

Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee held on Monday 27 February 2017 at 7.00 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Jasmine Ali (Chair)
Councillor James Okosun
Councillor Jon Hartley
Martin Brecknell
Lynette Murphy-O'Dwyer

**OTHER MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

**OFFICER
SUPPORT:** Alasdair Smith, Director, Children, Families and Adult Services
Dick Frak, Interim Commissioning Director, Children, Families and Adult Services
Kate Moriarty-Baker, Interim Director of Quality & Chief Nurse, SCCG
Nina Dohel, Education Director
Rachel Flagg, Head of Joint Commissioning for Children and Young People (SCCG and Council)
Elizabeth Murphy, Consultant Child & Adolescent Psychotherapist, SLaM, Southwark CAMHS, Carelink for Looked After Children
Julie Timbrell, scrutiny Project Manager

1. APOLOGIES

1.1 There were apologies for absence from Councillors James Caldwell, Catherine Rose, James Barber and Lucas Green, who is on paternity leave.

2. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

2.1 There were no urgent items of business.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

3.1 There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

Minutes from the meeting on 4 October and 29 November 2016 were agreed.

VIDEO - OPENING OF THE MEETING

<https://bambuser.com/v/6649980>

<https://bambuser.com/v/6649982>

5. UPDATE ON THE JOINT MENTAL HEALTH STRATEGY AND SCRUTINY REVIEW

Alasdair Smith, Director, Children, Families and Adult Services and Dick Frak, Interim Commissioning Director, Southwark Council presented the update on the emerging Joint Mental Health Strategy and the cabinet response to the scrutiny report recommendations on the developing Joint Mental Health Strategy.

The following issues were raised in the subsequent discussion:

- Members raised concerns about delays to the finalisation of the strategy but praised officers for talking to people. Officers agreed the strategy is late but said that they believe it has been thorough, with 150 stakeholders involved. A strategy is important and will be followed by an implementation plan.
- Members said that recent report in the press have said that integration is still a challenge and in some cases going backward, how are the council and CCG integrating? Officers said that there are recent steps to combine and integrate our commissioning arrangements across three areas mental health; children & young people and older people with complex needs. At the moment there is a spend of about £5million for CAMHS , and money in the mental health focused young people Transformation Plan is set to modestly increase this, given ongoing coverage of the crisis in mental health services for children.
- A member asked if the budget was ring fenced? Officers said that in terms of CAMHS it is, and there is an assurance process. Is there going to be shortfall overall? Officers said that with children services they are more confident of adequate resources, but with adults there is more concern as there is a squeeze.

- Will homeless and housing be firmed up in the final strategy? There is a report going to cabinet about care leavers, accommodation provision, continuity and mental health.
- Will there be a focus on transition from children to adults? Members highlighted that this is a focus of the scrutiny on care leavers. Officers said that one of the issues is that the thresholds to get adults services are very high. Frequently young people lack good services in transition and then disappear to only appear later post 35, which is the largest cohort of adults' services.
- Are social media applications used to reach young people? There is the "headspace" app. and also "young minds" that have a good website for children and young people.
- Are there ways for people to re-establish contact and support if something happens, such as bereavement? Officers said that 'making every contact count' is one approach. Another is accessing services via Primary Care where the threshold is lower.
- What about relationships with the CCG in terms of budget cuts? Officers said that the council and CCG have been very deliberate and deliberative in developing partnerships on three keys areas. We do have a good retention rate for social workers, which is good as for quality mental health provision we do need skills and memory.

VIDEO - UPDATE ON THE JOINT MENTAL HEALTH STRATEGY AND SCRUTINY REVIEW

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6. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS

The following council, Southwark Clinical Commissioning Group (SCCG), and South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM) officers presented and took questions on the reports enclosed with the agenda:

- Alasdair Smith, Director , Children , Families and Adult Services
- Dick Frak, Interim Commissioning Director, Children , Families and Adult Services
- Kate Moriarty-Baker, Interim Director of Quality & Chief Nurse, SCCG
- Rachel Flagg, Head of Joint Commissioning for Children and Young People (SCCG and Council)
- Elizabeth Murphy, Consultant Child & Adolescent Psychotherapist, SLaM, Southwark CAMHS Carelink for Looked After Children

The following issues were raised in the discussion with the committee:

- Our population of Looked After Children (LAC) are often based out of Southwark. This is more challenging for the council in its corporate parenting role. The committee asked how young people's health needs are addressed and officers responded that there is an out of borough nurse and we also work with GP receptionists to ensure registration.
- Can you reassure on transition for young people into local borough CAMHS services? With fostering done locally then this is easier. For the cohort that often moves further out it is harder. We often have to escalate concerns further afield. We have had children with a huge risk, with self-harm for example, not accessing services. Elizabeth Murphy said she does extensive work with young people moved out of borough to advocate for young people to receive services from the borough that the young people are located in. We advocate but cannot force local CAMHS to provide services. However, sometimes that is not adequate and that the local CAMHS will not step in or it will be too late by the time the young person is accepted. In these circumstances, social care will privately commission services if young people are not able to access local services.
- Young people with higher needs are often the people the council struggle to provide services closest to home.
- Members asked if the council ought to do more on accommodation and asked about young people on the fringe of care? Alasdair Smith responded that there is a question of quality and what that is. Our commissioned services are not where we want them to be. Our staying put (with foster carers) is working well. The availability of public housing has reduced drastically for all people. We have people based in Kent for ten years and it makes sense for them to live there. The developing post-16 accommodation strategy acknowledges that young people are now sometimes placed outside of borough.
- How integrated are care services with education? For LAC it is very integrated as they are required to have a plan within 20 days and we do track those young people. It is sometimes complex with children in one borough and schools in another. Are we able to extend the virtual school for care leavers? Alasdair Smith said our borough NEET figures are good. The council have encouraged schools to take up the extra money pupil premium makes available.
- What about children and young people who may be adopted and the children are not aware? Recently an officer went into school and shared "secure base model" which is based on the attachment model, which more schools are keen on adopting. This has tools based around sensitivity / belonging. These help teachers to understand some of the behaviour and issues that adopted and fostered children face.
- Do we have a team that works with young people of at risk going into care? We do have teams working on this. Sometimes it is right that young people do come into care but we are working to reduce the need for this and keeping this under review.

- Is there a churn with personal advisors? It is not as stable as we would want; presently we use an agency while we develop our vision. We are working on that and agree it is critical.
- Elizabeth Murphy said that CareLink accept all children for an assessment if we receive a referral where someone is raising a concern.
- Kate Moriarty-Baker said that care leavers have poorer outcomes for physical & mental health, Child Sexual Exploitation and we need to identify risks and mitigate. We have repositioned care leavers within safeguarding as they have already reached that threshold.
- How big is the Carelink case load and what proportion of young are being seen by. About 500 in care per year and the Carelink case load is of 190 -220 .Do we screen children? Some children only come into care momentarily. There is screening for 9 categories of adverse incidence in childhood, the ACE survey is online and anybody can access there risk (<http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2015/03/02/387007941/take-the-ace-quiz-and-learn-what-it-does-and-doesnt-mean>). 4 of more adverse categories indicate a need for mental health support services and most children in care will have experienced at least 4 incidents.
- What is being commissioning for these young people will need further down the line? Officer said that care leavers will need a range of services down the line: parental support services, etc. There is a joint strategic needs assessment – however this doesn't always meet needs. Elizabeth Murphy said that SLaM researchers could help with developing services. Dick Frak said that there are some risky behaviour indicators in the emerging strategy that that demonstrate that particular responses are needed and this will be picked up in the Mental Health Strategy, due for completion in March.

VIDEO - MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS

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7. CARE LEAVERS SCRUTINY REVIEW

The employment support visit reports were noted.

8. SCHOOL SCRUTINY IN A DAY

Nina Dohel, the Education Director, gave an update on invites to local schools and school governors. The chair encouraged members to send to contacts and the diocese representatives undertook to send out invites with officer support.

VIDEO - SCHOOL SCRUTINY IN A DAY

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9. WORKPLAN

This was noted.