

# CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9 JULY 2019

## PRESENT

Councillor D. Western (in the Chair).

Councillors T. Carey (Vice-Chair), J. Bennett, Miss L. Blackburn, J. Dillon, J. Holden, S. Longden, A. New, D. Acton (ex-Officio), Dr. K. Barclay (ex-Officio) and Khan (Coopted Member )

### In attendance

Claire Ball	Interim Specialist Commissioner Children's Clinical and Public Health
Rebecca Demaine	Associate Director of Primary Care, Trafford Clinical Commissioning Group
Karen Samples	Interim Director Education Standards, Quality and Performance
Karen Ahmed	Director of All Age Commissioning
Ged Rowney	Interim Director of Children's Services
Alexander Murray	Democratic and Scrutiny Officer
Fabiola Fuschi	Democratic and Scrutiny Officer

### Also Present

Councillor Hynes, Executive Members for Children's Social care  
Councillor Carter, Lead Member for Education

## 16. ATTENDANCES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Acton. Councillor Longden reported that Councillor Shirley Procter was unable to access the car park and the Council's building. The Chairman had reported the issue to the Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Equalities and the Leader of the Council.

## 17. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

**RESOLVED** that the membership of the Children and Young's People Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2019/20 be noted.

## 18. TERMS OF REFERENCE

**RESOLVED** that the Terms of Reference of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2019/20 be noted.

## 19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Barclay, Carey and Longden declared a general interest in so far as any matter related to their employment.

## 20. URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)

There were no items of urgent business.

**21. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were no public questions received.

**22. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019 be approved as a correct record.

**23. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

The Committee gave consideration to a report of the Interim Specialist Commissioner for Children's Clinical and Public Health, Trafford Council, which provided an update on Trafford's mental health and wellbeing services and the wider offer for children and young people. The report also informed of how services were being transformed in line with the Five Year Forward View for Mental Health and THRIVE framework, the integrated, person centred and needs led approach to mental health services for children, young people and their families, with a strong emphasis on early intervention.

The author of the report, accompanied by the Associate Director of Primary Care, Trafford Clinical Commissioning Group, attended the meeting to present the information and address the enquiries of the Committee.

Officers reported that the Local Transformation plan, which outlined, yearly, the current offer and the planned changes for mental health services in Trafford, had received a green rating by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC).

Data on access services, collated manually via the Strategic Data Collection Service, showed that Trafford exceeded the national target. The officers illustrated one of the components of the Greater Manchester Crisis Pathway, which operated at the Accident and Emergency, for those who experienced a mental health crisis, and it offered 24 hour support via the All Age Mental Health Liaison Services.

The officers went on to report that a comprehensive training programme had been in place since 2017 to address the mental health skills gap of Trafford professionals. A Mental Health First Aid Training was currently being provided to school staff, school nurses, Early Help Hub staff, GPs, locality teams and voluntary sector. In addition to this, a Greater Manchester Training Programme was also in place to develop professionals' knowledge about the Transforming Care agenda and iTHRIVE.

With regard to specialist support services, Officers mentioned that Healthy Young Minds, formerly Children and Adolescents Mental Health Services (CAMHS) had seen a significant increase in referrals which had had an impact on users' waiting times. Furthermore, unprecedented high sickness levels and vacancies within the services had also contributed to very long waiting times. The same issues were

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experienced at national level. Eating Disorders and Perinatal/Parent and Infant Mental Health had received a very positive feedback for achieving, the former, 100% targets on access and waiting times and the latter, "Rare Jewels" recognition by the Parent Infant Partnership UK for parent-infant provision.

The officers informed the Committee of the work plan for 2019/20 and the key pieces of work such as the Autism and Communication Pathway which would be accepting referrals from September 2019 and the Single Point of Access which would provide one route for children and young people into mental health services to reduce the amount of inappropriate referrals and to ensure that children did not have to tell their stories multiple times.

The Committee sought clarification on whether it would be difficult to fill the vacancies in Mental Health services. It was explained that it was not possible to know it until recruitment started. Members commended the work of Kooth and asked how it was advertised. It was explained that it was mainly promoted via Instagram and the Trafford Service Directory; only children from Trafford could access this service. Members went on to query service users' satisfaction and how this was rated. It was explained that, as part of the Local Transformation Plan, You Said, We Did, the outcome of the consultation with young people was published; Kooth had been commissioned as a result of this survey. Methods to publicise services were discussed; these were responsibility of the providers. Members questioned what type of support was in place for those members of staff who suffered from mental health issues. It was explained that supporting mechanisms for staff would be put in place directly by service providers. Members asked how the perinatal service was advertised and whether it was also open to parents with toddlers. It was explained that the service was provided at the Life Centre in Sale and it was advertised through the health visitors to parents with infants up to the age of 1; parents with young children were also welcome. Members also queried about support for parents and carers of children and young people with an Autism Spectrum diagnosis or a severe learning disability. It was explained that the Riding the Rapids training was in place as well as a parents workshop facilitated by a Speech and Language Therapist. However, commissioners were aware that more support was necessary.

**RESOLVED** that the content of the report be noted.

**24. UPDATE ON OFSTED REPORT MAY 2019 - INSPECTION OF CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE SERVICES**

The Interim Director of Children's Services gave a presentation on the latest developments in Children's Social Care Services, following the Ofsted inspection in March 2019 and the publication of the inspectors' report, in May 2019, which had rated Trafford as "inadequate". A regular update on the Council's progress against the Ofsted recommendations would be presented at the meetings of this Committee during the current municipal year.

The Interim Director of Children's Services informed the Committee that the Council held valid data and intelligence but it was necessary to utilise these elements for effective planning. There were specific areas that needed to be

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addressed such as the quality of social work assessment to ensure that it met effectively the child's needs, the response to children who went missing to ensure that return home interviews were completed and records of these were utilised for future risk managing.

The Interim Director of Children's Services went on to explain some of the measures that were being implemented to address Ofsted recommendations, for example, additional social workers and team leaders with preference for permanent staff and stability in the number of team members. A leadership programme was being developed and a Shadow Improvement Board, led by an independent chair, had been established where elected members, senior officers and representatives from Greater Manchester Police worked together to address the recommendations. The final draft of the action plan was ready and it would go to Ofsted on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2019. The Department for Education (DfE) was kept informed of the progress against the draft action plan which would be brought to the attention of this Committee after its submission to the Shadow Improvement Board. Regular meetings with the Deputy Leader of the Council took place to update on progress against the recommendations. Trafford Council would also have the opportunity to receive peer support by visiting an authority, with good Ofsted rating, such as Cheshire West and Chester Council to work together on a range of issues highlighted in the Inspector's report.

The Interim Director of Children's Services explained the actions put in place to ensure that the Council listened to the "Voice of the Child" and children and young people's views were asked and considered in the process to develop services. As a result of this, representatives of children in care were going to be involved in the panel to appoint the new Trafford Children's Services Director in October 2019. Meetings also took place with foster carers to see how their plans could be developed. Work was ongoing with front line staff on processes, quality assurance and case files, to evaluate strengths and challenges. Furthermore, Trafford was one of the early adopters of LiquidLogic Children's System; although this was a new case management system, it would be possible to request an update to make it more accessible and user friendly. Other parts of the review looked at front door and first point of reference and access to services, Early Help and Safeguarding.

Members sought clarification on the sharp deterioration of the Ofsted rating from "outstanding" to "inadequate" and the leadership understanding of the situation. It was explained that this was a very complex issue and more clarity would be done once the Committee was able to see the final draft of the action plan. Ofsted stated that the Council was taking the right steps to address the recommendations. The inspector would come back for a monitoring visit within six months. Six visits would take place followed by a final inspection. Members asked what performance indicators were currently being used by Leadership and those used at the time of the inspection. It was explained that Ofsted did not set the performance indicators; the inspector would expect for the local authority to have a good management information system on which to base their plans and the local authority would set its performance indicators. It was also explained that Ofsted had identified some capacity issue within the system in the sense that the demand for services had increased but the work force had stayed the same. This had led to an increased work load and data and intelligence was not being utilised to

develop the service according to the demand. Since last Ofsted inspection in 2015, the number of Looked After Children in Trafford had increased over 24%. Measures were being taken to recruit more staff and team leaders. The Committee asked how the "Voice of the Child" was being heard and requested that some case studies were being presented at a future meeting to have a better understanding of how the "Voice of the Child" was being integrated into the process. Members asked when it would be possible to see the final action plan to address Ofsted recommendation. It was explained that it would be brought to this Committee in October, following the presentation to the Shadow Improvement Board on 13th August 2019.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the content of the presentation be noted;
2. That a further update be brought to this Committee at its next meeting in October 2019 and the update include the action plan to address Ofsted recommendations;

**25. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TASK & FINISH GROUP REVIEW INTO THE EDUCATION, HEALTH & CARE PLAN (EHCP) PROCESS IN TRAFFORD**

The Committee considered the final report of the Task and Finish Group Review into the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) Process in Trafford. The report detailed the approach taken and the sources of information gathered by the Councillors in ten area of concern that were identified with regard to EHCPs.

The Committee noted the content of the report and its recommendations which would be submitted to the Executive for their consideration.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. The content of the report be noted;
2. The recommendations outlined in the report be submitted to the Executive for their consideration.

**26. START WELL BOARD UPDATE**

The Committee considered a report of the Senior Partnerships and Communities Officer which provided an overview on the work of the Start Well Board. This was a multi-agency strategic partnership board with accountability for delivering national and local priorities for public health in relation to maternity, children and young people. The Board also covered general prevention and work on the wider determinants of health.

The Chair of the Committee asked for a volunteer who was willing to represent the Committee at the Start Well Board.

**RESOLVED** that the overview on the work of the Start Well Board be noted.

**27. CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD UPDATE**

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The Chair of the Committee, who also sat on the Corporate Parenting Board, reported that the Executive Member for Children's Social Care was going to be the new Chair of the Board and the first meeting would take place next week. The Board represented a good opportunity for all partner agencies involved with children and young people in care and care leavers to challenge each other to find ways to make services more effective and to explore more the "Voice of the Child". At each meeting of the Board, representatives of children in care and care leavers were in attendance.

**RESOLVED** that the update be noted.

**28. WORK PROGRAMME 19-20**

**RESOLVED** that the work programme 2019/20 be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and finished at 7.57 pm