

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

8 NOVEMBER 2016

Present: Councillor Richard Cook (Chairperson), Councillors Boyle, Chaundy, Gordon, Joyce, Murphy, Dianne Rees and Lynda Thorne

Co-opted Members: Karen Dell'Armi (Parent Governor Representative)

31 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Patricia Arlotte and Carol Cobert.

32 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Boyle declared a personal interest in agenda items 4 and 5 on the basis that he has family members with autism and is a trustee of Halycon Charity which provides autism support services and worked with Cwm Taff Health Board.

33 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Children & Young People Committee on 18 October 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

34 : CHILD & ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE (CAMHS)

The Chairperson welcomed Rosemary Whittle, Head of Operations and Delivery Community Child Health Directorate and Dr Tracy Gardiner, Clinical Director CAMHS Network to the meeting to provide a briefing and update on the CAMHS services as provided by Cardiff and Vale University Health Service, in particular the following elements of that service:

- Emotional Wellbeing Service (EWS);
- Primary Mental Health Services (incorporating Mental Health Measure – Part 1);
- Neurodevelopmental Service (NDS);
- Secondary CAMHS (Cwm Taf provider).

The Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members:

- Members queried whether there is enough support from other organisations to deal with the early intervention and support those with milder needs and were advised that there is a lot of collaborative work with 3rd sector organisations. However, it was accepted that stress, anxiety and emotional upset in young people is an ever-growing issue with children and it is important to intervene at the right time. A map providing information as to who and what service to contact would be of benefit.

Members were advised that it is believed that it is the number of children rather than gaps in provision which need to be addressed. There had been concerns that the EWS would be overwhelmed, and it is fair to say that there

are still some potential gaps in the referral, assessment and support process for early years. The Health Board is trying, through its planning process, to identify those gaps and feed them into the next planning stage

- Members were advised that there was a specific tendering process prior to Change, Grow Live being commissioned, they are a national organisation involved in substance misuse and emotional wellbeing based in Cardiff.
- Members were advised that the point of the EWS was to try and avoid the stigmatisation of children and young people by allowing them to self-refer or for schools to refer. Further with EWS the policy is that there is 'no wrong door' as there can be discussions about other routes/services available.
- Members raised concern that the telephone number provided to contact the team during the night time was the Switch Board at UHW and queried whether there should be a dedicated phone number. Officers advised that the Crisis Team could be contacted via UHW if it was a serious crisis, if not EWS would endeavour to contact the young person as soon as possible however, did feel that it should be considered further.
- Members were advised that the extra funding from the Health Board and Welsh Government was permanent.
- Members queried the figure of 596 referrals to the NDS since 1 June and were advised that that was an accurate figure. Previously the numbers may not have been clear as all referrals went directly to Community Paediatrics. Members expressed concerns regarding capacity bearing in mind numbers, and officers advised that whilst a small team, there is still the Community Child Health Team providing team. Collaborative support is very necessary.
- Members were advised that it is clear that the diagnosis process should be shorter, and it is anticipated that when a child is involved with different teams, all information should be collated and should be available for the Consultant at the time of the meeting with the child.
- Members requested information as to how many of the 596 referrals would be from GP's and how many from the schools. Officers advised that the majority of the referrals are from GP's, however regardless of where the referral comes from the school is always contacted. Officers also advised that both the NDS and PMH Coordinator are based at St David's and can always be contacted.

AGREED – That the Chairperson on behalf of the Committee writes to the Head of Operations and Delivery Community Child Health Directorate thanking them for attending the meeting and convey the observations of the Committee when discussing the way forward.

35 : CHILD HEALTH AND DISABILITY (CHAD) PLAN UPDATE

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Sue Lent (Cabinet Member, Early Years & Families and Deputy Leader, Tony Young (Director Social Services), Rosemary Whittle (Head of Operations and Delivery Community Child Health Directorate), Eve

Williams (Integrated Operational Change Manager across Cardiff and The Vale) and Amy Reed (Team Manager, Child Health and Disability Team) to the meeting.

The Chairperson invited the Cabinet Member to make a statement in which she praised the developments made against the CHAD plan, in particular the Disability Index; the Newsletter which is sent to parents to keep them updated on the various issues once they are on the Index; that the team were now based in County Hall with the other teams within Children's Services; the emphasis on transition for disabled Children; and the changes in eligibility.

The Director emphasised that the new Disability Futures Programme has provided the platform for transforming the services provided for disabled children and for adults with complex needs and that the other key issue is the new stability in operational delivery in the CHAD team

Eve Williams presented the report.

The Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members:

- Members queried the various methods of communication the disabled children and their families, as it had been raised as an issue previously. Officers were advised that the Disability Index is in its infancy, parents are encouraged to register their children. As part of the design of the service some small focus groups are being run as a starting point. The co-location in Ty Gwyn and having a Social Worker presence at the school has helped communication with families. There has also been feedback from the respite care at Ty Storrie.
- Members asked where there were any targets for ensuring that families signed up to the index and were advised that the target was based on the Vale index. It would assume that the percentages would be similar. New models to engage with families are being tried, the Child Care Team being co-located at Ty Gwyn and the newsletter are all helping although the full impact of those are not yet known. The positive approach to being on the register is being promoted.
- Members expressed concerned about the potential gaps in knowledge in relation to diagnosis, support and outcomes and were advised that there is a lot of work currently ongoing to put in place mechanisms to plug the gaps, although there is still work to be done. In setting up the integrated autism service there has been conversation about having one system/one approach with maps, which would deal with diagnosis, interventions thereafter and finally outcomes, with all the information being held on one place.
- Members noted the progress to the implementation of the overnight short stay service model at Ty Storrie, and queried whether enough use is being made of that. Officers advised there is a waiting list and that demand is managed through the Respite Panel. Resources are then allocated. There are 48 children on the continuing health care case load and 30 children via the CHAD team and a small number having been identified as benefiting from that service when a space becomes available. There is scope to expand respite provision, and it enable parents to support children in their homes for longer. Direct Payments continue to increase and is still used for individual needs, but

Ty Storie offers respite for children with the most complex and challenging needs, and Direct Payments and also be made for community support alongside that.

AGREED – That the Chairperson on behalf of the Committee writes to the Cabinet Member conveying the observations of the Committee when discussing the way forward.

36 : CABINET RESPONSE TO THE COMMITTEE'S CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION INQUIRY REPORT

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Sue Lent (Early Years, Children & Families and Deputy Leader) and Tony Young (Director Social Services) to the meeting.

The Chairperson invited both the Cabinet Member and the Director to make a statement. The Director indicated that encouraging progress is being made in context of the challenge being faced in the City and that there has been an increase in the number of children referred as a result.

The Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members:

- Members queried where the children were being referred from. Officers indicated that they are aware of the sources of referrals and the areas from which they are being referred from.
- Members asked whether there was research or resource into earlier identification of the risky behaviours to enable focus on prevention. Officers advised that all involved – schools and communities need to make children aware of the perils faced in the city or and the relationship between their behaviour and what is going on around them. There is no one single approach, it is important that people recognise that a number of factors may be driving a greater level of vulnerability to CSE.
- Members noted that engagement with the wider community should take place; taxi companies, take away restaurants, licenced premises and city centre locations to develop prevention strategies, but also felt that hotels should be included in that and that perhaps it should form part of an employee's induction in that service area. Officers advised that briefings to cinema staff and hotel staff have taken place.

AGREED – That the Chairperson on behalf of the Committee writes to the Cabinet Member conveying the observations of the Committee when discussing the way forward.

37 : BUDGET MONITORING PANEL REPORT

Martyn Hutchings, Principal Scrutiny Officers provided Members with a verbal update on the outcome of the first meeting of the Budget Monitoring Panel.

38 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is 6 December 2016 at 4.30 pm.

The meeting terminated at 4.45 pm

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