

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
 21 OCTOBER 2016**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR J D HOUGH (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors R Wootten (Vice-Chairman), B Adams, W J Aron, Mrs J Brockway, S R Dodds, A G Hagues, B W Keimach, C R Oxby, Mrs H N J Powell, Mrs L A Rollings, Mrs N J Smith, M A Whittington, L Wootten, Mrs S M Wray and C E D Mair

Added Members

Church Representatives: Mr S C Rudman and Mr P Thompson

Parent Governor Representatives: Dr E van der Zee

Councillors: D Brailsford were also in attendance.

attended the meeting as invited guests.

Officers in attendance:-

Debbie Barnes (Executive Director, Children's Services), Charlotte Gray (Children's Commissioning Manager - Commercial Services), Tracy Johnson (Senior Scrutiny Officer), Mary Meredith (Head of Children's Service Manager, Inclusion), Sally Savage (Chief Commissioning Officer) and Rachel Wilson (Democratic Services Officer)

30 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ms T Keyword-Wainwright, Mrs S Ransome.

Apologies were also received from Mrs P J Barnett, Parent Governor Representative.

The Chief Executive reported that, under Local Government (Committee and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, Councillor M A Whittington had been appointed to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillor S M Tweedale until further notice. Councillor C E D Mair had also been appointed to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillor Mrs S Ransome for this meeting only.

31 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest at this point in the meeting.

32 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2016

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2016 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to it being noted that Church Representative Mr S Rudman and Parent Governor Representative Mrs P J Barnett were in attendance at the meeting, and the minutes being amended to reflect this, as well as the correction of a number of typographical amendments.

33 CHILDREN'S HEALTH SERVICES MODEL AND COMMISSIONING PLAN

Consideration was given to a report which invited the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to comment on the children's health services model and commissioning plan which was due to be considered by the Executive on 1 November 2016

Expenditure on these services in 2016/17 was £13,998,367.

The current contractual arrangement with Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust (LCHS) for Children's Health Services was due to cease on 31 March 2017 with an option to extend to 31 March 2018. The review of children's health services would support the Council to find savings of £350k in 2017/18 and a further £350k in 2018/19.

Members were provided with an opportunity to ask questions to the officers present in relation to the information contained within the report, and some of the points raised during discussion included the following:

- The Committee was advised that a letter from the Lincolnshire Medical Committee (LMC) had been received which highlighted a number of concerns about the proposed reduction in the role of the school nurses. These concerns were addressed by officers, and it was reported that a letter from the Executive Director for Children's Services had been sent in response to a similar letter from the LMC, but that this letter would also be responded to.
- Concerns were raised about what support would be available for schools to help young people suffering from anxiety. It was reported that there would be an Emotional Wellbeing Service which would focus on upskilling and supporting schools to support pupils with emotional needs. In addition to the new service it was noted that there was already support around anxiety provided for schools through the CAMHS contract, which also included an advice line, as well as an online service called Kooth. More information would also be available to young people online through apps. Members were advised that CAMHS had attended every Head teacher briefing to clarify the offer around emotional wellbeing and all head teachers had also been provided with a toolkit around emotional wellbeing. It was commented that Head teachers had been very positive about the support schools had received.
- There were concerns about young people not having private access to online services. However, members were advised that a large number of young

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
21 OCTOBER 2016

people already accessed the online counselling service, Kooth, particularly during school lunch breaks. This included access by young people on free school meals. It was highlighted that young people wanted instant access to services and anecdotal evidence suggested that visiting a school nurse was not anonymous enough and it felt too visible using this service in school.

- It was queried how many additional health visitors would be required and if school nurses would be redeployed. Officers reported that there would potentially be a need for an additional 20 health visitors as the engagement with professionals and service users indicated that there should be a greater focus on the early years. It was hoped that school nurses could be redeployed into other areas which were being commissioned if they had specialist skills or were willing to be retrained. Further work was needed on this
- It was confirmed that support would continue to be commissioned through CAMHS for young people with eating disorders as this was a national requirement. However, there would also be a community based eating disorder service, which would work with all aspects of the community to raise awareness. It was noted that this service was only in its first year of contract, and so it was currently focused on ensuring that all children and young people with a diagnosed eating disorder were receiving services. The next step would be to work with schools and other organisations within communities.
- This model was about a change to the way that services were commissioned and it was recognised that Lincolnshire had a very skilled workforce. Any staff who wanted to retrain as health visitors, would be supported, subject to the availability of training and affordability.
- It was noted that a decision had not been made yet, and officers had tried to ensure that the current provider was kept up to date with what was happening. It was acknowledged that this would be a massive change and there were things which the authority could do to try and protect the NHS staff. It would be important to ensure that staff were still identified as being health qualified. Subject to the decision which was taken, it was the intention to get the message out to staff of what it would mean for them at the earliest opportunity.
- If the model was approved, there would be an urgent need to appoint a Chief Nurse to ensure that Clinical governance requirements were maintained. It was hoped that this would also give confidence to the sector that the authority wanted to harness and develop the skills of the Health Visiting profession. From discussions with other authorities who had implemented a similar model, it had been found that the staff had considered it important that they still had NHS on their identity badges, as it gave assurance to families that they were appropriately qualified. This would be explored
- It was queried whether staff currently on permanent contracts would still have permanent contracts with the Council. Officers reported that anyone who was eligible for TUPE would transfer to the Council on their existing terms and conditions which would include their NHS pension scheme.
- There was support for the services being based around children's centre, but concerns were raised around those children who did not attend settings and whether any additional check would be put in place. It was commented that non-attendance at settings would not normally trigger additional checks, however, under the new model regular early checks would be put in place

which would highlight those in need of additional support regardless of whether they were in a setting or not.

- Concerns were raised about how advice would be provided to young people around sexual health. It was noted that there was a need for some information online, but schools still had a responsibility to deliver PSHE. It was confirmed that there would still be a county wide service provided which included intervention services in schools but it would no longer be provided by school nurses. Face to face advice would still be available to young people. This service would also be extended to under 13's with an emphasis on prevention and delay messages as well as healthy relationships.

(NOTE: Councillor B Adams arrived at this point in the meeting)

- Concerns were raised around the rationale for the changes being proposed given the savings being made, and whether the savings took into account the transitional costs. It was reported that the rationale was to modernise the service to better meet young people's needs. There would be efficiencies made through the new in-house service with the revised service specification. The transitional costs and contingencies for setting up the new model had been taken into account and were not part of the savings. There would be a combined circa £1m saving between Public Health and Children's Services. Officers highlighted that there was the potential for further efficiency savings in years 3-5 of the new service through co-location of staff and streamlining management.
- It was queried whether the financial risks due to a rise in inflation and the fall in the pound along with the growing population and potential increase in refugee children coming into Lincolnshire had been taken into account. Officers highlighted that they recognised the growing population and the need to maintain the workforce but could only look at medium term forecasts. If there was a large increase then there would be a need to re-examine the budgets. Based on the information known, officers were comfortable that the proposed model would be sufficient for the revised service specification.
- Concerns were raised as to whether services would be reduced in future. Members were advised that as this would not be a contracted service in future, then the Council would not be locked into providing the service specification outlined in the report. It would be for the Executive to propose any changes to the service specifications and further reductions in the future. However, assurances were given by officers that there were no planned cuts in service for the next two years although the Executive could decide to make reductions, but officers were not aware that there were any plans to reduce costs.
- Concerns were raised regarding the loss of the Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) and how that service would be covered in the future. It was highlighted that the FNP had ceased recruiting new clients several months ago and current users were being transferred to the health visiting service. Most young people had now moved over to the health visiting service which was able to provide a wider range of support to young mothers.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
21 OCTOBER 2016

- Members were pleased to learn that ante-natal classes would be reintroduced but highlighted that the report did not mention anything about the breastfeeding service. Officers advised that this was a fundamental part of the ante-natal service and it was hoped that initiation would be increased due to the roll out of the peer support programme and increasing the checks to include 3-4 months as well.
- Concerns were raised about the training of health visiting staff and whether they would have the capacity to cope with the workload, especially if some of the existing staff decided to leave instead of transferring over. It was thought that there was a need for training for new health visitors to be more comprehensive.
- It was queried whether there were any alternative plans for staffing if there was a high number of staff who decided to leave, such as through retirement. Officers reported that they were working with the current provider to understand the current workforce and how many may want to retire. For the longer term, there was a need to identify how many places were needed, how many staff may want to leave and then how many new health visitors needed to be trained by the University. In the short term, it was hoped that transferring staff over on existing terms and conditions with their NHS pension and appointing a Chief Nurse would help to encourage staff to stay. In addition, officers would look at opportunities around upskilling other roles such as nursery nurses and others.
- It was noted that in terms of the training for health visitors, this was delivered by the university, and so the role of the authority would only be to influence the training.
- Concerns were raised about the number of risks with the proposals, such as the changing model, demographics, financial risks, skills and staffing, and it was queried whether a risk assessment had been undertaken. It was confirmed that one had been undertaken and officers would share the risk assessment with the Committee if permissible.

RESOLVED

1. That the Committee unanimously support the recommendations to the Executive as set out in the report.
2. That the additional comments set out above be passed on to the Executive.

34 SCHOOLS THAT WORK FOR EVERYONE - GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

Consideration was given to a report which summarised the key proposals in the consultation document 'Schools that work for everyone' (Published by the Department for Education (DfE) 12 September 2016) and included a proposed response to the consultation for the Committee to consider and comment upon. It was reported that the consultation would close on 12 December 2016.

Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions to the officers present in relation to the draft consultation response contained in the report, and some of the comments made included the following:

- It was queried how 'families just managing' were defined. Members were advised that this query had been included in the consultation response, as officers also required clarification on this, as the government was silent on how these families would be identified. It was suggested that the IDACI (Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index) measure should be used.
- In terms of 'good school places' it was queried how 'good schools' would be defined – would this be defined by Ofsted, family satisfaction, academic excellence or those which offered career opportunities. It was commented that if it referred to those schools defined as 'good' by Ofsted, then there was a need to have confidence in the people making those decisions.
- In relation to question 13, it was queried what measures could be used to demonstrate to the government that more funding was required for pupils with SEND. Officers advised that this issue had been included in the response, and asked what the policy around SEND would be as it did not feature in the consultation document.
- It was queried what the costs to local authorities would be, for example, if grammar schools wanted to expand, how would that cost be met. Members were advised that if a school was expanding due to there not being enough places in an area then the expansion would be funded by the local authority as it would receive a sufficiency grant. If it was the school's choice to expand, the capital costs would be covered by the government. However, the local authority would still be responsible for costs such as school transport.
- In relation to admissions policies, it was noted that any new schools would be free schools, and therefore the local authority would have no role in the administering of that policy, other than to ensure that it was lawful.
- The response recognised the contribution that non-selective schools made to the education landscape in Lincolnshire, and it was queried whether this message could be strengthened further.
- It was commented that this consultation document was damaging to non-selective schools.
- There was support for the idea of asking universities to work in partnership with schools, and it was suggested whether there could be some sort of local bursary scheme.
- Concerns were raised that if more free schools opened, there could be a surplus of places.
- It was commented that the 11 plus was a system that was highly damaging and unfair way of assessing children, and it was queried how it could be revised.
- It was commented that it was not believed that 'one size fits all' in terms of schools. In relation to question 8, there was a need for caution about any concept that independent schools were better. It was accepted that they were different, but not necessarily better. However, it was noted that what they did do differently was give children and young people confidence to achieve. It was suggested that this level of confidence needed to be brought into other schools.
- In relation to question 6 – a different way of identifying these children was required. It was suggested that it should be the child who no-one noticed (who

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
21 OCTOBER 2016

was quiet in class, didn't get into trouble etc.) that needed assistance, to help them build their confidence.

- In relation to question 19 – it was suggested that this needed to be a natural process, otherwise the only way for grammar schools to expand would be to take the higher achievers from other schools or lower the entrance criteria.
- In relation to question 28 – it was suggested that as well as acknowledging the ability of non-selective schools to benefit from selective ones, the ability of selective schools to benefit from non-selective ones should also be noted. There was a need for caution around the perceived status of selective schools as it was felt that grammar schools were different, not necessarily better.
- It was commented that teaching children with different abilities was not the problem, the problems arose when a child had such serious behavioural problems that they were excluded from previous schools. It was felt that these children should not be in a mainstream school, but a specialist unit where they could be worked with on an individual basis. The benefits and disadvantages to this option were discussed.
- It was commented that Church of England schools were not seen as faith schools, and the Diocese was working to remove the faith criteria from their admissions policy.
- The importance of a well-designed consultation was highlighted and it was commented that the questions on this consultation were designed to get particular answers, as the questions did not provide an opportunity to describe the value of a non-selective education. It was felt that there was a need to challenge the questions themselves.
- It was felt that there was a need to challenge the assumption that selective schools were better, and it was thought that this message needed to be stronger throughout the consultation response.
- It was requested whether the answer to question 21 could be amended to read 'as Lincolnshire already offers a partial selective system, we cannot support the conversion of non-selective schools to selective schools'. Upon being put to the vote, this motion was lost.
- In relation to question 19, it was suggested that the last paragraph be strengthened to state the 11plus system should be scrapped. Upon being put to the vote, the motion was lost.
- Officers agreed to update the response to reflect that non-selective schools were considered to be just as good as selective schools.

RESOLVED

1. That the comments made in relation to the draft consultation response be noted, and the response be amended by officers accordingly.
2. That the final consultation response be brought back to the meeting on 25 November 2016 for endorsement.

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
21 OCTOBER 2016**

Councillor D Brailsford, Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Panel updated the Committee on the work of the Panel.

It was reported that the Corporate Parenting Panel last met on 8 September 2016 and received a report from Barnardo's about the Leaving Care Service. It was reported that there were now 37 care leavers in Staying Put arrangements. It was clarified that a staying put arrangement was where a young person who had been living in foster care remained in the former foster home after the age of 18. Staying Put arrangements provided a huge number of benefits to care leavers such as transition to adulthood within a supportive family environment and improved opportunities for education, employment or training.

However, concerns were raised by Panel members about the education of young people in custody and that in some prisons education was withdrawn from over 18's as a punishment for bad behaviour. The Panel felt that officers and members should challenge this practice by some of the prisons as access to education was essential.

The Panel also received an update on the assessment and progress outcomes for Looked After Children for 2015. This data was currently unvalidated and the final outcomes would be known around February next year. For Key Stage 4, 51 Looked After Children were entered for GCSE's of which 9 were predicted to A-C grades in English and maths. According to the unvalidated data, 7 achieved an A-C grade in English and maths, which was broadly in line with the prediction.

Members were informed that the next meeting was on 15 December 2016 when the Panel would be receiving the Annual Report for Looked After Children, the Annual report and Statement of Purpose for Private Fostering, and a review report of the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

The Committee was provided with an opportunity to ask questions to Councillor Brailsford and the officers present in relation to the information contained within the report, and some of the points raised during discussion included the following:

- It was queried what insurance was in place for members who visited Looked After Children in residential homes, if there should be an incident. Members were advised that officers would check this.
- Concerns were raised regarding foster carers who gave up due to not getting support at the right time. It was reported that there were foster carers on the Panel, and one of them had been on the verge of giving up, but spoke to someone and received the support she needed, and carried on fostering.
- It was noted that Councillors J D Hough and D Brailsford had met with John Harris in relation to the stability of placements. There was a need to listen to what the foster carers said and to engage with them.
- In relation to the issue of education being withdrawn in some prisons, it was felt that this was fundamentally wrong as it was likely that a lack of education was the reason young people were in prison. It was queried whether a working party could be set up to look at this in more detail. Members were advised that it was not known whether this would be possible, as it was not just a problem in Lincolnshire, but was a national problem, and it was unclear what the Corporate parenting Panel would be able to do to resolve this.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
21 OCTOBER 2016

- It was commented that there was a need to make the district councils aware of the role of the Corporate Parenting Panel, officers agreed to let the Committee know how it got information out to districts.

RESOLVED

That the update and comments made in relation to the Corporate Parenting Panel be noted.

36 INCLUSIVE LINCOLNSHIRE STRATEGY - SIX MONTHLY UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report which updated the Committee on the progress of the Inclusive Lincolnshire Strategy, including plans for the Lincolnshire Teaching and Learning Centre (LTLC) and the mobilisation of the Behaviour Outreach Support Service provided by Family Action.

Nicci Marzec, Assistant Director Services and Innovation – Family Action was in attendance at the meeting to inform the Committee about the work of the Behaviour Outreach Support Service (BOSS). She reported that the BOSS was provided by Family Action and the service had commenced at the beginning of September 2016 to work directly with teachers, pupils and families, where appropriate. The service operated in a fully integrated way within the Ladder and also alongside the Lincolnshire Teaching and Learning Centre (LTLC) to support the effective transition of pupils in and out of centres.

Members were advised that staff within the BOSS service had been recruited from a broad range of professional backgrounds to ensure a mix of skills within the teams across the county. In addition to the main service, Family Action had also contracted Restorative Solutions CIC to deliver a restorative practice (RP) pilot across 23 identified schools to determine whether the use of RP reduced exclusions. 'Restorative champions' within each of the identified schools would attend a full three day training programme during September and October after which it was intended that the schools, supported by Restorative Solutions CIC would implement a whole school approach to the use of restorative approached. It was reported that this would be evaluated at the end of the year with a view to rolling out across the county.

It was reported that the figures in the report were the latest exclusion data, but it was always one year behind. It was noted that there was not an issue in Lincolnshire with fixed term exclusions.

Members were advised that following the implementation of the Inclusive Lincolnshire Strategy, the number of exclusions from primary schools had reduced from 16 last year in term 1, to just one this year. It was reported that there was now a ladder of intervention, and there was an understanding that head teachers had to follow every step on the ladder before making the decision to permanently exclude a child. It was commented that there was now more focus on prevention, and it was a different way of looking at behavioural issues.

Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions to the officers present in relation to the information contained within the report and some of the points raised during discussion included the following:

- It was queried what sort of behaviour would lead to a pupil being excluded. Members were advised that the most common reason for exclusion was constant misconduct. Since the introduction of the ladder, it was noted that any exclusions this term would be due to major misconduct e.g. assault. All exclusions due to possession of banned items had stopped.
- It was noted that bad behaviour often started in reception classes if pupils did not have the emotional and social skills required. These children were often not ready for school.
- It was queried whether the number of exclusions was directly linked to the school population, for example if the intake went up, did the number of exclusions also increase. Officers advised that there did not seem to be a link between the increase in intake and an increase in the number of exclusions. There were often more exclusions in areas with high deprivation.
- Members commented that they were pleased that inclusion was now being used more than exclusion. It was positive that these pupils would be included in the education offer, and the aim was to get them back in mainstream education. It was queried whether there was any link between the pupil and the original school.
- At the moment, the only way to get a pupil into a full time alternative curriculum was to permanently exclude them. It was queried whether the ladder allowed for a full time alternative curriculum without the need to permanently exclude. It was confirmed that this could now be accessed without the need for permanent exclusions.
- It was queried whether there was any evidence that LAC were more likely to be excluded, and were schools encouraged to look at LAC in different ways when considering exclusions. Members were advised that LAC were treated in a different way, and it was unusual for a looked after child to be excluded as there were other processes to be followed.
- In terms of the restorative solutions which were being trialled in 23 schools, it was queried how these schools were selected and what the time frame for roll out to other schools was.
- It was queried to what extent were some of Lincolnshire's schools not suited to some pupils, and was this an opportunity to do things differently, with some of the children that would benefit from a smaller environment.
- It was queried whether a pilot could be started in Lincolnshire, and build more alternative schools that were not focused on the academic side of education. Members were advised that the curriculum was not something that the authority had control of.
- In terms of alternative provision, officers did not want to see further segregation of pupils, the schools needed to change, rather than the child being segregated.
- It was queried whether there were any plans to expand the LTLC service, as it was an incredible service which worked with families as well as children. It was reported that the Trust which would be running the LTLC had put in an

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
21 OCTOBER 2016

application for 4 new free schools, which would bring national investment to Lincolnshire.

RESOLVED

That the content of the report be noted.

37 SECTOR LED SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT MODEL - UPDATE REPORT

The Committee received a report which enabled members to consider an update relating to the Sector Led approach to school improvement. Members commented that the report was very positive. It was reported that collaboration was encouraged wherever possible.

Members were advised that on the morning of the meeting, officers had been notified of a school which had started a partnership with other schools. Capacity was gradually being built, and it was noted that so far 295 staff had attended the head teacher briefings.

It was reported that there had been a shift towards seeing the local authority as a partner, and the promotion of sector led improvement would be continued. Some good practice was being shared within clusters, and this needed to be shared amongst all schools.

It was suggested that officers come back to the Committee in November 2016 or January 2017, to provide a further update and also invite a couple of head teachers who could share their experiences so far.

RESOLVED

1. That the update be noted.
2. That officers return to the Committee in November 2016/January 2017 to provide a further update and invite some head teachers to attend to share their experiences of the sector led approach to school improvement.

38 OPEN SELECT LIST FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLACEMENTS

Consideration was given to a report which invited the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to comment on the proposal for the Open Select List for Children's Services Placements which was due to be considered by the Executive Councillor responsible for Children's Services on 31 October 2016.

Members of the Committee were provided with the opportunity to ask questions to the officers present in relation to the information contained within the report, and some of the points raised included the following:

- Concerns were raised regarding whether there was a risk that providers would 'cherry pick' which placements they would accept and how this could be avoided. Members were advised that this was unlikely as there would be a

mini competition held for each placement with suitable providers on the Open Select List invited to provide a quote for the placement.

- It was queried how long the contracts would last for, and members were advised that the Open Select List would last for five years and would be opened periodically to allow for new providers to be added and current providers to be removed if they wished to. The length of each contract would vary depending on how long the child needed the placement for, and would be down to a decision by the social worker. The Open Select List methodology would be revisited at the end of the five years. It was noted that this was to create a framework for what was already in existence.
- Concerns were raised about the emphasis on seeking value for money for the placements rather than on meeting the needs of the child. It was reported that the social worker would make a decision around the needs of the child but there was also a need to ensure that the Council received the best price for the placement in line with the needs of the child. It was highlighted that for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and Intense Needs Supported Accommodation the placement list was very narrow and officers wanted to expand the list to improve value for money for those placements.
- Concerns were also raised about the budget for the placements and whether it was likely to stay the same or be reduced in the future. Members were advised that the Council had a statutory duty and if there was a child or young person who needed to be placed then the budget for that placement would be found.

RESOLVED

1. That the Committee unanimously supports the recommendations to the Executive Councillor responsible for Children's Services as set out in the report.
2. That the comments noted above be passed to the Executive Councillor responsible for Children's Services in relation to this item.

39 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report which enabled the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to consider its own work programme for the coming year.

The Committee was reminded that a budget workshop would be taking place following the next meeting in November 2016,

It was also noted that a further update on the Sector Led approach to School Improvement would be brought to the meeting in November or January, and that some head teachers would be invited to share their experiences.

RESOLVED

1. That the content of the work programme as set out in appendix A of the report be agreed.

2. That the above additions be noted.

The meeting closed at 1.20 pm