

ITEM 04

Time commenced – 6.00pm
Time finished – 7.15pm

Children and Young People Scrutiny Review Board 9 September 2019

Present: Councillor Lind (Chair)
Councillors Hezelgrave, Hussain, Kus, Pattison and Testro
Co-optees – Steve Grundy, Nicky Fenton, Chris Hulse

In Attendance: Abdul Siddiqi, Youth Mayor
Pauline Anderson, Interim Director Learning and Skills
Suanne Lim– Service Director for Early Help and Children's
Social Care

09/19 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Andy Smith, Strategic Director Peoples Services, Cllr McCristal

10/19 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were none.

11/19 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

12/19 Minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

13/19 Monitoring Safeguarding Practice

The Board considered a report which gave an update on the progress made against the recommendations of the Joint Targeted Agency Inspection (JTAI) undertaken in March 2019.

The Board noted that between 18 and 22 March 2019, Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission, HMI Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services and HMI Probation carried out a joint inspection of the multi-agency response to abuse and neglect in Derby. The Inspection included a "deep dive" focus on the response to child sexual abuse in the family environment. It also included an evaluation of the "front door" which receives referrals about children who may be in need or at risk of significant harm. In Derby City all enquiries or concerns about children are progressed through the local authority First Contact Team, which works alongside the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH).

The Board noted the evidence of positive and safe practice found which was outlined in the report at paragraph 4.3. Areas for improvement were also identified in paragraph 4.4.

The officer outlined the improvements that had been implemented which included:

- A strategic review of the Front Door processes since the inspection to redesign the multi-agency involvement in the first contact team.
- The implementation of an electronic referral form in May 2019 to the standardise the information needed to enable the first contact team to make swift and informed decisions
- The domestic triage system has been reviewed and improvement made to the decision making processes to reduce delay.
- The completion of single assessments within social care which was at 64% and has improved to 93% within timescale.

The officer confirmed that in respect of monitoring safeguarding practice, since the March 2017 Ofsted Inspections quarterly Quality Targeted audits and visits have been undertaken.

The Board noted that governance arrangement for monitoring safeguarding practice is extensive and collectively as a system there is a robust approach which has been firmly embedded. There was a monthly Assured Safeguarding Meeting where information on caseload and throughput was presented. The meeting was attended by the Chief Executive of the Council and the Independent Chair of the Children's Safeguarding Board. Underneath there are monthly Children and Young People Improvement Board meetings.

The Officer reported that in respect of safeguarding pressures all children's early help and social care services have experienced a steady increase in demand over the past three years. Members asked how the increase in demand compared with other local authorities. The officer confirmed that nationally all local authorities had seen a rise in demand this was evidenced by the information collated annually by the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS). Members queried whether there was likely to be further increases in demand. The officer confirmed that the current system cannot sustain the same amount of increase in demand over the next 3 years. The Board noted that reviews of services had been undertaken to try and future proof. Early Help Services are currently under review to monitor age groups being dealt with, currently more young adults are seeking help. Any intervention for children and young people should be short and meaningful and end at the appropriate time to prevent drift and delay.

Members noted that recruitment and retention of social workers continues to be a priority. Derby have had success in reducing agency social workers over the past 12 months to an all-time low of 12. Members acknowledged the success in reducing agency social workers and asked if anything different had been done to achieve it. The officer outlined some initiatives including a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that had been signed 2 years ago with neighbouring local

authorities which capped the ceiling rate for Agency Workers. Members noted that training pathways had also been put in place for unqualified social work staff to progress to become qualified social workers. The Members of the Board commended the saving in expenditure made and asked whether all full time posts were now full. The officer confirmed that Agency Social Workers provided cover for some vacant posts as well as sickness and maternity leave.

Resolved

- 1. To note the actions being taken to make improvements and challenge process**

14/19 Off Rolling in Derby Schools

The Board received a presentation which gave an update on Off Rolling in Derby Schools. The Board noted that Off-rolling is the practice of removing a pupil from the school roll without a formal, permanent exclusion or by encouraging a parent to remove their child from the school roll, when the removal is primarily in the interests of the school rather than in the best interests of the pupil.

The officer reported that the analysis was of pupils that did not progress from Year 10 to Year 11 in the same state-funded section school based on the information returned by the school in the Spring Census. Those pupils no longer on the census in Year 11 were then matched to the National Pupil Database to establish if they appeared on an out of area school roll.

The officer confirmed that "Off Rolling of pupils in schools" would be examined under the new Ofsted Inspection Framework.

Members were concerned that two Derby schools were highlighted in the presentation for off rolling the highest number of pupils and queried whether these schools would gain from training with other more successful schools on how to better manage the situation. They queried whether Derby Schools understand the seriousness of the effect of off rolling on pupils. The officer confirmed that the local authority will be communicating with school governors, headteachers of all Derby Schools, as well as the Regional Schools Commissioner. Members noted that the information in the presentation would be shared with schools as a group.

Members also raised concerns regarding parents who had a low understanding of the system and were unaware of the help available for children affected by the process of off-rolling. The members asked if it would be possible for SENDIASS to go into schools to assist parents. The officer confirmed that work may be undertaken to focus on a particular school to trial this form of support. They would also be looking at providing standard letters and a helpline to assist parents who are under pressure of off rolling of their children by schools.

Members queried if a child with SEND were off rolled would any work as to the nature of the children's needs be undertaken. The officer confirmed that Derby schools have a good Peer Review set up, schools lead reviews, headteachers and SENCOs review each others schools looking at differences in practices

between schools.

Members also discussed the issues of children missing education (CME) being a vulnerable group of children and their possible involvement in "County Lines". The officer confirmed that there was continual work with the Director of Early Help and Children's Social Care to ensure that these vulnerable children do not enter the Criminal Justice System. Members were concerned that the school should be making the authority aware of the children as they could also have health needs that were not being met. The officer confirmed that if children are missing the local authority would make every effort to find them. Members asked if any follow up work was undertaken with CME children to look at their issues. The officer confirmed that Mental Health First Aiders are in place in schools.

Members of the Board recommended that the information contained in the presentation on off rolling be circulated to all Derby City School Governing Bodies as there is a need to hold Headteachers and their senior management team to account and make steps to change the culture of approach to off-rolling in schools. Governors need to have the fullest information available on off-rolling in the context of the school and City as a whole. Members requested an update report on off-rolling be back to a future CYP Scrutiny meeting.

Resolved

- 1. To consider the presentation**
- 2. To make any further comments or recommendations following discussions on the presentation received**
- 3. That an update report be brought back to CYP Scrutiny**
- 4. That the information contained in the presentation on off rolling be circulated to all Derby City School Governing Bodies to give them the fullest information available in context of school and the whole City.**

15/19 Overview of Derby Youth Offending Service

The officer updated the Board by a presentation which outlined the progress made by Derby Youth Offending Service against the "Areas for Improvement" identified in the HMIP Full Inspection 2018. The Board noted that Derby was the first local area to be inspected under this framework. The HMIP Inspection Report was published in August 2018 with areas for improvement identified. A presentation was brought to this Scrutiny Board in October 2018 on the findings by HMIP. The officer reported that there were 3 Inspection Criteria:

Organisational Delivery

Staff previously did not have access to aggregated performance information. The Board noted that quarterly case internal audits are now undertaken and an overview of results are now shared with all YOS practitioners. A report of these results are now also shared with practitioners whose cases are audited as well as a detailed feedback on areas of strength and development.

Staff sickness absence, although well managed caused disruption to casework,

reallocation caused gaps in practice oversight, for example reviewing the effectiveness of work with a child or young person. The Board noted that work has taken place in terms of controlling the sickness situation. Training and adherence to policies was put in place. Return to Work Interviews are being undertaken by managers.

Post-Court Cases

Planning and reviewing of risk of harm factors were variable

Safety and wellbeing of children and young people and risk of harm to victims were sometimes underestimated

The officer confirmed that work has been undertaken in terms of training staff to improve YOS practitioner competence in Risk and Safety assessment and management. The YOS High Risk Strategy has been reviewed in December 2018, further reviews have taken place since then in February and April

Out of Court Disposal

This area was one that needed the most improvement. HMIP style Case Audits are now completed quarterly. There are significant improvements in the quality of assessment and planning in Out of Court Disposals which can be evidenced through the Audit completed on work done in the 6 months post inspection. Councillors queried the self auditing activity and were interested to know whether any external auditing had taken place to give third party validation of results. Officers confirmed that no external parties were involved currently in the auditing process but that this could be built into the next set of audits. The officer advised that various Panels and management oversight had been put in place to ensure all checks and decision making is tied to the needs of the child and risk that presents. In the area of planning and service delivery, there were more forums and Pre Court panels chaired by YOS Manager and supported by specialists to consider the whole family holistically and plan provision of services from YOS and partner agencies in the voluntary and statutory sectors.

The Board also considered a report which advised on the performance by the Derby Youth Offending Service (YOS) against:

- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation Improvement Plan 2018-19
- Key Performance indicators of first time entrants, re-offending and use of custody.

The Board noted that the number of First Time Entrants in Derby city has seen a reduction over the past 4 years of over 37%, and over the past 4 quarters of over 16%. The current Derby City total (at the end of 2018-19) is 82, which is a reduction of over 4% on the previous period. Officers reported that over the past 4 years and over the last 4 periods it was clear that the figures are slowly decreasing. But in relation to the PNC rate per 100,000 young people Derby is the second highest comparator in their family group and are above the family average

The officer highlighted the measures put in place over the past 12 months to reduce the number of First Time Entrants:

- Access for prevention services to mentoring services for young people at risk of offending
- Robust arrangements are in place for delivery of the Out of Court disposals clinic (assessed as outstanding by HMIP in 2018)

The Board noted that the custody rate for Derby City per 1,000 young people has been steadily decreasing over the past 4 years with over a 50% reduction. Over the last 2 quarters of 2018-19, the rolling 12 month figure has shown a minor increase from 0.41 to 0.65.

Members were concerned at the higher rates for custody and queried whether there is uniformity of approach for every Court in the country. Officers confirmed that the Magistrates guidelines are national but that there is discretion within that. Derby has one of the highest rates for children in custody. However, Members noted that work was being undertaken with Magistrates, they were invited to Youth Panels and an Open Event recently took place for Magistrates to visit the Youth Offending Service. Also that the quality of reports going to Courts are being monitored.

The Board were concerned that the report provided was difficult to follow the tables of data in the report showed a 12 month period whilst the narrative referred to the 4 year trend.

Resolved

To note and offer comment on progress made against all areas of key performance monitoring required by the youth offending service.

16/19 Work Programme and Topic Review 2019/20

The Board considered a report which allowed the Board to study its Terms of Reference and Remit for the forthcoming Municipal Year. The report set out key work areas, issues and potential topic review subjects within the service areas for discussion or inclusion in the work programme.

The Board agreed the work programme set out in appendix 1 to the report.

The considered possible Topic Reviews for CYP Scrutiny. A short summary on child obesity was discussed by the Board. It was agreed not to undertake a topic review on child obesity but if feasible a Councillor representative should attend the Boards and Groups highlighted in the summary and feedback to the CYP Scrutiny Board at the March meeting.

The Board discussed the possibility of a Topic Review on SEND but further discussion on the focus of the review would be needed, however it was felt it would be beneficial if it was related to the recent Ofsted and CQC Report.

Resolved

- 1. To approve the work programme set out in appendix 1 to the report.**

MINUTES END