

ITEM 04

Time commenced – 18.00pm
Time finished - 19.40pm

Children and Young People Scrutiny Review Board 19 October 2020

Present: Councillor Lind (Chair)
Councillors Hezelgrave, Testro, and Pattison
Co-optees – Stephen Grundy, Tracey Churchill

In Attendance: David Gardner, NHS Derby and Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
Helen O'Higgins, NHS Derby and Derbyshire CCG
Pauline Anderson, Service Director Learning and Skills
Suanne Lim, Service Director for Early Help and Children's Social Care
Gurmail Nizzer, Director of Children's Integrated Commissioning
Jo Ward, Head of Education and Skills
Connie Spencer, Youth Mayor
Priya Gill, Deputy Youth Mayor

10/20 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Andy Smith, Strategic Director Peoples Services, Cllr Ross McCristal, Nicky Fenton

11/20 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were none.

12/20 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

13/20 Minutes of the meeting held on 07 September 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 07 September 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

14/20 Priority Families Programme Update

The Board considered a report of the Director of Children's Integrated Commissioning which provided an update on the Priority Families Programme, which is administered by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The programme conducts targeted interventions for families experiencing multiple problems.

The officer highlighted information contained in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.10 of the report.

- The programme was due to run from 2015 to 2020. Derby City's target was to work with 2,230 families, so far up to March 2020 3,471 families have been worked with. The 2020-21 target was to work with a further 223 families. From April 2020 to September 2020, 158 families were classed as having their needs met which was 42% of the annual target. The Board noted that this was a positive outcome in spite of COVID 19 and its challenges. The Board queried whether Derby City was on course to meet its target of 223 families. The officer confirmed that Derby City was on track to meet targets although this position was dependent on the COVID 19 situation.
- The officer explained that the programme was externally Quality Assured by the National Troubled Families Team. The next steps for Derby's programme would be to gain confirmation of funding after 2020/21 and to develop a sustainable joined-up data solution. If funding cannot be provided beyond 2021 there could be a risk to programme delivery.

The Board were informed that up to the end of March 2020 Payment by Results (PbR) funding of around £1.2m has been received and approximately £2.2m attachment funding has been brought into Derby during the course of the programme.

The Board thanked the officer for the informative report; they felt it was good to that families are being supported by early interventions. They asked if any future reports could contain case studies of anonymised families. The officer thanked the Board for this suggestion and confirmed that in future they would try to incorporate either written or video anonymised case studies in the report.

The Board resolved to note

- 1. The performance of the Priority Families Programme to date**
- 2. The requirement to deliver sustainable transformation, supported by the transformation grant.**

15/20 CAMHS and Mental Health for Young People

The Board considered a report and presentation of the NHS Derby and Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). The report and presentation was given by the Head of All Age Mental Health.

The officer explained that children and young people in Derby have a greater level of vulnerability to mental illness than seen nationally. Contributing risk factors seen particularly in Derby include poverty, obesity and migration. The strategic approach being taken in Derby was to improve the mental health of children and young people using the Futures in Mind (FIM) programme 2015 -20. The initial focus was to increase the targeted early intervention offer, upskill its workforce and raise awareness of the issues.

The Board were informed that referrals to services had dropped during COVID, but referrals to early intervention services are now rising steadily after this initial dip. Commissioned services “Build Sound Minds” and “Changing Lives” have adapted their delivery models and staff have been organised to work remotely. Currently there was sufficient capacity in the system to meet demand, although this was being monitored closely.

CAMHS had an overall reduction in referrals during lockdown April – June because professionals did not have the opportunity to see children as they were not attending school. The referrals were now at similar levels to those of 12 months ago.

The officer highlighted the investments made in services which include:

- 6 additional appointments to CAMHS staff. These staff were deployed across CAMHS to specifically target the internal waiting lists, freeing up capacity to help the teams address the issue of external waiting times.
- In the Eating Disorder service an additional WTE clinical psychologist and 2.2 WTE nurses would start during Quarter 3 and further Investment was planned for 2021.

The Board were informed of the services that had been restored after lockdown. These included Build Sound Minds and the Youth Offending team. The Board noted that the developments recommenced included the CAMHS service review, however the unacceptably long waiting times remained a concern.

A councillor was concerned about the long waiting list and asked how many children were on the list, what were the waiting times and what was the longest waiting time. The officer confirmed that the waiting time for routine appointments was 21 weeks, urgent appointments would be seen on the same day Children’s Emergency Department (CED) or 0.5 of a day in the community. There were currently 11 children and young people waiting for urgent appointments and 342 for routine appointments, the Board noted that the numbers for routine appointments had reduced since September 2019 when there were 432. The longest waiting time for Core CAMHS was 57.43 weeks, the average waiting time was 24.19 weeks.

The officer also gave details of other service waiting times since August 2020

RISE Liaison team longest 9.29 weeks, average 3.13 weeks
Eating Disorder longest 1.57 weeks average 1.14 weeks

The investment into additional resources was highlighted by the officer, although, it was noted that the reduction in waiting times would only be seen once staff were in place.

A councillor was interested in the COVID 19 response regarding the service being risk averse to face to face meetings, was PPE used fully, was the service trying to be risk tolerant. The officer confirmed that staff had seen more people face to face. The main issue had been the physical environment in which to see

people eg the lack of location and space rather than PPE. Schools had been closed during COVID, now they are open but because of restrictions, they only have a limited amount of space available for face to face meetings. The Trust had RAG rated all the children in their care, the children that they had been most concerned about had been seen. Virtual consultations had been offered but in the first stages people had not been keen to take these up, however now people seem to prefer this means of communication, especially children with ADHD.

A councillor then asked how the service was meeting the needs of children “missing” ie those who did not attend school. The officer confirmed that targeted intervention was open to all; a person could self-refer or be referred by parents, social workers or teachers. The service was advertised on the STP website giving details of the help available and contact points. However, children prefer to use “Apps”. There was a message to the whole system about communicating differently, using websites does not meet everybody’s needs. The Board were informed that work is currently ongoing with schools to establish better ways to communicate.

A councillor then asked what impact had been seen on the Safeguarding Services. The Director of Early Intervention and Children’s Safeguarding confirmed that there had been good relationships established with colleagues, but there were concerns about the waiting times for referrals. The number of referrals to MASH had reduced since pre-COVID, and there were concerns as to where these children were and where the reduction in referrals would manifest itself in the future.

The Board thanked both officers from the NHS for their report and presentation and requested that regular updates for future meetings.

The Board requested that regular updates be brought to the Board commencing at the next meeting on 14th December

16/20 Education Inclusion (SEND) Report

The Board considered a report and presentation of the Director of Learning, Inclusion and Skills. The report was to provide information of greater depth about attainment and achievement in SEND. The report and presentation was given by the Head of Education and Skills. This was the first time a report had been prepared that was specific to the attainment and other outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and or disabilities.

The Board were informed that the local authority has a statutory responsibility to ensure appropriate provision for pupils who have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP). But there is no such statutory responsibility for pupils categorised as SEN Support and did not have an EHCP. These children also need to be supported and challenged to improve outcomes. If their needs are met they will flourish in their mainstream school and there may be no need to put in place an EHCP.

The Officer highlighted the levels of development for Derby SEND children with and without an EHCP at the established assessment stages throughout 2019

school year. Paragraphs 4.3 to 4.7 of the report explain the assessment stages in detail and provide breakdowns of figures, the officer provided the following examples for the Board.

The first published Assessment takes place at the end of the Reception year and the second assessment takes place at the end of Year 1 in the form of a Phonics Test – Derby SEND children achieved relatively well in both of these.

At the end of Year 2 teachers assessed their pupils in Key Stage 1 Reading, Writing, Mathematics – Derby SEND children continued to achieve relatively well in Reading, Writing and Mathematics.

At the end of Key Stage 2, pupils sat externally-set tests in reading and mathematics and their writing was assessed by their teachers. The rankings were lower but SEND children in Derby were still attaining relatively well compared to similar pupils nationally. 12% of pupils with an EHCP in Derby achieved the expected standard in all three subjects, nationally it was 9%. Derby pupils identified as SEN Support achieved 23%, nationally it was 25%.

At the end of Year 11 in Key Stage 4 English and Maths - students with an EHCP continued to achieve relatively well. In Derby it was 6.4% whilst nationally it was 5.5%. However, those students identified as having SEND but no EHCP fell further behind their counterparts nationally. In Derby it was 12.1% whilst nationally it was 16.8%

The Board were also informed that attendance at school was an important consideration. Pupils who are persistently absent (for more than 10% of the year) was a concern, since they missed large amounts of teaching and learning. Paragraph 4.9 of the report showed absence figures for academic year 2018-19. A councillor was concerned that the persistent absence of pupils be examined further. It was queried if there were plans for a consultation with parents and carers regarding absenteeism, as it would be useful to have their thoughts to see where needs could be better met. The officer confirmed there was no planned consultation, however, there were plans to bring parents and carers together locally in hubs to discuss different themes. Any further suggestions from the Board would be welcomed.

The officer explained that behaviour of pupils was another issue. If a pupil was disruptive at school, then they are not learning. If their bad behaviour leads to fixed term exclusion or repeat fixed term exclusions, then more classroom time would be missed. The Board noted that pupils with SEND were often disproportionately excluded from primary and secondary schools and the most common reason for exclusion was persistent disruptive behaviour. The Board were informed that Derby special schools respond well to children's needs; it was the mainstream schools where improvement for students with special educational needs should take place.

The officer highlighted the partnership work with Opportunity Areas, Schools and Academies that was being undertaken to tackle the issues described above. The local authority is represented at the Head's Strategy Groups where there are data sharing agreements which has meant that the "Inclusion Dashboard" information can be shared by all headteachers.

Close working relationships had also been established between Education and Skills and Children's Social Care, which had been developed and deepened during the COVID 19 lockdown. All pupils with an EHCP had been given an individual EHCP risk assessment which was quality assured by Educational Psychologists from Derby and HMs from Ofsted.

A councillor was concerned that pupils with SEN but no EHCP were not receiving the best support and that poorly performing schools should be identified to enable provision of strategies to help them improve. The officer explained that the "Inclusion Dashboard" provides information for each school and was accessible to all headteachers. The Board noted that all schools are willing and want to improve where possible.

The Board resolved:

- 1. To support the Learning, Inclusion and Skills teams' capacity and emphasis on vulnerable children and young people in their challenge and support for schools and academies outside the sold service**
- 2. To note that Derby children and young people with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) achieved well in comparison to similar children and young people nationally but that children and young people identified as SEN Support under-achieved more and more compared to similar children and young people the older they got.**
- 3. To note the areas of activity in which the City Council Education teams are engaged in supporting improvement.**
- 4. To recommend to Cabinet that a consultation be undertaken with Parent Carers across the City regarding Absence, SEND, Elective Home Education, Attendance and Mental Health and Wellbeing to ensure that needs are better met.**

13/20 Topic Review – Early Intervention and Youth Outreach Support

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director of Corporate Services. The Children. The report allowed the Board to receive a presentation from relevant officers within Derby City Council and to further discuss the scope and terms of reference of the review. The Board received a presentation from the Director of Early Intervention and Children's Safeguarding on the Youth Offer (Early Help).

The Board were informed that the Youth Offer (Early Help) was just one part of the Council which delivered a Youth Support Programme. This service was a targeted provision, not a universal service, and children are referred by an Early Help assessment.

The officer described the resources that were available and explained that they were limited in range and volume. There are 7 full time youth workers across the City and 9 part time youth workers for 11-25 years with moderate learning disability who are based in the Light House. Currently there was no face to face group work in youth clubs due to COVID 19. Detached Youth Work took place across city hot spots eg Derwent, Chaddesden, Mackworth Morley, Arboretum, Austin, Sinfen & Alvaston. A service was provided to schools to support the most vulnerable young people in Derby.

The officer highlighted services that are provided:

- There was targeted one to one support and direct work by youth workers on open Early Help cases
- There are small group work sessions in schools where requested
- They continue to provide support for Young Carers in Locality 2. No group activities during half term are provided, but individual contact and visits are maintained
- They have a good knowledge of providers supporting half term activities and signpost those most vulnerable to these activities.

A councillor was surprised at the amount of support available and was interested to establish what kind of offer was available in other Cities across the country. The officer confirmed that some areas have disbanded their youth offer and emphasised that the Early Help Service in Derby was only one of a range of services who provide support. Communities were becoming more resilient in being able to support vulnerable children in Derby, the will is there to step up around safeguarding needs. The officer would like to return to the Board with some examples of the work being done by the voluntary sector. The Board noted that cases will begin to decrease if intervention takes place at an early level.

The Board resolved to note the report

14/20 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 and discussed the framework for the Topic Review. The Board agreed to invite representatives of provider organisations to the meetings in December and February to present evidence. A councillor suggested that sub-committees or working groups be set up outside of the Board to gather information.

- Target group
- Areas of delivery in the city
- Accessibility
- Take up of service and reach

- Impact
- Evidence of partnership working to support effective inclusion of young people

The following organisations were suggested by the Board

Community Action

Youth Alliance

Community Safety Partnership

Derbyshire Constabulary – Boxing

Fire Service

The Board resolved to note the terms of reference and the Overview and Scrutiny Rules as set out in the Council's Constitution

MINUTES END