

ITEM 8

Cabinet 12 June 2019

Children and Young People Scrutiny Review Board 8 April 2019

51/18 Report on the Integrated Disabled Children's Service

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of People Services in relation to Monitoring Safeguarding Practice. The report was presented by the Director of Early Help and Children's Social Care. The report provided Scrutiny Panel with an update in regard to the current position and picture relating to the Integrated Disabled Children's Service

The Board noted that the IDCS is a multi-disciplinary/multi-agency service which works with disabled children from 0-17 to provide service, advice and signpost to other resources. The service is jointly funded between Derby City Council (DCC) and the Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). Service areas include: a field work team, a residential short breaks services, a Community and Home Support Team, Occupational Therapy staff, a Youth Service Team and Community Short Breaks.. There was a total of 74.91 FTE staff delivering services.

Members were advised of the focus of the services

- Community Short Breaks provides respite for families, helps to increase children's social network and reduce social isolation. Breaks can be from 1 hour sessions to full day trips, the service supports families not receiving any other similar type of support.
- Community and Home Support Team (CHST) delivered a range of services for families including managing behaviour issues, self-care and sleep problems. This service was for 5 to 19 year olds with a diagnosed mild-severe Learning Disability and Health needs.
- Fieldwork Team which links in with the Preparing for Adulthood (PFA) agenda for older children with assessed Learning/Physical Disability.
- Residential short breaks service which provides breaks for disabled children based at the Lighthouse. The service was run by joint multi disciplinary staffing. The officer confirmed that the service was for Derby City children aged 0-17 with a diagnosed moderate-severe learning disability or any other life limiting illness.
- Occupational Therapists who help children to be independent in the family home. The Board noted the high current workload which was detailed in the report.

The Officer advised the Board of current pressures which included that of the current health provider who has given notice of its intention to withdraw from delivering health services from 31.05.19 so there was a need to replace and redesign the provision, an alternative provider has not been secured as yet. The Board asked if they could provide any support to resolve the situation. The Officer confirmed that a suitable provider is still being sought, however the service is not at risk and a cost envelope was in place.

The Board queried whether respite support was being provided for siblings who are carers for disabled parents or other children. The officer confirmed that it would depend on the level of disability of parent(s), there are cases in existence which are open over both areas Adults and Children's. There is a Young Carers scheme in place, the officer offered to provide more information if needed but reassured the Board that Child Carers are an important issue for Derby City Council.

Members asked about Derby City's policy with regard to children with Learning Disabilities being integrated into mainstream education, they were concerned that children would be attending the correct school for their needs. The officer confirmed that most children with Learning Disabilities would have an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) which will determine the level and type of support needed, but that there was a significant challenge in Derby regarding children being placed in Special Schools when they could flourish in a mainstream setting.

Councillors felt that there was a lot of work to be done on SEND they understood that inclusion was at the heart of Council's policy. They noted that the Council has undertaken a consultation on SEND. Councillors expressed concern that the overspend in the higher needs block would continue to rise and that a lot of work the Council is undertaking would increase the pressure. The Board requested that a recommendation be made to Cabinet to pause the current proposal on SEND and re-think the process by which spend is being brought down in relation to the pressure on the high needs block and out of area placements overspend.

The Board resolved

- 1. To ensure that the scrutiny panel are made aware of current services being delivered by the IDCS along with the current workload, pressures and developments in the service.**
- 2. That a recommendation to Cabinet be made to pause the current proposal on SEND and re-think the process by which spend is being brought down in relation to the pressures on the high needs block and out of area placements overspend.**