

AT A MEETING of the Children and Young People Select Committee of
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Friday,
17th September, 2021

Chairman:

* Councillor Kirsty North

Vice- Chairman:

* Councillor Neville Penman

Councillor Prad Bains	
* Councillor Jackie Branson	* Councillor Arun Mummalaneni
* Councillor Ann Briggs	* Councillor Jackie Porter
* Councillor Christopher Donnelly	Councillor Andy Tree
* Councillor David Drew	* Councillor Jacky Tustain
* Councillor Juliet Henderson	* Councillor Malcolm Wade
Councillor Zoe Huggins	Councillor Bill Withers Lt Col (Retd)
* Councillor Gavin James	

*Present

Co-opted Members:

* Ian Brewerton, Secondary Schools Parent Governor Representative
Gareth Davis, Primary Schools Parent Governor Representative
* Robert Sanders, Church of England Schools Representative
* Kate Watson, Special School Parent Governor Representative
VACANT Roman Catholic Schools Representative

Also present with the agreement of the Chairman:

Councillor Roz Chadd, Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Councillor Pal Hayre, Assistant to the Executive Lead Member

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Prad Bains, Zoe Huggins, Andy Tree and Bill Withers. Councillor Lesley Meenaghan was in attendance as the Conservative Substitute Member.

Apologies were also received from Gareth Davis, the co-opted parent governor member for primary schools.

2. 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

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2021 were agreed by the Committee as a correct record of the meeting.

4. **DEPUTATIONS**

The Committee did not receive any deputations.

5. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman commenced her announcements by highlighting the informal briefing which the Committee received on the 7 July which was webcast. Members received updates on Governance, Overview of Children's Services, Department for Education (DfE) Holiday Activities and Food Programme and Autism Services Commissioning for Children and Young People, which were all very informative.

The Chairman also announced that regrettably this was Ian Brewerton's last meeting as the co-opted parent governor representative for Secondary Schools, due to his four year term of office ending at the beginning of November. The Chairman extended her sincere thanks to Ian for his contribution to the work of the Committee over the last four years. At the invitation of the Chairman, Ian thanked the Chairman and the Committee, and also highlighted the outstanding work of the Director of Children's Services and his officers. It was heard that nominations would be sought for a Secondary School co-opted parent governor, and this will be put forward for formal appointment at the future Council meeting.

6. **CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (CAMHS) UPDATE**

The Committee received their annual update on Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) (Item 6 in the Minute Book). This further update was at the request of the Committee at their 11 November 2020 meeting.

Representatives from Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight Clinical Commissioning Group, and Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust provided Members with a joint presentation which set out a CAMHS development update. The first part of the presentation highlighted key issues which included the impact of Covid-19 on mental health and emotional wellbeing, and that early intervention was critical. Joint working in this area with partners was also highlighted. Key areas of service development were explained which included

the launch of the new Kooth digital service, community counselling and the development and rolling out of psychiatric liaison services. The securement of funding for the roll out of 5 new mental health in schools teams across Hampshire was also highlighted. Officers highlighted the significant investment into the service this year and the plans for service development, as well as working in partnership to focus on early intervention.

The second part of the presentation highlighted the work of Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust who provide Hampshire CAMHS. Members were led through the slides and it was heard that there were currently an average open caseload of 7,517. The impact of Covid was noted with the CAMHS website receiving 43,000 hits, and there was specific support available on the website in relation to return to school and developing confidence. It was also heard that in November 2020, there was a re-modelling of the forecast based on the latest available tools and research as a result of Covid.

Slide 11 of the presentation slides detailed the investment decisions, and the overall investment from 2021/22 onwards of £6.5 million per annum was highlighted. Areas such as the Clinical Model, Early Help Service, Digital Team, Crisis Care and the Eating Disorder Service were also explained to Members. In relation to the Eating Disorder Service, it was heard that there had been an 150% increase in demand, and a significant number of children and young people were now presenting at a very low weight. The impact of Covid in relation to this was explained, and it was noted that school closures had impacted the ability for eating disorders to be noticed earlier.

In conclusion, it was highlighted that one of the main focuses of the service was on recruitment, and it was heard that the service were looking to recruit 103 additional Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) posts. The challenges going forward were explained which included the length of waiting times. Members also noted that the increase in demand for the service was an issue nationally.

In response to questions, Members heard:

- That officers were confident that with new investment and the new clinical model, waiting times for CAMHS treatment will decrease, and will be in a better position next year.
- That it was difficult for the service to predict the long term impact of Covid on mental health and emotional wellbeing, and there may need to be flex in the clinical model going forward as a result, and possible expansion of the service going forward.
- That in relation to eating disorders, there has been an increase in late presentation to the service as a result of Covid and an increase in those in acute hospitals for treatment of this. At this acute stage, it is essential that physical intervention is undertaken before any therapeutic work.
- That the average length of CAMHS treatment is 12 sessions, with more acute needs, such as eating disorders and trauma being seen amongst children and young people. This can lengthen treatment time as several different interventions will be required.
- That there was continued close working with partnership agencies such as Hampshire County Council's children's services department and the police to ensure early help is available where there is a safeguarding risk.

- That schools have been promoting 'Kooth', the new digital service to help with early intervention.
- That a continued challenge was around recruitment to the service and retention, and it was also important to support the welfare of staff. Details about the construction of the CAMHS Academy were also explained.
- That a booklet from Hampshire CAMHS has been circulated to all Hampshire Year 7 children to help in providing support with the transition to secondary school.
- That a more comprehensive pathway would help to ensure that not all children and young people would require specialist mental health services.

It was proposed by Cllr Jackie Porter and seconded by the Chairman Cllr Kirsty North, that a further written update be received when the 103 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) posts have been filled, if before a year's time.

This was supported by the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee noted the update and requested a further written update when the 103 WTE additional posts have been filled, if before a year's time.

7. SAVINGS PROGRAMME TO 2023 - REVENUE SAVINGS PROPOSALS

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Children's Services and Director of Corporate Operations regarding the detailed savings proposals for the Children's Services Department that had been developed as part of the Savings Programme to 2023 (SP2023) Programme (Item 7 in the Minute Book).

Officers led Members through the accompanying presentation and it was reported that the last government spending review was for one year as a result of economic and fiscal uncertainty due to Covid. Forecasting indicated that government funding would not fully meet the financial pressures the County Council faced, therefore there would be a funding gap in April 2023 and the Council would need to make savings of £80 million to balance the budget. This was in addition to £45 million in savings from previous transformation programmes that were yet to be delivered.

It was noted that the savings requirement for the Children's Services Department under this SP23 savings programme was £21.3 million. Officers highlighted the pie chart on page 8 of the presentation slides which detailed the breakdown of spending for the 2021/22 children's services budget, and the pie chart on page 9 detailed the proposed SP23 savings in these areas.

An overarching 'balancing the budget' consultation had been undertaken in the summer of 2021 and further consultation would be undertaken where appropriate on the savings workstreams which were explained in detail to the Committee. The risks and challenges of the savings proposals were also highlighted, as well as the equality impacts.

In response to questions, Members heard:

- That the department has considered the savings proposals against the key principles adhered to by the department as set out at presentation slide 6 and paragraph 23 of the decision report.
- That there was more spending now in the department than in 2010 because of demand and price, and work was ongoing by the County Council Network to examine factors for increase in spend, which was primarily due to the increased unit cost per child.
- That in relation to the proposed savings for the Youth Offending Service by way of reduced staffing levels, it was heard that there was good evidence that early intervention was now reducing youth crime, resulting in reducing caseloads and demand on the service.
- That the biggest challenge to the department was unknown risks.
- That in relation to foster care, there was a need to recruit new foster carers, and to look at the support that foster carers are offered, as well as competition with the private sector in this area.
- That short break activities would be aligned with the holiday activity and food programme to ensure efficient use of public funds and reduce duplication.

The Chairman moved to debate where it was heard that there was uncertainty as to what the impact of the savings would be, and it would not be easy to measure deliverability of these. The unknown as to the long term cost of Covid was also highlighted.

The Chairman put the recommendation to the vote and confirmed that the co-opted members were not eligible to vote on this matter. The vote was carried as follows:

For: 9
 Against: 4
 Abstain: 0

RESOLVED:

The Children and Young People Select Committee considered the detailed savings proposals and:

Supported the recommendations being proposed to the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services in section 2 of the report. (To approve the submission of the proposed savings options for Children's Services contained in the report and Appendix 1 to the Cabinet.

8. FOSTERING UPDATE

The Committee received the Fostering Annual Report 2020/21 (Item 8 in the Minute Book). The report was introduced and key headlines were highlighted.

It was noted that Hampshire's Fostering Service had a target to provide 187 additional fostering placements by 31 March 2023, and the marketing strategy around this was explained. Officers presented further information around the recruitment of foster carers, and it was heard that because of Covid, there had been more focus on targeted digital marketing, as well as an increase in on-line

and virtual activity. Members noted that Hampshire has also seen an increase in the conversion rate from enquiry to approval.

Details around fostering support was set out in paragraphs 21 – 31 of the report, and the results of the annual foster carer survey of June 2021 were highlighted. Members attention was also drawn to the increase in foster carer satisfaction with the recruitment process, as well as an increase in satisfaction with the work of the Placements Commissioning Service. Officers also highlighted the work of the six Hampshire fostering panels and it was heard that some training would continue to be held virtually in 2021/22. Statistics relating to timeliness of household reviews, DBS checks and foster carer medicals were explained, and it was heard that there had been some delays with medicals during 2020/21 due to the pandemic.

In conclusion, Members also heard details of the Modernising Placements Programme (MPP) and the development of the Hampshire Hive which was seen as an important development. Details of the new psychological service were also explained, and it was noted that recruitment for the role of clinical psychologist for this service was underway.

In response to questions, Members heard:

- That the assessment process for prospective foster carers is governed nationally.

Cllr Ann Briggs left at this point in proceedings

- That some children in care have been educated at home during lockdown, and the effect of lockdown on children in care could be looked at further by the Committee.
- That officers do actively seek to recruit from Black, Minority and Ethnic groups.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report were noted by the Children and Young People Select Committee.

9. **UPDATE ON AUTISM SERVICES COMMISSIONING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN HAMPSHIRE**

The Committee received a written update report on Autism Services Commissioning for Children and Young People in Hampshire (Item 9 in the Minute Book). At their 28 September 2020 meeting, the Committee resolved to receive a written report for every meeting until the Committee were satisfied that the service had caught up and was providing a timely service for children, parents and schools and proof that the service was making progress. The Chairman highlighted that the Committee would receive a presentation from officers on this item at their 10 November Committee meeting.

The Chairman requested that any questions be either emailed to the Chairman, or the Democratic Services Officer, to be forwarded on for a response, which would be circulated to the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the Children and Young People Select Committee noted the update.

10. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Director of Transformation and Governance presented the Committee's work programme (see Item 10 in the Minute Book).

There were no additions made to the work programme.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee considered and approved the work programme.

Chairman, Children & Young People
Select Committee