

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCHOOLS, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND  
SCRUTINY PANEL

20<sup>th</sup> March, 2013

A MEETING of the SCHOOLS, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL was held at the CIVIC OFFICE, DONCASTER on WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2013

PRESENT:

Chair – Councillor Hilary McNamee

Councillors Monty Cuthbert, Rachel Hodson, Alan Jones, Tracey Leyland-Jepson, Sue McGuinness and Mr John Hoare (Diocese of Sheffield Church of England).

Also in attendance:

Councillors Eric Tatton-Kelly (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People), Ros Jones and Nuala Fennelly.

Chris Pratt, Director Children and Young Peoples Service  
Allan Madeley, Senior Procurement Category Manager  
Louise Parker, Policy and Performance Manager

Jill Shaw, Chair Askern Spa Spiders Children's Centre  
John Fordham, Vice-Chair Askern Spa Spiders Children's Centre  
Carry Simon, Chair of the Conisbrough and Denaby Children's Centre Advisory Board

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Joe Blackham, Andrew Bosmans, Sandra Holland, R Allan Jones, Jane Kidd, Sue Wilkinson and Doreen Woodhouse

The Chair explained to the Panel that Mr Parkes had resigned as a parent governor from the Primary School he represented. This therefore precluded him from being a Co-opted Member of the Panel. She explained that Mr Parkes had been forwarded a letter of thanks for his time and effort over the many years he was a Member of the Panel.

The Governors' Team was aware of this and would be undertaking a recruitment process in the near future for all vacant co-optee posts.

28.	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IF ANY.</u>	
	No declarations of interest were made.	All to note.
29.	<u>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2013</u>	
	<u>RESOLVED</u> that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 <sup>th</sup> January, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	All to note.
30.	<u>PUBLIC STATEMENTS.</u>	
	Two public statements were made as follows:	All to note.
	1. Jill Shaw, Chair of the Askern Spa Spiders Children's Centre read out the following statement.	
	<p>"We are volunteers for two local Children's Centres and want to voice our concerns about Doncaster Council's plans to yet again restructure Children's Centre provision. Children's Centres are not currently part of this panel's work plan, and we respectfully request that they be included in your future considerations.</p> <p>On April 1<sup>st</sup> 2012, the Council took control of all 21 Children's Centres and straight away reduced staff numbers by 30%. Centre managers have worked hard to continue delivering their statutory core provision and adapt to the council's requirements. Even more stringent cuts are now proposed.</p> <p>Children's Centres are the first port of call for advice on pregnancy, childbirth, parenting, sexual health and contraception, child development, behaviour, training, rights and entitlements, and many more subjects. Staff work in partnership with Health Visitors, EMTAS, community representatives and schools, as well as other statutory agencies. They are embedded in the communities they serve. Among their many roles, workers engage and stimulate children, leading by example to show parents how their own behaviour can help the mental and social development of even the youngest baby. Centres are also required to offer services to school-age children."</p> <p>She explained that she had reduced the size of the</p>	

	statement for the purpose of the meeting and would forward the remainder to the Scrutiny Team for the Panel's information.	
	2. Carry Simon, Chair of the Conisbrough and Denaby Children's Centre Advisory Board read out the following statement.	
	<p>"I would like to read out some quotes from parents who use the Children's Centre in Conisbrough and Denaby."</p> <p>"I love using the Surestart building as it helped me and my children, particularly following a substance misuse problem I have suffered with."</p> <p>"If the centre closed I do not know what I would do, I love the support for my children."</p> <p>"The staff are really helpful."</p> <p>"I attend courses at the centre and have learnt so much, there is nothing else in the community."</p> <p>"My kids love to play with the other kids at the centre."</p> <p>"The staff have helped me potty train my child."</p> <p>"Good information on many issues is provided at the centre."</p>	
	<p>The Director of Children and Young People's Service (CYP) thanked the ladies and gentleman for attending the meeting and for providing views from the Community, and stressed that the contribution from volunteers was valued.</p> <p>He continued by outlining that changes would need to be made following a reduction in the Early Intervention Grant. He did not disagree with the statements made but outlined that the Local Authority was in a difficult position and inevitably there would regrettably be an impact on Children's Centres, but he was seeking to minimise impact on front line services.</p> <p>The Chair concluded by explaining that this was the last meeting of the civic year and the Panel would be identifying issues later in the meeting for future review. This item would be taken into consideration during that discussion.</p>	

	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the statements made by Jill Shaw and Carry Simon, be noted and considered during discussion later in the meeting on issues to be reviewed during 2013/14.	Scrutiny Officer
31.	<u>Community Based Paediatric and Child Health Services Redesign</u>	
	<p>Lee Golze from Doncaster Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) presented information to the Panel relating to the redesign of community based paediatric and child health services. He focused on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The single integrated plan for 2013-14 including the key local challenge 3 – improving children’s services;</li> <li>2. What were the main problems, highlighting safeguarding/serious case reviews, ineffective pathways for medical conditions such as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Outpatient Data Analysis;</li> <li>3. The Community Paediatric Model;</li> <li>4. What the CCG wished to achieve, e.g. designated/named doctor for safeguarding, looked after children and sudden unexpected infant deaths; and</li> <li>5. The Implementation Plan.</li> </ol> <p>The Chair thanked Lee Golze for his interesting and informative presentation which lead to a number of questions and comments from the Panel, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many appointments would now be dealt with in local communities rather than having to travel to a general hospital. Where services would be allocated was currently being investigated and Members requested if they could be informed as soon as practical to assist with advising communities in their wards.</li> <li>• Medicals for looked after children – current provision consisted 3 GPs undertaking initial assessments but appointing a single named doctor would improve quality and flow. It was hoped that an appointment would be made in early summer;</li> <li>• Current diagnosis times (approximately 18 months) being too long for medical conditions such as Autism Spectrum Disorder;</li> </ul>	

	<u>RESOLVED</u> that the presentation and discussion be noted and Lee Golze be invited to return to the panel for a progress update later in the year.	Scrutiny Officer.
32.	<u>COUNCILLOR ERIC TATTON-KELLY'S (CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE) UPDATE ON PRIORITIES</u>	
	<p>Councillor Tatton-Kelly accompanied his written report on his key priorities with a verbal update addressing the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of children entering care;</li> <li>• Poor professional practice, increasing the confidence of front line staff and support offered by team managers;</li> <li>• Consideration of the Children and Young People's Service Improvement and Action Plan to be discussed at Cabinet in March; and</li> <li>• Reduction in out of authority placements.</li> </ul> <p>In response to the Panel raising how the Cabinet Member's priorities had changed following his last update, he explained that they had not changed significantly but focused on gradually improving the service.</p>	
	<u>RESOLVED</u> that the update, be noted.	All to note.
33.	<u>VERBAL UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE ON SAFEGUARDING AND OUTCOME FROM UNANNOUNCED INSPECTION IN OCTOBER, 2012</u>	
	<p>The Director of Children and Young People's Service outlined that the Authority was still awaiting the Secretary of State's decision following the unannounced inspection in October, 2012.</p> <p>He explained that due to the amount of time that had passed since the review he felt it was appropriate for Cabinet to consider the Service's Improvement Plan in March. He outlined that it would focus on three main areas, professional practice, the workforce and management leadership and improvements to services and outcomes for children and young people in care. The following areas were addressed and he explained that all proposals would take time, but ultimately have a</p>	

	<p>positive impact.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Revised competency framework to better inform practice concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed appointment of a social worker at a senior level with no casework or management responsibility;</li> <li>• Increase induction training and good quality supervision; and</li> <li>• Team auditing.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Revised retention and recruitment strategy at officer level covering a whole range of issues, for example, additional further financial benefits.</li> <li>3. Management leadership including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring the Liquid Logic system would be running to full capacity in the near future;</li> <li>• Undertaking specific mini inspections into the service; and</li> <li>• Strengthening the service following the restructure.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>He concluded by stating that his key concern was having the capacity to deliver and ensuring the Directorate had enough and good quality staff in place to meet the needs of children already in and entering the Local Authority's care.</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>RESOLVED</u> that the update by the Director of Children and Young People's Service, be noted.</p>	<p>All to note.</p>
<p>34.</p>	<p><u>VERBAL UPDATE ON THE OUT OF AUTHORITY PLACEMENTS OF CHILDREN IN CARE</u></p>	
	<p>The Panel received an update from the Senior Procurement Category Manager on progress following the Panel's review into out of authority placements of children in care.</p> <p>He reminded Members that during the Scrutiny review reference was specifically made to 23 cases being addressed, but it was noted that the Children in Care Placement Review project now covered a much larger number of cases, with a rolling scope. The review group was constantly working towards successfully supporting these children and young people through to</p>	

their planned transition point.

He outlined that the work of the project was separated into 7 strands, which the Director of Children and Young People's Service had taken direct personal oversight of.

- Transition from Out of Authority placement to Adults Services;
- Out of Authority to 16+supported Living placements;
- Out of Authority to foster care;
- Education transitions;
- Independent Fostering Agency placements to adoption;
- Independent Fostering Agency placements to long-term in-house foster care; and
- Independent Fostering Agency placements to Special Guardianship Orders, Residence Orders or rehabilitation home.

Since his last report he highlighted that there had been no new out of authority placements but stressed there could be 4 new cases in the near future. He outlined the circumstances for this, adding that it could incur a cost of approximately £0.5m. This illustrated the needs of some children living in the borough and stressed that the needs of all children in care were assessed regularly, and changes made to address new requirements.

Members accepted that there would always be times when a child had to be placed out of authority, but were delighted to note that the culture and practice of automatically placing a child out of authority, had changed.

With regard to the out of authority budget, the financial projection was estimated to be slightly underspent but much work had to be undertaken to achieve this.

The Panel considered the Mayor's response to the review, paying particular attention to private companies developing links with the local community when considering establishing a care home in Doncaster. It was recognised that it was often not until the Council's Planning Committee considered an application that proposals became more widely known. Members reiterated that there was a need to discuss proposals with the community as soon as practical to ensure full

	<p>engagement and acceptance of proposed facilities, avoiding wasted time and effort on projects.</p> <p>In response to a query relating to foster carers only accepting good referrals, it was explained that on occasions this was the case, but liaison and training was always undertaken, to ensure they did not accept children from other authorities before Doncaster.</p>	
	<p><u>RESOLVED</u> that:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the update, be noted; and</li> <li>2. the regular update from officers be added to the 2013/14 work plan.</li> </ol>	All to note. Scrutiny Officer.
35.	<p><u>QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE INFORMATION - QUARTER 3 2012/13</u></p>	
	<p>The Panel considered a report detailing the third quarterly key performance and budgetary issues in the Children and Young People's Service.</p> <p>The Director of Children and Young People's Service outlined and expanded on progress made against the five key priorities of the CYP Improvement Plan as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education – Attainment continued to improve at all key stages;</li> <li>• Professional Practice – as highlighted in the Ofsted report too much poor professional practice continued but through the new Improvement Plan and systematic use of a competency framework, that offers rigorous support and challenge to managers and workers, it was hoped that positive progress would soon be identified.</li> <li>• Children and Young People in care - Members considered the increase of children in care recognising that Doncaster remained amongst the highest nationally and within the region and expressed concern because of the continued pressure on services due to the high level of referrals.</li> <li>• Whole System – One Team Working, the Council's partnership with RDaSH (Rotherham and Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust) was progressing well.</li> <li>• Financial Management - It was noted that the</li> </ul>	



	<p>overspend forecast of £10.5m remained the same as quarter 3 and included £0.25m for the new improvement plan as a result of the recent Ofsted inspection.</p> <p>In response to concern expressed by a Member with regard to the static direction of travel in all areas, discussion continued and addressed staff sickness and morale and staff surveys examined corporately by Directors.</p>	
	<u>RESOLVED</u> that the report and discussion, be noted.	All to note.
36.	<u>WORK PLAN</u>	
	<p>The Scrutiny Officer brought the following issues to the attention of the Panel:-</p> <p><u>Careers Advice and Guidance</u> – The joint review had been completed and recommendations as follows were agreed at the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Panel on 18<sup>th</sup> March, and would be forwarded to the Mayor and Cabinet for consideration.</p> <p>Recommendations:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A report is presented to the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel in autumn 2013 detailing progress with apprenticeship programmes and progress of the Work and Skills Board, following consideration of the proposed Cabinet decision entitled Investing in Apprenticeships, Skills and Jobs.</li> <li>2. The action proposed for Careers Advice and Guidance School Governor Champions be supported and propose that co-ordinated support package/guidelines be developed to assist all appointed Governors, including local authority Councillors in their role.</li> <li>3. The programme, actions and priorities of the Work and Skills Board, be supported.</li> <li>4. The proposed Cabinet decision; Investing in Apprenticeships, Skills and Jobs, be supported.</li> <li>5. Further investigation is carried out into how the parental role can be further utilised and access can be increased to career advice and information through the Work and Skills Board</li> </ol>	Scrutiny Officer

programme and actions.

6. The work of the Children and Young People's Management Team in holding the remaining Local Education Authority (LEA) and Academy schools to account with regard to the quality of careers advice and guidance being provided, be supported.
7. The development of a Doncaster Council quality mark to be awarded to trainers/employers, be considered.
8. Consideration is given to what could be applied from the Barnsley IAG network to support Doncaster's programme, bearing in mind the differing landscapes.

Minutes of the Children's Trust Board and Corporate Parenting Panel – the minutes of the meetings held on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2012 and 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2013 and 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 respectively, were noted.

Work Plan for 2013/14 – the following areas were suggested for consideration by the Panel in 2013/14:-

- The next steps following the decision by the Secretary of State for Education;
- Youth Justice Statutory Plan;
- Quarterly Performance;
- Safeguarding verbal update from Director to be a standing agenda item;
- Sickness Absence;
- Children's Centres – future roles;
- Elective Home Education update;
- Out of Authority Placement update;
- Effects of inward migration by families from other countries on education;
- Use of agency staff in the Children and Young People's Service Directorate;
- Revisit progress with the teenage pregnancy education unit following its move to the facility at Balby;

The following issues were highlighted as being appropriate for consideration at the June meeting:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special Educational Needs Review;</li> <li>• Cabinet Member priorities for 2013/14;</li> <li>• Quarter 4 performance; and</li> <li>• Safeguarding/Outcome from Ofsted Inspection – verbal update; and</li> </ul>	
	<p><u>RESOLVED</u> that:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the report, be noted;</li> <li>2. the following items be considered at the Panel meeting in June:</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special Educational Needs Review;</li> <li>• Cabinet Member priorities for 2013/14;</li> <li>• Quarter 4 performance; and</li> <li>• Safeguarding/Outcome from Ofsted Inspection – verbal update;</li> </ul>	<p>Scrutiny Officer</p>