

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel

16 January 2019

Time 6.00 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Scrutiny

Venue Committee Room 3 - Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1SH

Membership

Chair Cllr Peter O'Neill (Lab)

Vice-chair Cllr Udey Singh (Con)

Labour

Cllr Rupinderjit Kaur
Cllr Obaida Ahmed
Cllr Jasbinder Dehar
Cllr Celia Hibbert
Cllr Asha Mattu
Cllr Beverley Momenabadi
Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr Clare Simm

Conservative

Cllr Simon Bennett

Quorum for this meeting is four Voting Members.

Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the Democratic Services team:

Contact Earl Piggott-Smith

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Agenda

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS

- 1 **Apologies**
- 2 **Declarations of interest**
- 3 **Matters arising**
[To consider any matters arising from the minutes]
- 4 **Minutes of the previous meeting (14. 11.18)** (Pages 3 - 12)
[To approve the minutes of the previous meeting as a correct record]

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 5 **Developments in Provision and Services for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)** (To Follow)
[To receive an update from the Head of SEND – please note that this report will be sent to follow].
- 6 **Children's Services Practice Week Overall Report November 2018** (Pages 13 - 22)
- 7 **Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children and Adults Board**
[Report will be sent to follow]
- 8 **Children Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel 2017/18 Draft Work Programme** (Pages 23 - 24)
[Earl Piggott-Smith, Scrutiny Officer, to present report]

Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel

Agenda Item No: 4

Minutes - 14 November 2018

Attendance

Members of the Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel

Cllr Peter O'Neill (Chair)
Cllr Udey Singh (Vice-Chair)
Cyril Randles
Cllr Obaida Ahmed
Cllr Simon Bennett
Cllr Celia Hibbert
Cllr Asha Mattu
Cllr Beverley Momenabadi
Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr Clare Simm

Co-opted Members

Cyril Randles Church of England – Diocese of Lichfield Representative
Wolverhampton Youth Council

Employees

Earl Piggott-Smith	Scrutiny Officer
James Barlow	Finance Business Partner
Bill Hague	Head of School Planning and Resources
Andrew Wolverson	Head of Service, People
Alison Shannon	Chief Accountant
Louise Haughton	Principal Social Worker

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

- 1 **Apologies**
Apologies were received from the following:

Cllr Jasbinder Dehar
Cllr Lynne Moran
Cllr Paul Sweet
Cllr Louise Miles
Emma Bennett - Director for Children's Service
Meredith Teasdale - Director of Education

2 **Declarations of interest**

Cllr Peter O'Neill reminded panel members to declare any interests relevant to the discussion on the agenda item Secondary School Expansion Programme.

Cyril Randles confirmed any issues relating to Church of England would be declared where appropriate.

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

3 **Minutes of the previous meeting (5 September 2018)**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2018, subject to the agreed changes, be approved, as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Agenda Item 7 – Future of Old Fallings Park Playground

The panel resolved that they support the consultation on the proposed disposal of the Old Fallings Adventure Playground. The Chair advised the panel that a public consultation on the proposal is still ongoing and that no decision had been made about the site. A report will be presented to Cabinet with recommendations about the future use of the site.

4 **Matters arising**

Minute 5 – Elective Home Education

Cllr Beverley Momenabadi, updated the panel on discussions following the meeting with local MPs during which the concerns about the current situation were highlighted. Cllr Momenabadi explained that Pat McFadden MP was unable to attend the discussion in parliament but did write to the Secretary of State with concerns about the present arrangements. A copy of the reply was shared with members of the panel. The panel agreed to note the progress.

5 **Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel 2017/18 Draft Work Programme**

Earl Piggott-Smith, Scrutiny Officer, presented the draft work programme for comment and invited suggestions of future topics. The panel were advised that there were currently no agenda items for the meeting on 27 March 2019.

Resolved:

The panel agreed to consider and suggest topics for future meetings.

6 **Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019-2020**

Alison Shannon, Chief Accountant, presented the draft budget report and medium-term financial strategy report. The panel were invited to comment on the proposals and respond to the recommendations. The Chief Accountant also invited the panel to suggest changes to the current budget scrutiny process to improve consultation arrangements.

The Chief Accountant outlined the background to the work done to respond to the previous projected budget challenge of £19.5 million for 2019 – 2020 that was presented in a report to Cabinet on 11 July 2018 and again on 17 October 2018. The projected budget challenge figure was now estimated to be £6 million. The panel

were advised that work would continue to identify budget efficiencies, budget reductions and income generation opportunities.

The Chief Accountant advised the panel that comments on the draft budget and medium-term financial strategy will be included in a report that will be presented to Scrutiny Board on 11 December 2018. The Chief Accountant outlined the next steps in the budget consultation process. The panel were invited to comment on the report.

The panel commented on the lack of detail in the budget report about the proposals for budget reductions and income generations relating the children and young people services and would like more information.

The Chief Accountant referred to the link in the body of the Draft Budget and Medium-Term Finance Report which would give Councillors more details on the Budget Reduction and Income Generation Proposals. In addition, officers were present at the meeting to provide more detail around the proposals, if required.

The following is a summary of panel discussion about proposals for budget reduction and income generations

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Tier 3 funding to Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust

The panel queried the reduction in the budget of £137,000 for the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and the implications for children and young people needing support. Andrew Wolverson, Head of Service People, advised the panel that the service undertook a review of funding for services at Tier 3 as part of the budget preparation work. The review involved comparing the approach adopted by neighbouring local authorities to funding of this service and the evidence showed that very few provided funding at this level. Most of the council's reported that they focus their funding at Tier 2 level of support for people needing a lower level of mental health support. The panel were advised that Wolverhampton CCG is responsible for meeting the needs of children and young people needing access to specialist mental support. The Head of Service People advised the panel that there have been detailed discussions with colleagues at BCPFT and WCCG about the proposals.

The Head of Service advised the panel that not all the monies have been identified as savings from the proposal and that some of the money currently paid to BCPFT will be re-used to commission a service for Children and Young People in care.

The panel queried the impact of the budget reduction on the ability of the Council to meet the needs of young people with mental health concerns and how our provision compares with that offered by neighbouring authorities. The Head of Service People reassured the panel that the principal underlying the approach is that the council co-fund mental well-being services at Tier 2 and that services at Tier 3 remain the responsibility of the CCG to fund and deliver. The expectation is that an increase in investment at Tier 2 level will reduce the number of young people being referred to Tier 3 by intervening much earlier with support. The current Tier 2 service will be re-commissioned in three years' time and the specification will be based on the learning from the HeadStart programme and which projects have been successful.

The panel queried the impact on the service of children diagnosed with autism if funding is reduced and if the new service could meet the current level of demand for support. The Head of Service People advised that Robert Hart has responsibility for developing the autism strategy. The scrutiny officer agreed to re-circulate a briefing paper prepared by Rob Hart about the current strategy. The panel agreed to add the topic to a future agenda item for the panel to consider. The Head of Service People advised the panel that the needs of the young person would be detailed in the education health and care plan, which details the support needed.

Supervised Contact Centre Provision for Children and Young People

The panel queried the implications of reduced spending on the supervised contact centre provision. The Head of Service People advised the panel that the figures quoted do not represent a budget reduction. The panel were advised that work had been done to review the current use of the service and a number of efficiencies had been identified that could create extra capacity, if alternative provision was provided where supervised contact was required. The change in usage would allow the service to be offered to other potential users such as parents looking for private contact arrangements and other local authorities looking for similar provision. The service would provide a source of income for the council.

Mark Taylor, Director of People, explained that the consideration would be given to adding a note explaining in future budget reports a situation where an increase in income has helped to reduce a larger savings in expenditure than would have occurred without the income.

WV Active Catering Offer

The panel queried the reasons for the reduction in the budget for the service. The Director of People advised the panel that a review of the catering service at WV Active venues had been done as the service does not generate enough profit to cover the costs of providing it. The responsibility for the WV Active service has been transferred to the Director of Public Health who is looking at use of vending machines to replace the current catering provision. The Council is looking to reduce the level of subsidy to the catering service.

The panel queried if there were plans to make use of the space in the centres that would be left, if the catering service was removed and the subsequent loss of income. The Director of People advised the panel that no decision had been made about the future use of the space, but the aim is to make the best use of any space.

Resolved:

1. The panel comments on the draft budget and medium-term financial strategy 2019-2020 to be included in the feedback in the report to Scrutiny Board.
2. A report on the autism strategy to be presented to a future meeting of the panel.
3. The Chief Accountant to review the presentation of the budget savings proposals in future reports to give more details about the impact of the planned changes on the level of service provision.

4. The Chief Accountant to consider the presentation of budget reports to show how proposals for income generation have lessened the impact on the overall budget.

7 **Children and Young People Service Improvement Plan - Quarter 2 Update**
Louise Haughton, Principal Social Worker, presented the update report on progress in delivering the priorities detailed in the 2018 -2019 Children and Young People Service Improvement Plan. The Principal Social Worker outlined the changes to the layout and content of the report. The panel were advised the service was on track to deliver priorities in the plan by the end of Q4.

A further progress report will be presented to the panel after June 2019.

The Principal Social Worker explained that a key change to drafting a plan was to bring together performance data and the experiences of parents and children into a single document.

The panel were advised that work is being done by the communications team to produce a video to further embed restorative practice across the workforce to support the changes in the service. This was given as an example of work to deliver the vision for the Children and Young People Service.

The panel were invited to comment on the report.

The panel queried if there was a child or parent friendly version of the Improvement Plan document. The Principal Social Worker advised that there is no other version of the document but agreed to discuss the idea and report back to a future meeting of the panel.

The panel queried what work is being done to capture the experiences of children and young people who receive support from the service. The Principal Social Worker commented on the change in focus to improving the quality of practice in addition to collecting information used to measure progress against performance indicators. As part of the work done to improve the quality of the service, social workers will speak to children and young people to find out what their experiences are of the service. The aim will be to collect the information more consistently to get a better picture of the overall experiences of young people. The Principal Social Worker advised the panel that the service has introduced a programme for managers and heads of service to observe practice of people supporting families and young people to provide information about their experiences.

The panel queried what happens in situations where a parent or child declines the offer of support.

The Principal Social Worker advised the panel that if a parent declines the offer of a support then no further action would be taken, unless there are safeguarding concerns. In this situation the matter would be referred to the child protection service if there were child protection concerns. The service would try to work with the young person or family to build trust by explaining the benefits of getting early help.

The panel queried the reasons for the delay in progressing the establishment of the Regional Exploitation Group and the implications for work to respond the challenge

of child sexual exploitation in Wolverhampton. The panel commented on recent cases in neighbouring authorities where gangs had been convicted of abuse. The Head of Service People commented on the different response needed where the person is under 18 or over 18 where there are concerns about possible abuse such as sexual exploitation. The Head of Service People advised the panel that if the person is over 18 then the person would be assessed as an adult and where the person was under 18 then there would be an assessment of the level risk. The approach would be to involve the necessary support services that could work with the young person to reduce the level of risk.

The panel queried the support available to young people with disabilities. The panel were advised that in this situation support would be provided on basis of the education plan till the person was aged 25 years, as they would still be considered as being vulnerable in this situation.

The panel queried the support offered to children with autism as there was concern that schools were not meeting their needs. Andrew Wolverson, Head of Service People advised the panel that a briefing on the autism strategy drafted by Rob Hart, which details the plan for supporting children and young people, was previously shared. The scrutiny officer agreed to re-circulate a copy to the panel. The panel agreed to add the topic to the agenda for discussion at a future meeting. The Head of Service People commented on the importance of schools working positively to support children with autism. The panel commented on the concern that children in this situation were often the target of bullying at school and it was important to support them.

The Head of Service People added that the Council will work with schools to devise appropriate interventions to support children and there is expectation that alternatives to modified timetables, temporary exclusion should have been attempted first. These options should be considered by schools as a last resort. The Head of Service People commented on the work done with headteachers to promote sources of advice for schools and pupils, for example, online counselling services who can refer a young person to more specialist support, if necessary.

Resolved:

1. The panel comments on the Children and Young People Service Plan to be noted.
2. An item on autism strategy to be added to the agenda for the panel meeting on 27 March 2019 for discussion.

8 **Troubled Families Update**

Andrew Wolverson, Head of Service People, introduced the report and gave an overview of the work done to deliver the Government's National Troubled Families Programme. The programme in Wolverhampton is known locally as "Families in Focus".

An updated draft the of the PBR Action Plan was sent previously to panel members for information.

The Head of Service People advised the panel that the performance of Wolverhampton at the start of the programme was behind those of neighbouring authorities but has since improved.

The Head of Service People explained the reasons for this was that a decision was made at the start to take a different approach to identifying families as part of efforts to embed the approach as part of an overall family support programme which is expected to lead to better outcomes in the future. The number of claims has increased to 30%, which is better than regional and national performance.

The Head of Service People advised the panel that the approach had been recognised nationally and the Council is seen as example of good practice and had visits from other authorities to see the work being done to support families.

The Head of Service People advised the panel that the council is working with partner organisations to get them on board with the different approach to supporting families.

The panel discussed the challenges to delivering the programme. The Head of Service People advised that getting people into employment was the issue that all authorities were struggling to make progress. The Head of Service commented on initiatives such as Work Box scheme, which is aimed at helping people back into employment and training.

The panel queried the financial implications to the Council if the target set by Government is not reached. The Head of Service People replied that a decision was made not to set up a separate team to deliver the programme and instead the approach has been to embed the new ways of working, with a focus on improving future practice.

The panel queried the implications in the action plan of the decision to put on hold the peer review with Birmingham City Council. The Head of Service People advised the panel that while there was a willingness from Birmingham, a decision was made by the Council not to go ahead with the plan at this time. The council is currently working with a London borough to offer peer challenge, who is doing good work on reducing levels worklessness.

The panel discussed the funding of the Troubled Families programme.

The panel queried if Families in Focus programme would be able to help in a situation where a family was at risk of losing their home. The Head of Service advised that the programme would not be able to pay rent arrears in this situation but would refer a family to an agency that could offer financial advice.

The focus of the current approach is ensuring key people are aware that a family is in financial difficulties at much earlier stage before court action is taken and they get the advice needed. The programme could help a family to pay a rental deposit on a new property if evicted in these circumstances.

The Head of People advised the panel of the work done to build relationships with the police and other agencies to support the delivery of the transformational element of the programme.

Resolved:

The panel agreed to note the report and the progress made against performance targets.

9 **Exclusion of press and public**

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information on the grounds shown below]

10 **PART 2 - EXEMPT ITEMS, CLOSED TO PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Part 2 – exempt items, closed to the public and press

Minutes:

Resolved:

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within the paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act

11 **Secondary School Expansion Programme 2019-20 and Primary School Provision**

Bill Hague, Head of School Organisation, presented a report on the Secondary School Expansion Programme 2019-20 and invited panel members to comment on the proposals. The panel were advised that comments on the proposals would be included in the report to Cabinet on 21 November 2018.

The panel were briefed on work done to provide both temporary and permanent solutions to meet short and medium-term demand for secondary school places in Wolverhampton. The Head of School Organisations commented on the range of challenges facing the service in meeting demand and avoiding an oversupply of school places.

The Head of School Organisations explained work done to assess demand for places and the options for meeting the changing needs of the local population.

A key challenge facing the Council is that it is not in full control of all the factors relating to the effective and timely supply of school places in Wolverhampton. The Regional Schools Commissioner is responsible for determining if academies can expand to meet increased demand for places.

The panel were advised that the Council were not planning to establish any new primary schools at present. However, the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) has proposed the opening of a primary free school in the Wednesfield South Ward. The Secretary of State is the decision maker in relation to any applications to establish a Free School. This decision will have implications for meeting the demand for secondary school provision in the future, if approved.

The panel were briefed on the level of a future demand for secondary school provision and the options for meeting this need. A key aspect of the strategy of meeting demand for extra places is working with schools to fully utilise the existing space, where possible before undertaking any major building work.

The panel discussed the assessment of proposals relating to each of the schools listed in the report. The panel expressed concern about schools being allowed to expand if they are performing poorly according to Ofsted.

The Head of School Organisation reassured the panel of what action the Council would take in such circumstances to ensure children received a good education.

Resolved:

1. The panel agreed to note the report and the progress made to meet the projected demand for secondary school places in the future.
2. The panel note the options being discussed for increasing school capacity and level of funding required to deliver them.

The meeting closed at 19:40

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Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel

16 January 2019

Report title	Update on SEND Transformation	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Lynne Moran Education and Skills	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Meredith Teasdale	
Originating service	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities	
Accountable employee(s)	Adrian Leach	Head of SEND
	Tel	01902 553927
	Email	Adrian.Leach@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Joint Education and Children's Leadership Team	07 January 2019

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Scrutiny Panel is recommended to:

1. Endorse the direction of travel that City of Wolverhampton Council and the SEND Commissioning and Partnership Board are taking in meeting duties in the 2015 Code of Practice.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this briefing is to provide an update members on developments in provision and services for children and young people (CYP) with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) since summer 2018. The paper will include updates on:
- SEND governance
 - SEND strategy implementation
 - SEND Joint Area Inspection preparation
 - SEND Peer Review

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The 2014 Children and families act and 2015 SEND Code of Practice established a statutory framework that required Local Authorities, education providers and health services to transform the way they worked with Children and young people with SEND and their families. SEND Transformation is the term used to describe how areas have changed their services in order to meet the new statutory framework. The key strategic changes that the SEND Code of Practice sets out are:

- Increase in the age range for statutory protection for children and young people with SEND to cover all years from 0-25 (previously this was 4-18)
The significant areas of transformation can be described as
- The introduction of Education, Health and Care Plans to replace Statements of Special Educational Need and Learning disability Assessments
- A duty to jointly commission provision and support that meets the needs of the child or young person
- A duty to place children, young people and families at the heart of the decision-making process and co-produce provision and services that meet their needs both at an individual and a strategic level
- A duty to better inform and empower children, young people and families including the development and maintenance of a Local Offer website, impartial information advice and support services and mediation.

Over the last three years Wolverhampton has made great strides in effectively implementing the transformation required in the 2015 Code of Practice.

- 2.2 In the Spring and Summer of 2018 work was carried out to refresh, refocus and update the SEND Strategy for Wolverhampton. This work was opened by a system wide SEND Visioning day. The day and subsequent work with professionals from education, health social care and co-production partners produced the following outcomes:
- Validation and challenge to the SEND Self-Evaluation written in 2017-2018
 - A clear set of co-produced priorities and objectives for delivery over 2018-2020
 - Identification of where the Aims set out in the 2015-2020 SEND Strategy have not been effectively progressed.

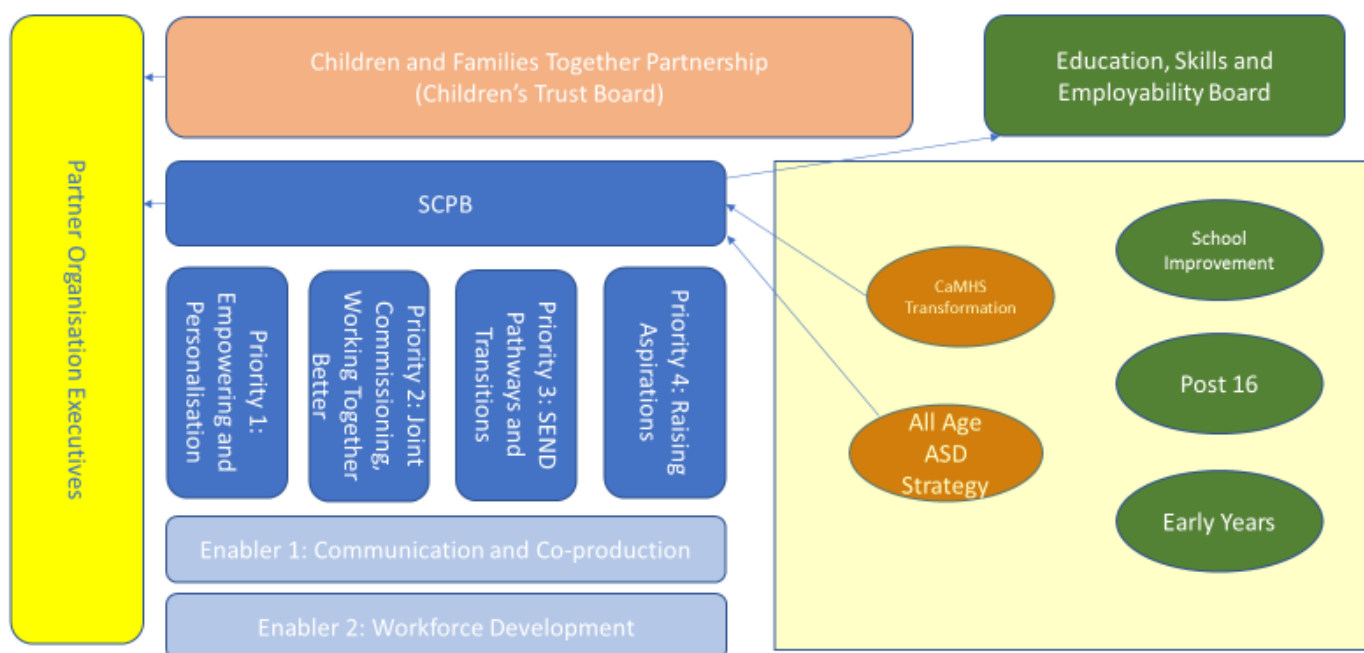
- Strengthening the role of the SEND Commissioning and Partnership Board (SCPB) and governance arrangements

2.3 Following the Summer co-accountable leads (one City of Wolverhampton Council representative and one Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group (WCCG) representative) were identified for each of the priority areas. The co-accountable leads have worked with a critical friend from Voice for Parents to develop and implement action plans for the delivery of their priority. The progress of these plans is monitored by the SCPB.

2.4 There is a significant programme of work being undertaken by City of Wolverhampton Council regarding its statutory duties to provide transport and travel assistance to vulnerable groups. This work is overseen by the Developing Independent Travel (DIT) Programme Board. However, the principles of co-production, independence and empowerment that underpin the revision of the travel assistance policy cut across many areas of work within the People directorate including SEND.

2.5 **SEND Governance.**

The current governance structure for SEND is shown below and includes its relationships to other strategic delivery boards with overlapping objectives (Fig 1). The structure is colour coded to add simplicity with blue being directly related to the SEND Strategy, orange being directly related to the Children and Families Together board and (SRO's from each board are represented on the others to ensure that work is complimentary) and green being The Education and Skills Board. Executive accountability at The Council and WCCG along with other stakeholder executives such as Voice for Parents, Voluntary Sector Council (VSC), education and health providers etc is shown in yellow.



2.6 Each priority shown in the structure chart in Fig 1 contains a number of objectives. These have been co-produced and align to the aims from the 2015-2020 SEND Strategy. Below is a high level update against each objective area.

3.0 Progress

3.1 The following section sets out the progress in key objectives made during 2018

3.2 Priority 1: Personalisation and Empowerment

- a. **Personal budgets:** The mechanism for agreeing and the process for delivering personal travel assistance budgets (see DIT comment above) forms a part of a wider drive to increase the take up of personal budgets across education, health and social care. Although there are some spots of good practice in relation to personal budgets work on accelerating this began towards the end of 2018 and includes staff training and exploring better use of direct payments in a number of areas.
- b. **Improving Personalisation in EHCPs:** A number of developments to further improve the quality and timeliness of EHCPs are being adopted. A cloud based EHC hub has recently been procured through IDOX and the project is expected to start transferring EHCPs onto the hub by May 2019 with it being fully operational by 2020. (A specific paper on this will be brought to the February Joint Leadership Team meeting.) In addition, internal moderation of EHCPs has begun across Education, Health and Social care in order to improve the quality and consistency of practitioner advice and how it is transferred onto plans in a way that meets the needs of families. Changing Our Lives have recently delivered a piece of work on how we can improve young people's input into and ownership of EHCPs and its recommendations form part of the work of this objective.
- c. **Improving Access to and Quality of Short Breaks:** A review of short breaks has been underway since September 2018. The review will inform the commissioning framework for short breaks and make recommendations on accessing short breaks including eligibility, publicity and application processes. Personal budgets also form a significant element of the short breaks review and this work is aligned to the development of personal budgets cited above. The review is due to report to the SCPB in March 2019.
- d. **Improving the Accessibility and Quality of the SEND Local Offer:** Maintaining and constantly improving the Local Offer is an ongoing task. A series of publicity materials have been developed and delivered to schools, strengthening families' hubs and other organisations across the city. Accountability for maintaining relevant pages of the local offer has been improved and it remains statutorily compliant. Annual user testing and feedback sessions have been established to improve user friendliness. However, traffic flow across the site remains very low with neither professionals nor families using it as their "go to" site for information.
- e. **Improving the Quality of Information, Advice and Support:** Wolverhampton's Impartial Advice and Support Service (IASS) remains highly regarded nationally. However, since the introduction of the new floor targets for IASS Services work is underway to increase the offer available to provide advice to children and young people as well as establishing a clearer commissioning arrangement for the service.
- f.

3.3 Priority 2: Joint Commissioning

- a. **Ensure the Timely Provision of Flexible, High Quality Support for Children's Emotional Health and Wellbeing needs:** This objective is delivered through the Children's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Group as part of their wider remit. However emotional health and wellbeing remains a significant SEND issue and progress will be shared across.
- b. **Ensure the Availability of Timely and Effective Therapy Services (SALT, OH, Physio etc):** A complete review of therapy services is being undertaken led by WCCG in line with its commissioning cycle. The review is due to complete in Autumn 2019 with a view to ensuring that the commissioned services are fit for purpose in a more inclusive system with higher resource pressures. As currently, services will be jointly commissioned between WCCG and City of Wolverhampton Council.
- c. **Develop A More Integrated Commissioning System Informed by Joint Needs Analysis:** The first iteration of the SEND Needs Analysis and commissioning cycle was developed and implemented in Autumn 2018. It clarified the place planning and commissioning process for special provision and aligned the processes across special and alternative provision. 2019 will see better use of health and social care data and a SEND JSNA and Commissioning Intentions document. Work is underway to ensure that this is underpinned by a SEND Joint Commissioning Framework which is scheduled to be in place for July 2019.

3.4 Priority 3: SEND Pathways and Transitions

- a. **Improve the Experiences of CYP with SEND at key Transition Points:** Work in this objective is focussed around getting a clearer understanding of the issues. A report on specific areas of concerns and actions to address these is due to the SCPB in Summer 2019.
- b. **Implement an Improved Process for Assessment, diagnosis and post diagnostic Support for CYP with Autism:** Work undertaken against this objective is reported through the All Age Autism Strategy Board.
- c. **Improving the Identification, Provision and Support Pathways for CYP with SEMH and Behavioural Needs:** the roll out of "Getting it Right" training to support schools to identify and work with CYP with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) and behavioural needs will be completed by March 2019 with significant numbers of practitioners already trained and positive feedback on the impact of training received. The review of Alternative Provision to support CYP with SEMH and behavioural needs was undertaken in 2018. The recommendations from the review are being implemented through 2019. Significant amongst these is the establishment of a peer led support and challenge process for accessing CWC commissioned provision and services. This is scheduled to be in place for April 2019.

3.5 Priority 4: Raising Aspirations

- a. **Improve the access to leisure facilities for CYP with SEND and their Families:** Initial work has commenced with WV Active to promote their accessible offer and better understand the needs of families. A number of ASC friendly swim training sessions are being developed in 2019. Improving the knowledge of accessible facilities already available in the city has also begun with accessible playground equipment being identified and added to the SEND Local Offer.
- b. **Increase the level of Independent Travel for CYP with SEND:** This work forms part of the DIT Programme and is reported through the DIT board. As with ASC and

emotional health and wellbeing lead officers sit on and report to both boards and work is aligned.

- c. **Raise the Educational Expectations, Attainment and Achievement of CYP with SEND:** A number of commissioning elements are being used to increase access to mainstream provision for CYP with SEND. These include the review of high need funding matrix currently underway to ensure schools are properly supported, a support and challenge mechanism to mainstream schools, and a full review and recommissioning of resource bases in 2019. Outcomes in EHCPs are subject to audit and moderation to ensure that they are stretching enough, and SIAs will from 2019 start to question schools on their delivery against EHCP outcomes. Throughout 2018 a number of special schools have worked with The Council on the Engagement Profile pilot and development of the new special school curriculum and progress and achievement measures.

3.6 The Outcome measures for the SEND Strategy are listed below. This is not an exhaustive list of key performance indicators rather it is the suite of high level measures that will determine the effectiveness of the SEND Strategy delivery and implementation of the 2014 SEND reforms

- % of children with SEN making good levels of development
- % of children with an EHCP making expected progress at KS2
- KS4 and KS 5 progress and attainment figures
- Proportion of parents who feel they're opinions are taken into account
- % of parents who feel they are effectively supported by services
- % of families/ young people that feel and included in the EHC process
- % of 1 year and 2 year health checks
- 16-25 year olds with SEND in meaningful employment
- Joint funded Personal Budgets and direct payments
- Number of pupils in special schools traveling independently
- % of children with an EHCP able to remain in mainstream settings
- % of EHCPs delivered in 20 weeks (16 weeks for children who are looked after)
- Reducing the level of out of city placements.

4.0 Joint Area SEND Inspection

- 4.1 Since May 2016 Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) have been conducting joint inspections to assess how effectively local areas are identifying, assessing and meeting the needs of, and achieving outcomes for children and young people with SEND and their families.
- 4.2 As part of our preparation for inspection the SEND self-evaluation form (SEF) is currently being updated to take account of work undertaken in 2018. Requests for updates from heads of service and managers are being sent out during the week commencing 7th Jan.
- 4.3 Key areas for concern in relation to the Joint Area Inspection remain:
- High number of exclusions, including those with EHCPs

- Lack of educational achievement and access to mainstream provision for children and young people with EHCPs
- Low take up of and inconsistent quality of one and two year health checks
- Lack of satisfaction and clarity of short breaks provision
- Low number of supported apprenticeships and internships
- Below Average number of EHCPs completed in 20 weeks

4.4 A sharepoint site has been established to support the preparation for the SEND inspection. The site contains logistics and communication plans, key evidence and strategy documents including the SEF and the evidence to support it. Since September 2018 work has been undertaken to ensure that learning from and preparation for inspections is brought together across Children's and Education directorates.

5.0 Financial implications

5.1 The primary driver for work undertaken in SEND Transformation and the SEND Strategy for 2015-2022 is statutory compliance. However, there are areas in which costs may be incurred. These would be identified as individual projects are identified and delivered. Similarly, good practice around co-production and developing independence, personalisation and resilience offer opportunities for future life long savings to be made as reliance of Council and Health services is reduced.

6.0 Legal implications

6.1 The 2014 Children and Families Act, 2014 Care Act and 2015 SEND Code of Practice place specific duties on Local Authorities in how they should work with and commission support and provision for children and young people with SEND and their families. The SEND Tribunal Service and the Local Government Ombudsman have the power to direct Local Authorities or impose fines where Authorities are not in compliance with the Code of Practice.

7.0 Equalities implications

7.1 There are a broad range of projects and individual changes that fall under the umbrella of SEND Transformation. Equalities implications of each are assessed individually.

8.0 Environmental implications

8.1 Environmental implications are assessed at individual project or plan level

9.0 Human resources implications

9.1 This report contains no specific human resources implications. Some of the projects under the SEND Transformation work will affect staff practice but these will be identified at the level of each specific project.

10.0 Corporate landlord implications

10.1 This report contains no specific implications for corporate landlord.

11.0 Schedule of background papers

11.1 There are no preceding reports.

Children's Services November 2018 Practice Week Feedback Scrutiny Report

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Agenda Item No: 6



Scrutiny Panel-16 January 2019

- The views of Scrutiny are requested as to whether the new format of auditing within the Children and Young People Services meets the objective of
 - Reducing bureaucracy
 - Enabling senior managers to be closer to frontline practice
 - Giving opportunities to celebrate good practice
 - Knowing where we need to improve

Practice Weeks—19-23 November 2018

- **Aim** – provide a more consistent, effective and efficient audit process to ensure interventions improve outcomes for children and young people.
- Director, Heads of Service and Service Managers will spend a full week in teams completing audits, observing practice and talking to frontline workers.
- **Benefits include:**
 - Opportunity for workers to practice discussing their work and their rationale for intervention and support
 - Provides workers with immediate feedback
 - Doubles as a learning and development opportunity for practitioners
 - Senior Management will have a good overview of what we do well and where we need to improve
 - Process is more “real time” and less bureaucracy
 - Senior managers experience front line practice first hand rather than through reading case files
 - Opportunity to seek views of service users after observations of practice

















Practice Week

What happened?

- Audits and observations of practice were undertaken in:
 - Social work
 - Early Intervention
 - Inclusion Support
 - Intensive Family Support and the Youth Offending Team
- 96 files for children in receipt of support were audited across the directorate.
- 35+ observations of practice took place.
- Senior managers spent time talking to frontline practitioners about what is working well and what needs to improve.
- Practitioners have reported preferring this approach to quality assurance and liked receiving immediate feedback regarding their work.

Findings-Audits

- Audit outcomes were:

Audit Period	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate	Total
Legend:	 = Positive Result	 = Positive Result	 = Positive Result	 = Positive Result	
Social Work	1 (3%) 	17 (55%) 	11 (35%) 	2 (7%) 	31
Early Intervention	3 (25%) 	5 (42%) 	4 (25%) 	0 (0%) 	12
Specialist Support	0 (0%) 	5 (83%) 	1 (17%) 	0 (0%) 	6

**Trajectory of the direction of movement from the last audit period (September 2018 Practice Week Pilot)

Findings—Observations

Audit Period	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate	Total
Social Work	0 (0%)	13 (87%)	2 (13%)	0 (0%)	15
Early Intervention	3 (30%)	6 (60%)	1 (10%)	0 (0%)	10
Specialist Support Services		8 (mostly good with areas for development)			8

**Observations were not previously rated.

What We Do Well

The key areas of strength identified by auditors were:

- Practitioners really know the children and young people they are working with and work hard to build positive relationships with them and their families. Inclusion Support provided strong evidence of restorative practice in action.
- The voice of the child came out as an area of strength in many audits, including examples such as:
 - The young person's voice was clear in planning and in children and young people in care reviews, including one young person who chairs his reviews
 - There was evidence of creative approaches being used to hear the child's voice where this had been difficult
 - There were some excellent examples of the use of direct work tools
- There were green shoots of progress with regards to planning in social work with several plans being judged as high quality and some incorporate EHCP and PEPs.
- Evidence that intervention is making a positive difference to children and young people, especially in Early Intervention.

Where We Need to Improve

The key areas for improvement identified by auditors were:

- The quality of assessments needs to improve within social work and Early Intervention.
- Management oversight was an area for improvement across all areas except Inclusion Support. Supervision needs to take place on a monthly basis and management recording improved within the various systems that are used.
- Child focused care planning, including permanency planning, continues to require further development and plans between social work and Specialist Support Services need to improve.
- Schools also expressed their feelings that Early Help Assessments made the referral process more difficult and served as a barrier to accessing early Intervention/social care interventions.
- This audit highlighted the need to continually review thresholds to ensure that they are being applied consistently and that children are supported at the right level.

What Next?

- Practice Week will continue to take place twice/year but will now run differently.
 - Practice Week will run over two weeks, with auditors auditing for a total of four days.
 - Audits will not be predetermined. Instead, auditors will randomly choose files to audit while sitting in teams.
- Auditors will spend practice days across a variety of services, including their own.
- Service User Feedback will be obtained as part of observations completed.

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Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel – Draft Work Programme

Agenda Item No: 8

The Panel will have responsibility for scrutiny functions as they relate to: -

- Children in need/child protection
- Looked after children,
- Early Help 0-5,
- Early Help 5-18,
- Youth offending,
- Children’s commissioning,
- School planning and resources and Standards and vulnerable pupils.

Date of Meeting	Item Description	Lead Report Author	Specific Questions for Scrutiny to consider
16.1.2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of SEN at post 16 and presentation self-assessment report on current provision. 	Adrian Leach, Head of Special Educational Needs and Disability	
27.03.2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autism Strategy 	Rob Hart, Head of Inclusion Support	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HeadStart Sustainability Planning Update 	Mai Gibbons HeadStart Contracts Manager/Andrew Wolverson	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding Statement 	Dawn Williams, Head of Safeguarding	

Long list of topics - dates for presentation and method of scrutiny to be agreed

1. Supporting Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children
2. Mental Health Issues/CAMHS (Emma Bennett/CCG)
3. Unregistered independent schools and out of school settings
4. Youth Justice Plan 2018-2019 – action plan – proposed joint meeting with Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel on 19.6.18
5. Apprenticeship educational requirements
6. Early Help Strategy 2018-2022
7. Children’s Trust Board – briefing paper

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