

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & SKILLS COMMITTEE

4.00pm 12 NOVEMBER 2018

**COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL, NORTON ROAD,
HOVE, BN3 3BQ**

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Chapman (Chair)

Also in attendance: Councillor Penn (Deputy Chair), Brown (Opposition Spokesperson), Phillips (Group Spokesperson), Allen, Knight, O'Quinn, Taylor, Wealls and Cattell

Other Members present: Councillors

PART ONE

32 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

(a) Declarations of Substitutes

32.1 Councillor Cattell for Councillor Leslie Hamilton

(b) Declarations of Interest

32.2 There were none.

(c) Exclusion of the Press and Public

32.3 In accordance with section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 ("the Act"), the Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during an item of business on the grounds that it was likely, in view of the business to be transacted or the nature of proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present during that item, there would be disclosure to them of confidential information (as defined in section 100A(3) of the Act) or exempt information (as defined in section 100(I) of the Act).

32.4 **RESOLVED** – That the press and public be not excluded.

33 MINUTES

34 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

3.1 The Chair stated:

“Friday 26th October saw the 3 year anniversary since we introduced our model of practice in children’s social work. The model of practice is about supporting social workers to help families to effect change. It is based on the idea that if we provide support and containment for social workers they will be able to provide this to families.

People across the service have shown a real commitment to the model and it has demonstrated the potential to make a difference for families. This was reflected in our recent Ofsted ILACS inspection and the overall rating of ‘good’, as well as feedback from social workers in this year’s your voice: social work survey where, 99% of respondents said they felt trusted to make decisions in their role. We recognise that, as well as the good news, we also face a number of ongoing challenges, including improving access to equipment and trying to create consistency across the system.

I am very pleased to let everyone know that Brighton & Hove has joined an elite group of local authorities nationally where all children can attend a good secondary school.

All of our 10 secondary now hold ‘good’ Ofsted judgements. Well done to everyone who has made this happen and to our many schools in the city who are achieving so well.

I’m sure we are all looking forward to hearing today from Kate Williams, the head teacher at Longhill and 2 students on their journey from RI to good.

I’m pleased to say that Drove Road residential short breaks service in Portslade which provides a mixture of short breaks and full-time accommodation has received an outstanding rating from Ofsted.

I would just like to add my congratulations to this service team.

I would also like to mention that I have recent correspondence making me aware of a clinical disagreement over the causes of autism. Further meetings are due to be held over this issue with one due in a couple of weeks. Depending on the outcome a further response may come to a future meeting. We will also partly touch on this subject in a later agenda item.

I would finally like to briefly express my disappointment at the recent budget proposals from the chancellor and the lack of much needed extra funding for schools.

The small amount of additional money that was allocated to schools at the budget is obviously not enough/nowhere near enough and the Chancellor’s turn of phrase to describe it as for ‘little extras’ was extremely unfortunate and not well-received.

I have visited many schools across the city and they frequently tell me how they are struggling every day to make ends meet, I would ask the chancellor to do the same and go out and speak with head teachers, teachers and governors and see what is happening on the front line.”

36 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

32 (a) Petitions

32.1 There were none

32 (b) Written Questions

32.2 There were none

32 (c) Deputations

32.3 There were none

37 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

33 (a) Petitions

33.1 There were none

33 (b) Written Questions

33.2 There were none

33 (c) Letters

33.3 There were none

33 (d) Notices of Motion

33.4 There were none

38 SCHOOL OFSTED PRESENTATION

38.1 Caroline Parker, Head of Service-Early Years Youth & Family Support and Mark Storey, Head of Education Standards & Achievement gave a brief overview of the recent results of the Ofsted inspections.

38.2 The Committee considered a brief presentation of Longhill school by Kay Williams and two pupils, Ellie and Charlie on the progress achieved in regards to the learning environment, new uniforms and behaviour. It was further stated that students had adopted a more mature approach while attending school and that there was more of a challenge in lessons, as a result, the differing levels of difficulty on offer had helped to nurture a more engaging environment.

38.3 Councillor Brown praised the positive work being achieved and congratulates members and staff for the outcomes following new processes in place.

38.4 Councillor Cattell emphasised the positivity of both students who attended the meeting to provide their overview.

- 38.5 Councillor O'Quinn welcomed the brief update by both pupils and congratulated Longhill School on its recent achievement.
- 38.6 Ms James welcomed the update and thanked the pupils for attending.
- 38.7 Councillor Phillips noted the excellent outcome achieved in a short space of time.
- 38.8 Mr Glazebrook requested further clarification on the number of BME school exclusions in the city.
- 38.9 Jo Lyons, Assistant Executive Director for Families, Children & Learning referred to the Hidden Children report and stated that many children were missing an education. She stated that data on BME was being looked at and included a range of strategies, dialogue and services supporting schools. It was noted that all vulnerable groups were being considered with a view to address various issues.
- 38.10 Pinaki Ghoshal, Executive Director for Families, Children & Learning congratulated Longhill School on their achievement.
- 38.11 **RESOLVED** – that the Committee agreed to note the presentation.

39 OVERVIEW OF AUTISM SUPPORT IN THE CITY AND PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE PROVISION

- 39.1 The Committee Considered a report of the Executive Director of Families, Children & Learning. The report was introduced by Georgina Clarke-Greene, Assistant Director Health SEN & Disabilities and provided an update on the increase in children and young people with ASC identified as their primary and secondary need. The committee was also informed of the recent developments in city-wide partnership work on Autism support for children and young people and their families and provided with a brief overview of future planned work including looking ahead to a refreshed Special Educational Needs and Disability strategy.
- 39.2 Councillor Brown enquired what was required to receive an Autism Awareness award. She further noted concerns regarding available spaces at the Dorothy Stringer Site.
- 39.3 Claire Bradley, Assistant Principle Educational Psychologist, outlined the course curriculum and stated that adjustments had been made to meet the needs of schools. She further stated that the SEN team had to look at how many children were coming through with different needs, it was noted that demand would increase.
- 39.4 The Chair asked that this be brought to Children, Young People & Skills Committee in future as well as the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 39.5 Ms Mortensen requested a brief overview on the progress of children with autism and enquired if the Callum Centres would affect people receiving a placement.
- 39.6 The Assistant Principle Educational Psychologist stated that there was a briefing for governors in February and noted that this was well received in schools. It was stated

that this was an effort to encourage schools to work together to address the issue of inconsistency drawn from research by the University of Sussex.

- 39.7 The Assistant Director Health SEN & Disabilities stated that a low number of schools had signed up for the Autism Awareness Awards. She further stated that efforts were being made to be able to provide local provisional care and keeping this locally.
- 39.8 Councillor Phillips referred to 7.3 and requested information regarding the PFI provider and what this meant in practice. She further enquired as to the how the challenge regarding Dorothy Stringer would be overcome.
- 39.9 The Assistant Executive Director of Families, Children & Learning stated that the process involved with building on a site was complex.
- 39.10 The Assistant Director Health SEN & Disabilities stated that investment was necessary in order to make savings, it was noted that savings would be invested in local provision.
- 39.11 Councillor O'Quinn requested clarification of any sites considered as well as Hove Park. Further clarification was requested in regards to the number of children that would be attending the programmes provided.
- 39.12 The Assistant Director Health SEN & Disabilities confirmed that the facility at Hove Park would have capacity for 20 people.
- 39.13 Councillor Allen enquired of the possibility of providing a Callum Centre at both Hove Park and Dorothy Stringer if Dorothy Stringer were in a position to move forward sooner.
- 39.14 The Assistant Director Health SEN & Disabilities stated that it was always the intention to have to sites at Hove Park. It was noted that the prospect of having a site at Dorothy Stringer was positive but not possible yet as it was not prepared.
- 39.15 Councillor Wealls referenced a letter from Dr Baker to the Executive Director of Families, Children & Learning, the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Trust. It was noted that the contents of the letter was critical as it contained details regarding particular systems failures in assessments. It was noted that a timely response had not been received and that it was not acceptable that a Councillor should have to negotiate for a response. It was stated that this report did not address any concerns brought from the Children with Autism Scrutiny and further stated that this should have received a formal response at this committee due to such a late response. It was further noted that very little feedback was received and the Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) ran the risk of being reliant on MASCOT for research.
- 39.16 The Chair clarified that there was a large amount of work had to be completed in order to respond to the letter. It was stated that there was a meeting to discuss this on the 27th November 2018 with evaluations to for a response due to be brought to Children, Young People & Skills Committee in February 2019.
- 39.17 The Assistant Director Health SEN & Disabilities confirmed that a meeting with the Doctor, MASCOT, AMAZE and others had taken place and that a second meeting was scheduled. It was emphasised that a strategic approach was being followed.

- 39.18 Mr Glazebrook confirmed that AMAZE had been awarded funding to help young people. It was stated that it was good to establish a baseline figure for children up to 20. It was enquired if anyone under 25 had been placed.
- 39.19 The Assistant Director Health SEN & Disabilities stated that this would be followed up on.
- 39.20 Ms Mortensen gave an example of system failure by way of a recent issue in which a family's son diagnosed with autism had been placed in a unit 300 miles away.
- 30.21 The Assistant Principal Educational Psychologist stated that efforts to work with partners on this were currently ongoing, it was noted that systems were evidence based and that health were looking to increase diagnoses in future.
- 30.22 Councillor Penn enquired as to what Councillors would be looking at next year following elections and how they would be able to question officers. Clarification was sought regarding what benchmarking data would be available.
- 30.23 The Assistant Director Health SEN & Disabilities stated that the SEND strategy was co-produced with stakeholders and was expected to report on the outcome measures through the SEND partnership board. It was noted that children interventions would also be looked at.
- 30.24 Ms James noted an issue regarding late diagnoses and enquired if there was another option available to Dorothy Stringer.
- 30.25 The Assistant Principal Educational Psychologist stated that issues surrounding diagnoses were linked to new developmental pathways being implemented to look at developmental service across all ages.
- 30.26 The Assistant Director Health SEN & Disabilities stated that a second site was challenging.
- 30.27 Councillor Taylor noted that PFI was a large impact on the tax payer and requested clarification of the process surrounding Dorothy Stringer's involvement and why not a school with greater resources capable of managing this. Confirmation was requested regarding effective modelling being implemented to mitigate any potential long term extra financial commitments.
- 30.28 The Assistant Director Families, Children and Learning stated that this was an issue of timing and that of the schools that responded, Dorothy Stringer was very positive and keen.
- 30.29 The Assistant Director Health SEN & Disabilities stated that some modelling had taken place in terms of ASE need and of the number of children currently at agency placements.
- 30.30 **RESOLVED** – that the Committee agreed:

- 1) To note the support for Autism work underway in the city to provide a commitment to the future planned work and to note that Autism would have a high profile within the refreshed SEND strategy in the next year
- 2) That the Committee authorised officers to progress the partnership with the National Autistic Society and Cullum Family Trust to create Cullum Centres at Dorothy Stringer and Hove Park School.

40 YOUTH GRANTS PRESENTATION

- 40.1 Dobbie Corbridge, Integrated Team for Families Manager, introduced a presentation on Youth Led Grants Programme. Young people's involvement within the framework was emphasised. The Committee considered a brief overview of the priorities and funding allocations brought about as a result of the engagement of Young People with the system. It was noted that the outcomes were of various projects under Mental Health, Positive Youth Activities, Alcohol and Substance Misuse; and Volunteering and Work Experience.
- 40.2 Councillor Penn emphasised her support of the programme and noted the positivity of this programme.
- 40.3 Councillor Brown thanked the young people involved and stated that she was looking forward to the outcome.
- 40.4 Mr Glazebrook enquired how the young people found the process.
- 40.5 The young people presenting the report gave various views of being involved and of the engagement in the process.
- 40.6 **RESOLVED** – that the committee agreed to note the update.

41 RE-ORGANISATION OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL PROVISION IN THE CITY - PROGRESS REPORT

- 41.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Families, Children & Learning. The report was introduced by the Assistant Director Health SEN & Disabilities and provided an overview of the progress in the first stage of implementation of the new special schools hubs in the city and to identify the next steps. It was noted that schools were involved and key in developing their own sites and that people had been successfully employed thus offering a range of support.
- 41.2 Ms Mortensen requested further clarification on the use of monies in relation to the extended day offer. She further enquired if there was an effort to reduce the number of children needing significant respite packages. A follow up on nursing provision was requested.
- 41.3 The Assistant Director Health SEN & Disabilities stated that this had been the focus of a focus group. It was noted that a respite packages may be needed and that work was being done to see how much nursing was needed to help.

- 41.4 Councillor Brown expressed her hope for a report on the outcomes to be brought to the Committee in future and congratulated the works being carried out at the moment.
- 41.5 The Executive Director Families, Children & Learning stated capital costs would be looked at and noted that this was a complicated process.
- 41.6 Councillor O'Quinn expressed her concerns regarding the uncertainty surrounding the preferred site and enquired if there was any further information on this.
- 41.7 The Executive Director Families, Children & Learning stated that there that different options would need to be looked at in regards in the long term. It was further stated that an early estimate followed by working through the list paying attention to various priorities was all part of the normal process.
- 41.8 Councillor Wealls praised the improved academic outcomes and enquired how this was going to be measured in regards to metrics and baselines. Further clarification in regards to the timeline surrounding the SEMH hub was sought.
- 41.9 The Assistant Director Families, Children & Learning stated that current measurements were of people's progress and that outcomes were needed to be looked at. It was further stated that exclusions and attendance would be studied and that early investment was necessary to meet high need. It was noted that a meeting with governors at Homewood was due to take place and the dialogue with relevant personnel in relation to the site was ongoing.
- 41.10 The Executive Director Families, Children & Learning stated that early investment in Homewood side followed visits and statistical information which warranted this.
- 41.11 Councillor Wealls requested a report be brought to Children, Young People & Skills Committee in future including measurement such as exclusions and attendance rates. Publication of KPI's were further requested.
- 41.12 The Assistant Director Families, Children & Learning welcomed a cross party group on this.
- 41.13 The Assistant Director Health SEN & Disabilities stated that there were individual targets to be measured against pupils. It was further stated that discussions had taken place to decide how individual progress would be measured.
- 41.14 **RESOLVED** – that the Committee noted the contents of the report.

42 LOCAL TRANSFORMATION PLAN 2018 REFRESH AND WAVE ONE TRAILBLAZER EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

- 42.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director for Families, Children & Learning. The report was introduced by (Gill Brooks, NHS.?) updating the Committee on the Children, Young People's Mental Health Local Transformation Plan refresh for 2018. The report also provided details on the expression of interest to be Wave One of Transforming Children and Young People's Mental Health Provision: A Green Paper (2017) 2019-2024.

- 42.2 Councillor Penn stated her concern regarding the lack of transparency surrounding severely delayed response times, an example of a child recently
- 42.3 Ms Brooks agreed that although a liaison team was present 7 days a week, it did not operate 24 hours a day.
- 42.4 Councillor Penn stated that according to a report last year a 24 hour 7 day response rate should have been in operation.
- 42.5 Ms Brooks stated that a crisis system had been piloted however this had not been made public and was not in operation 24 hours 7 days a week. It was stated that due to the infrequent occurrence, justification of a 24 hour 7 day service was difficult. It was further stated that some work had been done with a focus on vulnerable children. It was noted that resources had been placed in psychiatry and nursing.
- 42.6 Councillor Penn expressed further concern in regards to the lack of transparency on this.
- 42.7 The Executive Director Families, Children & Learning stated that in there was an early joint commissioning set to monitor arrangements. It was stated that through discussions with the CCG there were initial discussions on the wider work in Sussex.
- 42.8 Councillor Brown noted that the greatest concern was of children unable to access help. In reference to the noticeable prevalence of self-harm being higher than the national average, Councillor Brown enquired what was being done to address this.
- 42.9 Ms Brooks stated that a Needs Assessment was completed and published in March by public health which involved the process in broadening the scope of the definition of self-harm. It was noted that a trauma informed approach was adopted in dealing with children in need of help and that the situation stated by Councillor Penn was an example of how not to respond to that need.
- 42.10 Councillor Cattell noted data regarding children who developed abusive tendencies as a result of being a victim of domestic abuse and enquired if there was recognition of children who suffered from this.
- 42.11 The Executive Director Families, Children & Learning stated that the hub received daily data from police regarding all domestic engagements the evening prior.
- 42.12 Councillor Cattell noted that some families did not want to involve social services.
- 42.13 The Executive Director Families, Children & Learning stated that this was a fact finding issue with a focus on assessing who needed help and determining how this would be achieved.
- 42.14 Ms Brooks noted that CCG recognised the work the RISE carried out and that a trauma pathway had been developed across a range of partners. It was stated that triage work

was done via a mental health risk assessments and although child referrals were preventative; this would follow working with the family.

42.15 Councillor Cattell stated that RISE provided training to deal with trauma.

42.16 Councillor Allen enquired what the workforce consisted of and requested clarification of the workforce matrix. Further clarification was sought in relation to what extent BHCC depended on staff from the EU.

42.17 Ms Brooks stated that there was a requirement that each CCG produced a workforce strategy. It was noted that this was an overarching strategy for Kent and Sussex and that Brexit was among many issues being considered. It was clarified that the matrix would inform the action plan and gave a brief overview of different programs in place to build skills across various areas.

42.18 The Chair requested the document be circulated.

42.19 Mr Glazebrook gave an example of a young person attempting suicide following refusal of service over many months and highlighted the urgency of shorter waiting times.

42.20 Ms Brooks stated that she would follow up on this separately and noted the importance of collating cases where this had happened.

42.21 Ms Mortensen enquired what challenges were faced in developing the developmental pathway.

42.22 Ms Brooks stated high levels of engagement were needed with families and therapists.

42.23 Mr Cliff requested clarification on the plans to halve the waiting time for CAMHS.

42.24 Ms Brooks stated that this would be achieved with more resources and more specialist treatments. A brief overview of the decision making process was provided including various issues and methods of providing services.

42.25 **RESOLVED** – that the Committee noted the contents of the report.

43 ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL

43.1 There were none.

The meeting concluded at 19:00pm.

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of