

PEOPLE (CHILDREN) SCRUTINY PANEL

13 November 2014

ADOLESCENT TASK AND FINISH GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS – OFFICER RESPONSE

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR FOR PEOPLE

STRATEGIC AIM:	Creating a Brighter Future for All
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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To inform the People (Children) Scrutiny Panel of the officer response to the Adolescent Task and Finish Group recommendations

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That Scrutiny Panel note the contents of this report.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 Introduction

The Adolescent Task and Finish Group submitted their report to the People (Children) Scrutiny Panel in May 2014. The report contained 4 recommendations proposed by the group following the conclusion of their work and publication of the report.

This report provides officer comment on each of the recommendations contained in the above report. Each recommendation is taken in turn below and a response provided.

The Adolescent Task and Finish Group's recommendations were as follows:

That the Council:

Explore the way Rutland County Council works with schools to:

- clarify roles and responsibilities,
- enhance the working relationship,
- Identify the training needs of school staff and how these can be met, communicate a clear pathway for schools to access services.

3.2

Recommendation	Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarify roles and responsibilities 	<p>The Council has undertaken a full survey of safeguarding practice and policy in schools to ensure that schools are compliant with and meeting their statutory duties in relation to safeguarding.</p> <p>The survey asks whether schools have completed their duties and have in place policy and practice which fulfils their role and complies with statutory requirements.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance the working relationship 	<p>The Council has developed a Learning and Skills Strategy which was approved by Cabinet in June 2014 and has been consulted upon with schools. The strategy identifies safeguarding as a priority action for school improvement activity.</p> <p>The Council has also introduced briefing meetings for Head Teachers and Chairs of Governing Bodies which will be used for providing updates on a range of school performance matters including safeguarding.</p> <p>The Council is also holding a School Improvement Conference on 4 December 2014 covering priority topics for schools. Safeguarding will be one of afternoon workshops at the conference.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the training needs of school staff and how these can be met 	<p>The training needs for schools are being assessed in a number of ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Through the survey of safeguarding carried out by the Local Authority; Through needs analysis conducted by the Rutland Teaching Alliance; Through analysis of school Ofsted Inspection Reports.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate a clear pathway for schools to access services. 	<p>A clear path for access to Local Authority services to support safeguarding in schools is set out in the Learning and Skills Strategy.</p> <p>Schools also have clear arrangements set out in their own School Development Plans which are monitored by Governing Bodies.</p>
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3.3 As part of the People Directorate review consider:

- the role of early intervention services in meeting the needs of hard to reach groups
- the effectiveness of the “step up step down” process.

Early Intervention services delivered by the Council report to the multi-agency Rutland Families First Board which has been in place since 2009. The Strategy, which is available on the Council’s website, provides a framework for the delivery of our early intervention and intensive family support services. This involves identifying appropriate support at different levels of need, and is based on the presumption that services need to be evaluated against achieving identifiable outcomes for children, young people and families. Participation of children, young people and families is paramount and this is achieved through the team around family and lead practitioner approach.

The strategy also supports the development of joint commissioning arrangements to strengthen service delivery. The Families First Board reports quarterly to the Children’s Trust on progress, achievements and areas of risk to ensure the scrutiny of early help arrangements. The Children’s Trust board is a sub group of the Health and Well Being Board.

The Local Authority Early Intervention Offer is delivered across 7 key areas:



These service areas are delivered across the 0 – 19 age range (up to 25 if there is a disability) .All of the services are located within the 0 – 19 teams in the Families Support: Early Intervention service in the People directorate.

As part of the offer for early intervention, in addition to the common assessment process (CAF), there are a range of mechanisms and processes in place to ensure Early Help has the infrastructure required to remain effective.

Early Intervention Model This is a visual model indicating all of the universal and targeted services that fall within the Council's local offer.

Single Agency A recent system has been developed within the Stronger Communities (Early Help) Service where services within the 2 teams record work they are undertaking with children, young people and families where there are 2 unmet needs or less engaging them as a single agency. In addition, the tracker also records where single agency support is being provided as part of a CAF, Child In Need, Child Protection or LAC plan as part of the continuum of need.

Early Intervention Practitioners Forum This forum is led by the CAF Co-ordinator and is a forum for all practitioners working across universal and targeted services across the authority. The forum meets monthly and has a good membership from key agencies such as education, health and police. It is used as a drop in session for practitioners who want to discuss any cases they are working with, share practice and seek further advice. At each session there is always a development section to ensure there are standardised processes across partners eg; Thresholds, Single Assessment etc. The forum is also supported by a Senior Practitioner from Social Care who will provide expert advice if required.

Multi Agency Support Panel (MASP) – A multi-agency meeting where both external and internal managers meet on a regular basis to discuss cases open to early intervention or social care meeting a set of strict criteria. The aim is to provide managerial oversight where key decisions can be made such as pooling budgets and resources to achieve a better outcome for those more complex families.

Manager Development Sessions – A monthly session where all managers from the Council's early intervention or social care teams meet to undertake joint training to ensure consistent approaches, agreeing methodology and sharing practice. Senior Practitioners then cascade this learning to all frontline practitioners within social care and early intervention through monthly 'Munro' briefing sessions. Recent sessions have included 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'

CAF Training – There is a training programme in place where 6 x training sessions (Refresher and New) days per year are delivered to all staff and partners. This has been particularly effective where we have seen an increase in referrals after each course and improved recording of information and Lead Professionals, particularly from external partners.







Quality Assurance Framework – The Council has a thorough framework for the quality assurance of all early help and social care. There is a 3 stage launch approach; social care and CAF have been applying this framework since April 14; it is being rolled out to Early Help and Fostering service in June and September respectively. The framework is overseen by the Assistant Director and includes a range of practices such as monthly case audits, observations of practice, reflective case summaries and performance management.

Examples of work undertaken by early intervention services reaching hard to reach groups are as follows:

- Outreach using the Rutland Wanderer (7.5 tonne) mobile providing youth service provision in local villages where there is no other provision in place.
- Dedicated provision for the following hard to reach groups:
 - Young Carers – Monthly youth project providing respite for young carers from their caring responsibilities.
 - Teenage Parents – Weekly session co delivered with Children Centre staff re: positive parenting and learning.
 - Looked After and Care Leavers – Monthly project responding to corporate parent.
 - Disabled children and young people – Aiming High provision ranging from weekly sessions to residential as part of the statutory short breaks offer.
 - Family support for families accessing 2 year free educational entitlement funding.
- Bespoke curriculum sessions delivered throughout early intervention projects covering a range of topics such as mental health, bullying, aspirations, parenting, substance misuse, learning etc.
- Delivery of CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation) awareness briefings for staff, parents and carers and joint case working on high profile CSE cases.

There is a 'Step Up Step Down' process in place for cases that are open to social care that require early help services to support them in the transition to universal services with all of their needs met. This framework is embedded and working well with clear guidance for social workers and early help staff.

Further analysis of data currently available and the need to determine impact demonstrates positive progress as set out below.

01/04/12 to 31/03/13	01/04/13 to 31/03/14	Status
631 contacts opened to social care	690 contacts opened to social care	 8.5%+
Of those 378 went onto referral	Of those 240 went onto referral	 36.5% -
Of all contacts, 41 were stepped down / recommended to CAF	Of all contacts, 64 were stepped down / recommended to CAF	 9.43% +
Of those that went onto referral 3 resulted in a CAF	Of those that went onto referral 34 resulted in a CAF	 14.1% +
76 cases open to CAF	93 cases open to CAF	 18% +
24 cases stepped up from CAF	5 cases stepped up from CAF	 79% -
Data not recorded or not available	Single Agency (2 unmet needs) External Lead Professional (TAF Changing Lives (Troubled Families) engaged Changing Lives (Payment by Results) Participation in early intervention services	90 33% 100% 33% 400

As can be seen from the data above, although there has been a slight increase in the overall number of contacts opened to social care, there has been a significant positive change in data that demonstrates the following:

- a) Step Up Step Down Procedure is working well
- b) Single Assessment and thresholds for referral and intervention is robust
- c) Confidence in the CAF process has improved with the increase in referrals and evidenced by evaluations
- d) Early Intervention Offer prevents escalation of issues to CAF/Social Care

In addition other key data that evidences the impact of early help services provided by the Council and its partners is as follows:

Data Headlines	2012-13	2013-14
Prevention of homelessness	53	86
Children Centre's Reach 0 – 5	41.5%	56%
NEET (Not in Education, Employment and/or Training)	1.2%	0.8%
Child Poverty	8.4%	8.4%
Under 18 conception rate	6.2%	6%

There is also a monthly summary of key headline data that is reviewed by senior managers for social care and early help to measure effectiveness identify trends and target resources. The most recent summary is referred to below for August 2014:

Early Intervention Activity	April	May	June	July	Aug	Total	
Number of active CAF cases	46	53	52	51	51	n/a	
New CAF referrals	6	7	10	4	5	32	
Re-referrals to CAF within 12mths of last one closing	0	0	2			2	
Total CAF Cases closed	8	0	13	5	5	31	
No of clients recommended for CAF by Social Care	Team 11	0	0	6	4	0	10
	Team 12	6	3	2	1	8	20
% of CAF cases escalated to Social Care	2	0	0	3	0	5	
% of RCC internal staff Lead Practitioner roles involved in CAF	68%	65%	63.5%				
Cases open to Social Care with Early Intervention Involvement	4	5	5	9		n/a	

Early Intervention – 2 needs or less met by a single agency	April	May	June	July	Aug
Team 1	3	23	27	36	23
Team 2	31	32	27	46	39
Total					

3.4 Officers report to the People (Children) Scrutiny Panel, by the end of September 2014, findings of the work currently being carried out on Safeguarding in schools.

- In this report officers are requested to highlight findings relating to the emotional health and well-being of young people.

Tier 3 CAMHS review

National research and evidence from local providers demonstrates the growing prevalence of mental health disorders in children and young people, and the need for early intervention. As a result of this CAMHS services nationally have been under pressure to meet increasing needs and manage performance timescales. Previous definitions of adolescent mental health are no longer used and the focus is now on the emotional health and well-being. The main concern from the perspective of the CCGs (Clinical Commissioning Groups) has been the long waiting times for accessing services.

A review of tier 3 CAMHS is underway across the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland area which would focus on the development of a child and adolescent emotional health and wellbeing strategy across the region. This will form part of the Better Care Together Programme and the development of a 5 year health and care strategy for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. Although the review is focussed on tier 3 it recognises that there needs to be a system wide approach and a shift of resources to early intervention particularly schools and improved access at tier 3 for more specialist services. Part of the work will focus on understanding need across the region so that resources can be more effectively used. There has been no analysis undertaken at this time of the needs of Rutland children and young people however this will form a part of the programme of work.

Outline strategy

The strategy is set out in four themes:

- Promoting good emotional health and resilience
- Early and targeted support
- Pathways between specialist services
- Leadership and management of resources.

The principles underlying the strategy include:

- Emotional health and well-being is everyone's business
- Shift resources and capacity from specialist services to early intervention and targeted support
- Age range that should be covered is 0-25
- Strategy will make the case for shifting resources from physical to mental health, and from adult services to provision for children and young people.
- This strategy will link to overall mental health and children's strategies across the LLR.

Pathways

Work is focussing on the pathways with an examination of the whole system to provide clarity and understanding over the roles, thresholds and responsibilities. Plans include building or developing on;

- Early and targeted support including early low intensity support available through schools, youth work, children's centres, group work, etc.
- Engagement with families, carers and young people

- Providing information, choice, advocacy and peer support for parents, carers and young people
- Innovation and use of social media and new technology
- Target vulnerable children – those at risk of poor outcomes.
- Learn from what works (TAMS –Targeted Early Help in Schools, 1001 critical days following birth).
- An equitable offer across LLR.
- Use a whole schools approach including policies, curriculum, parent support etc aimed at improving attainment and attendance. But recognising that not all young people seek support via their school – e.g. young people who are lesbian, gay or bisexual.

The Professional Advisory Service

PAS is a telephone advisory service for CAMHS which is open for LLR professionals who support children, young people and their families requiring advice or support in relation to children's emotional well-being and mental health needs. It provides

- Information about referral pathways to CAMHS
- Information about other services in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland which may be appropriate for children, young people and their families
- Information about caller's professional role in supporting the child or young person's mental health
- Strategies, information and resources for supporting children, young people and their families

There has been an increase in the volume of calls to the service and user satisfaction ratings are high.

Next Steps

- Strategic groups have been identified and will report into the Better Care Together Programme.
- CAMHS representative will join the multi-agency section of Rutland Inspection Readiness Process.
- A report will be provided for the Children's Trust Board in Rutland on 4th November by Leon Charikar.

- 3.5** Officers to explore with the military a means of developing a process to automatically inform all schools of changes in key military personnel, such as family welfare officers, when such changes take place. Officers to report progress to members.

Funding has been secured through the Army Covenant Bid from the Early Intervention Service for £45,000 for a 12 month 'Community Integration Project'. This has been used to fund a postholder located within the early intervention service but based within Kendrew Barracks for 2 days per week.

Their role is to:

- Develop provision onsite to bring together regiments and develop a more integrated community.

- Encourage army families to access provision within the wider community of Rutland eg) Children Centre's.
- Recruit volunteers to develop sustainable provision onsite for army families most in need.
- Build links between army welfare and wider services within the community to develop more joined up working.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

RISK	IMPACT	COMMENTS
Time	L	There are no implications from this report other than normal business
Viability	L	There are no implications from this report other than normal business
Finance	L	There are no financial implications and any changes will be met through existing budgets
Profile	M	Members have been focussed on the needs of adolescents during the lifespan of this report.
Equality & Diversity	L	Equality and diversity issues as a direct response to this report are low however as result of this report there may be a need to complete an Equality Impact questionnaire if further work results from this.

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A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.