



Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP.

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Minutes of the **MEETING of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose on Thursday, 27th February, 2020 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Mr A Lowe (Chairman)
Mr P Ainsley
Mr N Begy
Mr K Bool
Mrs J Burrows
Mrs S Harvey
Mrs S Webb
Mr Peter French
Mr Andreas Menzies

OFFICERS

PRESENT: Mr M Andrews Strategic Director for People
Ms D Godfrey Deputy Director - Children's Services
Ms B Caffrey Head of Service Early Intervention,
SEND and Inclusion
Mrs J Morley Governance Officer

IN

ATTENDANCE: Chris West Director of Nursing and Quality,
Leicester City CCG
Janette Harrison Designated Nurse, Children and Adult
Safeguarding, Leicester City CCG

596 APOLOGIES

No apologies had been received.

597 RECORD OF MEETING

The record of the meetings and the special meetings of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee held on 26 September 2019, 7 November 2019 and 29 January 2020 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

598 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

599 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

No petitions, deputations or questions had been received.

600 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS

No questions with notice had been received from Members.

601 NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS

No notices of motion had been received from Members.

602 CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTER REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE FOR A DECISION IN RELATION TO CALL IN OF A DECISION

No matter had been referred to the Committee for a decision in relation to a call in of a decision in accordance with Procedure Rule 206.

603 CQC REVIEW OF SAFEGUARDING AND LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN'S HEALTH SERVICES RUTLAND: 2019

A presentation reviewing the issues raised in the Care Quality Commission (CQC) report; "*Review of Health Services for Children Looked After and Safeguarding in Rutland.*" was received from Janette Harrison, Designated Nurse, Children and Adult Safeguarding and Chris West, Director of Nursing and Quality.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- The CQC review took place in July 2019 and looked at the experiences of 50 children including 6 cases which were then further tracked right across the range of health practitioners and partner agencies.
- Unlike OFSTED, the CQC did not provide a judgement grade but asked for action plans to be submitted. The action plans were collated from RCC and Public Health commissioned services such as drug and alcohol and sexual services, as well as from the CCG.
- Any reports submitted to the CCG went first to the organisations' safeguarding committees.
- The review looked at four main areas; Early Help, Children In Need, Child Protection and Looked After Children (LAC), as well as the management and governance of these areas.
- All children in care with mental health issues could be fast tracked to a specialist Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) team; the Young Persons' Team. A recent audit had shown that there were no Rutland children in care who were currently on the CAMHS waiting list.
- Every LAC had to have an independent health assessment (IHA) within 20 days.
- Peterborough and Cambridgeshire hospitals had explained that they had not got the capacity to do any IHAs for LLR so a specialist nurse went out of area to perform them.

- The CQC had looked at the management and the leadership of the health services for Children Looked After and Safeguarding in Rutland and could see that the issues were already being worked on.
- Councillor Begy asked whether the action plan and a further progress report could be given to ensure that the actions were being delivered and were on track.
- The inspection that the CQC referred to in their report was an inspection in November 2018 but their report was just 6 months later in July 2019. 7/8 months was not a great deal of time to see results but the CQC appreciated that things were on the right trajectory.
- Midwifery was currently being audited which would enable the CCG to see whether the pre-birth assessments, referred to in 2.6 of the report, were now robust.
- Councillor Harvey voiced concern, and this was also highlighted in the CQC report at para 4.10, that although there was a fast track to CAMHS for assessment for Children Looked After, the waiting time for actual treatment was still too long.
- The IHAs were sometimes undertaken by trainees but their work was overseen by the CCG's designated doctor, Dr Lyn Snow, and were regularly quality checked.
- Any 18 year olds or younger who presented themselves to the adult emergency department were now asked a set of questions to ensure that safeguarding was considered.
- Level 3 training in safeguarding was being rolled out across the board so that eventually all nurses in hospital settings would be fully trained.
- The action plan was in 5 parts and the CCG had to email each of the agencies involved to ask permission to release their plans. This could not be achieved within the timeframe for the meeting but the CCG confirmed that once they had received this permission they would be happy to let the Committee see the complete action plan, as requested by the CQC in their report.

RESOLVED:

- The Committee **REQUESTED** that the CCG allow Members to review the complete action plan which addressed the recommendations outlined by the CQC in their report, Review of Health Services for Children Looked After and Safeguarding in Rutland.

604 EARLY HELP OFFER

Report No.47/2020 was received from the Strategic Director for People.

Bernadette Caffrey, Head of Service: Early Intervention, SEND and Inclusion introduced the report the purpose of which was to update the Committee on the Early Help offer for Rutland and to note the drivers which supported a whole system approach to early intervention and prevention.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- The key messages for the Early Help offer were about responding early, working well with partner organisations and being able to respond in a way which worked best for families.
- Councillor Ainsley welcomed all initiatives that looked for early intervention but had concerns that while all the individual elements of this approach were laudable they overlapped two scrutiny committees; adults and health, and children and young

people, and therefore it was difficult to effectively scrutinise the whole family approach.

- Mark Andrews, Strategic Director for People would welcome a discussion on a more People Directorate orientated scrutiny that looked at the issues concerning adults, children, and health, all together.
- The Council worked with Home-Start and had volunteers in place working with troubled families and acting as mentors.
- Members questioned whether the Council maximised the breadth of capacity in the community in terms of volunteering. Officers felt that Rutland could have a stronger volunteering community but the Council needed to look at how to enable and co-ordinate the community, not just in terms of finance, but in shaping and driving forward a completely different approach.
- There had been a large increase in referrals but this was, in part, down to a change to the way referrals were reported. Now referrals were being accurately recorded through the front door so officers were very clear of the demand on the services.

RESOLVED:

The Committee discussed the drivers which support a whole system approach to early intervention and prevention and **ENDORSED** the direction of early help in Rutland outlined in the report.

605 CHILDREN'S SERVICES DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS REPORT

Report No.46/2020 was received from the Strategic Director for People.

Dawn Godfrey, Deputy Director for Children's Services introduced the report the purpose of which was to report on the progress made by children's services since the Ofsted judgement inspection in 2016 and focused visit to children's service in March 2019.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- Ms Godfrey, the Deputy Director for Children's Services confirmed that Ofsted were arriving the following week to inspect the service and to follow up on their visit in March 2019.
- The report clearly showed the areas of progress that have been made since the last inspection and that the recommendations made had been addressed.
- There were still areas where improvement had not been as swift as hoped but because of the capacity of the service some changes had to be made incrementally to make sure that they were embedded.
- Although the original inspection had taken place in 2016, much of the remedial activity had not taken place until 2019 because there had been a lack of focus. Staff in key posts had been newly recruited and were now able to deliver the quality expected.
- Ofsted would be able to see the pace of change and the clarity of what was expected. Initial discussions had indicated that they were comfortable with the progress made.
- Councillor Harvey attended Corporate Parenting board meetings and had been reassured by the progress being made and felt that it was a very positive factor that that staff were knowledgeable about each individual's story and background.

- Councillor Wilby, Portfolio Holder for Children's Services and Education also endorsed the direction of travel the service was adopting and commended staff for the work that they did in an often highly pressurised environment.
- The implementation of new measures had been helped by the Liquid Logic system.
- The service had worked really hard on getting assessments done in a timelier manner. In Rutland all assessments were now completed within the national target of 45 days and many non-complex assessments were done much earlier. 2 years ago RCC was not meeting this target and nationally, many children were still waiting in excess of 45 days.
- Ms Godfrey had inherited a team with a number of first line managers who had had too much delegated down to them. These additional responsibilities had now been stripped back to allow them to concentrate on their core tasks and take accountability and responsibility for them.
- Councillor Begy felt that it would be useful to have previous years' data alongside the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in order to give a comparison and indicate a direction of travel.
- Attaining a 100% of target in a performance area was not because the target was not stretching enough but indicated that the service had reached compliance levels and so could now build on that quality.
- Life Story work was about capturing what had happened in a child's life to bring them into the Council's care, and was used to help children understand who they were and where they had come from.
- In response to a question from Mr French about support for foster carers, Mr Andrews, Director for People replied that supervision and the support role had been increased over the last year, recognising that fostering could be a very difficult job. Foster carers received regular visits from social workers, training courses were run for them and work was ongoing creating a peer support network within the fostering community. Mr Andrews also met regularly with foster carers in an informal setting in order to have a frank and open discussion.

RESOLVED:

The Committee;

- i. **NOTED** the progress made by children's services in response to previous Ofsted findings and recommendations and **ENDORSED** the actions planned and/or completed in relation to the areas for improvement identified, having assured themselves they will deliver the change required.
- ii. **REQUESTED** that performance reports come to Committee on a six monthly basis and that previous years' data is included to indicate the direction of travel.

606 CORPORATE PLAN

Mark Andrews, Strategic Director for People and Dawn Godfrey, Deputy Director for People identified areas of the Corporate Plan for future input by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

The following items were discussed:

- A report on the new participation strategy which could be ready for the April scrutiny meeting

- An update on the CQC report and its recommendations, also addressing sexual health.
- A possible joint meeting with adults and health scrutiny committee, inviting the Director of Public Health.
- School admissions planning.

607 REVIEW OF FORWARD PLAN AND ANNUAL WORK PLAN

Items for the work plan had been discussed under the Corporate Plan agenda item and therefore no further discussion was had.

608 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

No items of urgent business had been previously notified to the Chairman.

609 DATE AND PREVIEW OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee would be held on Thursday 23 April 2020 at 7pm.

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The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.51

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