

**At a meeting of the SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE
SUNDERLAND on THURSDAY, 10th SEPTEMBER, 2015 at 5.30 p.m.**

Present:-

Councillor N. Wright in the Chair

Councillors Davison, D. Dixon, Fletcher, Howe, Scanlan, David Snowden, Dianne Snowden and Mr. Steve Williamson.

Also in attendance:-

Councillor Gofton, Portfolio Holder for Responsive Services and Customer Care

Councillor Mordey, Portfolio Holder for City Services

Councillor P. Smith, Portfolio Holder for Children's Services

Councillor Margaret Beck

Councillor Doris MacKnight

Councillor Karen Waters

Ms. Karen Brown, Scrutiny Officer, Sunderland City Council

Ms. Simone Common, Acting Head of Community and Family Wellbeing, Sunderland City Council

Mr. Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer, Sunderland City Council

Mr. James Diamond, Scrutiny Officer, Sunderland City Council

Mr. Richard Elliott, Development Coordinator, Sunderland City Council

Mr. David Gallagher, Chief Officer of Sunderland CCG

Ms Gillian Gibson, Consultant in Public Health, Sunderland City Council

Ms. Rhiannon Hood, Assistant Head of Law and Governance, Sunderland City Council

Ms. Karen Lounton Bereavement and Registration Services Manager, Sunderland City Council

Ms. Tracey Newcomb, Associate Director, Children's Services, Sunderland City Council

Mr. Neil Revely, Executive Director of People Services, Sunderland City Council

Ms. Carol Rutherford, Washington Mind

Ms. Beverley Scanlon, Head of Educational Attainment and Lifelong Learning, Sunderland City Council

Ms. Janette Sherratt, NHS Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group

Mrs Christine Tilley, Community Governance Services Team Leader, Sunderland City Council

Ms. Michelle Turnbull, NHS Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group

Mr. Colin Wilson, Washington Mind

Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked them to introduce themselves.

The Chairman advised that it was 'World Suicide Prevention Day' that day and that she had been provided with a few 'Happiness Boxes' from Washington Mind if anyone wished to take one or pass on to someone who may need a little help to get in touch with some positive feelings.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Ms. A. Blakey.

Minutes of the last Meeting of the Committee held on 16th July, 2015

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 16th July, 2015 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)

Item 6 – Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

Councillor N. Wright made an open declaration as patron of Washington Mind.
Councillor Dianne Snowdon made an open declaration as a Trustee of Washington Mind.

Scrutiny Policy Reviews 2014/15: Response from Cabinet – 22nd July, 2015

The Assistant Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide feedback from the Cabinet meeting held on 22nd July, 2015, regarding four of the scrutiny policy reviews undertaken by scrutiny in 2014/15.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Members of the Cabinet had been invited to attend for this item of business to provide feedback on Cabinet's consideration of the policy reviews undertaken by the Scrutiny Panels and how it intended to deliver the recommendations of each Panel as follows:-

Scrutiny Panel	Policy Review	Portfolio Holder
City Services	Cemetery Regulations and the Introduction of the Medical Examiner	Cllr. Michael Mordey (City Services)
Children's Services	Child Poverty	Cllr. Pat Smith (Children's Services)
Skills Economy and Regeneration	Future Proofing Skills	Cllr. Pat Smith (Children's Services)
Responsive Services and Customer Care	Welfare Reform and the Operation of Food Banks in Sunderland	Cllr. Cecilia Gofton (Responsive Services and Customer Care)

During this item the Vice Chairman took the Chair for a short period.

Councillor Mordey supported by Ms. Karen Lounton (Bereavement and Registration Services Manager) briefed the Committee on the Cabinet's consideration of the City Services Scrutiny Panel's reviews of 'Cemetery Regulations' and 'The Introduction of the Medical Examiner'. He advised that the Panel's recommendations had been endorsed in their entirety by Cabinet for both reviews. An Action plan to implement

the recommendations had been developed for the reviews and these were attached as appendices 1(a) and 1(b) to the report.

Ms. Lounton confirmed that a review of the Cemetery Regulations would be carried out and a policy formulated relating to authorised and unauthorised kerb-sets in the city's cemeteries taking into account the sensitivity of the issue. Ms. Lounton confirmed in response to Councillor Davison that the regulations around unpurchased graves and the erection of memorial headstones would be considered when the review was undertaken.

Councillor P. Smith supported by Ms. Simone Common, Acting Head of Community and Family Wellbeing briefed the Committee on the Cabinet's consideration of the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel's review of 'Tackling Child and Family Poverty'.

Ms. Common welcomed the recommendations in steering the work that was being done to reduce child and family poverty.

In response to Councillor Dianne Snowdon's enquiry as to how the scheme which operated during the summer holidays to tackle holiday hunger had gone, Councillor Smith advised that 362 families across the city had taken up vouchers from the scheme. Work was being done to break down the information into wards to provide a greater understanding.

In response to Councillor Davison's comment that the figures were not high in relation to the fact that there were 7,800 children eligible for Free School Meals, Councillor Smith advised that this was a first attempt and the project would be reviewed to see how it could be improved for the future if this project was chosen as an option to tackle child poverty for future years.

Councillor P. Smith supported by Ms. Beverley Scanlon, Head of Educational Attainment and Lifelong Learning briefed the Committee on the Cabinet's consideration of the Skills, Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel's review of 'Future Proofing of Skills'. She advised that the Panel's recommendations had been endorsed in their entirety by Cabinet and thanked the Panel for the work done on the review which would be taken forward.

Councillor Gofton supported by Mr. Richard Elliott, Development Coordinator briefed the Committee on the Cabinet's consideration of the Responsive Services and Customer Care Scrutiny Panel's policy review on 'Welfare Reform'.

Mr. Elliott advised the Committee of further planned changes which the Government had recently confirmed and would result in further Welfare reform.

Councillor David Snowdon expressed concern that some residents did not have the necessary skills to prevent the application of sanctions and that he would like to see more work to assist claimants ensure they followed the correct procedures.

In response to Councillor Snowdon in respect of the above and also to Councillor Davison, who asked whether the Council would continue to provide information advice and guidance to residents, Mr. Elliott confirmed that the Council would continue to work with partners to provide information and improve the clarity of the information provided to residents, including that available on the Council website and other materials, particularly to prevent the unnecessary application of sanctions.

Councillor Gofton supported by Mr. Richard Elliott, Development Coordinator briefed the Committee on the Cabinet's consideration of the Responsive Services and Customer Care Scrutiny Panel's policy review on the 'Operation of Food Banks'.

In response to Mr. Williamson who asked about the possibility of schools becoming involved, Councillor Gofton advised that Customer Services Centres, Children's Centres etc. had been used due to their ease of access and extended opening hours. However people could help by volunteering their time in the process by helping to give out the food parcels at the Food Banks.

The Chairman having thanked Councillors Mordey, P. Smith and Gofton for their presentations on the reviews and having paid tribute to Councillor Smith and her Team for the massive amount of work they had contributed to reducing child poverty issues and to the work the Council was doing to support people in the City who were affected by Welfare Reform, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the proposed actions detailed within the Action Plans appended to the report at appendices 1 to 5 be noted;
- (ii) the action plans be referred to the relevant Scrutiny Panels for further consideration;
- (iii) updates on progress in delivering the actions detailed within the Action Plans be brought back to a future meeting of the Scrutiny Committee; and
- (iv) details of the take up under the holiday hunger scheme as detailed above be circulated to all Members of the Scrutiny Committee for information.

CQC Inspections of General Practices in Sunderland

The Chief Officer of Sunderland CCG submitted a report (copy circulated) updating the Committee on recent Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspections on a number of general practices (GP) in Sunderland.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. David Gallagher, Chief Officer CCG, briefed the Committee advising that nine practices had been inspected in April 2015 and not eight as stated in the report. Five had been graded as good in addition to those detailed in the report, which were South Hylton Surgery and Conishead Medical Group. With regards to those practices graded as 'inadequate', Mr. Gallagher advised that they were still considered to be safe and the CCG was working with them to improve them up to the 'good' grade. Action plans would be drawn up for the practices to follow and progress.

In response to Members' questions, Mr. Gallagher advised that CQC inspections were picked at random and the ultimate sanction the CQC had was to withdraw the practices' registration. If the CCG became aware of any issues regarding practices outside of the CQC inspection regime, it would take action to ensure they were operating in a safe and secure manner. It was a requirement to inform the patients

of a practice of the grade it had received following an inspection. Mr. Gallagher advised that there was not a Doctor to patient ratio which must be followed as it was not as simple as that, however it was being looked. There was however some national benchmarking which could be taken into consideration.

Members expressed concern that at one of the practices graded as 'inadequate', Hylton Medical Group, the Doctor was working as a single handed practitioner following the departure of another Doctor in April 2014 and that this also had a sister practice in Ryhope.

Mr. Gallagher reported that because of the grading the Hylton Medical Group had received, the sister practice would be looked at also.

The Chairman commented that the report had enlarged Members' understanding of what was happening as well as raising some concerns and it was essential that practices were held to account.

Full consideration having been given to the report it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the outcome of the CQC inspections undertaken in April 2015 be noted and that the reports on the practices graded as 'inadequate' be submitted to Members of the Scrutiny Committee for information when they are publically available, together with the development of the GP Strategy in order for the Committee to exercise its influencing role;
- (ii) a report on the situation with the sister practice to the Hylton Medical Group be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee for information; and
- (iii) a report be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee following a further eight CQC inspections of general practices in Sunderland which are scheduled in September 2015.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

The Chief Officer of Sunderland CCG submitted a report (copy circulated) to inform Members of the current position relating to services to support child and adolescent mental health and to provide an outline self-assessment of readiness to meet the requirements laid out in 'The Future in Mind' documents published by the Department of Health (DoH) and National Health Service (NHS) England in 2015.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor D. Dixon commented that Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services was a service the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel had identified that it wanted to look at and might take forward for further consideration depending on the discussion that evening.

Mr. David Gallagher, Chief Officer CCG, advised the Committee that the CCG was the commissioner of the service and proceeded to introduce Ms. Janette Sherratt, NHS Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group who briefed Members on the detail of the report.

Ms. Sherratt advised that working in partnership with Sunderland City Council, Sunderland CCG commission Northumberland Tyne and Wear (NTW) Mental Health Foundation Trust to provide specialist services to support children, young people and their families with severe and complex mental health needs (2% of the population). She highlighted that the Children and Young People Service (CYPS) had developed their model of care to improve access and waiting times to meet the increasing demands of referrals and as a result by March 2016, the maximum wait from referral to treatment would be 12 weeks for 95% of children and young people. This compared favourably with the 18 week national target that was currently being proposed for CAMH services to ensure mental health waiting time standards mirror physical health waiting time standards.

Ms. Sherratt referred to South Tyneside Foundation Trust (STFT) Community Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CCAMHS) which Sunderland CCG commission to provide services for children, young people and their families with moderate levels of mental health needs (7% of the population). She highlighted the broad range of services that have responsibility for mental health promotion for all children, young people and their families as set out in paragraph 3.6.1 of the report and the areas for development stating that they were looking to strengthen the CCAMHS partnerships in terms of Member involvement and how the service worked with schools.

The Chairman stated that there was a lot of confusion between CAMHS and CYPS and Members were picking up a lot of concern in this respect, although she acknowledged that a lot of good work was also being carried out.

Mr. Gallagher, Chief Officer CCG assured the Committee that the Sunderland CCG as commissioners would be taking responsibility for ensuring that action plans were in place and were being carried out.

Ms. Michelle Turnbull, NHS Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group stated that the confusion between CYPS and CAMHS was understandable and the CCG was seeking assurances that referrals did not sit on waiting lists if they went to the wrong place and that they were passed to the relevant body as soon as possible.

In response to the Chairman, Ms. Sherratt advised that waiting times for CAMHS was 8-10 weeks and with regards to CYPS for 30% it was under 6 weeks, 32% was 6-9 weeks and 13% had a longer wait than 18 weeks. Work was being done with the voluntary sector to reduce waiting times and make a significant improvement. She added that there had been a 50% increase in referrals and against this scenario waiting times were being maintained.

In response to Councillor Davison, Ms. Sherratt clarified at paragraph 4.2.1 of the report where it referred to 'significant' that 40% of schools across the city were resourced to provide therapeutic spaces and had identified mental health leads with significant training.

Members of the Committee gave consideration to paragraph 3.4.2 of the report which detailed the services NTW CYPS had been commissioned to provide. Mr. Steve Williamson commented that he felt that there was a lack of understanding of mental health issues and how it related to Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). He felt that there needed to be some work done in educating lead professionals as to

what mental health is and clarity over ASD and mental health as there had been a rise in both referrals.

Ms. Carol Rutherford, Washington Mind, enquired whether the Self-Assessment Framework would involve parents or anyone who had used the service. Ms. Rutherford welcomed the involvement of schools as long as they had the relevant training and she stated that it was important to promote self-awareness for children with autism and promote understanding as they as a group were bridging the gap.

In response, Ms. Sherratt confirmed that Washington Mind would be included in the Self-Assessment Framework. With regards to self-awareness, she advised that the CAMHS Partnership was keen to promote mindfulness as it lent itself especially well to supporting mental health and they were looking to develop the impact of this evidence based intervention.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Sherratt and Ms. Turner for their contributions and for the work they were doing.

Mr. Gallagher, Chief Officer CCG thanked the Scrutiny Committee for the good ideas that had been brought out during the discussion, and it was:-

6. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the contents of the report and the information brought out during the discussion be noted;
- (ii) the following be included in the services NTW CYPS has been commissioned to provide as set out in paragraph 3.4.2 of the report:-
 - Assylum Seekers and Refugees;
 - Children at risk of sexual exploitation;
 - Children at risk of exclusion from school whether on a temporary or permanent basis;
 - Those who are self-harming; and;
- (iii) With regards to Universal and Targeted Services Tier 1, the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel be commissioned to take forward the work being done to clarify the relationship between Schools, GP Practices and the CAMHS service in particular around co referrals and how to place Mental Health Officers in schools.

Improvement Update

The Executive Director of People Services submitted a report (copy circulated) providing an overview of improvement activity over the last three months following the Ofsted Inspection.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Neil Revely, Executive Director of People Services and Ms. Tracey Newcomb, Associate Director, Children's Services provided a detailed presentation to the Scrutiny Committee on the findings of the Ofsted inspection of Children's Safeguarding Services and the improvement activity which had been undertaken since in respect of the operation of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH),

Child Protection Processes, Recording and Performance Management and Looked After Children and Care Leavers.

The Chairman commented that she was aware that a massive amount of work had been going on in the Directorate to make improvements to Children's Safeguarding Services and that she and the Vice Chairman had also been working closely with the Directorate and the Improvement Board.

In response to Members' questions, Mr. Neil Revely, Executive Director of People Services advised that a large number of the additional Social Workers were Agency staff as Social workers were in short supply and it would not have been possible to recruit staff otherwise in such a short period of time. The aim was not to have any Agency Social workers; the long term plan being to recruit staff to these posts on a permanent basis so it was sustainable. Sustainability would be determined by getting things right. There was a huge question mark over the sustainability of all sorts of services currently provided by the Local Authority. However, Children and Adults safeguarding was a high priority for the Local Authority. He reported that there was a need to coordinate investment better and shift the resource to the front end onto early health services to prevent people coming into the system. Mr. Revely stated that he expected the number of Looked After Children to decrease. The reason there had been an increase in the number of Looked After Children was that the investment which needed to be made in early prevention services and integration with health services and schools had not been made. Investment needed to be moved from the acute end of services to preventative services. Mr. Revely advised that there were close to 200 staff in Children's Services at present. He was expecting the numbers of staff to reduce appropriately whilst maintaining the level of caseloads for which they were responsible for. Ms. Newcomb would be doing some work in terms of appropriate numbers of staff, the structure and as to whether additional resources were required.

The Chairman commented that she was encouraged by what was happening and that there were some very good people now in place. She reminded the Committee that safeguarding was the responsibility of all partners and Councillors on an individual basis. Having thanked Mr. Revely and Ms. Newcomb for their attendance, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the contents of the report and presentation be noted; and
- (ii) further updates regarding Safeguarding Performance data be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee at the appropriate time.

Notice of Key Decisions

The Assistant Chief Executive 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 25th August, 2015.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer advised that as item 041114/05 'To Respond to Consultation from Gentoo regarding a review of governance arrangements' would be included on Part II of the Cabinet agenda that the Chairman would be meeting

with the Executive Director of People Services to sign off the report on behalf of the Scrutiny Committee.

6. RESOLVED that the Notice of Key Decisions be received and noted.

Annual Work Programme 2015-16

The Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Annual Scrutiny Work Programme for 2015-16 for the Committee's information.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

7. RESOLVED that the information contained in the work programme be received and noted.

Lead Scrutiny Member Update: September 2015

The Lead Scrutiny Members submitted a joint report (copy circulated), which provided an overview to the Scrutiny Committee of the work of each of the six Lead Scrutiny Members and supporting Panels to date.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

8. RESOLVED that:-
- (a) the update of the Lead Scrutiny Members be received and noted;
 - (b) the current expenditure and remaining scrutiny budget for 2015/16 be noted; and
 - (c) the Scrutiny Debate evaluation feedback from delegates be received and noted.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions and closed the meeting.

(Signed) N. WRIGHT,
Chairman.