

**ADULT SOCIAL CARE, CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE
12 DECEMBER 2017**

Present: Councillor McElligott (Chair)
Councillors Eden, Gavin, Jones, Khan, Maskell, McKenna,
O'Connell, Pearce, Robinson and J Williams.

Apologies: Councillors Hoskin, Stanford-Beale and Vickers.

30. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

31. MINUTES OF OTHER BODIES

The Minutes of the following meeting were submitted:

- Children's Trust Partnership Board - 18 October 2017

Resolved - That the Minutes be noted.

32. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS

A question on the following matter was submitted, and answered by the Lead Councillor for Children's Services and Families:

Questioner	Subject
Councillor J Williams	Suicides in the Autism Community

(The full text of the question and reply was made available on the Reading Borough Council website).

33. OFSTED UPDATE REPORT

The Director of Children, Education and Early Help Services submitted a report providing the Committee with an update on the most recent Ofsted Monitoring visit report that had been published on 24 November 2017.

The report explained that progress against key areas of improvement had been made in all areas that had been monitored and reviewed by inspectors. The Ofsted Monitoring visit, that had taken place on 25 and 26 October 2017, had recognised that substantial purposeful progress was being made within Targeted Early Help, the Single Point of Access and the Assessment Teams. Ofsted had recognised that the quality and impact of Early Help was influencing outcomes for children and delivery to children and families was purposeful and of a good standard. Management oversight was largely effective and carried out by constructive and purposeful managers and morale across the workforce was high.

There was greater workforce confidence in the Single Point of Access and there was quality and reliability of threshold decision making where referrals were managed promptly and the workforce were experienced and committed at all levels. Regular management oversight was supporting quick identification of risk and allocation. In

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the assessment service inspectors had found effective direct work with children, their voices being prominent in assessments. Social workers had reported that they were well supported by managers on a daily basis, underpinned by regular case supervision and assessments were well informed by involved partners. The ability to quality assure work with children and families was recognised as effective within a framework of continuous development demonstrating proficiency, reflection and an outcome. Good progress had been made on recruitment and a more supportive corporate environment was evident across finance, legal, Human Resources and workforce development.

Resolved -

- (1) That the improvements made as documented by Ofsted and that there remained much improvement activity still to undertake be recognised;
- (2) That the Director of Children, Education and Early Help Services and her team be thanked for their hard work, drive and ambition.

34. READING LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (LSCB) ANNUAL REPORT 2016/2017

The Director of Children, Education and Early Help Services submitted a report presenting the Committee with the Reading Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report. The Annual Report was presented by Kim Drake, Quality and Improvement Lead, Reading Borough Council, on behalf of Alex Walters, Independent Chair of the LSCB, a copy of the Annual Report was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The report explained that the Annual Report had focused on the achievements and ongoing challenges for the LSCB and partners specifically against the priorities that had been identified for the 2015/16 year, as follows:

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|------------|---|
| Priority 1 | Children's Emotional Health and Wellbeing; |
| Priority 2 | Strengthening the Child's Journey and Voice; |
| Priority 3 | Child Sexual Exploitation; |
| Priority 4 | Neglect; |
| Priority 5 | Improving Cultural Confidence and Competence in the workforce to meet Children's Needs. |

The report stated that the LSCB achievements and progress for 2016/17 had been listed in the Annual Report under the priority headings. Also specified were the ongoing concerns which the LSCB would continue to challenge in 2017/18 and associated actions, all of which had been included within the LSCB Business Plan or via other partnership groups.

The report also provided details of the Ofsted Inspection in May 2016, Board Structure and progress since April 2017. With regard to the future, consultation was currently underway on the new version of Working Together 18, the statutory guidance for Children's Services and LSCBs, the changes were due to be considered by the LSCB at its meeting on 7 December 2017. Locally, in line with

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recommendations that had been made by partners involved in the three West of Berkshire LSCBs, the new LSCB Chair was developing and proposing plans to merge the three Boards into one Berkshire West Safeguarding Children Board. Initial discussions were taking place with the Directors of Children's Services in each local authority and leads in the key partner agencies. Proposals would be discussed initially at the LSCB meeting in January 2018.

Resolved - That the Reading Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report be noted.

35. CHILDREN'S SERVICES IMPROVEMENT BOARD - REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIR

The Independent Chair of the Children's Services Improvement Board (CSIB) submitted a report that covered the period from April to November 2017; the report was presented by the Chair of the CSIB. A copy of the objectives for the CSIB was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The report stated that during the period from April to November 2017 the CSIB had overseen the development of a revised Children's Services Learning and Improvement Plan that had built on the improvements that had already been secured and moved beyond the narrow focus of the Ofsted recommendations that had been made in their report of August 2017. The CSIB had monitored progress against the plan and reviewed a comprehensive range of performance indicators at each of its monthly meetings. A highlight report had been produced for each CSIB meeting that had summarised progress against each of the actions and had indicated a RAG rating. A storyboard approach to understanding and scrutinising key priority areas had been developed and had included a range of qualitative and quantitative evidence to map the improvement journey relating to a particular priority. This evidence had been used to outline and evaluate progress and to identify next steps to secure further improvement. The CSIB had reviewed storyboards that related to Child Sexual Exploitation/Missing, Recruitment and Retention, MOSAIC and Early Help. In addition to monitoring the Learning and Improvement Plan, the CSIB also focused on quality assurance evidence in relation to improvements in social work practice.

The report stated that the period covered by the report had been characterised by increased stability in leadership of Children's Services, active corporate support, better partnership engagement and increased focus on improving practice. As a result, this had been a period of tangible progress in improving services for children and young people.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

36. SCRUTINY REVIEW - CONTINUED HEALTHCARE FUNDING

Further to Minute 12 of the meeting held on 12 July 2017, the Director of Adult Care and Health Services submitted a report providing the Committee with details on delivering the key actions from the Continuing Health Care (CHC) Action Plan. A copy of the NHS Continuing Healthcare Joint Action Plan for Reading and

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Wokingham Local Authorities was attached to the report at Appendix 1 and a copy of a Management Plan was attached to the report at Appendix 2.

The report stated that work on the Action Plan had begun in October 2016 and the CCG had reported to the Task and Finish Group that had been set up to investigate CHC Funding that the majority of actions had been completed. Work on the three actions that had not been completed within the Action Plan had been set out in the report.

The CHC shared service had been commissioned from Wokingham Borough Council to process CHC applications on behalf of the Council. However, following a review of the service it had been decommissioned by the Council and notice had been given to Wokingham to end the service on 31 December 2017 but, due to a number of staff changes with the shared service, Wokingham Borough Council had only been able to deliver a service to Reading until 20 October 2017. The shared service handed over 41 applications to the Council that were being processed and there were eight cases that had been assessed as eligible for CHC that were currently being validated to ensure that the correct funding stream had been set up and the CCG had been invoiced where appropriate. The CHC process for the Council would be managed by the locality teams as part of their day-to-day responsibilities and a Management Plan was in place.

The report included a table that provided a snapshot of CHC eligibility for quarter one 2017/18 (April to July 2017) and showed that Reading CHC eligibility had remained lower than its neighbours and the national average. The reasons for this would be explored as part of the Reading Integration Board. The CCG forecast spend for the North and West and South Reading CCGs on CHC in 2017/18 was £8.96m, an increase of 1.5% on the 2016/17 outturn. The percentage of individuals eligible for CHC had risen from 6% of all checklist CHC referrals (113) in 2016/17 to 29% of all checklist referrals (29) to the end of quarter two in 2017/18. Nationally the conversion rate from checklist to full CHC eligibility was 17% and in addition to checklist CHC referrals, 95 fast track referrals had been received in 2016/17 and 53 fast track referrals had been received to the end of quarter two in 2017/18. Fast Track referrals were made for individuals with rapidly deteriorating conditions that might be entering a terminal phase and might require 'fast tracking' for immediate provision of NHS continuing healthcare.

The Committee discussed the report and agreed that a further update report should be submitted to the meeting on 5 April 2018 including a detailed analysis of the data and an investigation of children's CHC funding and an explanation as to why so few children in the Borough were meeting the threshold.

Resolved -

- (1) That the progress of the Continuing Health Care Funding Review and completion of the agreed Joint Action Plan be noted;**
- (2) That the changes to the Council and Continuing Health Care application process and new Action Plan be noted;**

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- (3) That further work be carried out to identify why Reading still had a relatively low level of Continuing Health Care funding compared to neighbours and the national average, and to take further action to address as required;
- (4) That a further update/progress report, including a detailed analysis of the data, be submitted to the meeting on 5 April 2018;
- (5) That the report to be submitted to the meeting in April 2018 also include an investigation of children's CHC funding and an explanation as to why so few children in the Borough were meeting the threshold.

37. READING SCHOOLS: OFSTED JUDGEMENTS AS AT 30 NOVEMBER 2017

The Director of Children, Education and Early Help Services submitted a report providing the Committee with a summary update on schools' current Ofsted status and including the judgements following inspections of schools in Reading this term where the report had been published. Tables setting out Ofsted judgements and gradings as at November 2017 were appended to the report.

The report detailed the performance of schools in the Borough for the following Key Stages:

Pre-School Settings - Ofsted ratings of early years settings in the Borough were strong with 93.7% of schools having been rated as good or better as at November 2017 compared with 87.9% in August 2015. However, settings elsewhere, in the south east and nationally, had improved at a more rapid rate, and hence there had been a fall in ranking. All nursery schools were now outstanding.

Primary Schools - The performance of schools in their latest Ofsted inspections had improved strongly between 2015 and 2017 with 89% having been rated as good or better as at November 2017 compared to 73% in August 2015. However, the percentage of schools that had been rated good or better was slightly higher nationally. The report included a table that set out the number of maintained schools and academies by each Ofsted grading, the headlines were as follows:

- Maintained schools overall had improved strongly in terms of the percentage graded good or better;
- Seven academy schools out of nine had been inspected and three of the seven had been judged as Requiring Improvement;
- Overall, the Borough's primary schools were close but not quite at the national average.

Challenges now were to support good maintained schools that were vulnerable to a judgement of Requires Improvement, support the remaining Requires Improvement maintained schools to progress to become good at their next inspection, assisting the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) to ensure the primary school in special measures was matched with a strong sponsor and supporting and challenging the RSC to support, challenge and intervene where necessary.

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Secondary Schools - Far fewer secondary schools were now rated 'good' or better than had been the case two years ago and the Borough's academy schools were only 63% good or better. The Borough's single maintained school was good. Officers had discussed with the RSC what action was being taken with regard to academies that were not yet good or were vulnerable at the next inspection to being graded as less than good, the RSC had responded positively setting out plans for weaker academies to become part of a multi-academy trust.

Special Schools - Special schools had all been rated at least good in the period and were first ranked. However, the Borough's only alternative provision, Cranbury College, had been graded requires improvement in its last inspection.

Finally, the report explained that it had identified 13 schools as system leaders, 28 as developing capacity, two as requiring support and eight as schools causing concern.

Chris Kiernan, Interim Head of Education, informed the Committee that following the poor Ofsted inspection of St Mary and All Saints Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School a new Headteacher would be in post from 1 February 2018 and The White Horse Federation, a Multi Academy Trust that supported Primary, Secondary and Special Schools in the south of England, would be taking over the school. At their recent inspections John Madejski Academy had been judged as requires improvement, improving from its previous judgement of inadequate, and St Michael's Primary School had been judged as good. The authority had also developed a good relationship with the RSC and a protocol had been set up for cases where the authority had concerns about an academy school.

Councillor Jones also informed the Committee that there was a need for a six form entry stand-alone secondary school in the Borough for which an academy sponsor/partner would have to be found and a site on which to build the school would need to be identified. This was to meet demand in the central corridor of the Borough along the Oxford and Wokingham Roads.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That a further report be submitted to ACE Committee in the spring term 2018, setting out the validated attainment and progress of pupils, including disadvantaged groups, at the end of their 2017 key stage assessments and examinations, and any changes in Ofsted gradings of schools at that time.

38. SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA 2018/19

Resolved - That a report on the School Funding Formula 2018/19 be submitted to the meeting on 31 January 2018.

(The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and closed at 7.43 pm).