

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
 19 JULY 2019**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR R J KENDRICK (VICE-CHAIRMAN) IN THE CHAIR

Councillors: M D Boles, M T Fido, R L Foulkes, C Matthews, A P Maughan, M A Whittington, L Wooten, R Wooten and C L Strange.

Added Members

Church Representative: Mr S C Rudman.

Parent Governor Representative: Miss A E I Sayer.

Councillor D Brailsford (Executive Support Councillor Children's Services) was also in attendance.

Officers in attendance:-

Katrina Cope (Senior Democratic Services Officer), John Harris (Head of Regulated Services - Fostering), Tracy Johnson (Senior Scrutiny Officer), Mark Rainey (Interim Strategic Commissioning Manager), Heather Sandy (Interim Director of Education), Sally Savage (Assistant Director of Commissioning), Janice Spencer OBE (Interim Director of Children's Services), Linda Dennett (Lead Nurse, Children's Health), Bridie Fletcher (Commissioning Officer) and Heston Hassett (S117 Specialist Project Manager).

10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs W Bowkett, S R Parkin and replacement member Mrs J E Killey.

Apologies for absence were also received from Mrs P J Barnett (Parent Governor Representative) and Reverend P Johnson (Church Representative).

It was noted that the Head of Paid Service, having received notice under Regulation 13 of the Local Government (Committee and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, had appointed Councillors C L Strange and Mrs J E Killey to replace Councillors Mrs W Bowkett and S R Parkin respectively, for this meeting only.

The Committee also noted that the Head of Paid Service, having received notice under Regulation 13 of the Local Government (Committee and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, had appointed Councillor R L Foulkes to the vacancy position until further notice.

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An apology for absence had also been received from Councillor Mrs P A Bradwell OBE (Executive Councillor Adult Care, Health and Children's Services).

11 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST

Councillor M A Whittington wished it to be noted that he had an adopted son aged 22, who was now receiving support from Barnardo's; and as a result would not be taking part in the debate and voting thereon in respect of agenda item 6 – Commissioning of Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service from 2020.

12 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 7 JUNE 2019**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 7 June 2019 be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

13 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR FOR ADULT CARE, HEALTH AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND CHIEF OFFICERS

The Vice-Chairman advised that he had been honoured to attend the Lincolnshire Media Golden Apples Education Awards 2019. The evening event had celebrated education and learning across the County.

The Executive Support Councillor for Children's Services also extended his congratulations to those nominated; and to the success of a remarkable event.

The Interim Director of Children's Services advised that the results of the Ofsted inspection held in May 2019 for Children's Social Care Service had been published on 11 June 2019. The Committee was advised further that the judgment had been that the service was found to be 'outstanding'. Thanks were extended to everyone within the service for all their hard work.

The Interim Director Children's Services – Education also advised that innovative practice in supporting Lincolnshire Children and Young People's Mental Health had been recognised at the recent Health Plus Care Conference. The Committee was advised further that the project to develop the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Crisis at Home Treatment Service with both Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and Lincolnshire County Council had been announced as a winner at the Healthcare Transformation Awards in the Innovation in Mental Health Care category.

14 CHILDREN'S HEALTH SERVICE 0 -19

The Interim Director of Education provided the Committee with a short update on the situation regarding the Lincolnshire Health Visitors. The Committee was advised that

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the Council was still in dispute with one union who represented some of the health visitors. The Committee noted that further strike days were planned. It was noted further that the Council valued the professional work undertaken by health visitors and the support they provided to Lincolnshire families. It was felt that the offer made by the Council was a fair and reasonable one. Reassurance was given that cover had been arranged and that no one would be left without support.

The Interim Director of Education highlighted that the Health Visitors strike action should not detract the Committee from the report presented, which provided a very positive picture of the Children's Health Service 0-19.

Linda Dennett, Lead Nurse, Children's Health presented the report making reference to the background behind the service. The Committee was advised that the Children's Health Service 0-19, alongside others supported the delivery of the Healthy Child Programme across Lincolnshire for children and young people and their families (aged 0-19 years) and up to the age of 25 years for young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities.

It was reported that the health visiting service delivered five mandated universal reviews: antenatal 28+ weeks; new baby 10-14 days, 6-8 weeks, 9-12 months, and 2-2½ years. It was noted that where it was identified a child/family required further support, for example if there were to be safeguarding concerns, the health visitor would then work as part of a multi-agency team to ensure the child's needs were met (Universal Partnership and Universal Partnership Plus).

Key Performance Indicators for the Mandated Contracts were shown on page 16 of the report. The Committee noted that overall performance had improved. Particular reference was mentioned to the two/two and a half year review, which had shown significant improvement from 39.5% at December 2018 to 75.5% at the end of May 2019. The Committee was advised that the latest performance figure was 80%. The Committee noted that this progress was testimony to all staff involved. It was noted further that the service currently had 14 vacancies, but from September 2019, the service would be fully established.

It was reported that an independent survey of parents had been carried out in February 2019, with over 100 parents being contacted; out of the 100, 71 parents had taken part in the survey. A summary of the results were detailed at the bottom of page 17 of the report. The Committee was advised that overall, comments received had been very positive.

The Committee noted that the number of complaints received had been consistently low; and that the three complaints received had not been upheld.

It was reported that the Single Point of Access had been well received. It was highlighted that parents and professionals accessed the service via a single contact point and phone number. It was highlighted further that responsiveness through the Single Point of Access was extremely high and that the service was consistently maintained.

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The Committee was advised that the Corporate Clinical Governance framework had been ratified and that new terms of reference had been established for the Clinical Governance Board. The Committee was advised that Clinical Mandatory training was 100% compliant and that this had been achieved in 2018/19. Reassurance was given that mechanisms were in place to monitor clinical quality at service level and that improvements in reporting had also been made. The Committee was advised further that the service maintained a clinical risk register, which was monitored by the Children's Health Quality Group.

It was reported that performance across the service remained good and that from September 2019, the service would have a full complement of staff, as the service had been in a position to offer posts to the current cohort of trainee health visitors when they qualified in September 2019. It was highlighted that this was the first time in 14 years that the service had been fully staff, which was credit to the work of the Deputy Leadership team. It was highlighted further that sickness absence was slightly higher than the corporate target, but good staffing numbers and support from HR had meant that the operational impact had been mitigated.

The Committee was advised that the results of the CQC inspection had been rated as 'Good' overall, which was a very positive result based on the limited length of time the service had been delivered by the Council.

The CQC had identified a number of areas of good practice; and a number of areas that 'require improvement' under the 'safe' domain. Attached at Appendix A to the report was a copy of the Regulation 12 Breach of Action Plan, in response to infection, prevention and control being insufficient to protect children from harm due to the inconsistency of toy cleaning and hand hygiene in some of the Children's Centres visited by the inspectors. It was noted that other areas that had been identified as 'could' be improved had an action plan in place to address the issues raised. These had related to lone working practices; a suggestion that there should be a staff survey specifically for 'health' staff; and ensuring that risks were captured on the service risk register. Appendix B provided the Committee with a copy of the Children's Health CQC Improvement Plan.

During discussion, the Committee raised the following issues:-

- That the number of complaints should be represented by some percentage measure. Reassurance was given that complaints during the last year had been very low, as there had been approximately 70,000 contacts;
- One member enquired whether the 0-19 service had noticed an increase in abuse and neglect cases; and whether processes were in place for staff to follow. The Committee was advised that for Health Visitors in the Universal Service a risk assessment was undertaken for every contact they made; and if any concerns were identified, an additional level of support would be introduced. As the system was now more integrated, health visitors would speak to social workers and have input into the Early Help Service and Team around the Child. The Committee noted that the integrated working arrangements had strengthened the pathways to ensure that families were helped from an early stage;

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- Congratulations were extended to staff for what they had achieved. A question was asked as to whether the single point of access dealt with an abandoned call. Officers advised that they would have to confirm this information. It was however highlighted that there was a voice mail facility, which enabled callers to leave a message; and that these were considered by call handlers very quickly;
- The Vision for the Service. The Committee was advised that the vision was to improve the outcomes for children and young people; and that working together had strengthened the offer available to families. Working together had also strengthened integrated working across all services; and
- One member enquired who the lead officer was for infection control. The Committee was advised that the lead officer was Tony McGinty, Consultant, Public Health, with assistance from Children's Services and Business Support. It was noted that there would be an overarching Infection Policy for all services.

The Vice-Chairman on behalf of the Committee extended congratulations to the staff for the service provided and to the fantastic news that the service would be fully staffed from September 2019 onwards, despite national shortages.

RESOLVED

That the progress and improvement of the Children's Health Service 0 - 19 since being in-sourced in October 2017, be noted.

15 COMMISSIONING OF LINCOLNSHIRE LEAVING CARE SERVICE FROM 2020

Consideration was given to a report from the Interim Director of Children's Services, which invited the Committee to consider the commissioning of the Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service from 2020, which was due to be considered by the Executive Councillor Adult Care, Health and Children Services on 29 July 2019.

Attached at Appendix 1 to the report was a copy of the Executive Councillor report and associated Appendices.

The Vice-Chairman welcomed to the meeting: Bridie Fletcher, Commissioning Officer, Mark Rainey, Interim Strategic Commissioning Manager and John Harris, Head of Regulated Services - Fostering.

The Committee was advised that Barnardo's had delivered the Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service contract since 2007. It was reported that the current contract had been in place since 2015, and was due to expire on 31 March 2020. The annual contract value was reported as being £1,258,038. It was highlighted that the current contract could not be extended further.

It was reported that a service review had been undertaken and completed; details of the findings were set out in the Commissioning Plan detailed in Appendix A to the Executive Councillor report.

The Committee was advised that some changes had been recommended to the service model. The biggest recommended change was the earlier allocation of care leavers to the service at age 16; this was to ensure that care leavers could be supported by their Social Worker and a Leaving Care Worker for two years prior to fully transitioning to the Leaving Care Service at 18. It was highlighted that there were significant benefits expected from the twin-tracked approach, as it would provide opportunities to develop effective and collaborative relationships with young people and other professionals, as well as supporting young people to independence, whilst achieving capacity within in-house social care teams to support other vulnerable children and young people. As a result of the projected increase in the number of care leavers, the Committee was advised that it was recommended to increase the service budget to £1.5m annually.

It was highlighted also that it was recommended that the Leaving Care Service was commissioned through an open competitive tender process with a maximum contract period of five years (three years with the option to extend for up to two further years).

The Committee was invited to comment on the proposal and to indicate whether it supported the recommendations as set out on page 44 of the report.

During discussion, the Committee raised the following issues:-

- Procurement Process – The Committee was advised that the tender would go out on ProContract, the Council's Tendering and Contracts System. This would allow suppliers from the national and international market to consider the tender and ensure a competitive process. In addition, the stakeholders involved in developing the proposals would also be made aware of where to find the tender. Staff at the current supplier would have the right to transfer to a new service provider ensuring continuity of staff for Lincolnshire's care leavers;
- Labelling of the Leaving Care Service – Consideration should be given to the naming of the service as a number of care leavers did not like it being called the Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service. A neutral name (like Kooth for the online counselling service for children and young people) would be more acceptable to the young people;
- Number of Care Leavers and Cost Implications – The Committee was advised that the number of care leavers fluctuated each month, but was around the 320 mark. It was highlighted that the number of looked after children was increasing, with 24% now constituted of 16 and 17 year olds, which in turn was leading to an increase in the number of care leavers and creating cost pressures. In addition, there was uncertainty over the future of Special Guardianship Orders requesting a Leaving Care Service and how many care leavers aged 21-25 years old who would come back to use the Information, Advice and Guidance extended service, which could cause further cost implications. These cost pressures had been accounted for, and funding for the new Leaving Care Service for the five years from April 2020 had been identified and agreed, and that the cost pressures would be funded from internal efficiencies;

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- Support Provided to Care Leavers – The new service with the earlier allocation to Leaving Care at 16 year olds, while young people still received support from social workers, would enable a wider and more flexible level of support to be provided to young people to meet their individual level of need; and
- Insourcing the Service – The Committee was advised that consideration had been given to insourcing the service, especially as insourced services at other councils had been rated as outstanding. There were a number of risks with insourcing, the main one being the transfer of staff with the potential risk of losing some staff who may not want to transfer to the Council. In addition, there would be extra costs to insource the service, and care leavers had highlighted that they valued the independence of an outsourced service from the Council.

RESOLVED

1. That the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations to the Executive Councillor Adult Care, Health and Children's Services as set out in the report.
2. That the comments as detailed above be passed to the Executive Councillor Adult Care, Health and Children's Services to consider when making a decision in relation to this item.

16 SECTION 117 JOINT POLICY

The Committee gave consideration to a report from the Executive Director of Adult Care and Community Wellbeing, which advised on the creation of the Section 117 Joint Policy for Lincolnshire County Council, Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) and Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust (LPFT), which was due to be considered by the Executive Councillor Adult Care, Health and Children's Services between 22 July and 2 August 2019.

The Vice-Chairman welcomed to the meeting Heston Hassett, Section 117 Specialist Project Manager.

The Committee was advised that Section 117 of the Mental Health Act 1983 (as amended by the MHA 2007) provided a responsibility on Local Authorities and CCG's to provide/commission After-Care Services. The Committee was advised further that this new multi-agency policy would replace existing arrangements in the three organisations. It was noted that the policy had been ratified for use by LPFT's Executive Board and the CCG's Executive Officers.

Attached at Appendix 1 to the report was a copy of the Executive Councillor report and associated Appendices.

It was highlighted that as Section 117 of the Mental Health Act (MHA) 1983 applied to both adults and children, the policy was being considered by both the Adults and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee. The Committee was advised that comments from both

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Committees would then be passed on to the Executive Councillor Adult Care, Health and Children's Services for consideration, prior to the decision being taken.

The Committee was advised that a robust co-production and engagement process had been followed and where possible appropriately acted upon in the creation of the joint policy.

The Committee noted that putting in place a multi-agency policy would provide appropriate governance around how S.117 was discharged by the Council and the CCGs in Lincolnshire in accordance with its joint statutory obligations under the Act. The Committee noted further that the multi-agency policy also included the involvement and engagement of Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust, as the provider of mental health services and also as provider of social care services to individuals in Lincolnshire whose primary needs were mental health needs. It was highlighted that the joint policy would help provide clarity about how the joint arrangements would operate locally to ensure that the needs of those individuals requiring after-care services were properly addressed.

During discussion, the Committee raised the following issues:-

The Committee supported the recommendation to approve the Section 117 Joint Policy. The Committee highlighted the importance of holding discussions with patients before they left hospital to ensure that any on-going mental health needs were met through the after-care service.

The Committee suggested that in the first sentence of paragraph 1, whether it should read "Clinical Commissioning Groups and/or the Local Authority" as this gave a different meaning to how the duty to provide after-care services would be applied. It was confirmed that this was a joint responsibility so should only ever read "Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Local Authority".

Support was given by the Committee for the need for a joined up approach for children and young people, to ensure that their needs already identified through other plans, such as Looked After Children reviews and Education, Health and Care Plans, were being met and brought together into a single plan. This would provide an opportunity for joint funding to be identified with health colleagues when appropriate, such as when there was an Education, Health and Care Plan.

With regards to young offenders' institutions, it was suggested that any young offenders with mental health issues in these institutions should also be able to access after-care services once they had left. It was noted that eligibility for after-care services was that the young person had been sectioned under Section 3, 37, 45A, 47 and 48.

The Committee was advised in relation to young people placed outside of Lincolnshire in mental health units, the local area retained clinical responsibility and there was no difference in the cost implications as the same funding guidance applied regardless of where the young person was placed. However, for young people living outside of Lincolnshire, such as at university, who were sectioned under

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Section 3 and then discharged, it would be the area that the young person resided in once discharged who would be responsible for providing after-care services and have to pay the costs. If the young person was transferred back to Lincolnshire, then the Council would only become responsible for providing the after-care services if the young person was then subsequently placed on a Section 3 whilst being ordinarily resident in Lincolnshire.

Confirmation was given that when a young person transitioned to Adult Services, the policy would be able to address the young person's mental health needs as part of the joint working arrangements.

With regard to Ash Villa, confirmation was given that if young people in Ash Villa were detailed under Section 3, when discharged they would then be eligible for after-care services under Section 117.

RESOLVED

1. That the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendation to the Executive Councillor Adult Care, Health and Children's Services as set out in the report.
2. That the comments as detailed above be passed to the Executive Councillor Adult Care, Health and Children's Services to consider when making a decision in relation to this item.

17 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report which enabled the Committee to comment on the content of its work programme, to ensure that its scrutiny activity was focussed where it could be of greatest benefit.

The Senior Scrutiny Officer advised the Committee that there had been one amendment to the work programme. The Committee was advised that a report on Housing Related Support Services had been added to the agenda for the 6 September 2019 meeting. It was noted that the report was for pre-decision scrutiny prior to an Executive decision being taken on 1 October 2019.

The Committee was advised that following the meeting on the 6 September 2019, a briefing session would be held on the new Ofsted Education Inspection Framework. The Committee was advised further that an appointment would be sent out shortly to all members of the Committee.

RESOLVED

That the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Work programme be agreed subject to the inclusion of Housing Related Support Services being added for the 6 September 2019 meeting.

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The meeting closed at 11.55 am