

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR S F WILLIAMS (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors P A Carpenter, C J Davie, M J Exton, M W Gilbert, J R Hicks, J D Hough, B W Keimach, C R Oxby, R B Singleton-McGuire, M Smith, R A Shore and C N Worth.

Added Members: Mrs E J Olivier-Townrow, Dr E van der Zee and Mrs G Wright.

Also in attendance:- Councillor D Brailsford (Executive Support Councillor for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning) and Paula Holdsworth (General Manager of Specialist Services, LPFT).

Officers in attendance: Michelle Andrews (Interim Head of Service – Property and Technology Management), Debbie Barnes (Executive Director of Children's Services), Keith Batty (Assistant Director - CfBT Education Services), Andrea Brown (Democratic Services Officer), Stuart Carlton (Assistant Director of Children's Services), Linda Duffield (School Organisation Planning Officer), Charlotte Gray (Commissioning and Development Officer), Tracy Johnson (Scrutiny Officer), Jo Kavanagh (Head of Service – Families Working Together) and Meredith Teasdale (Assistant Director of Children's Services).

71. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies for absence:- were received from Councillors Mrs P A Bradwell, A G Hagues and C J Underwood-Frost.

Dr B Roberts, Mr C V Miller and Mr S C Rudman (Added Members) also submitted apologies for absence.

72. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor Shore noted that he had a Personal Interest only in Item 4, Families Working Together.

73. MINUTES

It was noted that Resolution number one of Minute number 67 should be more specific in that the concerns raised were of a financial nature. Additionally, Members asked that future finance reports made clear the distinction between statutory and non-statutory figures. Officers explained that it was difficult to separate statutory and non-statutory figures as investment in non-statutory services reduced need for statutory interventions.

It was felt that paragraph iii. of Minute number 69 was misleading as it suggested that no alternative primary education provision was available but this was not the case. It was agreed that the following wording supersede that noted in the minute:-

In relation to exclusions within Primary Schools, there had been no primary alternative educational provision in Lincoln itself, with primary alternative provision in other Teaching and Learning Sites. However, the Mary Knox Centre had been renovated in 2012 and now provided alternative education for primary age students as part of a holistic assessment to decide on future school placement.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee, with the amendments noted above, held on 11 January 2013, be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

74. FAMILIES WORKING TOGETHER

The Troubled Families Co-ordinator/Head of Youth Offending in Lincolnshire, Jo Kavanagh referred members to Report Ref. 4.0 before giving a presentation which provided an update on the development of the Families Working Together service.

The following information was noted in response to the comments made by the Committee:-

- i. Although families do not have to receive benefits in order to be eligible for this programme, it was confirmed that two of the three criteria set had to be met, one of which was Worklessness.
- ii. Practice supervisors in each locality were proactively working to ensure families, including those families which may be hard to reach, were identified and offered this support. The service was publicised to all agencies in each area to assist in capturing these families.
- iii. National research had suggested that average costs of up to £10k would be required to support each family. An average 12 month period of intervention was anticipated although it was acknowledged that some may take longer and some may decide to leave the process prior to completion.
- iv. Sustainability of the service would remain a key challenge which could only be achieved by partnership working. Secondment of staff from other partner agencies would be required for some areas of the project to ensure that consideration be given to how they interact with the families and identify what support is available to them.
- v. Initial timescales had been apportioned to setting up the service and now officers were working on sustainability and maintenance of that service. Consideration was also being given to the future when government funding was no longer available.
- vi. Work with families would be on the understanding that they would leave the process at some point, however the team would ensure that families were able to continue once they had withdrawn. A series of follow-up sessions with the families would also be undertaken to ensure that they were continuing with the processes identified to best suit their needs.
- vii. It was felt that the benefits of the process would be, in time, self-evident within society and therefore very much supported by the Committee.

- viii. Discussions and engagement with Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) was planned for the future but that this initial contact had not yet been made as the CCGs would not be formally in place until 1 April 2013. Initial contact, however, had been positive in respect of their support for the service.
- ix. Many families were found to need support in basic day to day tasks, for example, setting boundaries and maintaining a routine for children to follow. Key workers were in a position to help parents to make those changes and then provide continued support over a period of time. This, in turn, would improve school attendance, reduce parental stress levels and generally improve family life. Although this may appear to be simple solutions, they are found to be key reasons why families find themselves in difficult situations.
- x. To date, only one identified family had been resistant to the process but key workers remain persistent in trying to provide support by utilising the right agencies as a steer into initial contact with the family.
- xi. Preparation for the Welfare Reform was ongoing and work continued with District Council's to identify those families who would see a significant impact as a result. Potential sanctions from other partners were being considered to be used in a positive way in order to help and assist families rather than as a perceived punishment.
- xii. Some families may not meet the criteria but require support. In this instance, these families would be signposted to other services who could meet their needs. A wide range of family support was commissioned with varying levels of intervention available to families in addition to the Families Working Together service.
- xiii. Members requested an update in twelve months.

RESOLVED

1. That the report and presentation be noted.
2. That an update be added to the Work Programme in the first quarter of 2014.

75. CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (CAMHS) UPDATE – TIER 2 PATHWAY

The Assistant Director for Children's Services, Stuart Carlton, introduced the report which updated the Committee on the performance of Lincolnshire's Tier 2 CAMH Service, following which he introduced Charlotte Gray and Paula Holdsworth, who gave a presentation on Lincolnshire's Mental Health and Wellbeing Service.

The presentation provided an overview of the challenges ahead for people aged 0-19 living in Lincolnshire in receipt of support services. At the end of the presentation, a video was shown to the Committee which highlighted the achievements of young people who had been part of these services within the county. Members were reassured that those young people who took part in the video had given their consent for their images to be used.

Following the presentation, the following points were made in response to Members' questions:-

- i. There remains a huge stigma attached to Mental Health issues for young people and it was difficult to make them known and provide support in how to deal with them. These issues were not necessarily confined to extremely vulnerable children and so work continued to raise awareness.

It was acknowledged that it may appear that there has been a significant increase in the numbers of children diagnosed with mental health problems, however it was noted that investment in the preventative service had raised awareness of the issue.

- ii. Research suggests that adults now suffering from poor Mental Health were likely to have been suffering as children. Now it was hoped that earlier diagnosis of these issues could support the child and reduce the impact on adult services.
- iii. The difference between Tier 2 and Tier 3 CAMHS was explained. The tiers represented the level of concern with Tier 2 being mild to moderate concern (incorporating anxiety, depression, low mood, etc) and Tier 3 being moderate to severe concern (high level of anxiety, depression, low mood including psychosis and self-harm, etc), where much more intensive therapy was required.
- iv. Members were signposted to a website designed for young people, Kooth.com, which provided online counselling to young people aged 11 to 25. The website had proved extremely popular and all evidence suggested that it was working well. The relationship between the online service and CAMHS was good with a representative of the website regularly attending CAMHS briefings and meetings. Partnership working was ensuring children had access to immediate, often local, advice whilst aiding a referral into CAMHS.
- v. LPFT were happy with the work being undertaken as the assistance for children was much better, centring around the needs of young people rather than what the organisations could provide.
- vi. Officers had been overwhelmed by the success of the service and it was felt that other areas could be supported by something similar, for example, children diagnosed with cancer.
- vii. Members requested that a future update be added to the Work Programme and also how to expand the use of the website for other services.

RESOLVED

1. That the report and presentation be noted.
2. That a future update be added to the Work Programme.

76. CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES COMMISSIONING STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

The Assistant Director for Children's Services, Meredith Teasdale, introduced the report which sought agreement from the Committee for the revised Action Plan, which had been drafted by a multi-agency group and set out actions to further improve the commissioning of services for Children with Disabilities.

The following responses were received to questions raised by Members:-

- i. As noted on page 14 of the Strategy and Action Plan, a multi-agency approach to transition would begin at age 13 and follow the young person through to age 25. It was noted that age 13 may be too early for some parents and so this was decided on an individual basis. Alternatively, discussions could start earlier but not until year 9.
- ii. An area of growth appeared to be within Autism and ADHD and pathways had been developed in both those areas.
- iii. In respect of exclusion of pupils from school who have Special Educational Needs (SEN), the work of the additional needs team included ensuring the CHOICE advisers, parents and schools were clear around the guidelines for exclusions. This was not specifically included in the policy and, at the Committee's request, the link to that recommendation in the School Admissions and Exclusions in Lincoln's final report would be added.
- iv. A report, which included details about work experience, was to be presented to the Transitions Board. It was agreed that this report would also be presented to a future meeting of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee for their consideration also and that this be added to the Work Programme.

RESOLVED

1. That the revised plan, subject to reference made regarding the exclusion of children with Special Education Needs, be AGREED.
2. That the report to be presented to the Transitions Board be added to the Work Programme for future consideration (title to be confirmed once known).

At 11.55am, Councillor R A Shore left the meeting and did not return.

77. THEME PERFORMANCE: QUARTER 3

The Assistant Director for Children's Services, Stuart Carlton, introduced the report which provided a summary of performance for Children and Young People in Quarter 3 2012/13.

The following responses were received to questions raised by Members:-

- i. NI061 (Timeliness and stability of adoption of looked after children) – performance had reduced slightly due to a major drive from the government but officers were confident this would improve.
- ii. NI063 (Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement) – stability of placements was key but it was acknowledged that there had been some disruptions in the system due to different behaviours. Work continued with foster carers to make them more resilient in dealing with young people with behavioural problems. The Committee requested that further information be brought back explaining the work being undertaken with foster carers.
- iii. NI062 (Stability of placements of looked after children: number of moves) – recruitment for foster carers for respite and full time care was ongoing which would hopefully increase performance in this area. The Committee requested additional information on the work around fostering be brought back with the next quarterly update.

- iv. CS117 (% 16-19 teenage mothers in EET) – this indicator was managed by Public Health. Opportunities available to young mothers and those pregnant in relation to EET remained a constant challenge.
- v. NI114 (Rate of permanent exclusions from school) – in terms of statutory right of entry into schools, there was not the same power of entry into academies as there was into local authority schools. Senior officers were liaising with schools to ascertain how these exclusions were dealt with. A working party was to be established with Head Teachers.

RESOLVED

1. That the report and update be noted.
2. That further information on NI063 and fostering be included in the Quarter 4 update.

78. PROPOSAL FOR A NEW PRIMARY ACADEMY IN BOURNE – (SUBMISSION TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF RESULTS AND EVALUATION OF PROCESS TO IDENTIFY AN OPERATOR)

The Chairman made the following statement in relation to this item:-

"This report has been withdrawn from today's agenda to allow officers to investigate additional information which has been received on the process undertaken to select the operator and to determine the appropriate way forward within the remit of the competitive process".

RESOLVED

1. That the withdrawal of the report, to allow officers to investigate further, be AGREED.

79. PROPOSED RELOCATION AND EXPANSION OF CROWLAND SOUTH VIEW COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL (FINAL DECISION)

The Interim Head of Property and Technology Management, Michelle Andrews, introduced the report which was an item for pre-decision scrutiny. Councillor Mrs Bradwell would be making a decision on this item on 19 March 2013.

Members felt that this was an excellent opportunity for the school and therefore supported the proposals in their entirety.

In addition, the Committee raised a question over the potential impact of the expansion of the school on pupil numbers at neighbouring primary schools. However, the Committee was reassured that the evidence available suggested the impact on the other local primary schools was likely to be minimal.

RESOLVED

1. That the recommendation to the Executive Councillor for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning, as set out in Report Ref. 9.0, be AGREED.

80. SCHOOL ADMISSIONS AND EXCLUSIONS IN LINCOLNSHIRE – ACTION PLAN ARISING FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

The Assistant Director for Children's Services, Meredith Teasdale, introduced the report which presented an Action Plan developed in response to the School Admissions and Exclusions Scrutiny Report, completed by the Committee in January 2013. Feedback in regard to the report was positive and included the following comments:-

- i. All recommendations had been agreed by the Executive Councillor for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning.
- ii. Recommendation number 7 was already complete and the information had been provided to the Children's Commissioner.

RESOLVED

1. That the Action Plan be AGREED.

81. INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

The Assistant Director of CfBT Education Services, Keith Batty, introduced the report which set out the current situation and approach in relation to the provision of impartial careers information, advice and guidance to young people.

Feedback in regard to the report was positive and included the following comments:-

- i. Members were reminded that the report was produced prior to implementation of the new statutory framework, which made this area the sole responsibility of the schools. The Local Authority responsibility was to promote participation by all.
- ii. Support had been offered to schools, free of charge, to review their preparedness for the new legislation.
- iii. There was a statutory requirement to provide a careers service to children with Special Educational Needs which was included as part of the additional needs service.
- iv. Two Apprentice Champions had been invited into 53 schools to discuss apprenticeships.

At 12.25pm, Councillor P A Carpenter left the meeting and did not return.

- v. There appeared to be a discrepancy with the number of schools mentioned in the report, with 54 being mentioned, as it was thought there were 57 in the county. Officers agreed to clarify numbers.
- vi. Officers were congratulated on the progress made undertaking recommendation seven imaginatively and achieving what the Committee had asked.
- vii. The number of "2Unknowns" was highlighted. It was explained that in 2010/11 the local authority had decided to provide career guidance as it was not understood that tracking was a Local Authority responsibility. The Government clarified the position by issuing new guidance a year later. This

led to a high level of unknowns for a 12 month period. This performance would improve as this cohort became 18.

The Local Authority continued to support young people aged 16-18 who were NEET and to track the status of all young people in this age range so that it could respond when young people first become NEED. However, the total number of staff involved in this activity was lower than when the Local Authority was funded to provide a Connexions service. The same personnel were also available to provide a charged 'careers guidance' service to schools. At the date of the meeting, 38 secondary schools (including academies) were purchasing a service.

viii. Due to the national information sharing agreement, Jobcentre Plus was unable to share information with local authorities. This was the only way to confirm formally the status of 18 year olds. Until this issue was resolved nationally, 'unknown figures' may continue to appear artificially high.

At 12.40pm, Councillor B W Keimach left the meeting and did not return.

RESOLVED

1. That the endorsement of the current approach to working with schools, colleges, providers and other stakeholders to support and encourage the delivery of good quality, impartial, careers information and guidance be AGREED.
2. That the requirement for a review of the impact of the transfer of the statutory duties (to provide independent careers guidance to schools) on participation in 2014, once the first cohort affected had made the transition to post 16 be AGREED.
3. That the implementation of statutory powers to ensure adequate provision was provided be actively lobbied.

82. CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL UPDATE

The Chairman presented the draft minutes of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 17 January 2013 for the Committee's information and invited Members to make any comments.

RESOLVED

1. That the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel be noted.

83. LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING BOARDS SCRUTINY SUB-GROUP – UPDATE

The Chairman presented the draft minutes of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group held on 10 January 2013 for the Committee's information and invited Members to make any comments.

RESOLVED

1. That the draft minutes of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group meeting held on 10 January 2013 be noted.

84. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2013

The Scrutiny Officer, Tracy Johnson, presented the Committee's work programme for 2013 and advised that no amendments had been made. This was the last meeting prior to the County Council elections and it was suggested that an additional meeting would be called should any items of urgent business arise.

RESOLVED

1. That the Work Programme be approved, subject to the inclusion of the additional items agreed in minute numbers 74, 75, 76 and 77 above.

85. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman announced, as this was the last meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee for the current Council term, his thanks to all the Committee members and officers for their contributions to the work of the Committee over the last four years. He felt that the task groups had worked well in the past and hoped that they would continue to do so in the future as it was, in his opinion, one of the few Council activities which worked successfully in cooperation with its' officers.

In return, the Committee thanked the Chairman for his leadership and wished him well in his future endeavours.

The meeting closed at 12.52pm

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