

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel – Meeting held on Thursday, 5th December, 2019.

Present:- Councillors Basra (Chair), Ajaib, Begum and A Sandhu.

Education Non-Voting Co-opted Members: Paul Kassapian (Secondary School Representative)

PART 1

20. Declarations of Interest

Agenda Item 4 (Minute 23) East Berks Local Transformation Plan for Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing. Councillor Basra declared an interest in that she currently worked with two employers associated with the work area in relation to this agenda item.

21. Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd October 2019

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2019 be approved as a correct record

22. Member Questions

None received.

23. East Berks Local Transformation Plan for children's mental health and wellbeing

The Service Lead – Early Years and Prevention, Slough Borough Council and Head of Children, Young People and Families, NHS East Berkshire Clinical Commissioning Group introduced a report on an overview of the work that had been undertaken as a result of the Local Transformation Plan (LTP) of the Children and Young People Mental Health and Wellbeing (East Berkshire) Plan.

In addition Members viewed an information video on the Young Health Champions programme. The Panel noted that the programme was credited by the Royal Society of Public Health and based on a partnership between health, education and local authorities. The programme provided additional value to existing work including that in conjunction with CAMHS.

In response to questions, the Panel was advised that:

- the LTP was currently being refreshed with a January consultation deadline. The focus of the Local Transformation Plan in the current year was on early intervention;
- measurements of the success of young health champions included the award of level 2 of the Royal Society of Public Health

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qualification and mental first aid qualifications. Further analysis was planned including the monitoring of school performance. The Young Health Champions had met with representatives of youth parliament in October;

- table 1 did not include the 2055 pre-school children (aged 2 to 5) who were estimated to have a mental health disorder as some were national prevalence data. The new age groups of 1-8 and 5-16 enabled more access to services and early intervention. The Youth Champions supported tier 1 universal which was the majority of cases and from September the mental health support team would assist tier 2;
- the funding was ring fenced and part of the long term NHS funding for 5 years;
- early intervention training was taking place at Reading University and staff would be ready to accept cases from September 2020. 4 qualified education mental health practitioners would be based in schools from January 2020 and would receive training as part of their course;
- the capture of early health data from a young age would become more seamless with the new system.

The Panel expressed concern that although the average waiting time for an autism assessment had dropped by 45% in East Berkshire from 83 weeks in October 2018 to 45 weeks in June 2019, it was still a long wait. The officers indicated that work was on track to achieve a greater reduction.

It was agreed that the Panel would be provided with details of the websites containing the Young Minds evaluation of the youth health champions and work on the comprehensive review of autism and ADHD.

The Chair thanked the officers for the report and presentation

Resolved – That the report be noted

24. Leisure offer for young people in Slough

The Panel received a report on the current leisure offer to young people in Slough which highlighted why it was considered to be a top priority.

The Leisure Services Manager introduced the report, stating that Slough had some of the lowest activity rates in the country together with a high prevalence of obesity. She outlined the programme to rebuild and upgrade its core leisure facilities as part of its five year leisure strategy. Particular mention was made of Arbour Park Community Sports Stadium, Slough Ice Arena, Salt Hill Activity Centre and The Centre and Langley Leisure Centre. The new leisure provider's emphasis on an outreach programme was noted, in

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particular the numbers attending their swimming programme were very good with numbers increasing by about a third. The next step was to drill down data on service users to postcode level.

The Panel received a presentation on the wider health implications of exercise and were advised that a press release had been circulated. A Member reported that councillor interaction with residents indicated that affordability was an issue. In response, the officers advised that 30% of the programme of activity was free as were parks and open spaces, including green gyms. Benchmarking indicated that Slough's leisure centres were some of the cheapest, particularly those with contracts which included swimming and gyms. In 2008 swimming was made free for under 16s and over 60s but there was no impact on the number of people participating in swimming. Reference was made to a study in the Midlands which had initially indicated that making all facilities free had shown participation to increase but further detail had revealed a sharp decline in private gym attendance.

In response to a Member's questions the Panel was informed that:

- information would be circulated as to whether concessions included university students
- the Leisure Services Manger would be holding a session for Head Teachers and Heads of PE;
- a lot of schools offered facilities to communities outside school hours and during school vacations;
- funding had been secured for the next 3 years to work with some of the most inactive people. The initiative would concentrate on Chalvey ward and would include a target to work with 30 families to get them more active. These families would be identified in conjunction with the Children's Trust and schools;
- the high rates of asthma in Slough were due to a range of issues including health inequalities, links to air pollution predominately from diesel cars, and higher rates of smoking than the national average. It was important to understand how this condition could be managed to avoid hospital admission.

In response to a question as to the leisure offering of involvement in sport in relation to knife crime, the Panel was advised of meetings to look at issues happening overnight in order to stop escalation, examine thematic issues and the short, medium and long term offer. The violence task force set up by the Chief Executive would be meeting for the third time the following month.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

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25. Health outcomes for children and young people

The Panel received a report in response to questions raised by Members regarding health outcomes for children and young people. The report highlighted key health metrics, relevant concerns and the ongoing work to address these concerns. This report was considered in conjunction with minute 24.

The Panel was informed of the positive intervention work that had taken place over the past years which had shown that the targeted public health work and partnership working had led to positive outcomes with regard to the teenage pregnancy rate, the rate of smoking whilst pregnant, smoking prevalence at age 15, numbers breastfeeding and educational attainment.

The Chair referred to the need for funding to put in place services to target immunisations.

Resolved – That

- a) the report be noted and
- b) the agenda item for the next meeting on school attainment indicate whether reference to schools in Slough included pupils who lived beyond the Slough boundaries or pupils living in Slough.

26. Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel Work Programme

The Panel reviewed the current work programme.

Resolved – That the report and following amendments be noted:

1. A discussion be arranged between the Chair and Director of Children, Learning and Skills on the suggestion that the Joint Parenting Panel quarterly report become an annual report;
2. that the report on the School Place Strategy/ Admission service update be removed from the agenda for the next meeting as an update was not yet available;
3. School leavers Readiness for Work and Higher Education be deferred to the April Panel meeting;
4. the Prevention of Youth Offending/reoffending report include the Violence Taskforce;
5. Members be consulted on dates for the site visits to Solutions for Health (0-19 Service) and Aik Saath.

27. Members Attendance Record

Resolved - That the Members' attendance record be noted.

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28. Date of Next Meeting - 6th February 2020

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 6th February 2020.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.35 pm and closed at 8.40 pm)