

**SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL**

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

**Meeting held 11 March 2019**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Mick Rooney (Chair), Cliff Woodcraft (Deputy Chair),  
Simon Clement-Jones, Tony Downing, Francyne Johnson,  
Mohammad Maroof, Abtisam Mohamed, Bob Pullin, Colin Ross,  
Ian Saunders and Alison Teal

**Non-Council Members in attendance:-**

Gillian Foster, (Diocese Representative - Non-Council Voting Member)  
Sam Evans, (Diocese Representative - Non-Council Voting Member)  
Alice Riddell, (Healthwatch Sheffield, Observer)

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**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Andy Bainbridge and Sophie Wilson, and from Peter Naldrett (Parent Governor Representative – Non-Council Voting Member) and Alison Warner (School Governor Representative – Non-Voting Member).

**2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

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

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

3.1 In relation to Agenda Item 10 (Support to Roma Children), Councillor Abtisam Mohamed declared a personal interest as Programme Director (Aspiring Communities Together).

**4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2019, were approved as a correct record, with the exception of (a) Item 1 – Apologies for Absence, which was amended by the addition of Councillor Mohammad Maroof and (b) Item 8 – Special Educational Needs in Sheffield, which was amended by the deletion of the word “Councillor” immediately preceding Jayne Ludlam (Executive Director, People Services) and, arising therefrom:-

- (i) the Policy and Improvement Officer (Deborah Glen) stated that she had circulated a draft document to Members containing statistics regarding indices of deprivation for the Batemoor, Beauchief, Beighton, East Ecclesfield, Greenhill, Jordanthorpe and Lowedges Wards. Councillor Bob

Pullin, who had originally requested the information, stated that, whilst thanking officers for the information, indicated that the statistics only referred to income deprivation, and that the information requested was specifically in relation to statistics for indices of multiple deprivation within the Wards. Deborah Glen stated that this information would be provided to all Members of the Committee at the earliest possible opportunity;

- (ii) Deborah Glen stated that she had circulated to members of the Committee the full response received from the Chair of the Schools Forum in relation to ensuring that schools continued to record and report the five-stage proficiency in English code, requesting Members' comments;
- (iii) the Chair reported that he had met with Mark Sheikh (Head of Service – Business Strategy), who had informed him that the Council were risk averse in terms of investing schools which were likely to become academies, thereby potentially resulting in a financial debt to the Council;
- (iv) Deborah Glen reported that she had received the information relating to youth activities, including dates and times of sessions, from Dan White, and had circulated this information to all Members of the Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2019;
- (v) Deborah Glen reported that (A) the briefing note prepared by Dan White (Head of Health and Targeted Services) on the reasons for the increase in referrals of Looked After Children to the Child and Sexual Exploitation Team, would be submitted to a meeting of the Committee to be held in July, 2019 and (B) Victoria Horsfield (Assistant Director) had advised that the end of year performance review of the Friend or Foe training in schools would be available mid-April, 2019, and that Deborah Glen would circulate such details to Members of the Committee, when received;
- (vi) Deborah Glen reported that she had sent a request to Paul Dempsey (Assistant Director – Provider Services) for the information requested by Members at the meeting but, to date, had not yet received a response; Mr. Dempsey had been invited to attend the first meeting of the Committee to be held in the 2019/20 Municipal Year to respond to the issues raised by Members; and
- (vii) the Chair reported that a special meeting of the Committee had been arranged for Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2019, to discuss the joint response to the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Inspection, prior to submission to Ofsted; he added, however, that there was an issue of confidentiality regarding the report, which may mean that Members would not be able to see the report in advance of the meeting.

## **5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

- 5.1 With reference to the issue of exclusions rates being higher for certain groups of pupils, Andy Shallice questioned on how many occasions in the present school year (2018-19), and the two previous schools years (2016-17, 2017-18), has the

Local Authority Children's Services been approached by head teachers seeking "extra support" to possibly reduce the risk of exclusion for particular groups of pupils with disproportionately high rates of exclusion (e.g. Roma, other minority ethnic pupils, looked after children, pupils with SEN).

- 5.2 In response, Councillor Jackie Drayton reported that the Timpson Review was due to be published early 2019, but as yet, had not been. Officers agreed to investigate this issue, and circulate a response. The Committee also agreed to refer this issue to the Schools Forum.

## **6. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME - UPDATE**

- 6.1 The Committee received a joint report of the Director of Commissioning, Inclusion and Learning, Sheffield City Council and the Director of Commissioning and Performance (Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group) containing an update on the Children and Young People's Mental Health Transformation Programme.

- 6.2 In attendance for this item were Councillor Jackie Drayton (Cabinet Member for Children and Families), Dawn Walton (Director of Commissioning, Inclusion and Learning), Bethan Plant (Health Improvement Principal), Laurence Green (Deputy Associate Director, Sheffield Children's Hospital), Matthew Peers (Commissioning and Performance Manager, Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group) and Nicola Ennis (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Service Manager, Sheffield Children's Hospital).

- 6.3 As an introduction, Councillor Jackie Drayton stated that she wished to place on record her thanks and appreciation to Councillors Mick Rooney and Sue Alston (former Chair and Deputy Chair of the Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee) and to the members of the Health and Wellbeing Board, for their work in conjunction with the Scrutiny review of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), which resulted in key changes, including the funding of a gap in services for 16 to 18 year olds.

- 6.4 The report contained an update on the Transformation Programme, including details of the work undertaken in relation to the transition between Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and Adult Mental Health Services (AMHS), progress in terms of internal waits within CAMHS, details of wider areas of progress, including an all-age approach to mental health services, Door 43 and eating disorders, and details of priority areas for the next 12 months. The report was supported by a presentation by Matthew Peers.

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

- Door 43 comprised an emotional, wellbeing and mental health counselling service for 13 to 25 year olds. The service, provided through Star House, comprised a "drop-in" facility, whereby children and young people with low-level mental health problems could attend and receive counselling from a range of professionals, including youth and primary mental health workers.

The children and young people could also be referred on, when deemed appropriate, to Multi-Agency Support Teams (MAST) or CAMHS. As a result of its popularity, and to ensure its sustainability, funding for the service has been increased by 45%, with effect from April, 2019.

- The six-session appointment model, which had only recently been introduced, provided an opportunity for CAMHS to offer a quick follow-up session, if required, without children and young people having to wait long periods for another appointment. It had been identified that some children and young people required a change in their pathway offer, following their initial assessment, and this model provided the opportunity to enable CAMHS to determine what specialist treatment they required.
- Kooth have been commissioned to provide an on-line counselling service for 11 to 18 year olds and care leavers. The on-line service would go live with effect from April, 2019, and would initially run for one year. Anyone wishing to use the service simply logged on to a chatroom, and was able to “speak” to a qualified counsellor. Kooth would also refer any cases onto other services, if determined necessary, such as CAMHS.
- Work was ongoing in terms of looking at how the eating disorder pathway could be improved.
- In terms of the transition from child to adult services, it was accepted that the thresholds regarding the two services were different, and work was ongoing to try and address this issue, which would hopefully result in the transitions to the different age groups being made without any major problems.
- A number of changes had been made to the CAMHS’ referral system, one being the recruitment of a number of clinicians, to whom referrals with regard to low-level mental health issues, could be made. In addition, the Service had worked closely with the Healthy Minds Schools, in connection with nominating a staff member responsible for making direct referrals to the Service, with this initiative being rolled out to all schools in the City over time.
- Work continued in terms of breaking down the stigma of mental health, which had included working on an awareness-raising campaign with the Children and Young People’s Empowerment Project (Chilyep).
- Whilst there were no statistics available at the meeting regarding the gender breakdown in terms of referrals to CAHMS, this information could be provided to Members of the Committee.
- Whether referrals were expedited depended on what information had been provided to CAHMS, as part of the referral. Any additional information regarding the child or young person would be taken into consideration, and the speed, and where the referral would be made, would then be determined based on this information. A number of referrals are made to

the Forensic CAMHS. In addition, the Council and its partners would undertake multi-systemic therapy work, where issues regarding the wider family would be considered and taken into consideration. CAMHS also worked closely with schools' inclusion services in connection with Pupil Referral Units.

- CAMHS was well aware of the dangers of psychosis, as a symptom of serious mental disorders, as well as its links with excessive cannabis use. The service worked very closely with the AMHS in connection with identifying such symptoms in children and young people as early as possible. The Service also had strong links with a number of third sector organisations which worked with children and young people with regard to drug and alcohol misuse. Educational sessions warning of the dangers of drug use were held in schools, and the Council was currently looking at establishing an all-age drug and alcohol misuse strategy.

6.6 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) notes the information contained in the report now submitted, together with the information reported as part of the presentation now made, and the responses to the questions raised;
- (b) thanks the representatives of the partner agencies for attending the meeting, and responding to the questions raised;
- (c) welcomes the progress made in connection with the Transformation Programme over the last 12 months; and
- (d) requests that representatives of the partner agencies be invited to attend a meeting of the Committee in 12 months to provide a further update on the Programme, to include more detailed information on the issues raised at this meeting, and to be circulated well in advance of the meeting at which it is to be discussed to allow Members to prepare for the discussion, and to include:-
  - (i) combatting the stigma of mental health;
  - (ii) analysing complaints and compliments;
  - (iii) University of Sheffield report;
  - (iv) re-entry statistics and analysis;
  - (v) gender breakdown; and
  - (vi) waiting times.

**7. OVERVIEW OF 2018 PUPIL OUTCOMES - CITY CONTEXT AND SCHOOL PERFORMANCE**

- 7.1 Kate Wilkinson (Service Manager – Performance and Analysis Service) gave a presentation, a copy of which had been circulated with the meeting papers, which provided details regarding 2018 attainment and performance outcomes from Foundation Stage to A-Level in Sheffield's schools and academies. It included comparisons to national performance, other Core Cities and statutory neighbours.

7.2 Also in attendance for this item were Andrew Jones (Interim Head of Primary and Targeted Intervention) and Steven Betts (Chief Executive, Learn Sheffield).

7.3 Kate Wilkinson took the Committee through the presentation in sections, relating to Foundation Stage, Key Stage One, Key Stage Two and Key Stage Four. Steven Betts referred to the Sheffield Data Summary 2018, appended to the presentation, which contained statistical information on the outcomes, rankings and trends in respect of the various measures at all key stages, in comparison with 2017, indicating that whilst there had been a number of improvements in terms of some measures, the overall picture with regard to how Sheffield had hoped to progress, had been somewhat disappointing, with most measures either remaining the same or falling slightly.

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

- In terms of the recent changes in funding rules, and how Learn Sheffield anticipated things going forward, Sheffield had historically been the lowest funded of the core cities. Whilst an increase in funding was expected in future years, there were concerns with regard to how long such an increase would take to materialise. Whilst Learn Sheffield did not wish to use the lack of funding as an excuse, there was a clear correlation between funding and outcomes in the City.
- Schools had their own strategies with regard to what additional resources they provided in terms of improving outcomes for low-achieving groups of pupils, such as those from BME communities and, more specifically, Roma children. There was no over-arching strategy in this regard at this stage. There were examples of expertise in some schools with regard to working with such children, and work was being undertaken to look at how such expertise could be shared.
- Learn Sheffield shared the concerns regarding the less than expected progress in terms of reading at Key Stages 1 and 2, and would target this measure as a priority for 2019, as had been done with phonics at Key Stage 1, and which had supported an improvement this year.
- The 2018 attainment results of the City's two independent schools were not included in the data set out in the presentation.
- Learn Sheffield accepted that work was still required in terms of looking for examples of good practice adopted by the private schools in the City in terms of the teaching of phonics, as previously requested.
- The concerns around the issue of deprivation, and the question of what else could be done to tackle this, should form a key part of the new strategy (from the Peer Review), and look at the connectivity between this and the priorities of the localities.

7.5 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) notes the contents of the presentation, together with the responses to the questions raised;
- (b) thanks Kate Wilkinson, Andrew Jones and Stephen Betts for attending the meeting and responding to the questions raised;
- (c) congratulates staff and students across the Authority for the improvements in school attainment; and
- (d) requests (i) future presentations on pupil outcomes to include some basic wording, accompanying the figures and graphs, as a means of an explanation and (ii) Stephen Betts to submit a report to a future meeting of the Committee setting out Learn Sheffield's priorities in the localities, as had been done in the Learn Sheffield Strategy and Peer Review, as well as how this will link in with the new Learn Sheffield Strategy 2019-22.

## **8. LEARN SHEFFIELD PEER REVIEW**

8.1 The Committee received a report of Stephen Betts (Chief Executive, Learn Sheffield), setting out the key findings from the peer review of Learn Sheffield held on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2018. The Review Team had been led by Christine Gilbert (Chair, Camden Learning) and included Jon Abbey (Managing Director, Camden Learning) and Tim Boyes (Chief Education Officer, Birmingham Education Partnership). The report also contained details of the governance arrangements and resources of Learn Sheffield, together with a number of key recommendations arising from the review.

8.2 The report was supported by a presentation from Stephen Betts, who reported on the current strengths and next steps under the various services provided by Learn Sheffield, which included Strategy and Vision, General Practice, School Improvement, Evaluation and Resources. He then referred to the recommendations following the review, and to the School Improvement Strategy 2019-22.

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

- There was no obvious grouping in terms of those 19 schools which had chosen not to subscribe as members of Learn Sheffield. Schools had been grouped into four categories (maintained schools, single academies, local multi-academy trusts and national multi-academy trusts), and there were establishments from each of the four categories within the 19. The fact that 90% of schools had chosen to become members of Learn Sheffield was considered exceptional. All the schools which had chosen not to subscribe had made the decision based on funding.
- Consideration was being given to having the Governance and Service Improvement in the same place in order to assist with Learn Sheffield's

wider sustainability, and the impact of the service, when co-located with school improvement.

- The development of an effective strategy to ensure that Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities were better represented amongst school leadership and governance was agreed to be a priority for the City.
- Efforts had been made to recruit a Deputy Chief Executive to Learn Sheffield, but had not been successful. This was currently being reviewed. The Peer Review had identified an element of over-reliance on individuals. Schools needed to be comfortable that they could get what they want from Learn Sheffield.
- The move to a subscription model had resulted in a small overall reduction in the school improvement budget available to Learn Sheffield.
- The estimate at the outset was that approximately 75% of Sheffield schools needed to subscribe to Learn Sheffield to secure basic viability.
- The Regional Schools Commissioners were viewed as a key stakeholder of Learn Sheffield, and representatives of Learn Sheffield met regularly with them, as part of joint meetings with the City Council.

8.4 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 raised; and
- (b) welcomes the positive nature of the report, and extends its thanks and congratulations to all staff of Learn Sheffield for the excellent work undertaken in this regard.

**9. SUPPORT TO ROMA CHILDREN**

9.1 The Committee received a report of the Interim Head of Primary and Targeted Intervention (Andrew Jones), on the Council's strategic approach for children who are new arrivals and/or part of the Roma community. The report set out information on the New Arrival and Roma Steering Group, established in 2010, to oversee this key area of work, schools-based activity and best practice, early intervention and prevention, training and learning provision, health activity, effective community engagement to promote community resilience, cohesion and integration, early years, community youth teams, school admissions, fair access and school places and data analysis tracking.

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

- Whilst the Every Sheffield Child Articulate and Literate (ESCAL) programme had been disbanded, a number of officers who had worked on



the programme had been transferred to other education programmes, such as the South-East Learning Partnership (Locality C). The schools in Locality B were also involved in the groups. Whilst it was a very complex situation, the Local Authority was trying to assist where possible, and it was accepted by all partners that a considerable amount of work was required in order to see improvements in the attainment and inclusion rates of Roma children.

- Whilst there was an emphasis on reducing pupil exclusion, the main priority of the work being undertaken was to try and increase inclusion levels. Work was currently being undertaken with regard to this, focussing on a partnership approach to help schools to become more inclusive, through Home Education and Mobility. Work was underway to include alternative provision in the partnership approach and activities. Emphasis would be placed on those pupils deemed more “at risk”, particularly with regard to those who were at risk of involvement in gang activity.
- A community profile of the Roma community, including a definition of “Roma”, the gender and age balance of pupils being monitored as part of the work and the languages spoken by such children, would be circulated to Members of the Committee.

9.3 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) notes the contents of the report now submitted, together with the responses to the questions raised;
- (b) thanks Andrew Jones for attending the meeting, and responding to the questions raised; and
- (c) welcomes the work being undertaken in this regard.

## **10. DRAFT FORMAT FOR REPORTING DATA REQUESTS BY THE COMMITTEE**

10.1 The Policy and Improvement Officer (Deborah Glen) referred to the information which had been circulated to Members of the Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2019, which had been requested at previous meetings of the Committee, relating to a breakdown of deprivation statistics in the Beauchief and Greenhill Ward and data on exclusions/attainment of pupils of rural Pakistan (Kashmir and Mirpur) origin being extracted from figures for children of general Pakistani origin.

10.2 Ms. Glen stated that she was liaising with Kate Wilkinson (Service Manager – Performance and Analysis Service) in terms of looking at the best format to present the information, specifically to allow for regular updates to be submitted to future meetings. When being sent the information, Members of the Committee, particularly Councillors Bob Pullin and Mohammad Maroof, the Members who had made the original requests for the information, had been asked for their comments on a preferred format.

10.3 The Committee was asked to submit to Ms. Glen any comments on the draft

formats circulated to Members, so that it could be finalised.

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 11.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee, which would be a special meeting, would be held on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2019, at 2.00 p.m., in the Town Hall.