

ITEM 04

Time commenced – 18.00pm

Time finished – 19:00pm

Children and Young People Scrutiny Review Board 20 June 2022

Present: Councillor Lind (Chair) Councillor Whitby (Vice Chair)
Councillors Kus, Pandey, Pattison, T Pearce
Co-optees –Tracey Churchill, Catholic Diocesan

In Attendance: Suanne Lim - Director of Early Help and Children's Social Care
Fiona Colton, Head of Service, Early Help and Children's
Safeguarding

01/22 Apologies for Absence

There were Apologies from Cllr Sue Bonser, Nicky Fenton, Church of England co-opted member, Andy Smith, Strategic Director of Peoples Services

02/22 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were none.

03/22 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Lind confirmed that as a parent of SEND children she did not have any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests to declare.

Cllr Whitby confirmed that he was a Foster Carer for Derby City

04/22 Minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

05/22 Outcome of Derby's Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services

The Board received a presentation on the outcome of Derby's Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services. This was presented by the Director of Early Help and Children's Social Care.

The officer explained the background and context of the Inspection outcome, highlighting the result of the last judgment inspection in March 2017 when Derby's Children's Services overall effectiveness and services for children in care were judged to be "Good". There were 11 recommendations from the Inspection in March 2017, children's services had been working on improvements since then.

The Board heard that in the last five years, Derby's Children's Services had been assessed by a Joint Targeted Area Inspection of services for vulnerable children and young people (JTAI) (CSAFE and our multi-agency front door) in 2019, and had a Focused Visit (CIC, sufficiency and permanence) in 2021.

The Board learnt that the 'Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services' or ILACS, was a new framework for inspecting children's services for local authorities and replaced the Single Inspection Framework (SIF). The ILACS Inspection was part of a 'whole-system approach' to inspections. Local Authorities could be assessed by a short or standard inspection which was based on the outcome from their last inspection.

The ILACS Inspection lasted 2 weeks and Inspectors met with the Lead Cabinet Member, Chief Executive, Independent Chair of Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Strategic Director of People Services (Director of Children's Services, DCS). They reviewed 275 different pieces of evidence before arriving on site, and 30 more pieces of evidence during the inspection. They spoke with 50 members of staff and 12 children & young people looking at the impact of services in the last 6 months. They met with six members of the Children in Care Council as well as 4 Foster Carers and 4 Adopters. They also spoke to four Designated Teachers. They heard about the experiences of many of care leavers and spoke to six young people.

The headline findings from the ILACS Inspection showed there was a significant improvement from the last inspection. Derby City Council were judged to be "Outstanding" in three areas and "Good" in one. The Board noted one key highlight from the report "Derby City has an impressive and committed senior leadership team which ensures that children living in Derby City receive a consistently good and often outstanding response from services. This ensures that children have the right help and support when they need it. Children's services benefit from strong corporate support that appropriately invests in and prioritises resources for vulnerable children. Senior leaders have established a clear and tangible service culture that places children at its centre" The officer also highlighted key findings from the following areas; Health and Protection, Children in Care and Care Leavers; the Impact of Leaders.

There were two recommendations from the Inspection: Access for all children to life-story work that helps them to understand their histories; Sufficiency of placement choice and location for children in care

The Board were advised that the next steps for Derby's Children's Services were to:

- Review and reflect alongside colleagues, partners and peers (including supporting peers with their inspection preparations);
- Development of our ILACS improvement plan, submission deadline 19 August 2022
- On-going service development with further targeted deep-dive and QA assessments to sustain and develop

The Chair extended thanks from the Board for the continued hard work the service does for Looked After Children (LAC), the service do a fantastic job.

She asked what measures were being undertaken currently to address local sufficiency of placement choice and location for children in care. The officer explained that they are working with commissioning colleagues, looking at the framework locally for all children in care (CiC), Residential Block contracting, different continuity arrangements, D2N2 regarding economies of scale. They are also looking at working with health colleagues across education and health. Sourcing accommodation from Social Care and Health looking at a joint commissioning process for high needs children. For the recommendation to give access for all children to life-story work to help them to understand their histories, it was highlighted that three additional staff are now dedicated to working with children. The strategy begins when children enter the care system, the aim was that all children can take something away around their story. The officer offered to provide a report on progress for a meeting later in the year.

A councillor felt that the Ofsted Result was a staggering achievement given the financial challenges of the council. He asked how many children were placed out of Derby City now. The officer estimated there were approximately 60% of children placed outside the 20-mile boundary of Derby city. This was a national issue, the government were working on guidance now, more detail was awaited from government for local authorities to have more economies of scale.

The Board resolved:

- 1. to consider the presentation and to note the Ofsted Letter re: Inspection of Derby Local Authority Children's Services March 2022.**
- 2. to make any further comments or recommendations following discussions on the presentation received.**

06/22 Opportunity for all. Strong schools with great teachers for your child – Education White Paper

The Board agreed that this item could be deferred to the meeting on 5th September 2022. The Board understood they could provide views in September ahead of the legislation passing and needing to make decisions locally.

The Board resolved to defer the report to the September meeting

07/22 Development of a Family Hub Model for Derby

The Board considered a presentation from the Strategic Director People Services on the development of a Family Hub Model for Derby. A presentation was given by the Head of Service of Early Help and Children's Safeguarding.

The officer explained that Family Hubs are the latest initiative from the DFE to support vulnerable families with children and young people 0-19, (up to 25 for SEND). The approach relies on the principles set out below

- An understanding of the importance of Early Help and prevention
- Use of evidence-based interventions.

- A modular flexible approach.
- Commitment from all partners
- Integrated Health and public Health priorities (Start for Life)
- Voluntary and wider community support

A bid for funding of £700k plus to deliver the Family Hub Model was submitted on 17th December 2021, it was felt that even without funding this model was the way forward. Derby was identified as one of the 75 councils eligible for Start for Life funding.

The achievements so far included funding received from a bid via East Midlands DCS's Derby became part of East Midlands Family Hub group; A Family Hubs Strategic Board was set up the first meeting was on 1st March 2022; a Family Hubs Model and timeline was created.

The officer described the proposed Family Hub Model for Derby which had 6 key features, services were included from the following areas 0-19 Health (Start for Life), A Digital offer, Specialist Services (Emotional Wellbeing and SEND), Young People Spaces, Community Resilience, Early Help and Children's Social Care, Employment and Skills. The model presented was not the final version; it was the beginning of ideas for groups of individuals and services.

However, Derby's Transformation Bid was not successful. Officers decided to seek feedback on the decision and to highlight the strengths of an outstanding Ofsted Inspection and that Derby wants to move with the new ideas.

Then at the end of March it was announced that Derby was one of 75 Local areas identified for Family Hubs funding for "Start for Life, 1001 critical days". The Autumn Budget committed £301.75m for 75 Local Authorities to deliver "start for life and family help services".

Derby now has to publish the "Start for Life Offer". To receive funding Derby has to provide or develop a package of programmes such as a parenting programme, infant and parent mental health support, breastfeeding support, workforce pilots. LAs have to deliver all of the above package to receive funding.

The officer described the expectations for the 75 LAs for Start for Life, 1001 critical days:

- Family Hubs are a way of delivering the Supporting Families vision of an effective early help system
- A single point of Access (SPOA) so that information only needs to be provided once
- Whole family lead practitioner'
- Clear leadership and governance, good data sharing
- What can citizens and families expect to be delivered virtually, by outreach and within hubs face to face.
- Minimum expectations as set out in the programme guide (list supplied) and must be met by end of March 2024.

Derby City Council now has to agree to sign up for Start for Life/1001 critical days and if they agree set up a task and finish group to move this forward. A decision would be needed on how to move forward with the plans for the wider offer of Family hubs and a model agreed. Also, to think about how this can be achieved without the £700K funding requested. Further funding would need to be sourced, possibly the Youth Investment Fund to look at targeting activities. There should be no duplication of services.

A councillor asked if the provision that Derby has to offer are ones that are not being offered now. The officer confirmed that they are being offered but they may need to be delivered differently. Currently parent mental health was being offered, but some work was needed. There was not much support now for people who struggle after birth of children. There were good relationships with Health Visitors. There are a lot of programmes already in place, but they needed to be pulled together for the “Start of Life” offer.

The SPOA was discussed, the officer explained this would be the Family Hubs. All families in the city should know where to go to get the help they need. All services needed to be brought together in one place. There could be groups in libraries, Community Centres. Mapping was needed to work out what the buildings look like, and branding was needed so families would know where to go for services they need. A councillor was concerned that this might diminish the services already in place. The officer said it would give us back the lively offer we had previously rather than diminish it.

The councillor queried whether there would be more Youth Centres in the city other than the one in Mackworth. The officer explained that the Council would not be providing this offer, it would probably be provided by organisations like Safe and Sound or Babypeople. The buildings would be a part of the Family Hub and organisations and people would use them.

The Chair was concerned about the lack of funding and asked whether the Board should write to either the DfE or Family Hubs Department to explain that if more funding was available for Derby, so much more could be done. The Board agreed with the Chair’s suggestion. The officer would provide a copy of the bid to the Chair and Vice Chair. It was agreed that the Chair should write to the Children and Families Minister at the DfE.

The Board resolved:

- 1. to note the report and presentation.**
- 2. To recommend that the Chair writes to the Children and Families Minister at the DfE, regarding funding, a lot more could be achieved for children and families if more funding available for the Development of Family Hub Models in Derby.**

08/22 Work Programme and Topic Review 2020/21

The Board considered a report which allowed the Board to study its Terms of Reference and Remit for the forthcoming Municipal Year. The report set out key work areas, issues, and potential topic review subjects within the service areas, for discussion or inclusion in the work programme.

The Board agreed the work programme set out in appendix 1 to the report with the addition of an item on Youth Funding and Needs.

The Board resolved to note the information provided within the report.

MINUTES END.