

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, 6 December 2018

PRESENT: Councillor B Oliphant (Chair)
Councillor(s): M Hall, B Clelland, S Craig, L Kirton, E McMaster, R Mullen, P Craig, M Ord, C McHugh and R Oxberry

APOLOGIES: Councillor(s): L Caffrey, K McCartney, S Ronchetti, C Davison, D Bradford, C Buckley, N Weatherley, Maveen Pereira and Jill Burrell

F84 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

F85 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 6 November 2018 were agreed as a correct record.

F86 THE COUNCIL PLAN - SIX MONTHLY ASSESSMENT AND PERFORMANCE DELIVERY 2018-19

The Committee received a report and presentation on the six month update of performance and delivery for the period 1 April 2018 to 30 September 2018 in relation to the Council's Thrive agenda for the indicators and activity linked to children and young people.

The report provided a performance overview linked to the 29 strategic indicators for children and families which currently fall under the three pledges of "*Put people and families at the heart of everything we do*", "*Tackle inequality so people have a fair chance*" and "*Work together and fight for a better future for Gateshead*".

Putting people and families at the heart of everything we do

The Committee were advised that in the latest period improvements in 6 indicators have been demonstrated, 2 have remained the same and 3 have declined.

Improvements noted in number of eligible 2 year olds accessing free early learning places, levels of development at age 5, key stage 1 and 2 attainment in reading, writing and mathematics.

Declined performance in the proposition of children offered preferred primary school place (remained the same for secondary) and attainment and progress 8 scores at key stage 4.

Achievements, Challenges and Actions were outlined as follows:

- Permanent exclusions for the 17/18 academic year have continued to decline and work continues to work effectively and in partnership with schools to implement the Behaviour Action Plan.
- Enhanced pre-diagnosis support for parents of children showing challenging behaviour, by introducing a parent/carer support pathway for those with a child

- undergoing assessment for ADHD and/or autism
- Plans underway to embed the 'This is Me' tool for identifying and recording the voice of the child in casework

Tackle Inequality so people have a fair chance

The Committee were advised that in the latest period performance has improved for 5 indicators, 1 has remained the same and 5 have declined.

Improvements noted in the attainment 8 and progress 8 scores for disadvantaged pupils, progress 8 scores for children with SEN support, number of families engaged with Troubled Families, excess weight for 10-11 year olds and % of children low income families (in poverty)

Declined performance in progress 8 scores at key stage 4 for LAC and those subject to a EHCP, overall NEET figure for those aged 16-18 % of mother smoking at time of delivery and excess weight in 4-5 year olds.

Achievements, Challenges and Actions were outlined as follows:

- Early help have introduced new Practice Standards and guidance on what 'good' looks like for CAF assessments and support plans, to improve the quality of practice and impact with families
- Improvements have been made with timelines for the completion of Education, Health and Care plans (EHCP), meaning families will benefit from receiving support earlier, first 6 months performance stands at 99% - a considerable improvement
- The LAC and YP service has been restructured to improve service delivery through improved management arrangements and increased capacity within the Personal Assistant (PA) team to work directly with young people
- Work is underway to embed the Enhanced Case Management (ECM) model and Adverse Childhood Experience (ACEs) research into every day practice in the Youth Offending Team (and the wider group)
- Focus is continuing on improving the quality of the pathway plans for care leavers, and making all plans outcome focused, smart by working with other local authorities to assess and develop practice in this area

Work together and fight for a better future for Gateshead

The Committee were advised that in the latest period performance has improved for 4 indicators, and 3 have declined.

Improvements were noted in the number of first time entrants to the youth justice system and use of custodial sentences for 10-18 year olds. A reduction in the number of 10-24 year olds admitted to hospital for self harm. And the numbers of Care Leavers in EET.

Decline in performance noted in an increase in the number of children who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan, a slight reduction in the proportion of care leavers in suitable accommodation and the number of young carers offered support.

Achievements, Challenges and Actions were outlined as follows:

- Working with Education colleagues the pilot phase of the Team Around the School (TAS) model in Whickham School has been completed. Evaluation of

outcomes has been completed and recommendations are being considered for wider rollout

- The Domestic Abuse Team was established from 1 August 2018 following a review of previous Domestic Abuse service within the Local Authority. The outcome of the review was to bring together Domestic Abuse workers from across the Council into a cohesive team working with medium to high risk victims of domestic abuse.
- Work is now being undertaken to consider how the Domestic Abuse team can work more effectively with partner agencies to deliver the best possible outcomes for those affected by Domestic Abuse in Gateshead. With an aim to align delivery with relevant organisations to avoid duplication and maximise the impact of available resources.
- Children and Families service audited 22 children on repeat CP Plans and as a result processes and procedures were reviewed and measures taken to mitigate against repeat CP Plans. These included changes to the procedure for discontinuing CP Plans at the 4 month review and ensuring consistency of IROs when a family comes back to ICPC to avoid 'starting again', which is better for partners and families.

Update on actions from previous reports

Achievements were outlined as follows:

- Work to embed the Early Help model and development of evidence based interventions continue.
- Business support workflow and electronic case recording developed for Rapid Response and Child with Complex Needs teams which is helping to evidence impact and savings to the local authority.
- The Regulation 44 visit recording system is now live and information is now being reported into the Children and Families Performance Clinic.
- IRAT – Integration and interface with identified service areas has taken place
- The pilot phase of the Team Around the School (TAS) model has ended and evaluation exercise completed
- Supported accommodation for young people and care leavers new service model has been developed, commissioned and is now in place
- Ongoing work were outlined as follows:
- SEND Service review complete which has enhanced the support available to meet statutory deadlines for EHCPs. Linked to this as part of our work across the group to reconfigure the CIN offer, a review of Children with Disabilities team is now underway, to ensure a seamless support offer and achieve the best possible outcomes for this vulnerable group.

On Hold

- Committee were also advised that Alternative Education Offer – SEND and Post 16 – agreed to be put on hold and review in January 2019.

- RESOLVED -
- i) That the information be noted
 - ii) The Committee were satisfied that the activities undertaken during April 2018 to September 2018 were achieving the desired outcomes in making Gateshead a place where everyone thrives.

- iii) The Committee felt that the format of future reports were satisfactory and more easier to consider and looked forward to receiving future reports in due course.

F87

OSC REVIEW OF OBESITY (ACROSS THE LIFE COURSE) - EVIDENCE GATHERING

The Committee received the evidence gathering report as part of the OSC's review into the Review of Healthy Weight (across the life course).

The scoping report agreed by OSC on 14 June 2017 described the complexity of the obesity agenda and that:

- The evidence base suggests that in order to tackle obesity effectively an approach that involves the whole system is needed.
- Consideration of factors influencing the healthy weight agenda that can be tackled by joint working across a number of areas need to be part of the solution, the local authority is uniquely positioned to take this forward.
- Successfully tackling obesity is a long term, large scale commitment. The current prevalence of obesity in the population has been at least 30 years in the making. This will take time to reverse and it is reported that it will be at least 30 years before reductions in the associated diseases are seen.
- The evidence is very clear that policies aimed solely at individuals will be inadequate and will not suffice to reverse this trend. Significant effective action to prevent obesity at a population level is required.
- Identifying opportunities to disrupt the current system, which involves identifying the most likely and productive areas of activity in the local system where Gateshead Council and its partners can take action.

The Committee received a presentation from Beverly Oliver, Health and Wellbeing Programme Lead, Public Health England which outlined the national context and provided the Committee with an update of key actions from the recently published 'second chapter of the childhood obesity plan' (including a focus on sugar reduction, advertising and promotion and energy drinks etc). The implications of the plan for local authority areas, including high impact areas for focus were also outlined.

The presentation also provided an update from a national perspective on the learning that is emerging from the whole system LA pilot sites. What emergent learning can be transferred from local practices and tried and tested methods as part of the pilot. What can Gateshead take forward from this approach. The next steps of the programme of work was also outlined and an outline of new and emergent work at a national level to inform future practice in Gateshead.

The Committee also received a presentation from Emma Gibson, Programme Lead in Public Health, Gateshead Council which outlines an update of actions and progress in terms of the healthy weight agenda in Gateshead and the implications in terms of the national perspective.

The Committee considered the following:

- Childhood Obesity: a plan for action chapter 2 outlines the actions the Government will take towards its goal of halving childhood obesity and reducing the gap in obesity between children from the most and least deprived areas by 2030. The plan aims to be ambitious in the actions outlined.
- The whole systems approach to obesity was introduced to help local authorities

deliver co-ordinated actions involving partners across the system. This is an emerging programme of work and is being led by the Local Government Association (LGA) and Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) to develop the programme.

The Committee were advised that for children in particular:

- Obesity rates are highest for children from the most deprived areas. Children aged 5 and from the poorest income groups are twice as likely to be obese compared to their most well-off counterparts and by the age of 11 they are three times as likely.
- In the UK, one in 10 children start school obese, this is enough to fill London's Olympic Stadium four times over.
- Of those children who are obese at preschool age, research suggests that between 26% and 41% will go on to be obese in adulthood.
- Studies have shown that a child with at least one obese parent is more likely to be obese themselves in adulthood.
- By the time children reach Year 6, Gateshead has one of the highest rates of excess weight levels in the North East (36.8%). This compares to a national rate of 32.3% and a regional rate of 27.5%
- The Year 6 for children obesity prevalence, this is highest in London (23.15%), North East (22.8%) and the West Midlands (22.5%)

- RESOLVED -
- i) That the information be noted.
 - ii) The Committee were happy with the approach and content of the review as set out in the report and presentation.

F88

PROVISION OF SCHOOL MEALS - UNIVERSAL CREDIT

The Committee received a report providing information on the process in place for schools to claim funding to provide a discretionary school meal following the roll out of Universal Credit in Gateshead. The Schools Forum agreed that Dedicated Schools Grant reserves could be used for this purpose whilst reserves could be used for this purpose whilst reserves are available.

At present, anyone in receipt of Universal Credit is entitled to free school meal (FSM), this includes people who would formally have only applied for Working Tax Credit, or both Child and Working Tax Credit and who are not presently eligible for FSM. Therefore, there is likely to be an increase in the number of pupils who may be eligible for FSM.

Department for Education (DfE) have advised that anyone who has applied for a benefit but not yet been awarded it, is NOT eligible for FSM. This applies to universal credit claimants even where they may be waiting for 6 to 8 weeks for their entitlement to be confirmed.

Due to the hardship the rollout of Universal Credit can cause some families officers, on the direction of Schools Forum have developed a process and procedure to fund schools to provide a Discretionary School Meal (DSM) for those children of households that have applied for Universal Credit, but not yet been awarded.

Forum approved the use of DSG reserves to fund DSM at £2.55 per meal taken during the 8 week period or until the household is either awarded or denied Universal Credit. The process was appended to the report for Committee's information.

RESOLVED - i) That the information be noted.

F89 TACKLING THE TOXIC TRIO - CASE STUDY

The Committee received a report which set out a current case which is open to a social worker in the Safeguarding and Care Planning Service. It follows the story of two children and describes the intervention of Children's Social Care in the children's lives. It seeks to inform the OSC about the impact of parental mental health, drug misuse and domestic abuse on the lives of children that are safeguarded in Gateshead.

Committee asked for further details to be provided including a total time line of the families' involvement with professionals and requested that further details be brought back to a future meeting.

- RESOLVED -
- i) That the information be noted.
 - ii) That further details be provided to Committee in relation to the Toxic Trio.
 - iii) That a further report be brought back to Committee in due course.

F90 WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received the Work Programme report which sets out the provisional programme for the Committee for the year 2018/19.

RESOLVED - The Committee noted the contents of the Work Programme report and appendix

Chair.....