

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19 June 2017

PRESENT – Councillor C Taylor (in the Chair); Councillors Crudass, Curry, L.Hughes, Lister, Mills, Storr and Wright. (8)

APOLOGIES – Councillors Crumbie, Mrs. Culley and Kelly; Mr Fisher, Ms Regan, Mrs Harrison and Ms Woodcock. (7)

ABSENT – None (0)

STATUTORY CO-OPTees – None. (0)

NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTees – None (0)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Jane Kochanowski, Assistant Director Children’s Services; Yvonne Coates, Head of First Contact and Locality Services; Sharon Raine, Head of Organisational Planning; and Allison Hill, Democratic Officer.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors C Hughes and Knowles; Joanne Heaney, Head of Commissioning and Strategy and Karen Hawkins, Director of Commissioning and Transformation NHS Darlington, Hartlepool and Stockton CCG.

CYP1. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

CYP2. TIMES OF MEETINGS – RESOLVED – That for the remainder of this Municipal Year the timings of meetings of this Scrutiny Committee be held at 9.30 am.

CYP3. MINUTES – Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 10 April 2017.

The Chair advised Members that he was still awaiting a meeting with the Regional School Commissioner; and the Assistant Director of Children’s Services discussed with Members options on how to evidence challenge within the Minutes of this Scrutiny Committee for future meetings following the Ofsted of Children’s Services.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

CYP4. SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION PLAN – The Director of Commissioning and Transformation and the Head of Commissioning and Strategy, NHS Darlington, Hartlepool and Stockton CCG attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the Sustainable Transformation Plan (STP) in relation to Darlington and its impact on the children and young people within the borough and the joint management structure across Darlington, Hartlepool and Stockton Childrens Commissioning.

The presentation outlined the ambitions of the STP, which is a high level plan to ensure that every child has the best start in life and to ensure integrated children's service provision and improve the overall quality and access of services. The presentation also highlighted the overarching project areas contained in the STP ie Special Educational Need and Disability (SEND); Mental Health Future in Mind (FIM); Joint Commissioning; Assessing Need; and Maternity and Artificial Reproduction Unit.

It was also presented that contained within the STP were operational plans developed to meet the delivery of the STP for children and adult services and the presentation outlined what has been done in Darlington to date and outlined the next steps.

The presentation also advised the Members of the pathway reviews that have been undertaken or in the process of being undertaken in relation to Autistic Spectrum Disorder; Obesity; Crisis Liaison; Urgent Care and Emergency Care; 0-19 and Self Care; Looked after Children; Speech and Language Therapy; Special School Nursing; and Equipment.

Members questioned what was being done to alleviate the delays in Looked After Children Initial Health Assessments and were advised that an initial review had been undertaken and areas for improvement had been highlighted and ways to best achieve the key performance indicators.

Members referred to the maternity services project area and questioned how the Better Births programme, which is aimed at improving outcomes of maternity services in England over the next five years, would be affected by the potential threat to maternity services within Darlington as a consequence of the STP. Members also discussed what can be realistically achieved with the funding gap and the Director of Commissioning and Transformation advised Members that she was examining different ways of working including joint working, the de-commissioning of some existing services and re-commissioning other services to alleviate the funding issues.

RESOLVED – That the thanks of this Scrutiny Committee be extended to Karen Hawkins and Joanne Heaney for their interesting and informative presentation.

CYP5. YEAR END PERFORMANCE REPORT 2016/17 – The Director of Children and Adults Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide Members with the year-end performance for 2016/17 against the key performance indicators for Children's Social Care.

The submitted report provided Members with a summary of performance information detailing where we were performing well and where there was need to improve.

The Head of Organisational Planning advised Members that over the past six weeks officers had been working on a new document with a new format to present Members performance data (circulated at the meeting). The aim of the new format was to simplify the information and provide a summary of each key performance

indicators, comparable to local and regional targets; and provide system conversion flow charts giving more detailed analysis of performance data for the current year and previous years.

The purpose of the flow charts was to provide supplementary analysis of data to examine quality and practice and to highlight any anomalies in data reporting which will allow for better performance analysis and challenge by both Managers and Members.

Members discussed in particular the performance indicators in relation to Looked after Children Placements; the number of children subject to a child protection plan which has decreased; and the number of Looked After Children recorded as missing to the police which has had a slight increase.

RESOLVED – That the report and progress against key performance indicators be noted.

CYP6. EARLY HELP – The Head of Early Intervention submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide Members with an update on the current position of Early Help following the extensive remodelling of the service following the Medium Term Financial Plan approval in June 2016.

It was reported that staff consultation had been completed and all positions had been recruited into the final groups within new roles on 1 June 2017; a series of staff engagement and training days have been planned through 2017; the new case management system is working well and allowing for the development of the performance score card to support activity and quality of service; the -0-3 service has been absorbed into the new service and no concerns from families have been raised during the transition; the Early Help Co-Ordinator has continued to offer training to a wide range of agencies; current performance on the number of Early Help Assessments had shown a 40 per cent increase on the previous year and further performance data was being developed to ensure the course of the Early Help assessment was available to allow targeting of those agencies that did not complete assessments; and the Children Centre consultation was now complete and the responses will be analysed and presented to Cabinet for consideration.

Members were pleased to note the work that had been achieved to secure services for the most vulnerable families.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

CYP7. WORK PROGRAMME - The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide an update on the current work programme for this Scrutiny Committee.

The work programme has been reviewed to link it to the outcomes and conditions in the Sustainable Community Strategy and each topic has been linked to performance indicators from the Performance Management Framework to provide accurate data for Members to use when considering topics and the work they wish to undertake.

It was agreed that any Member seeking to add a new item to the work programme will need to complete a quad of aims. The revised process for adding an item to a previously approved work programme has been agreed by the Monitoring and Co-ordination Group.

RESOLVED – That the current status of the work programme be noted.

CYP8. SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2017/18 – With the prior approval of the Chair to the matter being treated as urgent to enable Scrutiny to consider the proposed indicators at the earliest possible opportunity the Head of Strategy, Performance and Communications submitted a report (previously circulated) for Members consideration on the basket of proposed indicators to help inform their 2017/18 work plan and the schedule for updates to each Scrutiny.

It was reported that the five basket of indicators that have been proposed for each of the Scrutiny Committees were aligned with the key priorities agreed within the 2016 Medium Term Financial Plan. The proposed indicators will enable each Scrutiny Committee to assess performance and are likely to form key indicators that will be used to monitor the Corporate Plan.

Performance against the baskets of indicators will be reported to each Scrutiny Committee on a quarterly basis and in the case of Children's Services performance may be reported more frequently.

RESOLVED – That Members agree the proposed baskets of indicators for the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and agree the quarterly reporting schedule.