

Children, Young People and Family Support Scrutiny and Policy Development  
Committee

Meeting held 12 March 2018

**PRESENT:** Councillors Mick Rooney (Chair), Cliff Woodcraft (Deputy Chair),  
Andy Bainbridge, Lisa Banes, John Booker, Adam Hurst,  
Mohammad Maroof, Abtisam Mohamed, Vickie Priestley, Bob Pullin,  
Jim Steinke and Alison Teal

Non-Council Members in attendance:-

Gillian Foster, (Diocese Representative - Non-Council Voting Member)  
Alison Warner, (School Governor Representative - Non-Council Non-  
Voting Member)  
Sam Evans, (Diocese Representative - Non-Council Voting Member)  
Peter Naldrett, (Parent Governor Representative - Non-Council Voting  
Member)

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**1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

1.1 RESOLVED: That in the absence of the Chair of the Committee (Councillor Mick Rooney) at the commencement of the meeting, the Chair was taken by Councillor Cliff Woodcraft up to the completion of Item 7 (Tackling Poverty - Holiday Hunger 2017).

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Craig Gamble Pugh and Kieran Harpham, and from Joanna Heery (Parent Governor Representative - Non-Council Voting Member) and Alice Riddell (Healthwatch Sheffield, Observer).

**3. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

3.1 No items were identified where resolutions may be moved to exclude the public and press.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

4.1 In relation to Agenda Item 7 (Tackling Poverty – Holiday Hunger 2017), Councillor Abtisam Mohamed declared a personal interest as a member of a number of voluntary organisations.

**5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

5.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018, were approved as a correct record and, arising therefrom, the Policy and Improvement

Officer (Deborah Fellowes) stated that:-

- (a) further to the query raised by Councillor Abtisam Mohamed, on the current position regarding the development of Early Years Centres of Excellence, and subsequent comments by officers on this issue, this information had been requested to be included in a briefing note, which was included on the agenda for this meeting; and
- (b) further to Councillor Bob Pullin's comments regarding the information requested as part of public questions raised at previous meetings, relating to the loss of the dedicated resource (half a post) working closely with gypsy and traveller children, a briefing note on the education support to Roma, gypsy and travelling families was included on the agenda for this meeting but, in the light of the fact that there appeared to be no reference to the loss of the dedicated resource, it was suggested that Members raise this issue with the officer in attendance for that item.

## **6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

- 6.1 Andy Shallice referred to the questions he had raised at the meetings of this Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018, and questioned whether, given that it appeared that incorrect information had been provided by the officer to the question raised in November 2017, and the failure of the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families to provide an answer to the question since January 2018, were Members of this Scrutiny Committee confident about the ability of Children's Services to respond to public questions and scrutiny?
- 6.2 Councillor Jackie Drayton (Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families) apologised for the failure in providing answers to the questions raised, and stated that the decision regarding the deletion of the post had been made by the Schools Forum, based on the low number of children requiring additional assistance. She stressed that support would continue to be given to such children and families.

## **7. TACKLING POVERTY - HOLIDAY HUNGER 2017**

- 7.1 The Committee received a report of the Director of Policy, Performance and Communications, which contained an evaluation of a pilot project run over the six weeks summer holidays of 2017, with funding set aside from the Fairness Commission. The Project was to contribute to the development of a sustainable approach to reducing holiday hunger in Sheffield during holidays, when children did not have access to free school meals. As part of the procurement process, proposals from a number of organisations or partnerships had been invited to show how they could develop, co-ordinate and run programmes offering free nutritious food and enriching activities, based on available evidence.
- 7.2 Adele Robinson (Social Justice and Inclusion Manager) introduced the report, and also in attendance for this item were Sue Pearson (Voluntary Action Sheffield) and Cat Ross (Homestart).

7.3 Adele Robinson gave a brief presentation, informing of the five delivery partners and the areas in which activities took place, providing statistical information in terms of the food and activities in the different neighbourhoods, the delivery model for developing sustainable schemes in the neighbourhoods, and details of the specific types of food and meals provided.

7.4 Sue Pearson, representing Voluntary Action Sheffield (VAS), who were the successful bidder for the pilot, and who sub-contracted the work to the five delivery partners, reported on the various activities involved as part of the project.

7.5 Members of the Committee raised questions, and the following responses were provided:-

- Whilst every possible effort was made, given the level of funding (£30,000) and the short lead-in time in respect of the pilot project, it had not been possible to target all families who would benefit from such provision. In the Burngreave Ward, 51% of families were living in poverty but, as no proposals were received from any organisations or partnerships, there had not been any schemes in this area. If future projects were to be run, it was hoped that, as well as more funding being available, the lead-in time would be longer, thereby allowing for more time to identify those families in need. Further work was also required to identify those families in need who did not necessarily live in the traditionally poorer areas of the City.
- Whilst it was accepted that there would have been a number of children and families in the Burngreave Ward who could have benefited from the pilot project, as part of the agreed procurement process, only those organisations and partnerships who had responded were able to take part in the pilot. As part of the planning process for a further project in 2019, invitations would be sent to more organisations or partnerships.
- Whilst every effort had been made to provide a wide variety of food for the children, taking cultural and religious needs into consideration, there had been certain limitations in this regard as the food had been donated.

7.6 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) notes the contents of the report now submitted, together with the information reported as part of the presentation and the responses to the questions now raised;
- (b) thanks Adele Robinson, Sue Pearson and Cat Ross for attending the meeting and responding to the questions raised; and
- (c) whilst welcoming the excellent work undertaken as part of the pilot project in 2017, and expressing the will to support similar projects in the future, requests that consideration be given to having a longer lead-in time to allow for more detailed work to be undertaken, to include the use of Super Output

Area data, in connection with identifying levels of deprivation, and thereby extending the project to more families in need.

**8. UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS AND IMPACT OF SHEFFIELD'S LOCAL TRANSFORMATION PLAN FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH**

- 8.1 The Committee received a joint report of the Director of Commissioning, People Services (Sheffield City Council) and the Interim Chief Nurse, Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group, containing an update on the progress and impact of Sheffield's Local Transformation Plan for Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health.
- 8.2 In attendance for this item were Bethan Plant (Health Improvement Principal, Public Health Team), Nicola Ennis (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service), Matthew Peers (Commissioning Manager, Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group and Sheffield City Council) and Liz Murch (Associate Director, Community Wellbeing and Mental Health Division, Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust).
- 8.3 Bethan Plant introduced the report, indicating that the Local Transformation Plan had first been developed in 2015, in response to the publication of Future in Mind (2015), and was a joint initiative between the City Council, Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). Future in Mind had highlighted five priority areas for the transformation of children and young people's mental health – Being Accountable and Transparent, Caring for the Most Vulnerable, Developing the Workforce, Early Intervention and Resilience, and Improving Access – and the Plan had been drafted to align to these five areas. Ms Plant stated that, in addition to Sheffield's 2015 submission being identified as one of the top 18 in the country by the Education Policy Institute, both the annual refreshes in 2016 and 2017 had received full assurance ratings from NHS England, with the 2017 refresh having being identified as one of the best Local Transformation Plans for prevention and involvement of children and young people.
- 8.4 Bethan Plant, Nicola Ennis and Liz Murch highlighted those areas of progress for the Plan, from January 2017 to January 2018, with regard to their respective organisations, and Matthew Peers referred to the performance of the CAMHS, specifically regarding statistics on referrals and waiting times, and progress in response to the recommendations of the CAMHS Working Group.
- 8.5 Members of the Committee raised questions, and the following responses were provided:-
- A considerable amount of work was undertaken with other agencies, including Multi Agency Support Teams (MAST) and education psychology, to ensure services worked more closely together. As part of this partnership working, the Healthy Minds Framework had recently been expanded to an additional 45 schools following the initial CAMHS School Link Pilot. This had resulted in all seven localities having schools which now received Healthy Minds,

resulting in 54 schools in total having had Healthy Minds input.

- Whilst there were a third more boys being treated by CAMHS in Sheffield for eating disorders, compared to the national average, there were more girls than boys being treated in the City for this disorder.
- It was difficult to determine current times in terms of internal waits in CAMHS on the basis that there were a number of different types of treatment pathways, such as Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT). CAMHS was currently undertaking a performance analysis in order to enable commissioners to set a target for improving internal waits within the Service. Work was also ongoing to explore how the wider mental health system could support this work by providing further step-down opportunities from the Service.
- Whilst it was difficult to quantify precisely whether the level of funding required to deal with child suicides was sufficient, there was a requirement to submit performance updates in respect of the Local Transformation Plan to NHS England, and if it was seen that their expected improvements were not being made with regard to the five priority areas set out in the Plan, there was a risk that the relevant funding would not be received in future. The fact that all targets under the Plan had been met in the last 12 months indicated that sufficient progress had been made in terms of the prevention of child suicide. However, it was imperative that there was no complacency on the part of the partner organisations involved and, as part of future planning, the partnership was drawing up a menu of additional funding bids to ensure that the necessary plans were in place as and when any additional funding was made available.
- There were very few cases where children had been assessed by CAMHS, but who had then decided not to take up treatment. However, efforts were always made to ensure that such children and their families were kept updated in terms of the treatment available if their needs changed, or they changed their mind.
- Funding in respect of the Plan was provided by NHS England, with assurances having to be provided in terms of any additional funding required. In addition to this, there were generally national grants from various charities available, which the partnership was mindful of, and needed to be prepared in terms of making any bids for.

8.6 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) notes the contents of the report now submitted, together with the information now reported and the responses to the questions raised;
- (b) thanks the representatives from the partner agencies for attending the meeting and responding to the questions raised;

- (c) welcomes the progress made in connection with Sheffield's Local Transformation Plan over the past 12 months;
- (d) supports Sheffield's bid to be a trailblazer area for the Green Paper on Children and Young People's Mental Health;
- (e) gives authority for the Chair to contact or write to Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS England regarding funding; and
- (f) requests that representatives of the partner organisations attend a meeting of this Committee in approximately 12 months' time to report back on progress in respect of the areas identified in the 2018 scrutiny report, specifically regarding transition and waiting times (internal).

## **9. ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION**

9.1 The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, People Services on the work undertaken by the Elective Home Education Service. A report on the Service had been submitted to the Committee's meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, at which concerns had been raised regarding specific areas of the Service, and the report now submitted set out additional information which aimed to address such concerns.

9.2 Venetta Buchanan (Advisor Teacher for Elective Home Education) introduced the report, and also in attendance for this item were Alena Prentice (Assistant Director, Inclusion and Learning Service) and John Bigley (Manager – Admissions, Inclusion and Learning Service).

9.3 Members of the Committee raised questions, and the following responses were provided:-

- It was believed that there were cases of parents home educating their children as they had not been able to secure a school place of their choice. There was a requirement on the parents taking this action to formally notify the Local Authority, and they would be advised on the various options available to them.
- If a child is taken out of school to be educated at home during a school year, the funding for that child would be retained by the school. The school would only continue to receive funding in respect of the child if they were on roll at the October census in the following school year.
- If a child was deregistered from school to be home educated for whatever reason, a local agreement between all secondary school headteachers would allow them to return to school within 12 weeks of having left, if they wished to return.
- In those cases of children having Special Educational Needs (SEN), the Elective Home Education Service would require more information from the

SEN Service with regard to the precise level of the child's needs. The Government was shortly to provide guidance for local authorities on this issue.

- Only a very small number of the 513 children currently registered as receiving home education were doing so as a result of having been permanently excluded from school. The figures were not available at the meeting, but could be provided to Members.
- There was no national benchmarking with regard to reporting the number of children in receipt of elective home education and therefore, meaningful comparison was difficult. The number of such children in Sheffield was, however, comparable with Leeds, which has a slightly higher school population. The number of children being home educated was rising both locally and nationally and, as yet, there had been no specific reasons identified as to why this was the case.
- There were no statistics in terms of the religion and ethnicity of the 513 pupils receiving home education, and parents were not required to provide the Authority with this information.
- It was difficult to determine an average time period from when a child was first assessed in terms of not having a suitable education to having a School Attendance Order issued, as the position was not always clear cut, and required monitoring over a long period of time. It could be that whilst the education was suitable at one stage, due to a change of circumstances, it could then be deemed as not suitable.
- Parents were required to provide written information with regard to the education they were providing and, if it was not deemed suitable, meetings would be held with the family to discuss this. If, through continued monitoring, it was found that the education was still not suitable, and when all efforts had been exhausted, families were referred to the Multi-Agency Support Team for a School Attendance Order. If it was found that the problems continued, they could be taken to Court for a breach of the Order.
- There was no requirement on children being educated at home to take exams, although some children opted to do so. The Local Authority did not have any access to their examination results.

9.4 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) notes the contents of the report now submitted, together with the information now reported and the responses to the questions raised;
- (b) thanks Alena Prentice, Venetta Buchanan and John Bigley for attending the meeting and responding to the questions raised;
- (c) expresses its support for the Local Authority's approach to elective home

education; and

- (d) requests that it be involved in any consultation on the planned Government Review of the Elected Home Education Service.

## **10. OVERVIEW OF 16 TO 18 PROVISION**

10.1 The Committee received a presentation from Dan Rice (Performance and Analysis Service) providing an overview of the education provision for 16 to 18 year olds in Sheffield. Mr. Rice referred to the provision by level and type, the different providers, their location and size and the quality of provision, as determined by Ofsted. He referred to statistics with regard to KS5 attainment, under the four qualification categories (Academic, A level, Applied level and Tech level), together with progress under each of the four categories, and concluded by reporting on the progression into apprenticeships and the changing landscape with regard to education provision for 16 to 18 year olds.

10.2 Members of the Committee raised questions, and the following responses were provided:-

- The three six forms receiving a “Requires Improvement” rating following recent Ofsted inspections were Bradfield, Chapeltown and Forge Valley.
- There was no analysis undertaken of the different providers where pupils moved from one sixth form school to another, in order to monitor standards. Although there was no national requirement to undertake such analysis, this was something the Local Authority could consider in the future.
- The 79% of 16-18 providers rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted referred to the proportion of providers with main premises in Sheffield, as this is how Ofsted measured this.
- It was accepted that it could be the case that too many pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds were taking academic courses as opposed to applied courses, which could be more beneficial for them.
- Whilst relationships between the Local Authority and Chapeltown School had been difficult in the past, the School had recently been given a “Requires Improvement” rating following an Ofsted inspection, with both progress and attainment being consistent with the national average.

10.3 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) notes the information reported as part of the presentation, together with the responses to the questions raised; and
- (b) thanks Dan Rice for attending the meeting and responding to the questions raised.

## **11. 2017 FINAL ATTAINMENT AND PROGRESS**

11.1 The Committee received a presentation from Pam Smith (Head of Primary and Targeted Intervention) providing an overview of 2017 final attainment and progress from Foundation Stage to A-level in Sheffield's schools and academies. It included comparisons to national performance and to other local authorities, and contained additional information on the further work on three priority areas (phonics, reading and white British disadvantaged pupils), following concerns raised with regard to performance in these areas at previous meetings of the Committee.

11.2 Also in attendance for this item were Councillor Jackie Drayton (Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families), Kate Wilkinson (Service Manager – Performance and Analysis Service) and Stephen Betts (Chief Executive Officer - Learn Sheffield).

11.3 Members of the Committee raised questions, and the following responses were provided:-

- Whilst the information was not available at the meeting, data showing a breakdown of the various different categories of pupils shown as black and minority ethnic could be forwarded to Members, and included in future attainment reports submitted to the Committee.
- Officers had worked with colleagues in the London Boroughs in connection with sharing good practice with regard to improving attainment in connection with phonics and reading at Key Stages 1 and 2. Further progress with regard to improving attainment levels in these two areas was dependent on funding. As raised at the Committee's meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, it was still planned that officers would liaise with other education providers in certain parts of the City, including private schools, as a means of sharing good practice in these two areas.

11.4 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee:-

- (a) notes the information reported as part of the presentation, the additional information now reported, and the responses to the questions raised;
- (b) thanks Councillor Jackie Drayton, Pam Smith, Kate Wilkinson and Stephen Betts for attending the meeting and responding to the questions raised;
- (c) welcomes the progress made with regard to the 2017 attainment;
- (d) expresses a will to provide any possible assistance in terms of any applications for funding with regard to schemes/initiatives to help improve attainment levels in the future; and
- (e) requests the Executive Director, People Services, to submit a further report on the progress made with regard to reading, mathematics and phonics, to

a meeting of the Committee by September, 2018.

**12. ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18 - DRAFT CONTENT, AND WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19**

12.1 The Committee received a report of the Policy and Improvement Officer setting out the draft content with regard to the Committee's Annual Report 2017-18 and a suggested list of topics recommended to be put forward for consideration as part of its Work Programme for 2018-19.

12.2 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) notes the contents of the report now submitted, together with the comments now made; and
- (b) approves:
  - (i) the draft content of the annual report 2017-18; and
  - (ii) the draft Work programme for 2018-19, subject to consideration of the two further topics suggested – Annual Complaints Report and an update on academies, being added to the list of topics.

**13. TASK GROUP ON CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE**

13.1 The Committee received a report of the Policy and Improvement Officer containing a summary of the work of the Committee's Children's Social Care Task Group. The Task Group had been established in October, 2017, with the purpose of scrutinising a piece of Children's Social Care Policy Work, with a view to influencing it in its formative ages, and to ensure that the Committee's views on effective support to, and safeguarding of, vulnerable groups, improving services to residents in the City and meeting the Council's commitments around fairness and poverty, were taken into consideration during the development of the policy.

13.2 The Policy and Improvement Officer (Deborah Fellowes) stated that the summary report had been circulated to, and approved by, Members of the Committee/Task Group ???, and referred specifically to the Task Group's recommendations set under key headings – Sufficiency, Recruitment and Retention and Cross-Cutting Issues, set out in the report now submitted.

13.3 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) notes the contents of the report now submitted;
- (b) thanks Deborah Fellowes for the work she had undertaken in co-ordinating the work of the Task Group; and
- (c) approves the submission of the report to the Cabinet on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2018.

**14. SUPPORT TO ROMA, GYPSY AND TRAVELLING FAMILIES**

14.1 The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, People Services, setting out details on the range of education support for Roma, gypsy and travelling families.

14.2 Pam Smith (Head of Primary and Targeted Intervention) stated that the report had been requested by the Committee, at its meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, and in response to a public question raised at a previous meeting of the Committee. Ms. Smith made specific reference to the decision to end the dedicated resource for working with gypsy and traveller children and their families, which had been the subject of the public question raised at previous meetings of the Committee, indicating that it had been a decision taken by the Schools Forum following the withdrawal of funding for the resource. She added that the work with such families would continue, using resources from existing services.

14.3 The Committee noted the contents of the report now submitted, together with the comments now made.

## **15. CURRICULUM OFFER AT KEY STAGE 3**

15.1 The Committee received and noted a report of the Chief Executive Officer – Learn Sheffield, giving an overview of the current Key Stage 3 curriculum in Sheffield schools.

## **16. WARD LEVEL CONTEXTUAL, ATTAINMENT AND PROGRESS DATA**

16.1 The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, People Services, providing a summary of ward level data across a number of contextual, attainment and progress measures in Sheffield.

16.2 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) notes the contents of the report now submitted; and
- (b) requests that the report be submitted to a future meeting, for further consideration.

## **17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

17.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on a date to be arranged.

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