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## **KIRKLEES COUNCIL**

### **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**Monday 28th November 2016**

- Present: Councillor Julie Stewart-Turner (Chair)  
Councillor Cahal Burke  
Councillor Gulfam Asif  
Councillor Ken Sims  
Fatima Khan-Shah (Statutory Scrutiny Co-Optee)
- Apologies: Councillor Elizabeth Smaje, Lead Member for the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel
- In attendance: Councillor Erin Hill, Cabinet Member - Family Support & Child Protection  
Carly Speechley, Assistant Director - Family Support & Child Protection  
Helen Kilroy, Principal Government and Democratic Engagement Officer  
Penny Bunker, Governance and Democratic Engagement Manager  
Councillor Elizabeth Smaje, Lead Member for the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel

#### **51 Membership of Committee**

All Members of the Committee were present.

#### **52 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 7 November 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

#### **53 Interests**

Cllr Gulfam Asif declared an other interest as a member of the Locala Member Forum (Agenda Item 5)

Fatima Khan-Shah declared an other interest in Agenda Item 5, Health and Social Care Scrutiny Work Programme, as a member of the Governing Body for North Kirklees Clinical Commissioning Group.

**54 Admission of the Public**

**RESOLVED** - All items were considered in public session.

**55 Health & Social Care Scrutiny Panel Work Programme**

Helen Kilroy, Principal Governance & Democratic Engagement Officer attended the Committee Meeting to provide an update on the progress in delivering the work programme of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel.

Ms Kilroy drew the Panel's attention to the following areas of work:

- Care Quality Commission – The Panel met with the Inspector to discuss the quality of provision of care homes in Kirklees and would continue to monitor progress.
- Kirklees Sustainability and Transformation Plan – Considered in October 2016, including presentations on a consultation called Talk Health Kirklees which outlined plans to reduce costs and provide better value for NHS spending. Further discussions to be held in December 2016.
- Podiatry Proposals – To consider proposals affecting the Huddersfield area which are subject to consultation. The Panel suggested amendments to the Consultation and would consider whether the proposed changes constituted a significant variation to service.
- Yorkshire Ambulance Service – The Panel has been looking at the Transformation Programme and implications for staffing and services. The issue will return to the Panel early in 2017.

The Committee thanked Helen Kilroy for the update on the work programme and acknowledged that there was a significant amount of change within Health and Social Care which had resulted in a very big work programme for the Scrutiny Panel. Cllr Ken Sims welcomed the work with Yorkshire Ambulance Service and identified the particular concerns within rural communities about reductions in service.

Cllr Asif identified work to be done by the Panel on the Healthy Child Programme and said it was difficult for ward members to identify all the funding streams that were available which might help with work in wards in promoting healthy lifestyles. Helen Kilroy undertook to try and find out further information or contact details and forward those to Cllr Asif. Cllr Stewart-Turner noted the work programme item on the procurement of the Whitehouse Centre and asked whether there were any implications for the work undertaken at Clare House.

The Committee continued to receive a brief update on the work of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees. It was noted that the Calderdale and Huddersfield Committee had made its recommendations to the Clinical Commissioning Groups and in October 2016 the Joint Governing Bodies had agreed to proceed to full business case with the proposals. The Scrutiny Committee had met to consider the response and had concerns so would be moving into a

reconciliation phase of work to try to resolve the areas of concern. The Committee would be meeting again in February 2017.

The West Yorkshire Committee had received a presentation on the West Yorkshire and Harrogate Sustainability and Transformation Plan. One of the significant themes within the plan was the future for stroke services with a planned reduction in the current five units.

The Mid-Yorkshire Hospitals Trust was continuing to implement its change programme and the JOHSC had been considering the benefits an acceleration in implementation time scales.

Cllr Stewart-Turner mentioned the recent press articles concerning health checks on new mothers by phone rather than having a face-to-face appointment with a Health Practitioner. Cllr Stewart-Turner was concerned that the service continued to operate within NICE guidelines. Helen Kilroy undertook to commission a briefing note on the issue.

**RESOLVED –**

(1) That the progress made in delivering the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel Work Programme be noted

(2) That the Governance Officer progress the issues raised concerning the Healthy Child Programme and the 3 month Post-natal Check-up Policy.

**56 Update on the Work of the CSE Panel and the Corporate Parenting Board**

The Committee met with Cllr Erin Hill, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Family Support and Child Protection and Carly Speechley, Assistant Director – Family Support and Child Protection to receive an update on the work of the Child Sexual Exploitation and Safeguarding Member Panel and the Corporate Parenting Board. The Management Committee had received copies of the Minutes of meetings of both Panels. Given the recent Ofsted Inspection Cllr Erin Hill also outlined the implications for the Panels as a result of the Ofsted findings.

Cllr Hill indicated that the CSE Panel had been having difficulties concerning access to appropriate data. Work had been ongoing to improve and target data and Cllr Hill reported that it was improving in a way that the Councillors, as non-professionals, could understand better the position within Kirklees. Information now included a written narrative as well as graphs and charts to show trends and current positions across a number of key performance areas. The improvements have led to a broader and more informed discussion, with Councillors being able to better identify implications and seek further details where appropriate.

The Panel had also been looking at partnership working with the Police including CSE and children who are missing. The Panel looked at the new matrix mapping work and received a comprehensive briefing on cyber-crime. It was recognised that

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this was a global challenge. West Yorkshire Police were working with international agencies to support work in Kirklees.

The CSE Panel had also been focussing on missing children and at its next meeting would be looking at children in alternative education provision and how the Council works with them to make sure that they do not 'fall through a gap' because they are less visible than children in mainstream schools. The Council has no legal right to see home schooled children so developing effective relationships is very important.

The Management Committee quantified the number of Home Schooled Children which Cllr Hill said was within the 30s.

Councillor Hill advised the Management Committee that Ofsted had specifically praised the existence of the CSE and Safeguarding Member Panel and had not seen one in any other authority. It was identified as a positive way of improving the 'political line of sight' of key CSE issues. The commitment of the Panel members was noted and it was recognised as an important part of the improvement journey.

In considering the update on the CSE and Safeguarding Member Panel the Committee sought further clarification on how the mapping matrix worked. Councillor Hill advised that it was a mechanism that helped to map known risk and then triangulate the information to support work to stop contacts taking place. Ofsted had identified the risk of not spotting potential victims at an early opportunity as an area for improvement. The mapping looked at areas and groups at risk. Social Workers and the Police would then work on raising awareness around CSE including what to look for and reporting etc. The aim was to help get one step ahead of potential perpetrators.

The Committee reflected on why CSE was a significant issue at this time and Cllr Hill emphasised that CSE was not a new issue however the approach to identifying and dealing with Child Sexual Exploitation had changed. It was suggested that previously there was a culture of victim blaming. The CSE Panel had met with PACE, a voluntary sector organisation that worked with victims of CSE and had heard of cases that previously had not been investigated but with the change in approach were now being picked up. This had inevitably increased demand on Social Workers and Child Protection staff and increased the number of Looked After Children.

Cllr Sims commented on the difficulties that some Councillors had experienced in raising issues. He expressed concerns about morale within social work teams and asked how that would be addressed going forward. Cllr Hill responded by saying that there was a major concern about ensuring that staff were clear on expectations and provided with the support to do a good job. As Portfolio Holder she was committed to ensuring that those staff who wanted to work to good practice standards received the support to remain working within Kirklees. Carley Speechley supported this by saying that the service was investing heavily in work force development and practice support. It was important that Social Workers were made to feel valued and that there was a move away from a blame culture to a culture of corporate support to learn and move forward.

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There followed a discussion on the cost of improvement and the impacts of a significant number of agency staff on development work. It was acknowledged that the workforce strategy meant that the Council wanted to move towards continuity of staff in order to develop consistent relationships.

The Committee explored the work going on within Schools to ensure that there was information for children but also for parents and carers. Cllr Hill indicated that initially the primary school sector had been reluctant and concerned that the age group of the children was too young for such advice. However, training was ongoing within primary schools about what is a safe relationship.

Fatima Khan-Shah asked how the local authority was working with madrassahs and mosques as part of the no child out of sight campaign. Cllr Hill indicated that there was a mixed picture across Kirklees with good engagement with some madrassahs and mosques but on going work to ensure that appropriate DBS checks were in place.

The Committee looked in more detail at what constituted a child going missing and learned that in respect of social care it could be something as simple as a child deciding to stay with a friend, or being late back from a shopping trip. However, there were clearly some cases where it was important to understand why a child had gone missing and having a return interview with an independent person was considered appropriate. However, it was a challenge to do such interviews in a meaningful way within the prescribed timescale of 48 hours.

The Committee continued to discuss out of area placements for Looked after Children and Cllr Hill recognised there were too many out of area placements and the Council needed to look to develop more places within Kirklees. However, in some cases it was important to ensure that the young person was outside of Kirklees for safeguarding reasons.

Cllr Hill continued to provide an update on the Corporate Parenting Board. Cllr Hill indicated that there were some areas of overlap regarding Looked After Children and safeguarding and that as Chair of both Panels she was trying to avoid duplication. The major area of focus was ensuring that the child's voice was heard by the Board. The Board was looking at its ambition and refreshing the strategy in order to better plan the areas of focus. It was considered important to ensure that young people are integrated into the work of the Board but in a more innovative and appropriate way than just having a young person attend Board meetings.

The Committee suggested that elected members wanted to know more about the work of the Board but also to better understand their role as corporate parents. Cllr Hill acknowledged there would need to be a new training programme to identify what members need to know and how to be a good corporate parent. Cllr Sims expressed concerns about liability and pointed to the Rotherham case where Councillors were held responsible.

Cllr Asif identified safeguarding training that had been part of induction which had lasted approximately 2 hours. It was suggested that perhaps a longer weekend session would be more appropriate.

Cllr Asif continued to suggest that at this time Councillors should be supporting the work of social care. It was important that such issues were not used for party political purposes and demoralising staff. It was appropriate to move forward and learn lessons.

**RESOLVED -**

(1) That Cllr Erin Hill and Carly Speechley be thanked for attending the Committee meeting to provide an update on the work of the Corporate Parenting Board and the Child Sexual Exploitation and Safeguarding Member Panel.

(2) The Panel welcomed the comments of Ofsted in relation to the Council's approach to establishing the CSE and Safeguarding Member Panel to ensure political oversight of the issues.

(3) That the Cabinet Portfolio Holder give consideration to the comments of Management Committee regarding Members understanding of Safeguarding issues and Safeguarding Training.

**57 Date of Next Meeting/ OSMC Work Programme**

The Management Committee noted that its next meeting would be held on Friday 6 January 2017 and would be followed at 12.30pm by a session with Co-optees, to which all members of the Committee were invited.

The Management Committee continued to consider its forward agenda plan and noted that there were items to be added in relation to policy work.

**RESOLVED -**

(1) That the next meeting of the Committee be held on 6 January 2017, to be followed by a Co-optee session to which all members of the Management Committee are invited.

(2) That the forward agenda plan be noted and the agreed policy issues be included as soon as possible.