

Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee

20 November 2017

Present: Councillor M Thirlaway (Chair)
Councillors J Cassidy, K Clark, M Green, K Lee,
P Oliver, J O'Shea, and F Weetman.

Rev. M Vine Church Representative
Mrs M Ord Parent Governor Representative

CES31/11/17 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Brooks, A Newman, A Waggott-Fairley and Mr G O'Hanlon, church representative.

CES32/11/17 Substitute Members

Pursuant to the Council's Constitution the appointment of the following substitute member was reported:

Councillor J O'Shea for Councillor P Brooks.

CES33/11/17 Declarations of Interest

In relation to CES36/11/17, SEND Local Offer, Councillor P Oliver declared a non-registerable personal interest as a member of her family received SEND support from the Council.

CES34/11/17 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 October 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

CES35/11/17 Signs of Safety

At its meeting on 17 July 2017 the sub-committee had received a report which introduced Signs of Safety, a practice model for children in need of a statutory assessment being adopted within North Tyneside Local Authority and partner agencies. The report provided a basic overview of what Signs of Safety was, how it would be implemented and the current position in respect of training (previous minute CES15/07/17).

The Safeguarding Manager attended the meeting to provide Members with an update on the progress in implementing Signs of Safety and also to conduct an exercise with Members to help them understand how practitioners used the model.

The Committee was informed that 404 professionals had attended a two day introduction training event, with 75 professionals having undertaken the five day advanced training

course. Four members of staff had been identified to take forward events in 2018 which would be a North Tyneside devised and delivered two day introduction to the model. Feedback from training events had been mostly positive but it was acknowledged that not all members of staff had embraced the model.

A steering group had been established and met on a weekly basis to ensure progress was being made, the project plan was on track and that the processes were compatible with the implementation of Liquid Logic.

In response to a question it was clarified that Northumbria University had been commissioned to conduct interviews with staff now and again in 12/18 months time to establish whether practice had changed and also if anyone had amended their view of the model, either in support or against.

Before undertaking the exercise, the Members were reminded that the six practice principles of the model were:

1. Understand the position of each family member
2. Find exceptions to the abuse/harm
3. Discover family strengths and resources – including family networks
4. Focus on goals
5. Scale safety and progress
6. Assess willingness, confidence and capacity

And that the four domains for enquiry were:

1. What are we worried about (Past harm, future danger and complicating factors)
2. What's working well (existing strengths and safety)?
3. Where are we on a scale of 0 to 10 where 10 means there is enough safety for CP authorities to close the case and 0 means it is certain that the child will be (re) abused (Judgement)
4. What needs to happen (Future safety)

Using the four domains for enquiry Members were asked to complete a form with an example that they thought of themselves. Members were not asked to feedback to the group.

In response to questions, the term 'find exceptions to abuse/harm' was explained and Members assured that the focus on safeguarding remained central, thresholds were still linked to risk, monthly supervision still happened and escalation routes remained in place. Signs of Safety was seen as a more effective tool for getting parents and carers to change their behaviours than previous practice and the voice of the child was still key; for example, it was the child who identified who their 'safe' person would be.

The Chair thanked the Safeguarding Manager for her attendance at the meeting and for taking the Members through the exercise.

CES36/11/17 The SEND Local Offer

The sub-committee received a report on the progress made on implementing the Local Offer in North Tyneside. The Commissioning Manager for the People Based Commissioning Team attended the meeting to present the report and answer any questions.

The sub-committee was informed that under the Children and Families Act 2014, the Authority was required to develop and publish a 'Local Offer' setting out the support available across education, health and social care for children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) up to age 25.

The Local Offer was essentially a website which listed the services comprising the Local Offer. The services in North Tyneside fell under six broad headings: early years; education; health; social care; leisure; and information, advice and support. The Local Offer had two key roles:

1. To provide up-to-date, accessible information about provision and how parents, carers and young people with SEND could access it. Having an accurate and comprehensive directory of services was therefore an important element of the Local Offer; and
2. The Local Offer should be used as a tool to measure how well services meet local need and achieved the outcomes set out in the joint commissioning arrangements. Local authorities had a duty to publish comments from children, their parents, and young people on the Local Offer and any actions they intended to take in response. These views and comments would also be used to inform future commissioning decisions.

The outcome expected from this approach to commissioning was that the portfolio of services and support evolved to reflect the changing needs of children and young people with SEND and their families. This aspect of the Local Offer was part of the Authority's broader responsibility to keep under review all the educational and training provision and social care provision for children and young people with SEND.

Progress on implementing the Local Offer was overseen by the SEND Strategic Board which included representation from the Authority, the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, schools, and the Parent/Carer Forum. The Board had oversight of the Self-Evaluation Framework (SEF) and monitored the implementation of the next phase of work on the Local Offer and progress in addressing the key issues identified in the SEF.

The key milestones achieved over the past 12 months were:

- a) Joint working with the Parent Carer Forum to co-produce the Local Offer. This was identified as a strength in the Self Evaluation Framework (SEF) for the SEND Area Inspection.
- b) The Local Offer was being promoted by a variety of routes and media including through events hosted by the Parent Carer Forum and publicity in the Council's resident's magazine.
- c) The Local Offer website had been refreshed and aligned with the Sign Directory to enable users to navigate seamlessly between the two sources of information.
- d) The Disabled Children's Register has been launched on-line and integrated with the Local Offer website.
- e) Partners had been engaged and briefed to increase their involvement in the Local Offer. This had included raising the awareness of schools by briefing Head Teachers and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCOs) and health partners e.g.

Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and Health Watch North Tyneside.

- f) Work was underway on a new Joint Commissioning Strategy with the CCG.

The activities to be delivered and the milestones to be achieved over the next 12 months in the next phase of implementation were:

- a) To develop the content, usability and levels of usage of the Local Offer website and explore the potential to maximise user engagement e.g. by adding graphics.
- b) To undertake a critical evaluation of the Local Offer website with the Parent Carer Forum and making further refinements in light of feedback from users.
- c) To continue to work to populate the Local Offer website with information about SEND services and support.
- d) To monitor usage of the website against key performance indicators (e.g. website hits and levels of feedback received).
- e) To continue to monitor and raise awareness of the Local Offer through inspection fieldwork, to include discussions with elected members, local area officers from health, education and social care, meeting with leaders of early-years settings, schools, colleges and specialist services.
- f) To increase the engagement and awareness of parents and carers and children and young people.
- g) To publish comments from children, their parents, and young people on the Local Offer and the action to be taken in response.
- h) To complete the Joint Commissioning Strategy and implement joint commissioning arrangements with the CCG.
- i) To strengthen arrangements for collecting information about needs, including via the Disabled Children's Register and improving the intelligence available about needs to inform commissioning decisions.
- j) To report progress to the SEND Strategic Board on progress in implementing the Local Offer action plan to ensure that any problems were addressed and opportunities for raising awareness and engagement grasped.

It was acknowledged that the website was flat and unimaginative and improvements to it were needed as SEND provision was complicated and it was essential to help parents, carers and young people understand and use the website. Monitoring of its use and activity had begun and once the collection and use of data had been improved this could be used to make decisions on commissioning and shaping the Local Offer.

In response to a question on the awareness of parents of the Local Offer and its purpose, the sub-committee was assured that a lot of work had been undertaken to ensure that people who worked with parents and carers knew about it and promoted it; this included SENCO's, headteachers, the locality teams, young people and other parents and carers. Every effort had been made to engage with as wide a group of people as possible and the team was working with the Authority's communications team to push awareness even wider and there was an emerging improvement plan. It was suggested that a leaflet or

information sheet explaining what the Local Offer was and how it could be accessed would help people who were hard to reach to access the information and support available by leaving it in places where they could pick it up.

The Chair thanked the Commissioning Manager for his attendance and presentation to the committee.

(After the discussion on this matter, Mrs M Ord left the meeting.)

CES37/11/17 Child Sexual Exploitation Update

The Senior Manager for Safeguarding and Children's Services attended the meeting to provide the sub-committee with its regular update on the work being undertaken to tackle child sexual exploitation (CSE) in North Tyneside. The report provided information relating to individual cases and what work was being undertaken across the Authority and with partners since its last update in July 2017.

The sub-committee was informed that the definition for CSE had been revised by the Department of Education in February 2017 and the Sexual Exploitation sub group (SEG) had incorporated the new definition into a revised Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) CSE procedure. The definition was now as follows:

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

Nine young people were currently identified as high risk of CSE and were monitored through the Missing, Sexually Exploited and Trafficked Panel (MSET), this was a multi-agency panel which was chaired by the police and vice chaired by Children's social care. The panel reviewed the risk assessment and the risk reduction plans for the high risk young people.

A social worker was still seconded to the Sanctuary Team which gave greater insight into new risk, vulnerabilities and identifying networks and the sub-committee was assured that no children or adults from North Tyneside had been linked to the recent court cases in Newcastle relating to CSE.

The risk assessment tool now included education and GP details to ensure a clear process for communicating information. The latest training developments were also reported; this included that all teams in Sport and Leisure had received CSE training and that all licensed hackney carriage and private hire drivers in North Tyneside would be expected to complete CSE training before being issued with a new licence and also undertake refresher training every three years.

In response to questions it was confirmed that the nine young people currently identified as high risk of CSE were all looked after children, with one residing out of the borough; that one of the reasons the Sexual Exploitation sub group had formed from the merged children's and adults sub group to ensure no-one fell through the cracks at eighteen; and

the checks and balances of the on-line training for licensed drivers was explained.

The sub-committee was also reminded of the difference between child sexual exploitation and child abuse in a family environment and the work of Bright Futures and SCARPA in helping raise awareness of young people to enable them to protect themselves and their friends from exploitation and to help them articulate their experiences.

It was **agreed** to note the updated information on the work being undertaken to raise awareness of, and protect children from, sexual exploitation and the implementation of the recommendations from the sub-committee's Child Sexual Exploitation Sub Group.

CES38/11/17 Implementation of ADHD recommendations

The sub-committee received a report which updated it on the progress made against the recommendations from the Support for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in North Tyneside Sub Group report submitted to Cabinet in January 2017 (minute CAB117/01/17).

The sub-committee was presented with a table setting out the actions Cabinet had agreed to take in response to the recommendations and details of the progress that had been made implementing the actions.

The sub-committee was informed that due to changes in staffing there had been delays in the implementation of the recommendations, which had also had an impact on the future work required with health colleagues regarding the collection of ADHD data. The Action Plan and progress to date had also been shared with Healthwatch.

The sub-committee was pleased to note that now both SENCO's and headteachers could refer directly to CAMHS and that the CCG had funded one dedicated crisis appointment per day.

In response to questions the sub-committee was informed that it was believed that all schools had taken up the Emotionally Healthy Schools resource pack and confirmation of the exact number would be provided after the meeting.

It was pointed out by a member of the ADHD sub group that the wording in point 7 was different to recommendation 7 of the sub group; the sub group had wanted dedicated closed sessions at leisure centres for children with ADHD and their families not just to offer them Ease cards and encourage attendance. Information was requested on how many parents had taken up the offer and if they had found it useful. In response, the sub-committee was informed that the Parent/Carer Forum was looking at this and how it could be reflected in the Local Offer and a recent event had been held in Leisure services to inform staff about ASD and ADHD.

It was **agreed** that the work undertaken by the Council and its partners in response to the report and recommendations of the sub-committee be noted.

CES39/11/17 Work Programme 2017/18 update

The sub-committee was provided with an update on its work programme and the progress of its in-depth investigation into the transition process for children with disabilities to adult services.

The sub-committee was reminded that their work programme had been agreed in June 2017 and had received all reports expected. The items of business for the November, January and March meetings had increased which had included the addition of reports on the SEND Local Offer, the Ofsted Action Plan and an update on the work being undertaken at Seaton Burn Community College.

The sub group examining the transition process between children and adult services for disabled young people was expected to submit its report to the January 2018 meeting of the sub-committee.

During discussion on the next subject for an in-depth investigation it was proposed that an examination into how schools used their Pupil Premium funding and how the spending and the impact of the spending was recorded would be a suitable topic. Another proposal was to examine how permanently excluded pupils were educated and how their progress was monitored.

Agreed (1) to note the progress against, and additions to, the Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee's work programme for 2017/18;

(2) that an initial scoping exercise of a sub group to investigate how schools used Pupil Premium funding be undertaken and presented to the January 2018 meeting of the Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee; and

(3) that the Chair and Deputy Chair discuss with appropriate officers the best way for the sub-committee to examine how permanently excluded pupils were educated and how their progress was monitored.