

AT A MEETING of the Children and Young People Select Committee of
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held virtually on Wednesday, 11th November,
2020

Chairman:

* Councillor Kirsty North

Vice- Chairman:

* Councillor Ray Bolton

* Councillor Jackie Branson

* Councillor Ann Briggs

* Councillor Zilliah Brooks

* Councillor Fran Carpenter

* Councillor Peter Edgar MBE

* Councillor Pal Hayre

* Councillor Wayne Irish

* Councillor Gavin James

* Councillor Neville Penman

* Councillor Robert Taylor

* Councillor Bill Withers Lt Col (Retd)

* Councillor Jackie Porter

* Councillor Michael Westbrook

* Councillor Malcolm Wade

*Present

Co-opted Members:

* Ian Brewerton, Secondary School Parent Governor Representative

* Gareth Davies, Primary School Parent Governor Representative

* Robert Sanders, Church of England Schools Representative

* Kate Watson, Special School Parent Governor Representative

VACANT Roman Catholic Schools Representative

Also present with the agreement of the Chairman:

Councillor Patricia Stallard, Executive Lead Member for Children's Services and Young People

Councillor Roz Chadd, Executive Member for Education and Skills

148. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies received.

149. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3, Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a

Personal interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 5 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

No declarations were made at this point in the meeting.

150. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2020 were agreed by the Committee as a correct record of the meeting.

151. DEPUTATIONS

The Committee did not receive any deputations.

152. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman drew Members attention to the two minute silence for Armistice Day which would be observed during the Committee meeting at 11am.

The Chairman also highlighted that at the September Select Committee, Members agreed an additional recommendation in relation to Autism Assessment Services. Members will have received by email a copy of the letter sent to the Chief Executive of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight CCG Partnership requesting due consideration to a preventative model of funding for Autism Assessments.

153. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SHORT BREAK ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME AND CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Representatives of Children's Services provided a report and supporting presentation regarding outcomes from the consultation and recommendations on proposed changes to the Short Break Activities Programme, due for consideration by the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services and Young People at her 11 November 2020 Decision Day. (see Item 6 in the Minute Book). The Children and Young People Select Committee was invited to scrutinise the proposals prior to the Executive Lead Member's decision, and provide recommendations to the Executive Member about the proposals.

Members of the Committee were taken through the presentation slides which outlined key areas of the report, and the financial context of the proposals was explained, with a savings target of £696,000 for the Short Breaks Activities Programme. The context to the Service was highlighted as set out on page 4 of the presentation slides, and it was noted that specialist services provided for children with assessed social care needs were not included in the consultation. It was heard that there were currently 2,500 Gateway Card holders in Hampshire, of whom 550 attended a short break activity in 2019/20, and

attendance was variable as detailed on the graph on page 5 of the presentation slides.

The consultation commenced on the 9 March and the engagement undertaken was detailed on page 6 of the presentation slides. In response to the Covid pandemic and the national lockdown, the engagement approach had to be flexed and this was explored through a variety of means which included virtual sessions, offers of telephone sessions and support to complete response forms. The consultation period was also extended by a further 6 weeks to a total of 18 weeks in response to the pandemic.

Each of the proposals were explained in more detail and set out on pages 10-18 of the presentation slides. It was explained that most of the savings would be achieved from proposal one which would reduce the overall grant, but to continue to commission short break activities according to priorities agreed with parents. The reasoning around this was explained and it was heard that in the current round, more places were purchased than anticipated, most providers rarely have a waiting list and there was, in some areas, a surplus of places. This was the least popular proposal with consultation respondents, but the opportunity to achieve savings within the budget was limited and this proposal was recommended for implementation.

The details around proposals two and three were explained to Members and in relation to proposal three, it was heard that this was not recommended for implementation because of the impact of the Covid pandemic, and within the grant round, a minimum match-funding level would not be imposed. Details around proposal four were explained, which would reduce the grant awarded to Hampshire Parent Carer Network (HPCN). It was highlighted that in reflection of the work HPCN undertake for the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's), the CCG's have committed to contribute to HPCN's grant so therefore there would be no net reduction in funding for 2021/22.

Proposals five and seven were not recommended for implementation, and it was explained that in relation to proposal seven, social care teams would periodically review instances of high uptake to ensure the support that families were receiving was appropriate. Officers detailed proposals six and eight which were recommended for implementation. It was heard that the two-tier Gateway Card scheme was partly in response to parents using the card to obtain concessions, but would also enable targeted provision for those who do intend to attend short break activities. This was a popular proposal for consultation respondents. The redesign of the community buddy scheme for proposal eight was explained and it was heard that this was a popular scheme where demand outstrips the supply. Details of the elements of this proposal were highlighted which included; one single organisation to recruit and coordinate, different types of buddy offer, increasing parental contributions to hourly rate and mileage, and the cessation of the scheme to 18 and 19 year olds and those not living in Hampshire. The consultation responses to each of these elements was detailed on page 17 of the presentation slides.

In response to questions, Members heard:

- The government has defined short breaks as an open access scheme for children with disabilities, and as such the Gateway Card would not be means tested and anyone could apply if they can produce the required evidence to meet the criteria.
- That the exception fund is advertised with all the children's services grants and all providers are made aware of this fund through that means. The fund is targeted to providers and not parents.
- That activities are commissioned by way of a grant to providers rather than a contract, and as such it is difficult to predict in advance how providers will deliver using this money. It was heard that in the last grant round, providers were able to make the money go further than expected and more places were available than needed.
- That families of disabled children tend to network with each other, and this is increasingly undertaken online. It was noted that the 'Local Offer' is online and is well used and understood.
- The Gateway Card IT system has enabled a clearer understanding of who is accessing activities, as well as from what area, and one of the priorities around the 'SEND Local Offer' was to improve the use of social media to help access people who may not have engaged with the scheme in the past.
- That the mileage allowance was in relation to the buddy scheme, and was to enable the buddy to travel to the young person they are supporting.
- That through consultation engagement, some parents felt there wasn't provision for their children with autism who didn't have moderate learning disabilities, this view was also endorsed by the national autistic society (South Hampshire branch). Liaison would take place with HPCN to agree priorities as informed by the consultation feedback. If confirmed, this would then be included as a specific element of the next grant round.
- That there was currently a surplus of short break activity places in Hampshire, and page 24 of the report pack detailed the spend of Hampshire compared to other local authorities in relation to respite for Children with Disabilities spend.
- That due to Covid, currently there was no demand for overnight respite care because of the risk, and there was uncertainty as to demand for this in the future as Covid has been seen to have had an impact on family dynamics, and families may wish for respite to be delivered in different ways.
- That the proposal to implement the two tier Gateway Card, would enable targeted effort to build the offer and look at ways to work with partners. It was heard that many families value the Gateway Card as evidence of entitlement and proof of eligibility.
- That in relation to attracting more buddies to the buddy scheme, a variety of means would be implemented as well as working with providers and organisations and looking to have joined-up working with in-house volunteer service to expand availability.

A two minute silence was observed for Armistice Day at this point in proceedings.

- That within the last 24 hours, Government funding for vulnerable families to support with food and holiday activities in Hampshire was confirmed as £2.898 million, which would run from the 1 December 2020 until the 1 March 2021. Officers would ensure that this scheme would compliment existing schemes, and whilst this was in the infancy of planning, it was envisaged that this would be taken forward using voluntary sector contacts and groups.

The Chairman invited the Executive Lead Member to comment, and she confirmed that she had not received any emails or deputations in relation to the proposed changes, and at her last informal meeting with HPCN, they were understanding of the financial situation of the Council.

Each of the recommendations to the Executive Lead Member was voted on individually (it was confirmed that co-opted members were not eligible to vote on this item), and the Committee unanimously supported all the recommendations to the Executive Lead Member in the decision report.

RESOLVED:

That the Children and Young People Select Committee considered and unanimously supported the recommendations being proposed to the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services and Young People in the attached Decision Report.

154. **ANNUAL SAFEGUARDING REPORT - CHILDREN'S SERVICES 2019-20**

The Committee received the Annual Safeguarding Report – Children's Services 2019/20 (Item 7 in the Minute Book) for pre-scrutiny before being presented to Cabinet on the 24 November, from representatives of the Director of Children's Services. A presentation also accompanied the report.

The item was introduced, and it was explained that the annual report sought to provide assurance of safeguarding activity to Members and the response to this in Hampshire. The presentation highlighted key aspects of the report which included the recent Ofsted judged 'Outstanding' inspection of Children's Services, with safeguarding being a key aspect of the inspection. It was heard that Children's Services continue to improve and develop services, and its response to safeguarding issues for vulnerable children. Key developments included the response to Covid-19, and the three phased approach to this was set out on page 6 of the presentation slides.

The issue of child exploitation was explained and the many elements which encompassed this. Members attention was drawn to 'County lines', and it was heard that there had been an increase in this activity in Hampshire, as well as nationally, and a specialist social work team and specialist police team continued to work hard to disrupt this activity and to safeguard children, but this remained an area of significant concern. The national and local issue of missing children was also highlighted, and Members noted that the numbers of children going missing has reduced and positive progress has been seen in this area. In

relation to Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC), it was explained that Hampshire has been a supporter of the National Transfer Scheme and this was detailed further, as well as the Home Office national consultation of the future of the scheme, and Hampshire's response to this.

Members heard further about performance and activity levels, and page 11 of the presentation slides showed the yearly numbers of social work assessments, with the timeliness of these being undertaken and completed at 92%. This was above the regional average level and compared strong nationally. It was heard that whilst the number of children on child protection plans had reduced annually, these numbers as well as the numbers of children coming in care had started to increase since April as a result of Covid-19 lockdown, which reflected the extra pressure and vulnerabilities experienced by families. Officers were confident that this should reduce going forward with strong social work and multi-agency practices. Page 12 of the presentation slides highlighted the Quality Assurance Framework, and the work to ensure quality standards were maintained was noted.

Local developments around recruitment and sector led improvement were presented, and in relation to the recruitment of social workers it was heard that the Hampshire vacancy rates were currently 13% compared to the national figure of 20%. The support given to newly recruited social workers in Hampshire was also explained. Members also noted the work of Hampshire's Children's Services as a 'Partner in Practice'. Page 15 of the presentation slides explained further the Transformation programme for children's social care, which aimed to keep more children at home where safe and appropriate to do so. The number of elements of change that had been created were highlighted, as well as the movement into Phase 2 of the programme with a focus on continuous improvement to support families. Another local programme was the 'Modernising Placements' programme, and the objectives to the programme were explained and set out on page 17 of the presentation slides. In concluding the presentation, the challenges facing Hampshire Children's Services were set out and it was heard that these would continue to be a key area of focus over the coming years.

In response to questions, Members heard:

- That currently no under-16 year olds were in un-regulated placements in Hampshire, but legislation does allow for this, and any cases of under-16 un-regulated placements in Hampshire would have to be approved by the Assistant Director and by exception. Whilst not regulated by Ofsted, these placements would be subject to regulation by Hampshire Children's Services. Un-regulated provision for post-16 children could include supported lodgings and hostel type accommodation, and there was a quality assured framework around these.
- That wherever the first footfall of an UASC was, it was the legal responsibility of that relevant local authority to care for that child, and they would become a looked after child of that Authority. Social workers would work closely with border forces and other professionals to also best determine the age of the child.

- That care, cultural and educational needs of UASC's would be undertaken and supported, and extra tuition in English if needed.
- That in relation to a Member question about the Council's Corporate Parenting Board, it was heard that the Board had a quality assurance function to hold officers and partners to account, and to task officers to respond to feedback from children and young people.
- That Hampshire Children's Services engage with other local authorities and the police in relation to missing vulnerable children from the Hampshire area, and it was noted that most children were identified quickly and back safely within a few hours.

Members thanked Officers for all the hard work undertaken and for compiling the very thorough report.

RESOLVED:

That the Children and Young People Select Committee noted and supported the recommendations being proposed to Cabinet in the attached report.

155. CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (CAMHS) UPDATE

The Committee received an update on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) (Item 8 in the Minute Book) from representatives of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Partnership of CCG's. This followed a previous update to the Committee on 20 November 2019.

The presentation was introduced and it was heard that there were some significant challenges facing the Hampshire CAMHS Service, which were set out on page 2 of the presentation slides. These included a current waiting list of 1,387 children awaiting assessment, 1,480 awaiting treatment, with 4,174 currently on the treatment caseload. In terms of current activity, it was highlighted that September saw high level of referrals which was attributed to return to school after the Covid lockdown.

Page 3 of the presentation slides detailed an overview of the services commissioned in Hampshire which included specialist CAMHS services, mental health support teams in some Havant and Gosport schools and community counselling services. Pages 4-7 of the presentation slides, highlighted a breakdown of monthly figures over the last year for assessment waiting lists/times and treatment waiting list/times, and it was acknowledged that these figures were too long and not where the service would want to be. The current key challenges were outlined and Members heard that there was rising levels of mental health issues in children and young people, and investment has not kept pace with the rising demand. Issues such as Covid and the ensuing lockdown has affected individuals and families, and as a result of lockdown and school closures, there has been less oversight of risk for partner agencies such as schools.

Members heard details of the core CAMHS capacity investment, and it was heard that a detailed piece of work was undertaken last year which identified problems with levels of investment in the service, and progress has since been made with an increase of £1.3 million in core CAMHS capacity, but the increased demand for services has presented challenges. Page 10 of the presentation slides drew attention to CAMHS crisis investment and it was noted that significant investment has been made in relation to the expansion of the community crisis home treatment team, and also investment has been confirmed for Paediatric/Psychiatric liaison across hospitals in Hampshire, details of which were listed on the presentation slide.

Details around eating disorder services for children and young people in Hampshire were also highlighted, and the challenges presenting for these services as a result of Covid lockdown were explained and it was heard that there had been a significant increase in referrals and inpatient care requirements. In relation to autism and neurodiversity investment, it was confirmed that additional funding had recently been agreed to address autism assessment activity and the development of the wider neurodiversity and neurodevelopment pathway which should help tackle in full the current waiting lists over the next two and a half years.

Page 13 of the presentation slides explained the learning from Covid and details around public behaviour, digital clinical assessments and interventions, CAMHS capacity and crisis pathway capacity were highlighted to the Committee. In relation to Covid, preparations for restoration and recovery were explained and the surge in demand for mental health services as well as likely causes of psychological distress was noted. Digital and self-help resources for children and young people and their families was also highlighted.

Pages 16-19 of the presentation slides gave further information on how the different work streams were progressing with key steps and timescales and key risks to delivery. In conclusion, Members received an overview of investments confirmed for services including CAMHS crisis investment and eating disorders, and these were detailed at page 21 of the presentation slides.

In response to questions, Members heard:

- That in relation to current mental health needs and those post-Covid, the needs of the population would need to be examined to determine where best to invest, and to ensure that investment was based to match the needs of the population.
- That work recently commenced by the CCG's was based on population modelling, particularly in relation to children and young people, and work with provider colleagues to examine services in enabling a proper strategic investment framework would ensure investments target need going forward.
- That Havant and Gosport areas received ring-fenced Government funding as priority areas for early intervention and prevention in schools via a programme called Mental Health Support Teams in Schools (MHSTs). It was heard that two teams had been recruited in those areas but would not be fully live until January, and would support specific schools in Havant

and Gosport rather than all schools. Details of the schools to be supported would be forwarded to the Committee.

- That in terms of investment and staffing numbers, discussions with services on how to address this have been taking place. This has involved conversations with neighbouring CAMHS services in a bid to grow the workforce, and attract people back from other areas who have the relevant skills sets.
- That in terms of confirmed new funding, this would be recurring. Commissioners are not expecting to have much of the newly funded services in place until the final quarter of the year. It was heard that discussions were also taking place with adult psychiatric liaison services to develop an all age response, to be clinically led, and to quickly establish the support needed.
- That if the prevention offer is right, there shouldn't be a need for long-term high level investment in terms of mental health crisis, and a flexible workforce would be able to respond to different levels of need. It was noted that providers in the community sector were predicting a growth in workforce by about 10-12%, which would help in terms of preventative measures.
- That in terms of waiting times for assessment and treatment, there are active arrangements in place to ensure the safety of those awaiting treatment. The development work of Tier 2 (community non specialist) services in communities was also highlighted.
- That there has been work with Children's Services in relation to a wider nationally funded preventative mental health intervention for schools called the 'Link programme', and supporting emotional wellbeing at school. CCG Commissioners are supporting the roll out of this programme across Hampshire.
- That there has been much research nationally as to why children's mental health levels are increasing, and there has been a focus nationally on early intervention and preventative factors. Commissioners are applying this learning to the development of local services.

That in response to a comment from Councillor Porter about a further update to the Committee, the Chairman suggested that this was discussed during the work programme item, and Councillor Porter was content with this.

RESOLVED:

That the Children and Young People Select Committee noted the update provided in the presentation.

156. UPDATE ON AUTISM SERVICES COMMISSIONING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN HAMPSHIRE

The Committee received a written update report on Autism Services Commissioning for Children and Young People in Hampshire (Item 9 in the Minute Book). At their 28 September meeting, the Committee resolved to receive a written report for every meeting until the Committee were satisfied that

the service had caught up and was providing a timely service for children, parents and schools and proof that the service was making progress.

The Chairman requested that any questions be either emailed to the Chairman, or the Democratic Services Officer, to be forwarded on for a response, which would be circulated to the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the Children and Young People Select Committee noted the update

157. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Director of Transformation and Governance presented the Committee's work programme (see Item 10 in the Minute Book).

The Chairman invited comments on the work programme and invited Cllr Porter to speak about a possible future update to the Committee on CAMHS, in particular the growing workforce, investment and progress with waiting times. Councillor Porter suggested that this was assigned to the first meeting of the Select Committee following the County election in May 2021, and the Chairman and Committee were content with this.

RESOLVED:

That the work programme, subject to the additions set out above, was agreed.

Chairman,