

# ITEM 4

Time commenced – 6.00pm  
Time finished – 8.00pm

## **Children and Young People Scrutiny Review Board** Monday 25 February 2019

Present: Councillor Russell (Chair)  
Councillors Ashburner, Harwood, Hezelgrave, Hussain, Keith and Willoughby  
Co-optees - Steve Grundy, Chris Hulse and Nicky Fenton.

In Attendance: Frederico Almeida, Youth Mayor  
New Youth Mayor  
New Deputy Youth Mayor  
Pauline Anderson, Acting Director of Learning and Skills  
Suanne Lim, Director of Integrated Services  
Alison Wynn, Assistant Director of Public Health  
Donna Brooks, Head of Service - Integrated Services  
Lindsay Stephens – Democratic Services Officer

### 36/18 Apologies for Absence

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

### 37/18 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were none.

### 38/18 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

### 39/18 Minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2018 were agreed as a correct record.

### 40/18 Work Programme

The Board received a report of the Chief Executive proposing a revised work programme for the Children and Young People Scrutiny Review Board, following consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair.

**The Board resolved to agree the work programme for the 2018/19 municipal year.**

### 41/18 Topic Review – Child Poverty in Derby

The Chair introduced Alison Wynn, Assistant Director of Public Health, to provide evidence to members, as part of the Board's topic review of Child Poverty in Derby.

It was reported that reducing the number of children who experience poverty will improve health outcomes, reduce early death and increase healthy life expectancy. The Board noted that there are 9 children living in poverty for every 30 children in a classroom

The Board noted that evidence shows that childhood poverty is linked to premature mortality and poor health outcomes for adults. Children living in poverty are more likely to have poor physical health, experience mental health problems, low sense of well being, underachieve at school, experience employment difficulties in adult life, experience social deprivation, feel unsafe and experience stigma and bullying at schools

It was stated that children in disadvantaged families are more likely to die in infancy, suffer acute infections, experience mental ill health, develop chronic conditions in childhood. The impacts on physical and mental health are lifelong – higher rates of arthritis, high blood pressure, respiratory illness and depression, among others, in later life.

The Board noted that children growing up in poverty have a higher risk of death in adulthood, including mortality from stomach cancer, lung cancer, stroke, coronary heart disease and respiratory-related deaths, accidents, and alcohol-related causes of death. They are over three times more likely to suffer from mental health problems compared to their more affluent peers.

It was noted that Derby has a lower life expectancy than the England average which is for males 79.6 years, females 83.1 years. In Derby it is 78.5 years for males and 82.9 years for females. The England average healthy life expectancy for males is 63.4 years, for females it is 63.8 years. In Derby it is 60.7 years for males and 60.2 years for females.

It was reported that the gap in life expectancy between the poorest and the most affluent areas of the city for males is 9 years, healthy life expectancy is 18.7 years. For females life expectancy is 8 years, whereas healthy life expectancy is 19.2 years.

It was stated that infant mortality is strongly linked to poverty and material deprivation. Babies born with a low birth weight are also at greater risk of dying in the first year of life. Infant mortality rates are significantly higher in Derby (6.2 per 1,000 live births, approximately 20 babies each year), compared to national (3.9) and regional (4.2) rates. It was noted that Derby's infant mortality rate is getting worse.

The Board noted that infant mortality has a strong link to low birth weight babies, which in turn is linked to smoking and poor nutrition of parents. Children have a higher rate of hospitalisation, growth issues, more frequent periods of being unwell, learning problems and developmental delays.

It was stated that rates of infant mortality are much higher in cases of teenage pregnancy and it increases risk of low birthweight. Teenage mothers are three times more likely to suffer post-natal depression, experience poor mental health for up to three years after the birth, and live in poverty themselves.

The Board noted that poverty limits children's potential and development, leading to poor health and life chances in adulthood. It impacts on the things that promote health and wellbeing, both physical and emotional, including our most basic needs. Public Health promote healthy diet but conditions children are living in make this impossible to achieve.

The Board heard that children growing up in wealthy households are more likely to have access to the building blocks which generate good educational outcomes, employability and an adequate income to support families of their own. Children growing up in poverty and disadvantage are at a greater risk of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) which are traumatic events occurring in childhood that have a lasting negative impact on individuals health outcomes, behaviours and life potential

The Board noted that contributing events for ACEs can include domestic violence, parental abandonment, bullying in schools and being the victim of abuse. The consequences include heavy drinking and use of drugs violence and imprisonment, poor diet, daily smoking, unintended teenage pregnancy, suicide.

It was reported that young people and their families in poverty are likely to be living in poorer quality housing and living conditions. Cold damp homes worsen the experience of diseases, for example cardiovascular and respiratory, as well as mental health. Children living in overcrowded homes are up to 10 times more likely to contract meningitis, develop respiratory problems and slow growth

The Board noted that by the age of three, children from more disadvantaged backgrounds are estimated to be nine months behind children from more wealthy backgrounds which impacts on their school readiness. Poverty can impact on academic achievement and poorer prospects in adulthood. It is also strongly linked with mental health and wellbeing and poorer lifestyle choices, which in turn can be associated with a decline in financial circumstances.

It was reported that the East Midlands is the worst region in the country for social mobility for those from disadvantaged backgrounds with the worst outcomes for disadvantaged children being during early years, school and youth life stages.

The Board noted that children in poverty may experience barriers in accessing social and sporting activities through issues of availability, location, transport and cost. Poorer neighbourhoods may also have a lack of safe playgrounds and parks nearby, as a result of exposure to individuals involved in substance misuse and violence.

It was stated that studies have shown that the experience of having low socio – economic status in childhood is associated with poor health in adulthoods, largely due to harmful habitual behaviours, such as smoking, maintaining a sedentary lifestyle, poor dietary habits and excessive drinking.

The Board noted that obesity is linked to a range of long-term conditions; the

biggest issues both locally and nationally are diabetes, cancer, premature mortality. There is a strong link between obesity and child poverty. Some 23% of children aged 10 – 11 years in Derby are obese, significantly worse than the national average.

It was reported that family composition and poverty are strong determinants of mental ill health in children and young people. In surveying school children in Derby, one of their biggest worries impacting on their mental health is associated with home life out of their control eg, parents being out of work, in the process of separation or substance misuse. Up to 20% of young people will experience mental illness in households with no working parent.

The Board noted that people living in some of England's poorest communities are nearly two and a half times more likely than their better-off neighbours to have a preventable emergency admission to hospital.

It was stated that Voices In Action were asked why they thought mental health issues are growing young people and they had responded:

- Money - poverty, lack of funding for services
- Pressure – exams; unstable family life, being at the best school, fear of failure, attention seeking, behaviour and emotion, life more complicated.
- Technology: internet to self diagnose, social media, online bullying

It was stated that poverty is bad for health and wellbeing, there is a strong relationship between poverty and physical and mental wellbeing. There is a complex relationship between a wide range of factors – lack of ability to thrive. Poverty is an enduring cycle – which is difficult to break.

Councillors queried whether the figures were for England or the whole of UK; officers confirmed it was England, there were real problems in Wales, which we have not seen. Councillors had heard evidence from various professionals. Members of the board were asked to start to think about recommendations that they might want to be included in the report being prepared by Democratic Services, ie what specific interventions the Council would be asked to undertake.

It was stated that Adverse Child Experience is a part of longer term Public Health strategy, with training being rolled out for Social Workers and Early Help practitioners, focusing on addressing specific vulnerabilities as listed above.. If intervention was put in place now around those risks it would help those individuals resilience in later life. .

#### **Topic Review: evidence provided by Public Health**

**The Board resolved to note the evidence provided by Public Health in order to inform the development of recommendations at the conclusion of the Topic Review.**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of People Services in relation to Educational Outcomes 2018.

The Board noted that results in almost every measurable test or assessment outcome have improved in 2018. This builds on significant improvements in recent years. The DfE Opportunity Area project has brought in considerable funding for schools to improve in reading, writing and maths in primary schools, as well as maths and English in secondary schools. The programmes will continue until 2020 and sustainability beyond the programmes is under discussion.

It was noted that the Strategic School Improvement Fund is now closed but Derby schools have received approximately £2m from this DfE initiative.

The Board noted the results listed in the report for:

- Early Years – a real success story Derby is now ranked 134<sup>th</sup> out of 152 LAs in this indicator (up one place on last year)
- KS1 – Year 1 and 2 Phonics – 82% of Derby Year 1 pupils met the required standard (a rise of 2% on last year). This is compared to a national percentage of 82% (up 1% on last year). This is the first time that Derby has reached the national average.
- KS1 – Assessments, the improvements in early years outcomes and Y1 phonics are now having a positive impact on teaching and achievement overall
- KS2 – Test Results – improvements but Derby has a legacy of lower standards.
- KS4 – GCSE Results – will take longer to see improvements for both KS2 and KS4. The percentage of students achieving a strong pass in English and Maths had slipped slightly. Nationally Derby had dropped by 4 places in the national ranking to 121<sup>st</sup>. However, the percentage of students achieving a standard pass in English and Mathematics has improved by 0.9% to 59.2%. Derby has improved by 3 places in the national ranking to 125<sup>th</sup>.
- KS5 – A Level Results – a large improvement. Our comparator ranking has improved by 2 places to 9<sup>th</sup> and our national ranking has improved by 23 places to 110<sup>th</sup>.
- English as an Additional Language (EAL) – gap narrowing, 3<sup>rd</sup> year in programme of training teachers to teach pupils who are new to the English language

The Board noted the number of other school improvement programmes in place across the city.

- English as an Additional Language (EAL)
- Mental Health in Schools
- Targeted support for vulnerable groups of pupils
- Family engagement
- Special Educational needs peer challenges in schools
- Read Write Inc. literacy programme
- Support for transition from primary to secondary school

The Board were concerned that Derby was one of the worst areas in the country in terms of social mobility, they felt that Opportunity Areas funding should be used to support improvements/opportunities in KS4 and KS5. The Board requested regular updates on Opportunity Areas funding and would like to have more information on where the funding was being invested. The Board also requested information on attainment linked to ethnicity. It was confirmed that officers would circulate as a separate document.

The Board commended the improvements in results but queried whether they had taken a toll on teachers, were they having to work too hard to achieve these results. Officers confirmed that Derby was not different in terms of recruitment to other parts of the country. The Board noted that good schools support their staff and are led well. Members noted that the new Ofsted framework was focusing on the broader curriculum rather than just results.

The Board queried how leadership had improved in Derby Schools. Officers confirmed that over the last 3 years a lot of intervention and support had taken place in schools by the Local Authority. As a result improvements had taken place in schools; there had also been changes of head teachers and governors where appropriate. Officers stated that Derby will see more schools improving in the future as a result of local authority intervention and support.

The Board noted the results which they felt would give job satisfaction to teaching staff. However, it was noted that Unions have asked for the Work Life Balance of teachers to be looked at as a priority. Members noted the recent publication of a report by National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) regarding Teacher Recruitment and Work Life Balance.

The Board discussed the situation of Academy Schools and how they are falling behind and are not addressing pupil issues. The Board noted that the Local Authority does not have the power to intervene in Academy Schools. However Derby takes a strong and robust approach in meeting with the Heads of Academy schools if there are issues. The LA has written to the Regional Schools Commissioner recommending either a change of school leadership or a move to a different Trust if appropriate. The Board noted that the majority of Derby's schools are Academies and those in the poorer areas are the most challenging.

The Board discussed Ofsted involvement, officers confirmed that there had been a recent change in attitudes Ofsted who had realised that the system had been promoting the wrong behaviour by allowing illegal off rolling of pupils (where schools move difficult-to-teach pupils off their rolls to boost performance data). The Board noted that a new Ofsted framework was currently being piloted and

that one school had been inspected in Derby

**The Board resolved**

- 1. To note the 2018 results**
- 2. To note the Opportunity Area Project funding and school improvement activity**
- 3. That regular updates on Opportunity Area funding be circulated to them**
- 4. That information on pupil attainment linked to ethnicity be provided to the Board.**
- 5. To agree the partnership led approach to school improvement and note the strategies in place for 2018-19**

**43/18 Derby Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report 2017-2018**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of People Services presenting the annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements across Derby City for the financial year April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

It was reported that the work of the Derby Safeguarding Children's Board (DSCB) continues to be critical in improving outcomes for children, young people and their families.

The Board noted that the DSCB had identified four priority areas:

- Neglect and Early Help
- Domestic Violence
- Vulnerable Young People (including CSE)
- New and Emerging Communities

The Board noted that the DSCB has been scrutinising the work of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). MASH includes social care, police and health staff co-located to assess promptly the domestic violence referrals and identify priority action to be taken. The Quality Assurance sub group received assurance of the effectiveness of the arrangements carried out in December 2017. The Board noted that the DSCB is absolutely independent; if they find fault with work they are duty bound to publish their findings.

The report includes clear recommendations which support collaborative working across the partnership to ensure that those living and working in Derby are assured of how well local services and people in the community are working together to keep children safe.

The Board noted the extent of partnership working and information sharing between the Social Workers, Police, Health and Education, also the speed of which interviews are now conducted, which was really encouraging.

Councillors raised concerns regarding the funding of the Troubled Families initiative coming to an end in 2020. They queried whether the programme would be delivered in a different way. Officers confirmed that staff had been incorporated into the Youth Offending Services amongst others. These staff would still be focusing on key areas but their caseloads would increase due to staff reductions. Officers confirmed that Derby City Council was committed to the programme.

Councillors were concerned that the number of children living in poverty has increased this has an impact on parents raising children. They asked if the issues of parents mental health was being examined. Officers confirmed that the Troubled Families service are looking at mental health holistically. People with mental health are likely to be homeless and more vulnerable to Child Sexual Exploitation. Members noted that the more information that we can obtain on children and parents the more we are able to provide the right services to help.

Councillors noted that the Troubled Families initiative was launched with a fanfare, 120,000 families were identified. If those families could be turned round then there would be a slow down of people coming through. Officers confirmed that they know the people they have dealt with, these people have changed their direction of travel a large percentage have not come back into the services. There was a need to track the families we have worked with rather than across the broader spectrum of total population. Councillors requested a short report so that the Board can see the results of the work and how successful it has been. Officers will circulate to the Board via email.

Councillors were concerned as to what part Children's Centres play in Safeguarding. Officers confirmed that Children's Centres are part of the bigger picture, they are a part of the Early Help offer for early intervention and prevention. There are various stages of services designed to provide different levels of protection, the services help stop issues escalating. Councillors noted that Children's Centres are a very valuable part of the service and should not be reduced.

Councillors queried the figure of 1,000 cases closed during the year which was the same as the number closed in 2016-17. Officers confirmed that this figure was a coincidence and that it had been checked for accuracy a number of times.

**The Board resolved:**

- **To note the report and the work of the Derby Safeguarding Children's Board**
- **The Board suggested testimonies and voice of the child would be welcomed in future annual reports**
- **To request a report on the Troubled Families Initiative to see the results of the work and how successful it has been.**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of People Services presenting the annual report which evidences the effectiveness of arrangements to address Child Sexual Exploitation in the local area. The annual report provides evidence of the work of the Vulnerable Young People Sub Group of the Derby Safeguarding Children Board for the financial year 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

The Derby Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) report provides strong evidence of the work which has been undertaken across the multi-agency partnership to safeguard children from harm. Over this reporting period the partnership has proved yet again that they are able to prioritise this work through a strong strategy and CSE action plan.

It was reported that the DSCB provide a range of courses for professionals across the city. There were 12 CSE specific courses workshops run and 204 professionals were trained. Derby is aware that children should be protected wherever they are, including licensed premises or vehicles. Adults who are licensed or working in these establishments receive awareness training to ensure they are aware of the risks to children and that they know how to refer concerns. The Police Licensing Team have also focused on contacting hotels and B&Bs linked to safeguarding reports. The team have visited 30 hotels in the last year. They have also begun to work with partners on an extension of the Pub Watch Scheme, called Hotel Watch, which will become an early warning system and method of sharing information amongst licensed premises about people who pose a risk to children or have attempted to book a room and been refused a service. The Early Help Teams have been proactive in raising awareness of CSE in schools and youth settings. Members noted that every Early Help and Social Care Team has a CSE champion and manager responsible for ensuring staff are consistently reviewing thresholds and are aware of new and emerging trends. The Board noted that CSE terminology was evolving as more was understood about exploitation and will evolve to become known as Criminal Related Exploitation. Part of the narrative change is to recognise wider aspects of exploitation including knife crime, County Lines and Modern Slavery which all forms a part of exploitation. Members agreed that it was good to take account of new forms of exploitation and they were pleased to see that the voice of the child had been recorded in the report.

**The Board resolved to note the Child Sexual Exploitation report and the work of the partnership**

## 45/18 Early Help Annual Report 2017-2018

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of People Services presenting the annual report which evidences the effectiveness and impact of Early Help Services during 2017 to 2018.

It was reported that Derby has a range of Early Help services available across the City, including Multi Agency Teams (MAT's) who are co-located with Social Care Teams in an integrated locality based model. The MATs are complemented by Children's Centres as part of a broader Early Help offer.

The Board noted that case loads have slightly reduced following the revised Early Help Offer but direct contacts have increased.

#### Response to 2017/2018 Action Plan

- Agreed measures for schools work drawn up
- Increased number of Early Help Assessments completed across the city
- IAPT/systemic interventions delivered (working with young people who may be anxious/worried)
- Safe Families for Children contract renewed and delivered.
- Controlling Migration Bid successful a team was appointed in July 2018
- Full delivery of offer to schools in place.
- Good use of voice of the child tools evident in Early Help.
- Good compliance with supervision policy by Early Help managers
- Increase in Early Help staff having completed Graded Care Profile and neglect training however no significant increase in use evident
- Private Fostering Champions in each Locality, workshops and meetings regularly attended
- Delay in improvements to organisation of files on the Liquid Logic Children's computer System (LCS).

The Board noted the details on the external funding secured for the establishment of an Early Help New Arrivals Team. The team supports families who are newly arrived to Derby from outside of the UK, with an emphasis on helping parents to understand their rights and responsibilities in the UK and intervening early in order to support families at the earliest point.

The Board queried whether there were problems with spoken English. Officers confirmed that this varies: in the main officers are working with families who have been in the UK for less than 12 months. Councillors also queried what finance was available from either the central Government or other resources. Officers confirmed that:

- Asylum Seekers were funded by central government.
- Failed Asylum Seekers had no access to public funds but their children would be supported by the Council.
- Economic Migrants – families need to be in the country for 6 months
- Families have been supported to return to their country of origin, the Council does not have any obligation to support them.

**The Board resolved to note the current position in relation to the effectiveness of Early Help arrangements.**

**The Board suggested testimonies and voice of the child would be welcomed in future annual reports**

MINUTES END