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**TRAFFORD
COUNCIL**

AGENDA PAPERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Tuesday, 10 July 2018

Time: 6.30 p.m.

**Place: Committee Room 2 and 3, Trafford Town Hall, Talbot Road, Stretford,
M32 0TH.**

A G E N D A	PART I	Pages
5.	SOCIAL CARE ASSESSMENT READINESS	1 - 12
	To receive a presentation from the Director of Safeguarding and Professional Development.	
6.	EDUCATION ASSESSMENT READINESS	13 - 24
	To receive a presentation from the Interim Director of Education Standards, Quality and Performance.	

Jill Colbert
Interim Chief Executive

Membership of the Committee

Councillors D. Western (Chairman), Miss L. Blackburn (Vice-Chairman), T. Carey, J. Coupe, J. Dillon, J. Holden, D. Jerrome, A. New, J.R. Reilly, G. Whitham, A.M. Whyte, D. Acton (ex-Officio) and R. Chilton (ex-Officio)

Further Information

For help, advice and information about this meeting please contact:

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Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee - Tuesday, 10 July 2018

This agenda was issued **Monday, 2 July 2018** by the Legal and Democratic Services Section, Trafford Council, Trafford Town Hall, Talbot Road, Stretford, M32 0TH.

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Summary of Trafford's Self Assessment – March 2018 Children's Social Care (CSC)



What is the Self Assessment?

- Produced by the Authority every year as part of a Peer Challenge programme run by the NWADCS (North West Association of Directors of Children's Services)
- The document is used to inform a process where Local Authorities in the region support and challenge each other to achieve sector led improvement.
- The same document is used to guide our annual conversation with OFSTED

We are asked to reflect and assess ourselves in key areas:

- **Creating an Environment where social work can flourish**
- **The quality of Social Work Practice**
- **Help & Protection**
- **Children in care and Care-Leavers**

Key CSC data – Year end March 2018



General data:

- The total cases open to children's social care = 1506 (381 children in Care, 260 Child Protection, 615 Children in Need, 149 Care leavers & 101 others)
- MARAT received 12,152 contacts in 17/18
- Of the 260 children on child protection (CP) plans - 76 children were re-planned - 30% of all plans starting in year.
- CP Categories: Neglect 49.62%, Emotional 46.15%, Physical Abuse 0.77%, Sexual Abuse 3.46%
- Public Law Outline (PLO): 46 families - 89 children
- SEAM (Sexual Exploitation and Missing) Panel: 42 cases were considered in March 2018.
- There were 29 Special Guardianship Orders (SGO's) in year. This compares to 3, 4 and 7 in previous 3 years.

Children in Care Data:

- Family and Friends Placement type = 91 (24%)
- Placed With Parents = 79. (21%)
- Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) = 42 (11%)
- In-house Foster Placements = 104 (27%)
- Residential placements = 31(10 in-house and 21 external)
- Independent living = 14



Creating and environment where social work can flourish

Key areas :

- **Integrated working (esp Health & Social Care)**
- **Strong Governance processes (DCS meetings, Lead Member meetings, CEX and Leader Meetings)**
- **Robust Quality Assurance Framework (Audits, Governance Visits & SW Health Check)**
- **Performance Monitoring (weekly & monthly reports, Senior Manager meetings, Panels and Finance meetings)**
- **Learning Organisation (Supervision, IPDR, Training & Development)**
- **Commissioning Arrangements (Integrated Commissioning, Early Help, Placement Finding etc)**
- **Safeguarding Board (strong governance and assurance systems, LIC process etc)**

Creating and environment where social work can flourish

What Trafford CSC knows about itself



- Our audit and supervision tells us we have a strong front-door process for children who require social care intervention.
- Our Assessments are strong and of good quality.
- We are less good at evidencing the support for children below the threshold for social care - Early Help Assessments could improve.
- We recognise the need to focus on planning for permanence to start at the Front Door
- We recognise that we are running a high volume system
- We have seen the start of an emerging picture of retention of staff not being as strong as in previous years. We have now developed more 'grow your own' type initiatives such as Front Line and the Graduate First programme.
- We monitor and deliver social care outputs, performance and quality to a high level but need to measure and understand outcomes better.
- We have some mechanisms in place to ensure the Voice of the Child is heard but these are in need of refreshing.



Creating and environment where Social Work can flourish

Areas of Development



We have embarked on a Social Care Sustainability Programme to reshape delivery through 5 key pillars:

Strengthening Early Help

Improving the Child in Need offer

Focussing Child Protection on children at significant risk of harm

Increasing permanence and supporting children on the edge of care.

Strengthening our care leaver offer.

- **We have created a new team called 'Family Focus' who operate 7 days a week for extended hours.**
- **We have increased our foster carer allowances to retain our existing foster carers and recruit new carers. We have also created a scheme called 'Fostering Plus' to work with some of our more challenging cohort of adolescents.**
- **We have created a Review and Improvement Team to change our practice and support our reform.**
- **A monthly dashboard to monitor the workforce is produced, a vacancy management action plan is in development and a well-being service offer which includes a range of holistic therapies, is available to all staff.**



The Quality of Social Work practice

Key areas:

- The introduction of a new model of care – Restorative Practice
- Good Manager/social worker ratio's and management oversight.
- Monitoring of social work caseloads
- Strong and continuously updated Policy & Procedures (Tri-X)
- Use of Quality Practice Standards to guide approaches
- Continuous Professional Development including local professional development forums run by Trafford Principle Social Worker.
- Deployment of Peripatetic Social Work Team
- Robust ASYE Policy for newly qualified social workers
- Good progression models for social workers to grow in the job
- Good PLO and Legal Planning process.

The Quality of Social Work practice

Areas for development



- **We need to engage our partners - including education, in a wider debate about early help assessments.**
- **We need to review our child protection processes, especially children who return to the child protection process, and how we carry out child protection conferences and help parents to make and sustain changes.**
- **We have an increasingly aging workforce, with a significant number of staff over 50 years old. Work on succession planning is a priority. We are refreshing our workforce strategy and will look at the skill mix in teams, reviewing traditional social work functions and who is best to carry these functions out.**
- **We have reviewed and reinvigorated our approach to Serious Incident Notifications and are reviewing all 2017/18 serious incidents to ensure we have been robust in our approach to notifications.**



Help and Protection

Key Areas:

- We have a very strong Front Door (MARAT)
- All Child and Family Assessment completed within timescale (45 days)
- Re-referrals to MARAT are at or below regional average
- Our Early Help Assessment numbers are low and need to improve
- Early Help Panels are developing into a valuable forum for support and guidance
- SCIP Service very highly valued (for the schools who buy this service)
- Our numbers of Child Protection Plans are lower than previously but still higher than our statistical neighbours.
- Child Protection 'Re-Plans' and very high and this area needs significant attention
- IRO service are very efficient and Child Protection Conferences are well run and in timescales
- Child in Need offer is good but could be stronger.

Help and Protection

Areas for Development

- **Further develop the links between our Front Door and our Early Help offer, encouraging and supporting our multi agency partners to confidently work with children and families who do not meet the threshold for social care intervention.**
- **Increase confidence in partnership working at Child in Need level and developing a robust de-escalation process.**
- **Ensure any new model of practice introduced as part of our transformation programme incorporates a strengths-based approach, assisting our workers to assess risk and work in partnership with parents in reducing risk and sustaining change.**
- **Review CP cases where plan has ended at first review, analyse findings and take any remedial action.**
- **Develop a robust action plan to address Child Protection Re-Plans**

Children in Care and Care Leavers



Key Areas:

- **The quality of care for LAC is generally good and any areas of concern are addressed very quickly.**
- **Outcomes for our children in care are good but can always be improved.**
- **We have a very robust virtual head-teacher and school.**
- **Our in-house Children's Homes are of very high quality.**
- **Our In-house fostering service is of very high quality but we need more.**
- **We have a developing Supported Lodgings offer.**
- **NEET for care leavers is good and all care leavers are in suitable accommodation.**
- **We have stabilised our children in care numbers by driving discharges and achieving more permanence for children through adoption and SGO's.**
- **The numbers of care leavers are growing.**
- **Placement Finding Team has significantly improved choice and driven down costs**
- **Placement with Parents is a regional issue that is being addressed with local Courts and Judges.**



Children in Care and Care Leavers

Areas for Development

- **Further developing the therapeutic models which will strengthen the resilience and skill base of in house foster carers and in doing so improve placement stability and placement choice.**
- **Embedding restorative practice in the work of the service and further developing a range of safe, well supported permanence options for children which are secured as early as possible in a child's journey.**
- **Increasing in house capacity and commissioning arrangements for young people age 16+ and for care leavers. Strengthening our Care Leaver Offer.**
- **Developing a dynamic approach to planning for children who are placed at home with their parents.**
- **Strengthening the support that is provided using short breaks to children on the edge of care.**
- **We are refreshing our Corporate Parenting Strategy and Corporate Parenting Board**



Summary of Trafford's Self Assessment – March 2018 Education, Performance and Standards



Key Performance Data – 2017-18



Trafford Context

93 schools

65 primary schools

19 secondary

7 special schools

2 PRU / MES

7 Teaching Schools

School Performance

- 94% of schools are good or outstanding placing the LA 26th nationally
- 53.7% of these schools are outstanding (nearly double the national figure)



Outcomes for key milestones 2017/18



	Trafford	National	North West 2017	Regional Position
EYFS 2018	75.2% ↑	71.5%	68%	1st
Y1 Phonics 2018	86.5% ↑	83%	80%	1st
Key Stage 1 RWM 2018	69% ↑	65%	62%	1st
Key Stage 2 RWM 2017	70%	61%	60%	1st
Key Stage 4 Attainment 8 2017	55.3%	46%		1st



Early Years / School Readiness Strengths



- **97% of all 2,3 or 4 year old funded children attend a good or outstanding early years setting / school**
- **108% take up of two year funded places**
- **There is a high level of graduate leaders in our PVS sector**
- **Practitioners have access to a detailed training programme**
- **Processes for the identification of children eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium are established to ensure targeted support**
- **A well-resourced Family Information Service with an outreach team supports families in the community**
- **Effective partnership working between education, health-visiting and early help hubs support eligible families in a funded place**
- **Outcomes remain consistently strong over time**
- **The Early Years Strategic Board manages a robust action plan and has representation from health, social care and education**



School Readiness: Areas for Development / Next Steps



- **The gap in attainment of children eligible for free school meals and all other children remains significant and wider than national**
- **Although both boys and girls attain above their national comparative data, the gender gap in Trafford requires improvement**

NEXT STEPS

- **Continue to deliver on the priorities identified within the Early Years Strategic Priorities Plan**
- ∨ **Ensure systems are more effective and integrated**
- ∨ **Improve the outcomes for children with SEND**
- ∨ **Reduce accident and emergency attendance and unplanned hospital admissions**
- ∨ **Ensure children meet their milestones for speech, language and communication**
- ∨ **Ensure children are supported to achieve positive social and emotional well-being**
- ∨ **Secure sufficient, good quality education and childcare places meet families' needs**



How will we do this?

- **Utilise data to capture the hot-spots within Trafford to target support**
Early Help
North Locality School Readiness Pace Based Action Plan
- **Establish simple but effective pathways for our vulnerable families**
Language and communication
Autism and social communication
Starting Strong Pathway
Physical Literacy
Personal, Social and Emotional development
SEN support pathway / Graduated Approach
- **Develop and commission an early years learning and development programme**

Standards at all Key Stages: Strengths

- **Standards remain high at all milestones (well above national) and have continued to improve to date this year**
- **There are no primary schools below the floor standard or designated as coasting**
- **Progress for pupils is strong and well above national expectations**
- **The Improving Schools Together Framework for Trafford provides clear guidance for challenge and support**
- **Annual quality assurance visits for all schools enables detailed analysis of performance**
- **Targeted school improvement support for vulnerable schools is provided to ensure prompt and swift intervention and rapid improvements in standards**
- **Regular networking facilitates moderation of standards across all years groups**
- **Teaching schools provide a wealth of training opportunities for all subjects and across all leadership levels**
- **Developmental engagement is ongoing with teaching schools to enable them to function more strategically and targets key priority areas**



Standards at all Key Stages: Next Steps

- The gap in the attainment of children eligible for free school meals and all other children remains a concern, particularly at Key Stage 4 where slow progress is made

Standards at all Key Stages: How will we do this?

- Categorisation of schools according to their data outcomes
- Monitor the pupil premium impact plans of identified schools
- Education Strategy to focus on outcomes for disadvantaged pupils through collaborative partnership groups
- Establish peer review mechanisms to support targeted schools
- Source support of teaching schools to deliver training and development



Special Educational Needs & Disabilities: Strengths

- **Successful SEND inspection outcome**
- **The work of the SEND Board enables the delivery and monitoring of priorities for improvement**
- **Integrated multi-agency working**
- **Joint commissioning between healthcare services and the local authority is well established. This has a positive impact on the provision of services in Trafford, such as the provision of health visiting and school nursing**
- **The Local Offer**
- **Clear procedures and assessment systems ensure that the identification of needs is strong in the early years**
- **The educational needs of children looked after who have special educational needs and/or disabilities are well catered for**
- **The vast majority of Trafford's children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities attend schools that are good or outstanding**
- **Pupils receiving special educational needs support make consistently strong academic progress from their starting points.**

SEND Areas for Development / Next Steps



- **Co-production to involve parents, carers and young people in our work**
- **Ensure EHC plans continue to be outcomes focused and reflect person-centred principles**
- **Use health personal budgets in an integrated way with social care and education**
- **Strategic planning for transition**
- **Increase the capacity for SEND assessments**
- **Reduce waiting times and access to health assessments**
- **Continue to ensure SEND provision is sufficient to meet local need**
- **Ensure the timeliness of the EHC process is managed**
- **Improve informed practice and early intervention in schools to reduce exclusions of pupils with SEND**
- **Establish plans to manage the pressures of High Needs Funding**



SEND: How will we get there?

- **Continue to deliver on the priorities identified within the SEND Strategic Priorities Plan as managed by the Board through task and finish groups**
- **Education Strategy to focus on outcomes for SEND pupils through collaborative partnership groups**
- **Raise awareness of the SEND Local Offer so that parent/carers, young people and professionals understand what is available in our area and how to access it**
- **Develop a strategic plan for effective joint planning for transition from children's to adult community health services where they will need ongoing support once discharged for the team at 18**
- **Review existing pathways to ensure appropriate and timely access to services**

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