

Time commenced – 6.00pm
Time finished – 7.05pm

Children and Young People Scrutiny Review Board 21 October 2019

Present: Councillor Lind (Chair)
Councillors Kus, Pattison and McCristal
Co-optees – Nicky Fenton, Chris Hulse

In Attendance: Abdul Siddiqi, Youth Mayor
Gargandeep Kaur, Deputy Youth Mayor
Andy Smith, Strategic Director Peoples Services
Gurmail Nizzer,
Suanne Lim– Service Director for Early Help and Children's
Social Care
David Gardner, NHS Derby and Derbyshire CCG
Jayne Hankins, NHS Derby and Derbyshire CCG
Andrew Kemp, NHS Derby and Derbyshire, CCG

17/19 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hezelgrave and Hussain, Steve Grundy, Co-optee.

18/19 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were none.

19/19 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

20/19 Minutes of the meeting held on 09 September 2019

The Board noted that a late item was introduced at the last meeting requesting that a letter be sent from the Chair to Chris Reynolds to thank him for his work with the Board. The Chair confirmed that a letter had been sent.

The minutes of the meeting held on 09 September 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

21/19 Strategic School Place Planning

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director of Peoples Services which gave an update on school-place planning. The report was presented by the Director of Commissioning.

The Board noted that local authorities have a legal duty to ensure that sufficient

school places exist for all children and young people living within their boundary. The Council carefully monitors pupil numbers and trends and develops school place planning proposals in response to population changes, as well as housing growth linked to Core Housing Strategies.

The officer reported that City-wide primary pupil numbers have significantly increased between 2012/13 and 2016/17 and 18 primary school expansions were carried out to accommodate the growth. Following high level growth in the primary sector, projections are now showing a significant increase in secondary pupil numbers. In addition significant housing developments are proposed in and around the City.

The Council works closely with Amber Valley Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council and South Derbyshire District Council to plan for increases in pupil numbers due to housing growth and have prepared separate but aligned Core Strategies.

The proposals across all 3 Authorities include around 33,000 houses in the Housing Market Area of which approximately 18,000 properties are located in Derby or on the edge of the City, known as the Derby Urban Area (DUA). Across the whole of the DUA there was a proposal for the provision of 8 or 9 new primary schools within the City and County in the medium to long term.

The Board noted that from September 2019, a new one form of entry (210 places) primary school with nursery provision, opened in Mickleover to serve the Hackwood Farm development. The development comprised of 700 houses and is on the Derby City/Derbyshire County Council border.

The Board also noted that a new primary school was proposed on the Castleward site to serve pupils from the new housing developments at both this site and the former DRI site.

The Officer reported that it is likely that a new secondary school would be needed in the County to deal with the growth in housing numbers around the City/County border. Further school expansion proposals may also be needed to deal with other developments in the DUA. For the majority of other housing developments in the City it was proposed that existing catchment area secondary schools would accommodate the rise in pupil numbers.

Members queried whether the impact on the surrounding area due to increased traffic at school drop off and pick up times been considered. The officer confirmed that this had been considered as part of planning approval and more sustainable methods of travel are also encouraged for pupils.

Members noted that, under the legal implications of the report, each local authority with responsibility for education has to secure sufficient primary and secondary education to meet the needs of the population of their area. They queried what planning was in place to ensure there was sufficient capacity for children with special needs. The officer confirmed that there was in total £7.4m capital funding available to create additional provision for pupils with special

needs. The local authority does not factor in this additional provision with Housing Growth but do look at SEND provision separately. Decisions on SEND provision are reported to this Committee. Members were concerned that planning provision should be in place for children with SEND. They recommended that Cabinet ensure the Council was reviewing school place planning for SEND provision alongside school place planning for mainstream provision to meet the needs of the local area.

The Board resolved

- 1. To note the strategic school place planning proposals relating to:**
 - a. Population changes and ;**
 - b. The proposed long-term housing growth arising from the Housing Core Strategies**
- 2. That Cabinet ensure that Derby City Council was reviewing school place planning for SEND provision alongside school place planning for mainstream provision to meet the needs of the local area.**

22/19 Updated Report on the Integrated Disabled Children's Service

The Board considered a joint report of the Strategic Director of Peoples Services and Derby & Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) which gave an update on the current position of the Integrated Disabled Children's Service (IDCS), with a focus and re-emphasis on the work currently being undertaken in relation to re-modelling the residential short breaks element of the service. The report was presented by the Director of Early Help and Children's Social Care.

The officer reported that the Residential Short Breaks Service provides overnight breaks for disabled children based at the Lighthouse. The units are currently run by a combination of nurses who are provided by a specialist care provider (Nurture Care) and residential workers (DCC staff). The service was inspected by Ofsted in July 2019 and currently has a "Good" rating.

The CCG confirmed that the contract with the previous healthcare provider ended on 31 May 2019 after the provider gave notice. Interim arrangements were put in place. The priority for these arrangements was to:

- provide some direct nursing care
- move towards a stronger social care led model
- recruit social care staff in line with the revised structure
- continue to listen to and learn from parent, carers and staff as to what works well and what needs to change.

The Board were informed that all services that are needed for children with special health issues and needs are being provided. This situation has provided an opportunity to look at future models of operational delivery, and also gives a

chance to align service delivery with other similar services so that social care staff could deliver a range of appropriate health tasks based on national guidance.

The Board noted that part of this interim work has involved up-skilling DCC staff to take on health tasks that were once delivered by nursing staff. Continuity of service delivery has been maintained during the transition between health care providers and interim arrangements. Since April 2019 the residential service has been able to safely open 3 nights per week; normally families would use this service between 2 – 4 nights per month per child based on assessed need. These arrangements mean that families are being offered half of this allocation.

Councillors were concerned that the interim arrangements had caused a reduction in service for families and asked if these reductions could have been resolved better given the timescales involved. The CCG confirmed that the period between December and March had been difficult. The initial plan had been to see if the provider could remain, but this had not been possible. They then went out to the market but no alternative provider was found. The current provider "Nurture Care" was eventually located at the end of this process.

Councillors asked if there was a target date for the restoration of the full service. Officers confirmed this would depend on getting enough staff to run full rotas. Currently they were in the process of recruiting and have had 50 applications for 16 posts. The recruitment process could take approximately 2 months, but there were some internal candidates that could shorten the process.

The CCG confirmed that a review was being delivered jointly between DDCCG and DCC and public consultation began on 05.09.19 and will run until 04.12.19. A particular focus was on what matters to parents and carers, and listening to their views on what was the best model of care for children with the most complex health care needs. Feedback from parents/carers and the public will be analysed and used to inform the next steps for the longer term model for this service.

Members also raised concerns about legal implications that could arise for children with assessed needs where cover had been reduced. The CCG confirmed that children open to social care who have had their needs assessed would be offered support. Children with severe needs and who have healthcare packages would be also catered for. Officers confirmed that basic needs are met. Since the reduction of the service to 3 days in mid May DCC have been working with parents on contingency and alternative arrangements for cover.

Members also discussed the issues around Occupational Therapy waiting lists and recruitment. Officers confirmed that currently there could be a 12 month wait to access an Occupational Therapist in Derby. The team in Derby consisted of 2.4fte staff to cover the City. The CCG considered how the service could be provided differently between the Council and Health. The Board noted that there was a national difficulty in recruiting OTs and that health OTs were more focused on day to day functions.

The Board resolved to note the recommendations of the report:

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, including ongoing work in regards to re-modelling the residential short breaks element of the service.**
2. **With regard to the Residential Short Breaks Service to assure the scrutiny panel of the importance of involving parents, stakeholders, partners and others with an interest in the re-modelling of this service, and to update on progress with the 90 day consultation process currently underway in line with our statutory obligations.**

24/19 Inspection of services for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director of Peoples Services which gave an update on Inspection of services for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities. The report was presented by the Strategic Director of Peoples Services.

The Board noted that in June 2019, Derby's services for children and young people with SEND were assessed by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The Inspection focused on evaluating the local area against 3 key questions.

- How effectively does the local area identify children and young people who have special educational needs and /or disabilities ?
- How effectively does the local area assess and meet the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities ?
- How effectively does the local area improve outcomes for children and young people who have special educational needs an /or disabilities ?

The Officer reported that the findings of the inspection were published in August 2019, and raised concerns about the effectiveness of the local area. As a result the local area is required to produce and submit a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) to Ofsted by 26.11.19 that explains how the local area (DCC) will tackle the 5 areas of significant weakness outlined in the report.

The Board noted there were a number of strengths in the local area recognised in the inspection which are set out at 4.5 in the report.

The Board were informed that Ofsted and the CQC will assess the WSoA on receipt and, if not fit for purpose, they will make recommendations about how the statement needs to improve. The local area (DCC) should make appropriate changes and re-publish the WSoA. The officer confirmed that once the WSoA had been signed off it would be published on both the Council and CCG websites. A version would be developed for young people. The WSoA would be a detailed

document broken down into targets. Once the WSoA has been signed off the local area had 18 months before another inspection takes place to test progress made against the 5 areas of weakness.

Councillors queried whether the targets in the WSoA would have deadlines. The officer confirmed that the WSoA would have themes with a whole range of specific actions which had timescales to complete. Each area would have a lead officer responsible for completion. There was a need to gauge and identify improvement in a clear, precise manner.

Councillors asked whether the result of the inspection and the identified areas of weakness were ones that officers had already identified. The officer confirmed that a detailed and evaluative self assessment had been completed prior to the Inspection which was accurately reflected back in the outcome of the Inspection. DCC was broadly 18 months behind in terms of implementing the SEND reforms. This was a result of changes in leadership responsible for SEND since the reforms, coupled with a system under pressure. Councillors were informed that the Local Area had commissioned a Peer Review to take place in June 2019 but had received notification of the Inspection the following week; however, due to the commitment of the Local Area to improvement the Peer Review still went ahead.

Councillors asked if the "voice of the child" had been captured in the Inspection. They were informed that views of children were captured in areas such as focus groups and schools.

The Board queried whether there would be a role for the Board once the WSoA was in place. How can the Board be engaged? It was noted that the Board had been invited to attend the 2 SEND Performance Surgeries that had taken place in March and October 2019 and it was felt that this invitation should continue for any further surgeries. The Board should also receive regular updates on progress; there was a need to think about the timing of these updates so that the Board could provide challenge.

Councillors had received feedback from local residents regarding communications and the need to understand what was happening. Headteachers of schools need to be taken on board. Communications about progress on improvements would need to be clear and there should be milestones to mark progress. The officer confirmed that work was being undertaken with communications leads in the CCG and Council to develop a Communications Strategy and there would be regular communication going forward. The agreed Strategy would work through different levels through messages to Parents and Carers, Headteachers. A series of Bulletins was planned. Criticism received so far was:

- that pathways through SEND services can feel complicated
- there was a need to streamline the system and improve communications
- Parents want to feel valued
- there was a need to work well together with partner organisations

The Board felt that the Parent Carer Forum was key to good communication but

asked if they had enough resources. The officer confirmed that the Parent Carer Forum would need support. The Board queried whether improvements had been made in getting support out to ethnic minority families. The officer confirmed that discussion had taken place about communications with hard-to-reach members of the community.

The Board asked for clarification on the waiting times to see clinical psychologists. The CCG confirmed that there was a waiting time of 42 weeks. Pathways to care had been improved but because they were more efficient the number of referrals had doubled from 40 to 80 per month; 3% were for autism. Work was needed to change the current culture and help schools to understand the benefits of a graduated response or early intervention.

The Board resolved:

- 1. To note the outcome of the June 2019 SEND inspections, and the need to produce a Written Statement of Action (WSOA).**
- 2. To note the statutory basis for a requested WSoA.**
- 3. To note the overall inspection findings, including strengths and areas for improvement.**

25/19 Work Programme and Topic Review 2019/20

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.

The Board resolved to approve the work programme set out in appendix 1 of the report.

MINUTES END