

AT A MEETING of the Children and Young People Select Committee of
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on
Wednesday, 21st November, 2018

Chairman:
p Councillor Roz Chadd

Vice-Chairman
p Councillor Ray Bolton

p Councillor Jackie Branson
p Councillor Ann Briggs
p Councillor Zilliah Brooks
p Councillor Fran Carpenter
p Councillor Steve Forster
p Councillor Marge Harvey
p Councillor Wayne Irish

p Gavin James
a Kirsty North
p Councillor Neville Penman
p Councillor Jackie Porter
p Councillor Robert Taylor
p Councillor Malcolm Wade
p Councillor Michael Westbrook

Substitute Members:

p Councillor Pal Hayre, Conservative

Co-opted Members

p Ian Brewerton, Secondary School Parent Governor Representative
p Gareth Davies, Primary School Parent Governor Representative
p Robert Sanders, Church of England Schools Representative
VACANT Special School Parent Governor Representative
VACANT Roman Catholic Schools Representative

In attendance at the invitation of the Chairman:

p Councillor Stephen Reid
p Councillor Patricia Stallard
p Councillor Jonathan Glen

Also in attendance:

Jane Longman, Former Special School Parent Governor Representative

73. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor North. Councillor Hayre was in attendance as the Conservative Substitute Member.

74. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the

circumstances described in Part 3, Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Personal interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 5 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

No declarations were made at this point in the meeting.

75. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

76. DEPUTATIONS

The Committee did not receive any deputations.

77. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman did not make any announcements to the meeting.

78. HAMPSHIRE CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE (CAMHS) UPDATE

The Committee received a presentation from representatives of Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust on Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) (Item 6 in the Minute Book).

The Committee were taken through the slides and key issues were highlighted. It was heard that throughout 2016/17, the CAMHS service had seen a 20-25% increase in the number of referrals. This year 8000 referrals have been received with the number of contacts offered totalling 79,114. Members attention was drawn to the main successes which had arisen in the last year, which included an improvement in the vacancy rate which was now 4%, and the implementation of the Single Point of Access. The Service was also running a yearlong campaign on suicide awareness with a focus on body image and self-esteem. Members of the Committee were informed of the Fit Fest day events which consisted of workshops and information focussing on issues such as anxiety, body image and self esteem. Parent and carer events (PACE) events were explained, which were designed to help families better understand the needs and difficulties that young people can face.

The Committee also heard about the challenges affecting the Service, and Members were concerned to hear the length of time that children and young people were waiting to access treatment, 34% of children wait longer than a year to access treatment which is only slightly higher than the national average.

Representatives from the Service highlighted the increasing levels of complexity presented by children with mental health and social needs, and the increasing pressure on the service's workforce and challenges for clinical space. The Service's work with partner agencies was explained and the work with the Willow Team was highlighted. It was noted that there had been a significant increase in the number of children and young people requiring autism assessments, which had led to challenges, and work was underway to ensure these were conducted in a timely way. Attention was also drawn to the continuing priorities of the service, and the importance of a multi-agency approach, as well as addressing demand and capacity with resilience and the development of forecasting models going forward.

In response to questions, Members heard:

- That there were a number of children waiting an unacceptable length of time for treatment, and work was being undertaken to try and address this by working with commissioners and partner agencies. Priority would always be given to children with more complex needs and whose needs had deteriorated.
- A recent Care Quality Commission inspection of the service deemed the service good overall and outstanding in caring.
- That engagement work with GP's continued to promote awareness of the CAMHS service at GP forums and through training and support. It was important to ensure that referral links were also effective.
- That some children had to be transferred for inpatient treatment out of county as there were only a small number of specialist units available nationally which would be suitable for some individual children's needs. It was heard that the aim was to reduce the need to transfer children out of county, and work was currently being undertaken to investigate other models of care including home treatment, as in-patient stay was not always the ideal solution.
- That a recent initial pilot scheme which aimed to reduce children having treatment out of the area, as well as minimising the length of in-patient stay, had shown a significant reduction in children receiving treatment out of the area. It was heard that the service would be continuing with this programme.
- That there were additional resources available through the Hampshire CAMHS website, which included self-help information and signposting to other resources. It was noted that sometimes children and young people's needs could be managed by other services and the website could help signpost to these.
- That as well as support signposting being available on the Hampshire CAMHS website, there were a number of nationally available web apps which could also be accessed which provided further information.
- Schools were also available to support emotional wellbeing and mental health, for example Emotional literacy support assistants (ELSAs).
- The Service routinely develops care plans and risk management plans for all young people, including those waiting for interventions.
- That there was a clear protocol in place to aid smooth transition to adult mental health services.

- That bids had been invited for the recent green paper on child mental health from government. That until the outcome of the bid was known, there was uncertainty about how much money would be coming into the local area, and other areas of the country were also unclear about the level of financial support they would have.
- That a new Autism diagnostic service for school age children came into effect in September 2018, and whilst a few initial problems had been experienced, children who had been waiting for a long time are now being assessed. It was noted that it was important for all partner agencies to work together and for parents to receive support without being completely dependent on the diagnostic pathway.
- That the focus of the service was to reduce waiting times for treatment, and for the service to ensure that the child is supported during this time by means of risk assessment and management and care plans which include self-help materials.
- That there was a complex mix of social factors which could affect mental health in children and young people, and an increasing number of young people were seen to be taking significant overdoses and self harming. The importance of reducing the stigma of having a mental health diagnosis was also stressed.
- That issues around recruiting doctors and consultant psychiatrists had been experienced at a local and national level, and ways of attracting consultants to vacant positions was being examined.

Members expressed their concerns about the lack of progress in reducing waiting times for treatment for children and young people, and agreed to a further update to the Committee in 12 months time to include an update on waiting times for access to treatment. Members were also concerned about how funding received by Clinical Commissioning Groups for children's mental health services is spent, and agreed for the Chairman to write a letter to the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board to request this information.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the Children and Young People Select Committee note the update on CAMHS and request a further update in 12 months time. That this update includes progress made to reduce waiting times for access to CAMHS treatment.
- ii) That the Children and Young People Select Committee request that the Chairman write to the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board to seek assurances from the Clinical Commissioning Groups, that money received for CAMHS from government is appropriately passed to the providers for this service, as well as to understand how CAMHS is funded and commissioned in Hampshire.

79. **HAMPSHIRE HEALTHY WEIGHT STRATEGY - UPDATE**

The Committee received a report and presentation by the Director of Public Health, providing an update on the Hampshire Healthy Weight Strategy (Item 7 in the Minute Book).

Members were taken through the presentation and it was explained that the healthy weight strategy was a key priority for Hampshire County Council, with the strategy focussing on families and the impact on healthy weight from wider influences in society such as social media. The link between weight gain in children and young people and possible future health issues was also highlighted, and attention was drawn to the national programme of measuring the height and weight of school children in Year R and Year 6. The results of the programme showed that 23% of children in Year R and 26% of children in Year 6 were overweight or obese, and the likelihood of weight gain continuing into adulthood was highlighted.

Links between increasing levels of weight and consequences for mental health and self-esteem were explained, as well as the possibility of developing Type 2 diabetes. Members heard that the main cause of weight gain was too much sugar consumption, and at a wider level, Government obesity plans were seeking to address high fat, high sugar food marketing.

Officers explained how work with travel planning teams could make a difference in promoting travel to and from school in an active way rather than parents choosing to travel by car for the whole journey. Work was also being undertaken with the County Council's catering service to ensure sugar content was kept to a minimum in school meals. The importance of encouraging children and parents to make healthy food choices was also highlighted. The success of programmes designed to promote regular activity in children and young people such as Energise Me and the Golden Mile were outlined.

In response to questions, Members heard:

- That food choices are complex, and research has shown that people may feel constrained with food choices depending on life circumstances. It was noted that research also indicated that people may not make healthy food choices that were likely to be rejected by children when budgets were tight.
- That it was felt that a shift in culture was needed to ensure that unhealthy sweets and treats were not used as 'rewards' for children.
- That money from the sugar tax levy had transferred to the County Council in July, and Public Health has worked with County Council colleagues to prioritise primary schools in the county to receive funding from this.
- That a nutritionist from Public Health is working with providers of school meals to provide support and assist with planning healthy and nutritious school meals.
- That activities in schools such as the Golden Mile/Daily Mile at the start of the school day, have proven to increase levels of children's concentration for the rest of the school day as well as increase physical activity levels.
- That the density of takeaways and fast food outlets is greater in areas of deprivation, and planning controls were being considered so that these outlets are not opened near to schools.
- That the Public Health team continued to work closely with local stakeholders as part of the healthy new town initiative in Whitehill and Bordon, which has seen the added value of partnership working. A

number of initiatives have benefitted children such as the implementation of park and stride sites. The benefit of Councillors being part of planning committees at a district and borough level was also highlighted.

- That children in care received annual health assessments, and a nutritionist is working with children's homes and increasingly with foster carers.
- The significance of food technology as a school subject has decreased over time nationally, which can be attributed to it being a resource heavy subject because of ingredients required and equipment.
- That the Food Specialist Inspector for Hampshire works closely with the County Council in helping children lead healthier lives.

RESOLVED:

That the Children and Young People Select Committee note the progress on the Hampshire Healthy Weight Strategy 2015-2019 and supports the systems approach to tackling the issue of childhood obesity.

80. **ANNUAL SAFEGUARDING REPORT - CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

The Committee received the annual safeguarding report for Children's Services from the Director of Children's Services (Item 8 in the Minute Book).

Members were taken through the report and attention was drawn to key issues such as the outcomes of Ofsted inspections of Hampshire Children's Services as detailed in Section 3 of the report. Section 4 of the report highlighted child exploitation which was also an area of national concern, and 'County Lines' remained an area of emerging concern for Hampshire's Children's Services and other agencies concerned with children. The work of the Willow team was explained which was a multi agency team consisting of specialist social workers and health professionals, working with Hampshire constabulary to protect the highest risk children. It was noted that there had been an increase in exploitation of children to become involved in the dealing of class A substances, and work was continuing to work with children involved to recognise the situation as exploitation.

Section 4 of the report also highlighted work with unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC), and it was heard that the port of Portsmouth was a main point of entry for these children with a knock on effect as children seek asylum in Hampshire. The report detailed the number of UASC looked after by Hampshire and also highlighted proposed new local safeguarding arrangements between partners as set out in paragraph 4.14 of the report, and it was heard that work was being undertaken to develop new arrangements in Hampshire.

Members noted the figures relating to contacts, referrals and safeguarding activity as set out in the table in paragraph 5.2 of the report, and it was noted that there had been an increase in the number of contacts in 2017/18. It was heard that the majority of referrals were predominantly from the police and education service. In relation to Section 47 investigations going to ICPC, it was

explained that this had remained at around 45% over the last five years, and this was seen to reinforce that thresholds were being consistently applied.

Officers highlighted Child Protection Plans and Members were taken through the figures relating to these in paragraph 5.7 of the report, and attention was drawn to the percentage rise in the number of children subject to a plan for neglect. It was also heard that the rise in the number of new UASC has attributed to the overall rise in children becoming looked after by Hampshire. The costs of placements was also rising, with national demand outstripping supply and causing increasing pressures on budgets.

Section 6 of the report highlighted a key issue of recruitment and retention of social workers. Where there were issues with recruitment, it was heard that suitably qualified agency workers were needed to fill these posts. Members heard that the establishment of an agency by the County Council in partnership with Kent County Council, would look to source and supply social workers, with a view to these becoming permanent employees over time. The social work graduate entry training scheme was also highlighted as enabling Hampshire to recruit newly qualified social workers, but the importance of guiding and protecting newly graduated social workers was stressed.

Members noted the future challenges and priorities for Children's Services as set out in Section 7 of the report. The findings of the recent focused visit by Ofsted to the County Council's children's services department was summarised in the Appendix to the report, and it was explained that the visit focussed on the arrangements for children subject to a child protection plan, and the department wanted assurance of their performance in this particularly difficult and sensitive area. Officers highlighted the very positive feedback received from Ofsted with Senior Leaders being seen to have a clear vision for continually improving services for vulnerable children in Hampshire. Morale was also seen to be good, and the system effective for children. The areas for improvement were explained to Members and it was heard that these would be addressed.

Councillor Porter declared a personal interest as the Chair of a Pre-School that receives special educational needs funding.

In response to questions, Members heard:

- That with issues such as 'County Lines' it was seen that some vulnerable children would need to be placed in care outside of the Hampshire area, to ensure they were protected from the people who had exploited them.
- That the introduction of new technology such as Office 365 software enabled social workers access to facilities such as Skype and Facetime, which enabled greater flexibility in their work. It had also enabled the ability to have 'instant' conversations with children and young people if the need arose.
- That the forthcoming Hampshire County Council Children's Services budget proposals would not have a negative impact on the children's safeguarding budget.
- That in relation to the graduate training scheme, it was important to demonstrate to graduates the benefits of working for Hampshire County

Council, and ensure feel supported and safe in their practice. It was also noted that social workers often returned to work for the County Council, if they have left to work for a different organisation.

- That there were a number of UASC who had been placed in care in London, who had arrived in Hampshire seeking asylum. It was noted that this was due to the ethnicity of some of the children and the greater diversity of ethnicity in London, which would put place thee children more at ease.

Members thanked Officers for the reassuring report and wished to extend their thanks to the wider Children's safeguarding team for their work.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the Children and Young People Select Committee note the update on children's safeguarding.
- ii) That the Children and Young People Select Committee thank the Children's Services safeguarding team for their work.

81. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Director of Transformation and Governance presented the Committee's work programme (see Item 9 in the Minute Book).

Councillor Bolton requested that an item be placed on the work programme on Autism work in relation to children and young people, and it was noted that an update on this work by the new provider of this service would be brought to a future meeting of the Select Committee.

Councillor Porter requested that an item be placed on the work programme on the impact of the Equality Act and Special Educational Needs (SEN) offers. It was noted that this would be included in the SEN update and overview item for the May 2019 Select Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the work programme, subject to any amendments made during the meeting, is agreed.

Chairman,