

**ADULT SOCIAL CARE, CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE
6 NOVEMBER 2014**

Present: Councillor D Edwards (Chair)
Councillors Ballsdon, Eden, Ennis, Jones, Orton, Pearce, Singh, Stanford-Beale, Vickers, White and R Williams.

Apologies: Councillors Gavin, McElligott, O'Connell.

12. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings of 7 July 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

13. MINUTES OF OTHER BODIES

The Minutes of the following meetings were submitted:

- Children's Trust Partnership Board, 23 July 2014.

Resolved - That the Minutes be noted.

14. PRIMARY CARE COMMISSIONING - SCRUTINY ITEM

Helen Clanchy, Thames Valley Area Team, NHS England and Dr Cathy Winfield, Chief Officer, Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Federation, gave a presentation on Primary Care Commissioning, how the local CCG was becoming more involved in local commissioning for primary care services and the key issues locally from a primary care commissioning perspective.

Helen Clanchy told the Committee about commissioning primary care, the role of the CCG, the key features of current provision, the challenges in general practice and opportunities. Dr Winfield spoke about the emerging primary care strategy, the new 'ask' of primary care, key workstreams, measuring success and the next steps.

The Committee discussed the presentation and asked questions and a number of points were made including the following:

- With regard to GP provision at the Circuit Lane Surgery in Southcote, where the partners had taken the decision to tender their resignations with NHS England and had given six months' notice with their contract ending on 31 January 2015, Helen Clanchy informed the Committee that an interim provider was being sought and letters were being sent to all patients informing them of the situation. David Shepherd, Chair, Healthwatch Reading, told the Committee that Healthwatch had been involved in discussions about the future of the Circuit Lane Surgery but stated that Healthwatch should have been made aware of the situation sooner;
- Patients needed to be acknowledged as people with ideas and needed to be at the heart of, and involved in, what was happening with GP practices;

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- GP recruitment was acknowledged as a problem not just in Reading, where it had cost a new GP £300k to join a local practice recently, but also nationally;
- Reading had particular issues from a health point of view in that there were inequalities across the Borough and differing life expectancies in what was a relatively small area;
- Helen Clanchy informed the Committee that NHS England were committed to taking a more community based approach. CCGs were also undertaking risk mapping with GPs with the aim of avoiding situations such as that at Circuit Lane happening with very little notice in the future;
- There appeared to be a need to make the NHS less fragmented and easier to understand and to make services more joined up;
- The CCGs had recently set up a meeting that had included GPs and Trusts to think about the future model for Reading and had considered funding and ways of sharing knowledge and a shared vision. Work was also being carried out to look at new organisation models that would integrate social care and health as it was recognised that services had to be in place through Adult and Children's Services, bringing the two CCGs in Reading together also remained an active consideration;
- In the south of the Borough there were many small practices and thought had to be given about the way forward for these practices in the immediate future. NHS England would work with the practices and show them the easiest way to come together by taking a multi-disciplinary approach;
- It was suggested that there was an opportunity to take a radical approach in the Borough with regard to the future model for health but ultimately focus had to be on the benefits for patients;
- A new regime of CQC inspections of GP practices and out-of-hours services had just started and would lead to the first ever ratings of practices and although the future was unclear it was expected to result in greater transparency. There were a number of organisations in the Borough that would be able to offer support to GPs.

Resolved - That Helen Clanchy and Dr Winfield be thanked for their presentation.

15. SAFEGUARDING ACTIVITY REPORT

Further to Minute 6 of the meeting held on 7 July 2014, Vicki Lawson, Interim Head of Children's Services, submitted a report providing the Committee with an update of the key activity areas for 2013/14 within Children's Social Care as reported through the National Returns that all local authorities had to submit to the Department of Education in July and August each year, providing an update on auditing activity and highlighting priority areas for the service and scrutiny. A

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series of graphs showing trend data over the previous three years was attached to the report at Appendix A.

The report explained that the Children in Need Census was an annual collection of data on children who had been referred to local authority social care services because their health or development was at risk of being significantly impaired without additional support. All local authorities returned this data to the Department of Education (DfE). Additionally local authorities collected and submitted data to the DfE for the annual children looked after return, also known as SSDA903. The returns covered the financial year, 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014, and were returned in July/August each year following validation submitted by all local authorities during April, May and June each year.

Headlines in the Children in Need Census Return 2013/14 and progress as at September 2014 included the following:

- The number of referrals to Children's Social Care had shown a rising trend which gave an indication of volume which had increased since the initiation of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in August 2012;
- As at September 2014 the number of referrals reported each month had fluctuated more than previous years, from 83 to 159; this was being monitored alongside the work in the MASH to embed an Early Help Co-ordinator;
- The percentage of referrals going into Initial Assessments had shown a decrease which was associated with further information gathering at referral stage to determine whether a referral was appropriate for Social Care intervention;
- Of the 1,197 assessments that had been completed the three highest presenting factors were Domestic Violence at 275, Neglect 192 and Physical Abuse at 133;
- As at September 2014 Domestic Violence and Neglect had remained high and sexual abuse was showing an increase which might have been due to a growing awareness of this in the public domain;
- The number of Initial Child Protection conferences had increased and as at September 2014 the numbers of Children on a Child Protection Plan was showing a continued increase over the reporting year from 153 to 184.

Headlines in the SSDA903 Return and progress as at September 2014 included the following:

- There had been an increase in the number of adoptions by eight children and as at September 2014 12 children had been adopted;
- There had been an increase of one child ceasing to be looked after by a Special Guardianship Order (SGO), which continued the upward trend and as at September 2014 five children had been made subject to a Special Guardianship Order;
- The average time between a child entering care and moving in with an adoptive family was longer, however there had been an increase in the number of children which would have impacted adversely on the indicator;

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- 12 of the 26 children who had been adopted between 2013/14 were aged between four to ten years old including at the time of the order eight who had been five to ten years old;
- It had taken longer than 12 months to place ten children, nine of whom had factors in their profiles that made placement more difficult to find;
- The average time between a court agreeing a child should be adopted to finding a matched family had taken longer, primarily due to the harder to place children;
- There had been an increase in children moving placements and seven more children had moved more than three times in the previous year. As at September 2014 the percentage of children had decreased from 9% to 8.5% which equated to two less children;
- There had been an increase of five children who had to be placed more than 20 miles away and work was being carried out to look at the features of these young people and why the provision for them was not available locally. As at September 2014 68 children out of 196 had been placed more than 20 miles from their home address, equating to 34.7%, an increase from 31.7%;
- The proportion of children leaving care over the age of 16 who had remained looked after until their 18th birthday was unchanged.

The report stated that the audit plan had remained in place, was regularly reviewed and updated in light of performance updates. Results from audits were discussed at quarterly performance meetings and action plans were put in place which were shared with teams in managers' meetings and in individual team meetings. Audit moderation groups were in place for managers to discuss the audit process monthly and to ensure that there was a shared understanding of the overarching standards so that there was a shared appreciation of 'what good looked like'. Managers were appreciative of the opportunity to discuss findings and to audit together as a group, ensuring better consistency and transparency in the process. The report included details of internal and external independent audits that had taken place.

The Committee discussed the report and requested that a report be submitted to the next meeting providing them with an update on the MASH.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That Social Workers and the teams around them be thanked for their continued good work;
- (3) That an update report on the MASH be submitted to the next meeting.

16. READING LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

Esther Blake, Business Manager for Reading Local Safeguarding Children Board and Children's Trust Partnership, submitted a report presenting the Committee with the

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Reading Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Annual Report. A copy of the LSCB Annual Report was attached to the report.

Within the LSCB Annual Report achievements and challenges were listed including the following:

- A workshop on Serious Case Review models had been held in March 2014 to consider the range of models available;
- Berkshire West LSCBs and Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board had held their annual joint safeguarding conference in September 2013; the theme for the conference had been Sexual Abuse;
- Work had been carried out to raise awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) amongst young people, parents and the wider community, through a LSCB and Thames Valley Police jointly funded project;
- A CSE operational multi-agency sub-group had been established to address CSE locally and a new CSE e-learning course had been launched for all LSCB partner organisations;
- A presentation had been commissioned on the Serious Case Review of Daniel Pelka which had been delivered to the LSCB and made available to all LSCB partners;
- A protocol had been agreed between the Thames Valley LSCBs and the Sexual Assault Referral Centre with the aim of improving communication and reporting;
- Berkshire Child Protection Procedures had been updated in relation to recent guidance on CSE, missing children and safe staffing.

Challenges faced by the LSCB included the following:

- Developing an agreed data set;
- Monitoring police and GP attendance and reporting to Child Protection Conferences to ensure the contribution was effective;
- The issue of the 'voice of the child' was discussed at every Board meeting but more work was needed to really hear the child's voice in the work of the LSCB;
- Improving links with NHS England Local Area Teams.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

17. READING BOROUGH COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Vicki Lawson, Interim Head of Children's Services, submitted a report outlining the current position of the Council's Children's Services in respect of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). A copy of the report by Alexis Jay following the Independent Inquiry commissioned by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council in October 2013 and published in August 2014 was attached to the report.

The report stated that the Rotherham Report had been read by senior officers and discussed at the Reading Safeguarding Board Serious Cases Panel in September 2014 where it was agreed that in light of the very serious issues that had been raised in

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Rotherham the Serious Cases Panel, which was a multi-agency panel, would use its next meeting to reflect on the report and any implications for the Borough. The Council's response to CSE had reflected the national picture in terms of changes and development in practice and response over time and it was essential that as awareness of CSE grew nationally Reading Children's Services, and partners, reflected and considered any further developments both operationally and strategically to improve the response to CSE. The Rotherham report had offered a further opportunity to do this and build on the work that was already current in terms of developments in working with children and young people who were sexually exploited, at risk of sexual exploitation and those that went missing who might be more vulnerable.

The report detailed the Council's position in relation to CSE in August 2013 and compared it to the current position illustrating that it was a multi-agency issue.

Vicki informed the Committee that the current CSE Strategy was to be updated and would be taken to the Reading Safeguarding Board for agreement in December 2014. The Strategy would be a key document to scrutinise when it had been updated. Discussions had also taken place with Thames Valley Police on intelligence sharing. Vicki also informed the Committee that anyone who was concerned they would be identified when reporting CSE should report the issue to Crimestoppers where they would remain anonymous.

Avril Wilson informed the Committee that online e-training was available which would help from a scrutiny perspective on the issue of CSE and it was agreed that all Councillors should be made aware of this facility.

Resolved -

- (1) That the current position of the Council's Children's Services in respect of Child Sexual Exploitation be noted;
- (2) That Avril Wilson make all Councillors aware of the e-training available in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation.

18. ANNUAL COMPLAINTS REPORT 2013-2014 FOR CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

Nayana George, Customer Relations Manager, submitted a report providing the Committee with an overview of complaints activity and performance for Children's Social Care for the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014. A copy of the Children's Social Care Complaints 2013/14 Summary Report was appended to the report.

The report stated that during the period from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 the service had received 81 statutory complaints of which:

- 28 had been resolved through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) with the Social Work Teams;
- 51 had been investigated and completed;
- 2 were ongoing at the end of the reporting period.

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During the same period six complaints had progressed to Stage 2 investigation and one request for Stage 3 investigations had been received.

The Customer Relations Team had continued to raise awareness of the complaints process and in accordance with recommendations from the Office of Standards in Education (Ofsted) had worked with operational teams to encourage children and young people to submit complaints where they were dissatisfied with the service they had received.

Vicki Lawson informed the Committee that every aspect of every complaint upheld was considered by a working group that would look at the themes and issues so that areas could be targeted that staff needed to be aware of such as issues around communication.

Resolved -

- (1) That the contents of the report and intended actions to improve further the management of representations and complaints in 2014/15 for Children's Social Care be noted;**
- (2) That the continuing work to raise awareness of the complaints process and encourage its use by children and young people in 2014/15 be noted.**

19. UPDATE ON CHANGES TO SEN PROVISION 2014-16

Further to Minute 5 of the meeting held on 7 July 2014, Chris Stevens, Inclusion Services Manager, submitted a report setting out the progress that had been made by the Council, schools and parents in the development of a proposed SEN Strategy Action Plan and in meeting the required statutory duties. A copy of the SEN Action Plan was attached to the report at Appendix A.

The report stated that the process for carrying out an Education, Health and Care (EHC) assessment was in place and all the statutory assessment paperwork had been sent to schools, pre-school settings, Parents Forum, Parent Partnership and the Independent and Voluntary sector. The "Local Offer" had been published and had been active from 1 September 2014. An independent charity representing pupils with additional needs had reviewed the Local Offer of all local authorities on the first weekend in September 2014 and had judged that only 30% had reached their "green" rating, including the Reading Local Offer. The SEN Action Plan had been completed in conjunction with Parents Forum representatives and with the SEN Strategy Group. The Strategy Group would oversee the Action Plan, updating it and escalating issues when required; it had been proposed that the Strategy Group include parental representation as the benefits in co-producing key strategy and working documents with parents had been considerable. The intention was to establish a regular forum between families and schools whose purpose would be to review and discuss SEN issues and to have forums established in a group of pilot schools by July 2015.

A communication plan was being written and, as part of this work and a conference for parents and SEN Co-ordinators had been held in September 2014 to explain the

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new changes. In addition a grant of £250k had been allocated by central government to support the implementation of the changes and to ensure effective communication with parents, carers, schools, voluntary organisations and young people.

Resolved -

- (1) That the Statutory requirements set out in the Children and Families Bill for September 2014 having been met, including the publication of the Local Offer, be noted;**
- (2) That the SEN Strategy action plan having been co-produced with parents and school representatives, setting out the direction of travel for officers, schools and parents to follow, be noted;**
- (3) That should the SEN Strategy require further decisions to be taken at policy level they be submitted to a future Committee meeting;**
- (4) That a communication place was under development, be noted;**
- (5) That the SEN Charter, as detailed in the report at paragraph 4.5, be supported.**

20. SCHOOL PERFORMANCE 2013-14

Kevin McDaniel, Head of Education, submitted a report detailing the provisional performance of schools in the Borough for the academic year 2013/14 at the following five stages:

- Early Years Foundation Stage (Reception Year Children)
- Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)
- Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6, ending with SATs)
- Key Stage 4 (end of compulsory secondary age, typically GCSE qualifications)
- Key Stage 5 (end of sixth form education, typically GCE A Level)

Schools had been working with a specific focus to reduce the performance gaps in a number of groups as relevant to the individual school. The widening of the gap in 2013/14 was not as well understood as would be expected and the authority had invited Rosemary Campbell-Stephens to carry out an independent review of the education of pupils of black heritage in the Borough. The review was expected to report its recommendations in spring 2015.

The report stated that under the new framework for school inspection, that had been introduced in January 2012 and revised in September 2012 and September 2013, the Borough had maintained its improvement with the percentage of schools rated as good or outstanding remaining at about 74% in the twelve months to July 2014.

There had been no Ofsted inspection of the local authority's School Improvement Service in the academic year 2013/14.

The report explained that from September 2013 the expectation for Level 4 plus in reading, writing and mathematics individually and combined had risen to 65% for

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primary schools. The School Improvement team was working with nine schools whose performance in 2013/14 had given rise to concerns, including challenge to Academy schools.

Resolved -

- (1) That the commitment to working with all schools in Reading in order to enable all children in Reading to benefit from an excellent education that met individual needs, developed great learning skills and helped children to grow in confidence and resilience and to deliver on the shared goals set out in the Landscape Conference in 2014 be confirmed;
- (2) That the levels of performance at each of the five stages, as set out in section 4 of the report, be noted and all the pupils who had worked hard in the last academic year, along with all staff in Reading's schools be congratulated;
- (3) That although there was evidence of progress at all phases in 2013/14 the requirement for further improvement to secure the level of achievement that the Borough sought for all its pupils be noted;
- (4) That the improvements in attainment for those eligible for the pupil premium be noted and the continued focus on this area through the Landscape Conference 2015 be supported;
- (5) That the independent review of the educational support for those BME groups who had historically done less well be supported and the recommendations submitted to the next meeting.

21. READING'S MARKET POSITION STATEMENT

Brigid Day, Head of Commissioning and Improvement, submitted a report detailing the new requirements in the Care Act 2014 for local authorities to work closely with local providers across the statutory, private and voluntary sectors and other stakeholders to ensure the quality and diversity of the local care and support market and presenting the draft version of Reading's Market Position Statement which was a central document in the authority's approach to meeting this requirement.

The report explained that the statutory guidance for the Care Act had suggested that local authorities should publish a Market Position Statement to best fulfil their new responsibilities for market shaping. A Market Position Statement should include the following:

- Information on the Council's direction of travel and policy intent;
- Key information about local needs, demands and trends;
- Information about people's needs and wants from consultation, engagement and other research;
- An indication of current and future local authority resourcing;
- A summary of current supply and demand across the market;

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- The authority's ambitions for quality improvements, new services or service developments.

The purpose of a Market Position Statement was to support the local authority to ensure that the market had sufficient signals, intelligence and understanding to react effectively and meet local demand. It should support wider dialogue in an open and transparent way with providers about the local authority's intentions and enable joint working to develop services that could best meet future needs. The Market Position Statement should be informed by the views of service users and carers to ensure that it was focused on the outcomes that were most important to people with care and support needs. However, it was a document that was aimed primarily at supporting the work between those who commissioned and provided services.

The headlines from the draft Market Position Statement had been shared with local providers at a Care and Support Conference in September 2014. Feedback from the conference and ongoing engagement with providers and other stakeholders over the next three months would be used to refine and further develop the draft Statement into a version that would be ready for publication. This final version would be submitted to the next meeting for approval.

Resolved -

- (1) That the draft version of Reading's Market Position Statement be endorsed;
- (2) That the recommendation to agree to further consultation on the Market Position Statement with local providers to inform the final version be agreed and the final version be submitted to the next meeting.

22. CARE ACT CONSULTATION REPORT

Further to Minute 14 of the meeting held on 7 November 2012 Robert Poole, Corporate Finance Business Partner, submitted a report setting out the changes that had been brought about by the Care Act 2014 that would affect the Council in 2015/16 and the issues on which the Council would need to consult with residents. Details of the issues around charging for care and support were set out in Appendix 1 attached to the report, a comparison between the existing Deferred Payment Scheme and the new universal Deferred Payment Agreement was set out in Appendix 2, the draft Property Issues Policy was attached at Appendix 3 and scenarios to explain charging for temporary stays in care homes were set out in Appendix 4.

The report stated that over the next two years the Care Act would bring some significant changes that would affect the Council in 2015/16. The key issues were as follows:

- Prevention and Information and Advice;
- Funding Reform;
- Support for Carers.

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The report explained that the issues that had been proposed for consultation had been identified from the draft regulations governing the implementation of the Care Act. The consultation proposals might need to be revised once the final Care Act regulations, which had been published on 23 October 2014, had been fully reviewed.

Resolved -

- (1) That the overall strategic direction, as set out in the report, be agreed;**
- (2) That the following proposals to be put out to public consultation be approved:**
 - (a) The Council adopts an updated Prevention Framework;**
 - (b) The Council adopts a new Information and Advice Plan;**
 - (c) The Council considers exercising the discretionary power under Section 14 of the Care Act to charge adults for care home accommodation, in accordance with Section 17 of the Care Act and the associated regulations, as set out in section 4.2.8 of the report;**
 - (d) The Council adopts the draft policy subject to minor changes following the publication of recent regulations, as set out in Appendix 3 to the report, on the Universal Deferred Payments Scheme and associated matters, as set out in section 4.2.9 of the report;**
 - (e) The Council amends its policy on how charges are calculated for respite care, as set out in section 4.2.10 of the report;**
 - (f) The Council should exercise its discretion under Section 14 of the Care Act to charge for community based services and makes minor amendments to its current Fairer Charging Policy to meet the requirements of the Regulations issued under the Care Act, as set out in section 4.2.11 of the report;**
 - (g) The Council should not exercise its power to charge carers for services provided directly to them, but that respite services are treated for charging purposes as being provided to the cared for person and not the carer, as set out in section 4.2.12 of the report;**
 - (h) The Council should not exercise its power to charge for prevention services, as set out in section 4.2.13 of the report;**

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- (i) The Council should offer support for self-funders by signposting to external services, as set out in section 4.2.6 of the report;
 - (j) The Council does not apply administration fees for Direct Payments, as set out in section 4.2.7 of the report;
 - (k) The Council will provide a range of support to promote carers' wellbeing;
- (3) That the matters set out in the report and the launch of a formal 90 day consultation on the Council's approach to meeting its Care Act duties be approved;
- (4) That the Chair of the Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Education Committee be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Adult Social Care and the Director for Education, Adult and Children's Services to approve the final consultation document based on the options set out in the report, once the final Regulations, published on 23 October 2014, had been reviewed fully.

(The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and closed at 9.05 pm).