

**Children and Young People Scrutiny Review Board
13 December 2021**

Present: Councillor Kus (Vice Chair)
Councillors Bonser, Roulstone, Hezelgrave and Pandey
Co-opted members - Stephen Grundy and Tracey Churchill

In Attendance: Pauline Anderson - Director of Learning, Inclusion and Skills
Gurmail Nizzer - Director of Children's Integrated Commissioning

26/21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received for Councillor T Pearce, Councillor Lind and Nicky Fenton – Co-opted member.

27/21 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were none.

28/21 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Roulstone declared a private interest in Item 5 - Community Short Breaks for Disabled Children and Young People – Service Update. Councillor Roulstone also declared a private interest in Item 6 - Feedback on DfE national catch-up provision from Derby Schools – Derby's Children and Young People Deserve Better – Motion from Council 21.07.21.

29/21 Minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

30/21 Community Short Breaks for Disabled Children and Young People – Service Update

The Board considered a presentation from the Director of Children's Integrated Commissioning to give an update on Community Short Breaks for Disabled Children and Young People.

The Board noted that 190 children and young people(CYP) in Derby were receiving a service, totalling almost 14,000 hours of support. It was reported that there were two Service Providers in Derby.

The Board noted that parents, carers, CYP and Service Providers had been engaged with in the production of the service specification. It was reported that demands on the service were increasing. It was noted that there had been

excellent feedback on the services and outcomes delivered and that these services were supporting Derby's CYP with Special Needs & Disabilities.

It was noted that the aim of this service was to provide support at home or out in the community for disabled children and young people. It was reported that this would give children and young people time to enjoy day-time activities and spend time away from their parents/carers, providing respite. It was noted that the co-produced revised service specification would provide improved value for money and a greater benefit for children and young people with disabilities, as it would be better aligned to their priorities and those of parent/carers.

It was reported that the Community Short Breaks Team based with the Social Care Team at the Lighthouse (Integrated Disabled Children's Service) managed referrals into this service. It was noted that they also administered Direct Payments for families to use at a provider of their choice.

The Board noted that the Community Short Breaks service was for those families who were not in receipt of any other short break support and that this service was a valued support for parents and carers, offering respite care for those in need.

A councillor commented that it was extremely difficult for children with special educational needs to complete schoolwork at home and that the pandemic had increased the pressure on families.

The Chair questioned whether three providers would be sufficient. The Board noted that the Council would be joining the Derbyshire County Council short breaks service which was being tendered in March 2022. It was noted that joining this framework would provide families in Derby with a wider choice of providers.

The Chair questioned whether any historical data was available on the number of hours provided to children and young people in Derby. The Board noted that the number of hours were based on previous years and that historical data was available. A councillor commented that comparisons on this were difficult and suggested that a comparison on hours offered would be beneficial.

The Board resolved:

- 1. to note the report and presentation**
- 2. to thank all partners involved in this important work to support families.**
- 3. to look into supporting the service, where possible, to return to its pre-COVID position in terms of hours offered.**

31/21 Feedback on DfE national catch-up provision from Derby Schools – Derby’s Children and Young People Deserve Better – Motion from Council 21.07.21

The Board considered a presentation from the Director of Learning, Inclusion and Skills to give an update on Feedback on DfE national catch-up provision from Derby Schools – Derby’s Children and Young People Deserve Better – Motion from Council 21.07.21.

It was reported that in June 2020 the government had announced £1 billion of funding to support children and young people to catch up on missed learning caused by coronavirus (COVID19). It was noted that this was especially important for the most vulnerable pupils and pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds who had been most affected.

The Board noted that the Education Policy Institute had calculated that a catch-up funding recovery would need £13.5bn and that Sir Kevan was reported as having put forward plans costing £15bn. It was reported that the actual funding was currently £7bn.

It was noted that the DfE catch up programme included a one-off universal £650 million catch-up premium for the 2020 to 2021 academic year to ensure that schools had the support they needed to help all pupils make up for missed learning.

It was reported that the catch up programme also included a £350 million National Tutoring Programme to provide additional, targeted support for those children and young people who need the most help, which included:

- a schools programme for 5 to 16-year-olds
- a 16 to 19 tuition fund
- an oral language intervention programme for reception-aged children

It was noted that the following settings were eligible for DfE catch up programme funding:

- primary, secondary and all through local authority-maintained schools, academies and free schools
- local authority-maintained special schools
- special academies and free schools
- special schools not maintained by a local authority
- pupil referral units
- alternative provision (AP) academies and free schools
- local authority-maintained hospital schools and academies
- independent special schools

It was reported that school allocations would be calculated on a per pupil basis and that mainstream schools would get £80 for each pupil from reception to year 11 inclusive. The Board noted that the following settings will get £240 for each place for the 2020 to 2021 academic year:

- special schools, including special units within mainstream schools
- AP schools
- hospital schools

It was noted that additional weighting had been applied to specialist settings, recognising the significantly higher per pupil costs they faced. It was reported that a typical primary school of 200 pupils would receive £16,000 while a typical secondary school of 1,000 pupils would receive £80,000.

It was noted that for mainstream schools, the DfE would use the 4 to 15 pupil headcount from the October 2020 census and for special, AP and hospital schools, the DfE would use:

- 2019 to 2020 academic year place numbers from the published local authority 2019 to 2020 financial year budget returns for local authority-maintained schools
- the published high needs place numbers for the 2020 to 2021 academic year for academies and special schools not maintained by a local authority

It was noted that, similar to the pupil premium, schools should use the sum available to them as a single total even though funding was calculated on a per pupil or per place basis. It was noted that funding would only be available for the 2020 to 2021 academic year and would not be added to schools' baselines in calculating future years' funding allocations.

It was reported that schools should use this funding for specific activities to support their pupils' education recovery in line with the curriculum expectations in the actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak guidance. It was noted that while schools could use their funding in a way that suited their cohort and circumstances, they were expected to use this funding for specific activities which would help pupils catch up on missed learning. It was noted that schools should particularly focus on disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils.

It was noted that to support schools to make the best use of this funding, the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) had published a coronavirus (COVID-19) support guide for schools with evidence-based approaches to catch up for all students. It was reported that in order to support schools to implement their catch-up plans effectively, EEF had published the school planning guide: 2020 to 2021. It was noted that this would provide further guidance on how schools should implement catch-up strategies and supporting case studies to highlight effective practice. The Board noted that schools could use catch-up premium funding to support any summer catch-up provision that they were offering and could carry funding forward to future academic years.

It was reported that school leaders must be able to show they are using the funding to support their pupils' educational recovery in line with the curriculum expectations in the actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak guidance. It was noted that governors and trustees should scrutinise schools' approaches to catch-up, including their plans for and use of catch-up funding. The Board noted that this should include consideration of whether schools were spending this funding in line with their catch-up priorities, and ensuring appropriate transparency for parents.

It was noted that schools in Derby would be completing returns in January. It was reported that the Council would then have the opportunity to analyse the returns to find out how much catch up had been used. It was reported that individual schools free to use this funding as they see their pupils needed it. It was reported that many schools were using it to supplement their own resources and that tutors were hard to access and to quality assure. The Board noted that school websites could be scrutinised in addition to the January returns information.

It was noted that an update would be provided to the Board following receipt of the returns in January 2022. A councillor asked for this update to include an assessment of what has and hasn't gone well.

The Board agreed that the Chair of the Board would write to the government to request that they look at how this issue would be addressed following the current school year. The Board saw this as a long-term issue that needed funding over a considerable period of time alongside a new approach from schools and partners in order to fill current gaps.

The Board resolved:

- 1. to note the report and presentation**
- 2. to request that an update is provided to the Board following receipt of the returns in January 2022. For this update to include an assessment of what has and hasn't gone well.**
- 3. to agree that the Chair of the Board would write to the government to request that they look at how this issue would be addressed following the current school year. The Board saw this as a long-term issue that needed funding over a considerable period of time alongside a new approach from schools and partners in order to fill current gaps.**

32/21 SEND Funding Capital Consultation – report going to Cabinet on the consultation around provision for SEND

The Board considered a presentation from the Director of Learning, Inclusion and Skills to give an update on SEND Funding Capital Consultation – report going to Cabinet on the consultation around provision for SEND.

The Board noted that there was £8.882m of SEND capital funding available for the council to invest in developing its SEND provision across Derby. It was reported that this was ringfenced DfE funding to be used only for SEND capital costs not revenue.

The Director of Learning, Inclusion and Skills informed the Board that in Derby there was a belief in working together, in co-production, to improve our special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) services.

It was reported that the Ofsted re-visit in October 2021 had found that there had been a significant change of culture since the initial area SEND inspection in 2019 and that there was now a clear strategy for improving provision and

outcomes for children and young people with SEND. The Board noted that the Council had worked with parent representatives, partners and headteachers to co-produce a series of proposals which would help to improve both mainstream and specialist provision for children and young people with SEND.

It was reported that in December 2020 the Council had asked people for their views on SEND services in Derby. It was noted that People told the Council in the Call for Views that they would like the Council:

- to strengthen the support that is provided through the Graduated Response
- to support children with SEND earlier in their lives to reduce the need for specialist support later on
- to provide more Enhanced Resource places in mainstream schools across the city
- to provide more support for children and young people with social, emotional, and mental health needs
- to quality assure the specialist schools and settings that we have in Derby, and those we use outside of the city

It was reported that the following Key Proposals were based on Co-production:

- Primary Provision - A new 'Primary Inclusion Hub' proposed at Cotton's Farm Primary School.
- Secondary Specialist Provision - Improve our secondary specialist provision at St Clare's School.
- Improved provision in mainstream secondary schools - Subject to available funding, once the scale of the St Clare's scheme has been agreed, the proposal is to establish a vastly increased offer of enhanced resource bases within schools across the city.

The Board noted that Inclusion Hubs sat below Enhanced Resource Units and would provide specialist support in mainstream schools. It was reported that if the Inclusion Hubs at Cotton's Farm Primary School were successful, these Hubs would be rolled out to other schools.

The Board noted that the consultation was currently open and would close on 12 January 2022. It was also noted that the consultation included an Equality Impact Assessment and languages and accessibility considerations. It was reported that this consultation had been developed with engagement from the school sector, particularly specialist schools. It was noted that feasibility studies for the St Claire's programme would run concurrently.

The Chair asked when the Single Inclusion Plan would be implemented. It was noted that this plan would be in place before Easter 2022.

A councillor commented that it was important for mainstream schools to support SEND pupils throughout their education. It was noted that this provided all children in mainstream schools with a better understanding and created more well-rounded individuals. A councillor commented that SEND pupils going to mainstream schools did not have to travel as far and were therefore able to form positive social groups in the areas where they lived.

The Board resolved:

- 1. to note the report and presentation**
- 2. to request that an update on the SEND Funding Capital Consultation is brought to a future Board meeting.**

33/21 Strategic School Place Planning and School Admissions

The Board considered a report and presentation from the Director of Children's Integrated Commissioning on Strategic School Place Planning and School Admissions.

It was reported that local authorities had a legal duty to ensure that sufficient school places existed for all children and young people residing within their boundary. The Board noted that the Council very carefully monitored pupil numbers and trends and developed school place planning proposals in response to population changes and housing growth, linked to Core Housing Strategies.

It was reported that city-wide primary pupil numbers had increased significantly over previous years but that pupil numbers moving into reception were now beginning to gradually decline and that higher pupil numbers were now moving from primary education to secondary education. It was noted that as a result of increasing secondary pupil numbers, secondary school expansions were implemented in September 2018 and September 2019, to meet the increasing demand for places.

The Board noted that based on projections, City-wide Year 7 pupil numbers would peak in 2023-24 and that a school expansion project was proposed at Landau Forte College, as part of the Council's forward planning to ensure sufficient school places over future years. It was reported that the total estimated cost of the project was £11.936m and that capital funding had been approved by Council Cabinet on 10 November 2021. It was noted that this would create an additional 520 school places across years 7-11 and that pupil numbers would continue to be closely monitored and reviewed.

It was reported that Derby City Council had been working closely with partners in Amber Valley Borough and South Derbyshire District Councils to prepare separate but aligned Housing Local Plans. It was noted that there were proposals for around 18,000 properties within Derby or on the edge of the City, known as the Derby Urban Area (DUA). It was reported that sites of over 750 new homes usually required a new primary school on site.

The Board noted that in Derby City, due to their scale, four of the largest local plan housing allocations required a new primary school to be provided and that two of these had already been delivered.

It was reported that for school admissions, the number of applications for the main rounds, reception intake and secondary transfer, reflected the current trend in both pupil numbers and projections across Derby City. It was noted that

Derby had positively continued to sustain a high percentage of first preference and top 3 preference offers.

The Board noted that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, school admission appeals had been adapted in accordance with DfE temporary guidance and had been heard virtually since April 2020, returning to face-to-face hearings October 2021 after the decision not to extend the temporary guidance passed 30th September 2021. It was reported that the Council had successfully adapted to this new way of working and was continuing to provide fairness and transparency to families and schools.

The Chair asked whether Derby was mirroring the national trend in terms of pupil numbers. The Board noted that Derby was mirroring the national trend. A councillor commented that expanding Landau Forte College did not tackle issues within Derby around children being unable to travel to school by foot. The Board noted that the Council were working with parents and schools to encourage good travel plans for schools in Derby.

A councillor questioned whether there were any plans to increase the number of primary school places within Oakwood. The Board noted that there were no major housing developments in Oakwood and that developers were only required to provide additional capital funding if, as a result of their development there were insufficient school places. It was reported that developments within Oakwood were small scale and therefore didn't meet this criteria.

A councillor asked whether there were areas within Derby where there was significant pressure on school place numbers. It was reported that the Council used the same methodology as the DfE which broke pupil numbers down to clusters/wards. It was noted that this methodology identified any pressure points within the city. It was noted that a tolerance surplus of 5-10% was accounted for.

A councillor questioned when 'normal areas' had last been reviewed in the city. The Board noted that each time a new school was created a new normal area was also established. It was reported that normal areas were therefore looked at each time a school was built and that a wholesale review was not necessary at this time. A councillor commented that they believed that work should be done to assess whether a review was necessary at secondary school level. A councillor commented that any review should focus on accessibility and how pupils can be encouraged to walk or cycle to a local school.

The Board resolved:

- 1. to note the strategic school place planning update relating to:
 - a. population changes and;**
 - b. the proposed long-term housing growth arising from the Core Strategies.****
- 2. to note Derby City Council's achievements, against national results for primary and secondary school admissions offers and appeals.**

- 3. to recommend to Cabinet that that work should be done to assess whether a review on 'normal areas' was necessary at secondary school level. Any review should focus on accessibility and how pupils can be encouraged to walk or cycle to a local school.**

34/21 Appointment of Co-opted Members

The Board received a report of the Head of Democracy and Statutory Scrutiny Officer on the Appointment of Co-opted Members.

It was noted that there was provision for up to eight co-opted members to be appointed to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Board to take part in discussion on education matters. It was reported that three were directly nominated faith representatives (categorised as Church of England, Catholic and Other Faiths), while between two to five parent governors could also be appointed.

The Board resolved:

- 1. to note that the process for nomination/re-nomination of three co-opted faith representatives and the election process for two to five co-opted parent governors has been started.**
- 2. to note that once the process has been completed the Board and Council will be asked to approve the nominations for the three co-opted faith representatives and note the election of between two to five co-opted Parent Governors.**

35/21 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. Councillors were asked if they wanted to add anything on to the Agenda. The Board agreed that an item on Early Years Dental Care should be brought to a Board meeting during the 2021-22 municipal year.

The Board resolved:

- 1. to note the terms of reference and the Overview and Scrutiny Rules as set out in the Council's Constitution**
- 2. to agree that an item on Early Years Dental Care should be brought to a Board meeting during the 2021-22 municipal year.**

MINUTES END.