

## **CHILDRENS SERVICES SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 6 p.m.**

**Conference Room 2, Council House, Walsall**

### **Committee Members Present**

Councillor A. Nawaz (Chair)  
Councillor M. Statham  
Councillor J. Fitzpatrick  
Councillor A. Hicken  
Councillor T. Jukes  
Councillor S. Neville  
Councillor E. Russell  
Councillor S. Samra  
Councillor V. Waters

### **Portfolio Holders Present**

Councillor T. Wilson - Children's and Health and Well Being

### **Officers Present**

D. Carter	Assistant Director
I. Vanderheeren	Transformation Lead
Z. Gilbert	Dudley Walsall Mental Health Trust
M. Foster	Dudley Walsall Mental Health Trust
J. Alexander	Walsall CCG
N. Gough	Democratic Services Officer

### **63/18 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor B. Allen, and Councillor D. Barker.

### **64/18 Substitutions**

Councillor A. Hicken substituted on behalf of Councillor M. Follows for the duration of the meeting.

### **65/18 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest or party whip.

## **65/18 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)**

There were no items to be considered in private session.

## **66/18 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 were approved as a true and accurate record.

## **67/18 Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS)**

Representatives from the CCG and Mental Health Trust were present to respond to questions on the report on CAMHS (annexed). It was agreed by Members that this item would be reconsidered to ensure that full consideration was given to the information presented.

A Member asked how the services informed parents of access to crisis services, and was informed that this was an ongoing piece of work and service managers were working with the Local Authority to progress this. Notice boards were also being introduced in schools, which would advertise pathways to services. Members were informed that the current performance indicator for attending to a child in mental health crisis was 4 hours.

In response to a Member question the Committee were informed that the 'positive steps' programme was accessible within schools. It was suggested that elected Members needed training on CAMHS.

Officers explained that all schools were able to access the positive steps programme; however, some had their own systems in place. Members questioned if teachers and teaching assistants were trained. Officers confirmed that staff from the positive steps programme visited schools, attended assemblies and worked with Head teachers to discuss what was required.

Following Member challenge, officers stressed that work was underway with partners to work on transitions from children's to adults services. It was hoped that, subject to funding, children's mental health services would continue to 18 years of age.

A Member asked what insight the Local Authority had of children treated under CAMHS. The Assistant Director stated that they had oversight of all tier 4 cases and that a joint assessment was completed with social workers.

## **Resolved**

**That training on CAMHS is arranged , at a future date, for Elected Members.**

## **68/18 Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report**

The Portfolio Holder presented the report as Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board. The draft 2018/19 annual report would be submitted to the Corporate Parenting Board for comment and approval on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 prior to submission to Council in May,

2019. The Portfolio Holder paid credit to the Board and partners who had engaged throughout the municipal year. The Board had welcomed young people engagement which had been positive.

### **Resolved**

**That the Corporate Parenting Board Annual report be noted.**

### **69/18 Children's Services Transformation Plan**

The report provided a further update on progress against the activities set out in our Walsall Right for Children transformation programme. The Transformation Lead stated that this was the third report informing the Committee of the transformation programme. Consultation with staff had finished and the next stage would be service redesign of social care teams, it was envisaged that teams would be connected to localities.

A more specialist service was being developed for adolescents at risk of coming in to care with complex needs. Work was also underway to collaborate with schools to host locality events to further develop relationships with schools. The voluntary sector provided a potential dynamic to provide effective packages of support and secure sustainable outcomes for vulnerable families. A Member noted that it was positive to see the Authority working with partners.

Members asked if staff were on board with the proposals and officers confirmed that there had been significant staff engagement. However, due to the levels of change proposed there was a certain amount of anxiety however support had been put in place to ensure this was minimised.

### **Resolved**

**That the Children's Services Transformation Plan was noted.**

### **70/18 Ofsted Working Group Report.**

Members were informed that the Ofsted Working Group held six meetings and met with over twenty witnesses. The Committee were asked to consider the final report of the working group and consider the recommendations contained within. Members of the working group thanked all staff involved.

### **Resolved**

**That the final report of the Ofsted Working Group be referred to Cabinet for consideration of the report recommendations.**

## **71/18 Monitoring of Ofsted Working Group report Recommendations 2017/18**

The Assistant Director presented a report updating the committee on the progress in relation to the recommendations of the 2017/2018 Ofsted working group. The working group made a number of recommendations in response to the evidence it gathered.

The Group were advised that further to discussion about the new safeguarding board arrangements at scrutiny throughout the year, a full briefing would be taken to the committee in 2019/20 municipal year to outline the proposed new arrangements.

In response to a recommendation in relation to support, from a housing officer, to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), the committee were advised that a review had been conducted and it was determined that demand was not sufficient to require a permanent housing officer to be allocated to the MASH. However to improve information sharing, a single point of contact had been allocated this arrangement had achieved positive outcomes.

The Assistant Director stated that the current escalation policy was being reviewed and would be completed by the end of May 2019. Positive feedback had been received from schools in relation to this. In addition, in response to the report supervision practice standards were also reinforced.

### **Resolved**

**That the ‘Monitoring of Ofsted Working Group report Recommendations 2017/18’ report be noted.**

### **72/18 Forward Plans**

The forward plans were noted.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 6.55 p.m.

Signed: .....

Date: .....