

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

A meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board was held on 16 July 2019.

PRESENT: Councillors J Thompson (Chair); M Storey (Vice Chair); Councillors; Cooke, Coupe, Hellaoui, Higgins, Mawston, McTigue, Platt and Rathmell and Uddin

PRESENT BY INVITATION: Councillor S. Hill.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: J. Cain (Local Democracy Reporter)

OFFICERS: S. Bonner, D. Johnson and A. Pain.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Councillor C McIntyre.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None were declared at this point in the meeting.

1 ELECTION OF CHAIR OF OSB

Nominations were sought for the appointment of Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

Councillor Janet Thompson was nominated and seconded and, following a vote, appointed as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

AGREED that Councillor Janet Thompson was appointed as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

2 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR OF OSB

Nominations were sought for the appointment of Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

Councillor Matthew Storey was nominated, seconded, and after a vote, appointed as Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

AGREED that Councillor Matthew Storey was appointed as Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

3 MINUTES - OSB - 2 APRIL 2019

The Minutes from the meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Board on 2 April 2019 were accepted as a true record.

4 MINUTES - CALL IN - 4 APRIL 2019

The Minutes from the Call In meeting on 4 April 2019 were accepted as a true record.

5 FINAL REPORT – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL – MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS.

The former Chair of the Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel presented the Panel's Final Report in relation its review of Mental Health in Schools.

The former Chair of the Panel commented that the issue was wide ranging and been brought to the Panel's attention from a variety of sources, such as the media. The general trends, as highlighted in the report, revealed there was a considerable problem in Middlesbrough, which

had one of the highest proportions of secondary school aged pupils with social and emotional health needs in 2016.

The investigation was narrowed to examine the issues around schools and their capability to look after children with mental health needs. The Panel wanted to understand what was happening in schools and to look at areas of good practice.

There was now a greater responsibility on schools regarding children's mental health and schools were reaching a crisis point. Despite this, the Panel commended the positive work being undertaken by schools, with many demonstrating good practice in strengthening mental resilience. However, the Panel was concerned to realise that issues around mental health seemed to be on the increase and that schools were increasingly having to deal with issues that they were not equipped for.

The Panel felt it appropriate to write to the Secretaries of State for Education and Health and Social Care that conveyed the Panel's specific concerns about what was happening in Middlesbrough. While both letters received a response the Panel felt these were disappointing, despite acknowledging the problem.

One of the Panel's main concerns was that while there were plans to invest £2.3 billion for mental health by and ensure that an extra 245,000 children and young people would receive support by 2023/ 2024 this did not assist those affected in the intervening years.

A Member queried if the report discussed the impact Social Media played on the mental health of young people. It was confirmed that the report did not examine this issue specifically, however the Panel noted that emotional well-being, which was affected by Social Media, was an issue. It was acknowledged that this issues was a relatively new piece of research and while mentioned in the course of their investigation no specific research was undertaken on the matter.

It was also confirmed that this issue was raised in other forums, but it was difficult to find exacting correlations. It was suggested that schools could be invited to provide updates with regard to Social Media.

The Member commented that, due to a number of high profile cases of Social Media related suicides in the media, the issue of Social Media should be included in the final report.

A Member queried if the letter to the Secretary of State could be circulated to the Board. It was also commented that the number of schools participating in the investigation was disappointingly low.

The Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel recommended to the Executive:

- a) That the members of the Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel are informed of the outcome of the trailblazer bid.
- b) That local data collection processes are reviewed, and a measurement tool is developed, to gather data/information across all schools and services to report prevalence figures for mental health needs in children and young people and the effectiveness of provision.
- c) That data is collected and reported on an annual basis, in respect of children and young people's mental health, to establish an overview of the needs of local children and determine trends, identify effective practice and highlight any gaps in provision.
- d) That members of the Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel are informed of the progress made with establishing the free school for pupils with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs.
- e) That the vital training, outreach work and alternative provision provided by Holmwood School continues and receives further investment.

- f) That, as current alternative provision places are being utilised to support those with high-level SEMH and learning difficulties, additional places are commissioned from Holmwood School that specifically offer preventative/early intervention support to those with low-level needs.
- g) That all schools are made aware of the support and expertise offered by Holmwood School.
- h) That, in respect of the prevention/early intervention support (currently provided by HeadStart) and therapeutic services (currently provided by Reach) accessed by schools, the Local Authority works directly with schools and the local health service to:
- evaluate current provision
 - determine an alternative delivery model;
 - allocate future funding; and
 - address capacity issues that are causing delays in pupils receiving vital external support in a timely manner.
- i) That collaborative working between public health and schools is further enhanced to:
- assist in ensuring that access to services is continuously reviewed to meet demand; and
 - enable school staff to receive support, expertise and advice from public health professionals.
- j) That a marketing campaign is developed in respect of the Middlesbrough Psychology Service to promote and publicise the key features of the service.
- k) That work is undertaken to:
- ensure that all schools are aware of the CAMHS crisis service; and
 - encourage schools to access CAMHS training, which aims to create effective multi-agency working and improve outcomes for children and young people.
- l) That research is conducted to determine whether those cases not accepted into treatment by CAMHS have been assigned appropriately to low-level support, or whether it is later determined that the child or young person requires specialist CAMHS. Upon completion, there is a need to analyse findings, report outcomes and determine trends to establish whether future improvements to working practices are required.
- m) That all schools are invited to become involved with the work being undertaken to examine the CAMHS referral process and referral criteria.
- n) That, to improve/develop a multi-agency response to children's and young people's mental health, work continues to provide an integrated pathway of support by introducing:
- a single referral route for schools; and
 - joint assessments between key workers, school nurses and CAMHS.
- o) That, with the reconfiguration of local health services:
- specific support is commissioned to improve the mental health, wellbeing and resilience of vulnerable families; and
 - the impact of parents' and carers' difficulties on children is considered and strongly embedded in practice.
- p) That all schools are encouraged to:
- seek support, advice and guidance from the Parenting Support Coordinator; and
 - improve engagement with parents and families by appointing designated and accessible staff and developing a parental engagement policy.

q) That the Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel writes to the Secretary of State for Education and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to:

- convey concerns associated with bids and limited funding; and
- request funding for targeted and specialist services, which is not time-limited.

r) That, to reduce financial pressures, schools consider collectively commissioning specialist support for pupils with mental health needs.

s) That a comprehensive directory is developed, which:

- is designed specifically for schools;
- includes the range of effective, evidence-based local services and support that have been proven to work and demonstrate best practice; and
- details the organisations that can provide universal, targeted and specialist services.

t) That, to encourage parental engagement, arrangements are put in place to hold CAMHS appointments in school settings.

u) That school-based CAMHS clinicians are introduced in all of Middlesbrough's schools to:

- improve efficiency of referrals to external, specialist mental health support;
- build strong relationships with the schools by integrating with the school's culture and developing an understanding of each school's needs;
- equip schools to better support their pupils internally;
- assist in developing school provision; and
- develop positive relationships with parents/carers.

ORDERED:

1. **That the findings and recommendations of the Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel be endorsed and referred to the Executive.**
2. **That the letter to the Secretaries of State for Education and Health and Social Care be circulated to the Board**
3. **That the Democratic Services Officer for the Panel discuss possible inclusion of Social Media as an issue in the final report.**

6 **FINAL REPORT – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIAL CARE AND SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL – EARLY HELP AND PREVENTION SERVICES.**

The former Chair and Vice Chair of the Children and Young People's Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel presented the Panel's Final Report in relation its review of Early Help and Prevention Services.

It was commented that the early help system was in put into place to try and mitigate the need for children to go into the care system. It was commented that the staff in this area worked extremely hard, and due to the nature of the work they undertake, often encountered challenges.

Recommendation 3 in the report highlighted that Councillors should, where possible, take the opportunity to go out on site visits. The Panel members did this as part of their investigation and witnessed how multi-faceted the environment was.

It was also commented that early help work was not restricted to areas with high levels of deprivation and many of the issues crossed societal boundaries.

It was also commented that Middlesbrough's Children's Centres achieved good outcomes with Ofsted noting they successfully established, and maintained, links with families which enabled early help and prevention services to deliver effective services over the longer term.

The former Chair and Vice Chair wished to convey their gratitude to the Panel and to the Panel's Democratic Services Officer for the hard work carried out.

The Children and Young People's Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel recommended to the Executive:

1. That a letter be sent to the Secretary of State for Education making representations in relation to the potential future funding gap in children's social care outlining its concerns that the good work currently ongoing in Middlesbrough to support the early help agenda could be jeopardised should there be further cuts to children's social care funding which may impact on funding being shifted from early help provision to crisis intervention.
2. That the work undertaken by the Middlesbrough Voluntary Development Agency (MVDA) and Stronger Families, to raise awareness of organisations within the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) that are able to support the early help agenda, be continued and further developed in conjunction with key partners to strengthen the early help offer and that information relating to those VCS organisations able to provide support be shared with all relevant partners and all Elected Members to increase awareness of available resources.
3. The Panel considers Ward Councillors to be well-placed within the community to communicate with residents, having knowledge of the local area, people and issues. It is, therefore, recommended that Ward Councillors be included in any consultations, linked to early help provision, taking place within their wards. It is further recommended that such consultation should include delivery of awareness-raising sessions for Elected Members where appropriate, including a programme of Children's Centre site visits and family casework visits to be rolled out to all Elected Members to assist in raising awareness of early help issues within Members' own Wards and across the town.
4. That the ongoing work of the Headstart Programme be continued, involving Elected Members where appropriate, and that Headstart's current achievements be promoted via a range of appropriate means (eg Council's website, Love Middlesbrough magazine, community hubs, libraries, GP surgeries, etc).
5. The Panel commends the achievements of the Work Readiness Team to reduce the numbers of young people who are NEET and recommends that work be undertaken with appropriate partners to address the rise in post-18 unemployment.
6. That the School Readiness Team works with all primary schools in Middlesbrough to establish an appropriate method of recording and monitoring data long-term, in order to assess the impact of all interventions delivered at a school readiness level. This will also assist in identifying the initiatives that work well from a school readiness perspective to ensure that successful interventions are continued and/or improved where appropriate.
7. Universal services provided at the Children's Centre sites should be better publicised to encourage take up and that this be monitored. This should include encouraging engagement in appropriate services by dads as well as mums.
8. That the work already undertaken by Stronger Families with the Ethnic Minority Achievement Team (EMAT), be built on in order to provide translation, where required, and to make literature available in different languages, to ensure that those from minority groups are aware of the services available and how to access them. Data to assess progress to be monitored and recorded.
9. Further work be undertaken to encourage take up of Achieving Two-Year-Olds (A2YO) places, for those that are eligible, providing parents/carers with advice and information on the benefits of taking up the provision and that further work be undertaken with primary schools in Middlesbrough to encourage provision of A2YO places in schools. An appropriate target should be set by the Service Area to achieve this aim.
10. The Panel is reassured that ways of improving data sharing and analysis between

Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (HDFT) and early help services is currently being explored. The Panel supports this course of action and requests that it be kept updated on progress.

11. The Panel supports the establishment of the South Tees Multi Agency Children's Hub (STMACH) and is reassured that appropriate information sharing agreements are in place enabling all partners in the Hub to access all relevant information. The Panel requests that it be provided with an update on progress in the next six to 12 months.
12. The Panel supports continued 'working together' approaches to early help and considers that current work should be developed with key partners and communities (involving Ward Councillors) through Empower - the Council's Social Regeneration Strategy; particularly where gaps in provision are identified, such as befriending support and youth provision.
13. The Panel supports the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) pilot and would like to see similar work to that undertaken with pupils at Abingdon Primary school, rolled out across all schools in Middlesbrough to raise awareness amongst children and young people of who to go to/where to go for help.
14. The Panel advocates the introduction of School Family Practitioners working across all schools in Middlesbrough to lead on the early help offer available to pupils and their families where there is an identified need. The Panel supports the continuation of the posts and requests that the impact of such posts be recorded and monitored.
15. The Panel recognises the increase in the number of referrals to other organisations for early help support and requests that a robust recording and monitoring system is in place, with oversight, review and assessment, as appropriate, by the Council.

ORDERED: That the conclusions and recommendations of the Children and Young People's Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel be endorsed and referred to the Executive.

7 **FINAL REPORT – CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL – WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR.**

In the absence of the Chair of the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel, the Democratic Services Officer provided an outline of the work surrounding the report. The panel undertook a short investigative review to consider the working relationship the Council had with the Voluntary and Community sector.

The panel received evidence over 2 meetings from Mark Davies, Chief Executive of the Middlesbrough Voluntary Development Agency (MVDA), Adam Allen, Director of Culture, Communities and Communications along with Martin Harvey, Community Infrastructure Manager.

The panel were made aware of an extensive consultation exercise carried out by MVDA in 2016 and a resulting Executive report approved in 2017. Nevertheless, the Panel wished to carry out an assurance review into existing and planned works. Further information was outlined in the report.

The Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel recommended to the Executive:

1. That the Council and MVDA continue to work to existing plans to ensure that future working relationships between the Council and MVDA will continue to be strengthened.

ORDERED: That the conclusions and recommendations of the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel be endorsed and referred to the Executive.

8 **FINAL REPORT - CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL- MIDDLESBROUGH**

COMMUNITY LEARNING: EMPLOYABILITY.

In the absence of the Chair of the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel, the Democratic Services Officer provided an outline of the work surrounding the report.

Due to the rise in unemployment across the region, the panel were keen to examine Middlesbrough Community Learning and what was offered to individuals to help them gain employment.

Whilst the panel was aware of other training providers across the Town, the investigation looked specifically at its in-house services.

The Panel learned of 3 projects:

1. Adult Education Budget- adult skills and community learning
2. Youth Employment Initiative
3. Routes to work

The Panel received evidence from officers involved in the projects, as well as participants on the schemes and the Managing Director of SAVVY hair and beauty.

It was clear from the outcomes and feedback that the schemes were extremely successful and the Panel praised all those involved, as it provided life- long skills and strengthened community cohesion.

The Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel recommended to the Executive:

1. That the Panel receive an update on the progress made within Adult Skills and Community Learning in 6 months' time. The Panel would be keen to learn more good practice in Middlesbrough in relation to partnership working/ positive outcomes.
2. In terms of the Youth Employment Initiative, the panel is keen to develop closer working relationship with Middlesbrough College, with this in mind, the Panel recommend that YEI be provided with one single point of contact within the STEM centre for learner referrals to courses.
3. That the Routes to Work project be added to Middlesbrough Council's Armed Forces Directory and information on the project be passed to the transition service.
4. That the panel receive a further update on the Routes to Work project in 6 months' time, with regard to the number of participants since staff recruitment and success stories.

ORDERED: That the findings and recommendations of the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel be endorsed and referred to the Executive.

9

EXECUTIVE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Chief Executive submitted a report which identified the forthcoming issues to be considered by the Executive as outlined in Appendix A to the report.

The report provided the Overview and Scrutiny Board with the opportunity to consider whether any item contained within the Executive Forward Work Programme should be considered by the Board or referred to a Scrutiny Panel.

The Democratic Services Officer advised the Board of the nature of the Forward Work Programme and that it was a standing item on OSB's agenda.

ORDERED:- That the information provided be noted.

10 **SCRUTINY PANEL PROGRESS REPORT**

The Democratic Services Officer explained to the Board that this was a standing item and involved Scrutiny Panel Chair providing updates to the Board on their activities since the last meeting of OSB.

The Chair of the Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel advised the Board that the Panel had received an overview of the Growth and Place Department and about the various issues facing the department. The Panel would be selecting the topics for its work programme at its next meeting.

The Democratic Services Officer advised the Board that the work programmes for individual Panel's will be considered at the September meeting of OSB.

ORDERED: That the information provided to the Board be noted.

11 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chair raised the possibility of changing the dates and times of the meeting, and advised the Board to submit their recommendations to the Democratic Services Officer.

ORDERED: That Members submit their recommendations for meeting dates and times to the Democratic Services Officer.