

# CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5 OCTOBER 2021

## PRESENT

Councillor D. Western (in the Chair).

Councillors Mrs. P. Young (Vice-Chair), J. Bennett, Miss L. Blackburn, J. Dillon, S. Maitland, A. New and A.M. Whyte

### In attendance

Andrea Myerscough	Director of Operations, Royal Manchester Children's Hospital
Ruth Marshall	Clinical Director for CAMHS, Royal Manchester Children's Hospital
Al Ford	Assistant Director Clinical Service Unit, Royal Manchester Children's Hospital
Joanne Gibson	Head of All Age Commissioning Services, Trafford Council
Jill McGregor	Jill McGregor, Corporate Director Children's Services, Trafford Council
Karen Samples	Director of Education Standards, Quality and Performance, Trafford Council
Zoe Sweeney	Early Years Service Manager, Trafford Council
Sally Smith	Service Manager and Advisor for Inclusion, Trafford Council
Fabiola Fuschi	Governance Officer, Trafford Council

### Also Present

Councillor K.G. Carter, Lead Member for Education

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## 11. ATTENDANCES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Acton, Dr. Barclay, Blackburn and Haughey.

Councillor Hynes, Portfolio Holder for Children's Services informed that could not attend this meeting.

## 12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received

## 13. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions received

## 14. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meetings held on 16<sup>th</sup> March and 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021 be approved as correct records.

**15. UPDATE ON CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (CAMHS)**

In consideration of the increase in the number of referrals of children and young people to mental health services during 2020, the Committee had requested an update on the position of Trafford's CAMHS (Children and Adolescents Mental Health Services) for today's meeting.

The following representatives of the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital attended the meeting to present the update and answered the questions of the Committee: the Assistant Director Clinical Service Unit, the Clinical Director for CAMHS and the Director of Operations.

CAMHS' representatives informed of the increased volume and complexity of cases. The level of acuity had also increased with consequential higher demand and pressure on services and resources. Officers outlined how referrals operated and the duty system in place to assess needs and signpost to services which were best placed to meet those needs. High need cases were seen on the same day.

CHAMS' representatives informed of treatments available to children and young people and outlined the "THRIVE" framework: advice and signposting, focused support, specialist therapy and risk support and how clinicians liaised with families, schools, social care and other services to provide a holistic intervention as and when necessary and highlighted the importance of a whole system approach.

Members sought and received clarification on how the CAMHS's offer could vary between localities in Greater Manchester. Officers explained that this depended on the differences in commissioning but reassured Members that the principles of prioritisation would be the same across Greater Manchester.

Officers responded to Members' question about what services Trafford Council commissioned for children and young people's mental health and wellbeing. Officers referred to some of the services available such as the Early Help offer which provided support in schools, the voluntary sector input in the community through Greater Manchester funding, 42<sup>nd</sup> Street presence in six secondary schools in Trafford, KOOOTH which provided 24/7 on line access to mental health services for 11-25 years old.

Members asked about provision for Autism. CAMHS representatives explained that this was under the remit of Trafford Local Care Organisation (TLCO) and CAMHS would work with TLCO's consultants.

Members asked where a young person from Trafford in need of an in-patient bed would be allocated and CAMHS representatives explained that currently there was a long waiting list. However, a young person from Trafford would experience the same access as young people who resided in other areas in GM. Officers added that, across GM, a "pop-up clinic" approach was being developed to deliver care as near as possible to the place where young people resided. This was part of a

whole system approach which amongst its five priorities saw Health and Wellbeing.

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

## **16. EARLY YEARS SECTOR, AMBITION PLAN AND SCHOOL READINESS**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Education Standards, Quality and Performance which provided an update on the Early Years sector, ambition plan and school readiness.

The author of the report, the Executive Lead Member for Education and the Early Years Service Manager were in attendance to present the information and answered the questions of the Committee.

Officers informed that Trafford had a strong early years sector with 98% of childminders rated good or outstanding compared to 96% nationally. Officers continued informing about the Early Years Strategic Plan Ambitions which saw a well-established 0-5 Board with representation from all key partners. One of the seven priorities of the plan was children's Social and Emotional Wellbeing. The priorities had been refreshed in June 2021 to reflect the Covid recovery planning and a set of key performance indicators would be developed in January 2022 to drive delivery of outcomes against the seven priorities.

Officers brought to Members' attention the decline in the take up of 2 year education places. Although the take up in Trafford was still higher than national, it was lower than previous years and this would affect school readiness.

Members asked whether it would be possible to look at the reasons of the decline in the 2 year offer take up. Officers informed that work was ongoing with other local authorities in Greater Manchester to look at this trend and determine the reasons of such a decline and to look at possible solutions. Officers also advised that opportunities for young children to learn were being promoted via social media, e.g.: the "10 tips for talking" highlighted the everyday things that parents and carers could do to develop children's speech, language and communication skills from before birth through to starting school.

Officers continued informing that there was also a decline in the number of childminders. This was a national trend. Trafford Council fostered a mix early years market to increase parents' choice.

With regards to school readiness, Officers outlined the measures in place to address the issues caused by the pandemic and the period of disruptive learning during lockdown. Speech, language and communication pathways were in place and officers were confident that children would be able to catch up on some of the development that they had missed out on because of lockdown and nursery closures. Officers referred to the ongoing work with NESTA and other local

authorities in Greater Manchester to support parents and understand what would be important to them and utilise their feedback to improve services.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**17. TRAFFORD COUNCIL SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) PEER CHALLENGE**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Education Standards, Quality and Performance which presented the outcome of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Peer Review Challenge that Trafford Council had commissioned the local Government Association to carry out to look at validation of good practices and support with areas for improvement.

The author of the report, the Lead Member for Education, the Corporate Director of Children's Services and the Service Manager and Advisor for Inclusion attended the meeting to present the information and answered the questions of the Committee.

Officers reported that the Peer Challenge focused on a number of lines of enquiry some of which had been identified by Trafford's partners as priority areas in the Ambition Plan, in particular: response to Covid, quality of the SEND experience for children, young people, parents and carers, transition arrangements – preparing for adulthood and the voice of the child.

Officers outlined the six key priorities which had been agreed in partnership with Trafford Parents/Carers Forum such as developing outcome-focused approaches to joint commissioning and integrated working to promote early identification and intervention and maintaining strong outcomes for Trafford SEND pupils, so that they achieved outcomes which were above national expectations for similar pupils and where possible, preventing school exclusions.

Officers continued informing members of the next steps and the recommendations following the conclusion of the review.

Members sought clarification on a number of matters such as recruitment and retention of staff, preparing for adulthood protocol and employment pathway for young people with SEND, how to gather the voice of the child for those families and children hard to reach.

Officers informed that delivering greater local integration and co-ordination of education, health and social care services was one of the ambitions listed in the plan as well as the strong focus on parents' perspective on transition. The workforce was stable and there was potential to look at quality of plans. The reason for the interim post for the Designated Clinical Officer was to be seen within the perspective of the service redesign.

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

**18. DRAFT EXECUTIVE RESPONSE TO THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TASK AND FINISH GROUP REVIEW INTO SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) AND SCHOOL EXCLUSIONS**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Education Standards, Quality and Performance which outlined the response to the information and recommendations made by the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee Task & Finish Group Review into Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and School Exclusions in 2020/21.

The Committee was pleased to receive the report and to note that all schools had been provided with the Inclusion Charter Pack with a view to signing up to show each school's commitment to the Charter.

**RESOLVED** that the responses made in the report be noted.

**19. URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)**

There were no items of urgent business received

**20. EXCLUSION RESOLUTION**

None

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and finished at 8.00 pm

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