

**CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
26 SEPTEMBER 2018
6.35 - 9.17 PM**



Present:

Councillors Mrs Birch (Chairman), Brossard (Vice-Chairman), Ms Gaw, Mrs Hamilton, Ms Hayes and Mrs Temperton
Ms D Owen, National Education Union representative

Executive Members:

Councillor Gareth Barnard

Also Present:

Nikki Edwards, Executive Director, People
Rachel Morgan, Assistant Director, Education and Learning
Thom Wilson, Assistant Director, Commissioning
Sonia Johnson, Interim Assistant Director, Children's Social Care
Tom Wheeler, Consultant, Children, Young People and Learning

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillors Mrs McCracken, Skinner, Virgo and Ms C Barrett

17. Minutes and Matters Arising

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Children, Young People and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 13 June 2018 be approved as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

18. Declarations of Interest and Party Whip

There were no declarations of interest relating to any items on the agenda, nor any indication that Members would be participating under the party whip.

19. Urgent Items of Business

There were no items of urgent business.

20. Public Participation

No submissions had been made by members of the public under the Council's Public Participation Scheme for Overview and Scrutiny.

21. Early Help Family Hubs (youth provision)

Tom Wheeler, Consultant, Children's Social Care, explained he had been asked to look at bringing together disparate teams from across the Early Help Support Service, alongside Karen Frost, Head of Early Intervention, Early Help and Communities. The process involved engaging with staff to design new models and principles. This was then worked up into an Early Help Family Hub model to maximise case holding

capacity and multi-disciplinary co-working with the aim of increasing high quality outcomes for children and families. The youth service had been integral to this process of re-design. Interviews had taken place during the last two days to appoint two Locality Managers who would continue to take the project forward.

As a result of discussions the following comments and questions were made:

- Members expressed concern about the same youth worker potentially working with a youth and their parents. It was acknowledged a young person may feel able to speak to a youth worker rather than a family member and confidentiality was critical. Nikki Edwards, Executive Director, People, confirmed there would be no difference from the young person's point of view and the new way of working should afford better understanding of the whole community for workers.
- Members queried if the excellent work of youth workers in Bracknell schools would continue and were informed there were no plans to remove that work or any work where evidence from teams and young people showed work was improving children or young people's life chances.
- Members requested assurances that Children's Centres would continue to remain open to all families in the locality and were informed this was the intention.
- Members were keen to see how the Youth Council fit into this process and were informed there would still be outreach work in schools, particularly around topics such as mental health and sexual health.
- There were two youth specialists whose role was specifically to strengthen the relationship between Children's Centres and schools.
- Members queried if the team had looked at Family Hub Models elsewhere in the country and were informed Karen Frost, Head of Early Intervention, Early Help and Communities had visited other areas and looked at what fit with the Council plan.
- Members asked if there had been any challenge around the new model, as there had been during consultation in July on the Stay and Play model. Tom Wheeler, Consultant, Children's Social Care, acknowledged there had been some challenge from staff, particularly about change of contracts from term time only to full year contracts. The model had been revised to take into account issues raised and it was agreed current staff would continue on term time only contracts but new staff would be appointed on full year contracts.
- Thom Wilson, Assistant Director, Commissioning, informed members the youth team had expressed a preference to work as a single team but agreement had been reached to integrate them into a multi-disciplinary team. The change to two teams, rather than four, was a direct result of feedback from staff. This had involved numerous workshops and consultation over five months.
- Members were pleased to note the new model included specific roles for young carers, gypsy/Roma/traveller community, Elective Home Education and Child Missing Education.
- Members queried if caseloads would be allocated geographically. The Chair welcomed Sonia Johnson, Interim Assistant Director, Children's Social Care, who explained caseloads would be allocated geographically unless there appeared to be capacity issues in a particular locality or if particular cases were more complex.
- Members asked when they could expect to see the results of the changes reflected in outcomes, i.e. diminishing the difference between children in receipt of pupil premium funding and the rest of their cohort. Nikki Edwards, Executive Director, People, informed member the current QSR data would act as the baseline and data would reflect outcomes.

- Members asked if qualitative data could also be captured in schools and Rachel Morgan, Assistant Director, Education and Learning, agreed School Standards and Effectiveness Partners (STEPS) would capture the experience of young people.
- Members requested a visit to the Children's Centres next year to check on progress of the new model, which was agreed.

Actions:

- **Nikki Edwards, Executive Director, People, to organise visit for CYPL O&S members to Children's Centres next year.**
- **Rachel Morgan, Assistant Director, Education and Learning, to provide a report at the CYPL O&S meeting in March 2019 updating on outcomes of this project and capturing STEPs experience of the implementation of the Early Help Hub Model for schools.**

22. Pupil Premium Task & Finish Group Update

Chair of the 'Improving the experience and outcomes of Pupil Premium (double disadvantaged) children' Task and Finish Group, Dee Hamilton, updated members on the work of the Group. So far there had been two productive meetings; agreement on the scope and a number of school visits undertaken by members.

Cllr Mrs Birch and Cllr Gaw said their visit to Uplands Primary School had proved very useful. They received a tour of the school and were shown the school's comprehensive data management system which they thought would be useful to share with other schools as part of the work of the Task and Finish Group.

23. Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel

Members noted the minutes of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel on 6 July 2018.

24. Executive Forward Plan

The following items contained in the Executive Forward Plan were discussed:

- Item 1077871– members queried why there were two different dates on the report. It was clarified one date referred to the start of the consultation and the second date referred to the likely decision date. Members also asked if the statement could be clearer. Nikki Edwards, Executive Director, People, clarified the statement was kept vague until they knew the outcome of the consultation and decision by governors. More detail would be available in the future on this item.
- Item 1078612 - Members asked if they could see the effect on school budgets of additional revenue costs. Cllr Mrs Birch, Chairman, assured members they would be able to as the item would be going to Executive before it was agreed.

Actions:

- **Nikki Edwards, Executive Director, People, to provide an update on Special Educational Needs at the next meeting of the Panel on 9 January 2019.**

25. **Quarterly Service Report**

Nikki Edwards, Executive Director, People, informed members it had been an interesting last quarter as a directorate leading up to the creation of the People's directorate.

Highlights included the opening of a new school in the Borough, an additional 10 beds available for care leavers; increased learning opportunities for adults and an advocacy service for young people.

Current priorities included recruitment of social workers. There were currently 11 vacancies in the department which would have been higher if additional investment had not been approved by members during the year. Sonia Johnson, Interim Assistant Director, Children's Social Work, informed members they were almost fully staffed at the 'front door' and there were no vacancies in the family worker and social work teams. There were two vacancies which would shortly be filled in the Under 11's safeguarding team. There was more reliance on agency staff in the Over 11's safeguarding team but some agency staff were requesting full time contracts. There were some early signs of outcomes improving for families accessing Early Help and this was expected to improve significantly before the next meeting in January.

Rachel Morgan, Assistant Director, Education and Learning, stated the Learning and Improvement Strategy was showing signs of impact but some Academy schools were not accepting the Borough's most challenging children and this was an issue the Council would take up with the Regional School's Commissioner, with whom they have a good relationship.

An external review of place planning had been commissioned to review local methodology and a report was expected within the next three/four weeks. Until this year place planning accuracy had been within 1% but the number of houses which had not come on stream as quickly as predicted had impacted forecasts, particularly for the number of primary school places required. Gareth Barnard, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning, said they had been able to add classes to existing primary schools in the past but this was not always possible with secondary school places and there would always be a tipping point where there were surplus secondary school places until additional houses were built over the next four/five years.

As a result of discussion the following questions and comments were made:

- Members queried why 3.1.03 on page 52 was 'amber' when 3.1.03 on page 48 stated a new maintained nursery would be delivered from September. Nikki Edwards, Executive Director, People, clarified that the 'amber' status related to finding appropriate community facilities to allow PVI providers to provide the flexible 30 hours childcare requirement. Officers were working with schools, businesses and community groups to discuss options. It was agreed Karen Frost, Head of Early Intervention, Early Help and Communities would provide an update to members on this area of work before the next meeting.
- Members requested a visit to Holly House and Rainforest Walk once improvements had been carried out.
- Members queried why 150 young carers had not been through the targeted approach and if this was a resource issue. Sonia Johnson, Interim Assistant Director, Children's Social Work, assured officers all young carers requiring targeted services were receiving them and that some young carers either did not want targeted support or were using mainstream activities to meet their needs. Gareth Barnard, Executive Member, Children, Young People and Learning, stated there was an opportunity for a broader approach to young

carers needs now the People's Directorate was in place. Members discussed national data which suggested approximately 60,000 young carers were present in this area but that some young carers may not wish to be identified and the Council's role was to provide support when they needed it. It was noted Easthampstead Park Community School had recently won an award for a project which had helped identify young carers. It was agreed Karen Frost, Head of Early Intervention, Early Help and Communities, would provide a briefing to members on the work with young carers and plans for the future.

- Members queried the current figure of 0.7% in Ni062 on page 59 as it seemed low compared to the previous figure. Nikki Edwards, Executive Director, People, agreed to check it and send a response to members prior to the next meeting. It was agreed members should review this figure again at the January meeting.
- On page 56 members asked why L327 had decreased and were informed the figure related to young people with disabilities struggling to engage with apprenticeships. Members said they were interested in this issue as they had not looked at it before as a group and asked the Governance & Scrutiny Co-ordinator to add to the workplan for 2019/20.
- Members queried L301 on page 61, which indicated less Education, Health and Care Plans had been issued within 20 weeks. Rachel Morgan, Assistant Director, Education and Learning, to ask Frank Glennon, Head of SEN, for clarification on this item and would send to members before the next meeting.
- On page 69 members asked why there was a £0.039m underspend on SEN support services and were informed it related to an early assessment pilot which was trialled in Owlsmoor School. The school had capacity to assess five children at a time to see whether they were able to remain in mainstream schooling; required catch up interventions or a referral to Kennel Lane was in the best interest of the child.

Actions:

- **Nikki Edwards, Executive Director, People, to organise a visit for CYPL O&S members to Holly House/Rainforest Walk.**
- **Karen Frost, Head of Early Intervention, Early Help and Communities to provide an update to members on sourcing facilities to support the 30 hour flexible childcare offer.**
- **Karen Frost, Head of Early Intervention, Early Help and Communities, would provide a briefing to members on the work with young carers and plans for the future.**
- **Nikki Edwards, Executive Director, People, agreed to check N1062 on page 59 of QSRs and send a response to members prior to the next meeting clarifying the low current figure of 0.7%.**
- **Governance & Scrutiny Co-ordinator to add apprenticeships (especially for children with a disability) to workplan 2019/20.**
- **Rachel Morgan, Assistant Director, Education and Learning, to ask Frank Glennon, Head of SEN, for clarification on item L301 and send to members before the next meeting.**

26. School performance

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and having regard to the public interest, members of the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of the following item which involves the likely disclosure of exempt information under the following category of Schedule 12A of that Act:

(3) By Virtue of Paragraph 3 'Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)' (Item 12)

The Panel received a detailed report on the provisional 2018 exam and test performance data for Bracknell Forest Schools by Rachel Morgan, Assistant Director, Education and Learning. Key priorities were around leadership and raising expectations, especially for children in receipt of pupil premium funding.

CHAIRMAN