

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY BOARD

7 September 2020

Minute Extract

07/20 Parent Carers Need Assessments

The Board considered a report which was presented by the Director of Early Help and Children's Social Care. The report was requested by the Chair of the Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Board in order to review Derby's current practice in light of the statutory requirements of Parent Carer Needs Assessments.

The Board were informed that a local authority must, where certain conditions are satisfied, assess whether a parent carer of a disabled child, living in their area, has need for support, and the extent of those needs. There are two conditions to meet for undertaking a parent carer needs assessment, which are set out in paragraph 1.2 of the report. The Board noted that the local authority can legally combine the parent carer's need assessments with other assessments and the Council does so within its single assessment to meet its legal duties. When a stand-alone assessment has been requested, these are commissioned from Adult Social Care.

The Board were also informed that parent carers need transparency in accessing and understanding in what circumstances and in what format a parent carers need assessment could be undertaken. It was noted that the pathway on the council website is not explicit; also where individuals have had single assessments, the option for a parent carer assessment to be undertaken should be clearly indicated.

The Board highlighted that it was important that the pathway for parents accessing information on how and when Derby City Council undertakes parent carer need assessments is explicit and clear within the Local Offer, on the Council website and within the policy, and also that it was accessible for all parents regardless of any disabilities or if they speak English as a second language

The Board resolved:

- 1. to ensure the pathway for parents accessing information on how and when Derby City Council undertakes parent carer needs assessments is explicit and clear within the Local Offer, on the Council website and within the policy, and that it is accessible for parents who have English as an additional language, including Deaf parents and visually impaired parents.**
- 2. To ensure any parent carer needs assessments which are either stand-alone assessments or combined with another assessment, are headed in a way to show that needs in section 17ZD are specifically addressed. Parent carer needs assessments may form part of a single assessment but will be clearly identified as a "parent carers needs assessment".**

- 3. In order to take forward recommendations 2.1 and 2.2, a project group of parents and relevant stakeholders will co-produce and publish the process by January 2021.**
- 4. To recommend that Council Cabinet agree and support the above proposals.**