme for the Committee's work being undertaken for the 2016/17 council year.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Members asked that the following topics be added to the work programme at the most relevant points in the municipal year:-

- Youth Services and the plans / strategies regarding internal/external/national provision in relation to the lack or reduction in funding for provision; and
- SEN / Autistic Language Provision and the ability to continue to support the three units offering provision in the city under the new arrangements.

5. RESOLVED that the information contained in the work programme be received and noted and the two areas identified be added to the Work Programme for 2016/17.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked Members and Officers for their attendance and contributions to the meeting.

(Signed) P. SMITH,
Chairman.