

## Minutes of a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on Wednesday 25 April 2018 at City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 4.35 pm  
Concluded 6.15 pm

### Present – Councillors

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR
D Smith	Engel Tait Thirkill

### Non-Voting Co-opted Members:

J MacDonald – Bradford District Clinical Commissioning Group  
Inspector K Taylor – West Yorkshire Police  
Y Umarji – Bradford Education  
Children in Care Council

Observers: Councillor V Slater – Portfolio Holder, Health and Wellbeing

### Councillor Thirkill in the Chair

#### 34. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest in matters under consideration were received.

**NO ACTION**

#### 35. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no appeals submitted by the public to review decisions to restrict documents.

**NO ACTION**

#### 36. EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL WELLBEING OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

Previous reference: Minutes 25 (2015/16) and 33 (2016/17)

The Deputy Director (Children’s Social Care) submitted a report which updated the Panel in respect of the work of the CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) Psychological Assessment and Therapy Team for Looked After and Adopted Children (**Document “S”**).

The Clinical Lead for Looked After and Adopted Children from the Bradford District Care Trust introduced the report and highlighted the following points:

- The service catered for looked after and adopted children and those on Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs).
- The service had now been in operation for over twelve months and it was therefore considered a good time to undertake a review.
- One of the main concerns was service capacity; staffing was significantly less than had originally been proposed, including in respect of Local Authority Social Worker provision
- The average waiting time had increased and it was considered that crisis point had been reached. Discussions were on-going with commissioners about the remit and future direction of the service.
- There were currently 45 young people on the waiting list for assessment and therapy and at the current rate of pick up this backlog would not be cleared for approximately 4 years.
- The service had received very good feedback from professionals and carers, the available places were being booked and the service was used frequently.
- The Consultation Clinic service was left open to those young people who were on the waiting list for assessment.
- 1660 clinical contact sessions had taken place. It was estimated that over 50% of the direct work had involved looked after children.

She responded to Members' questions:

- In terms of capacity and demand; prior to the establishment of this team all cases had been referred to the core CAMHS. Awareness of the service had increased; the provision was well regarded and there were increasing numbers of repeat users (such as social workers who had found it to be helpful). The service had become saturated with both new cases and those transferred from the core CAMHS. There were approximately 2000 eligible children/young people and it was estimated that up to 72% could need some form of mental health service at some point. There was a huge demand and need.
- There was a genuine belief that this service was making a big difference and the limits on capacity were frustrating.
- The full time equivalent staffing per 100 Looked After Children (LAC) was extremely low.
- Senior Service Managers were aware of the issues; there were a number of options for the future and some potentially difficult decisions to be taken.
- There were presently 66 open cases for therapy; the number of consultation clinics being undertaken had been halved and there was a waiting time of 7 weeks. Only one case a month could be picked up.
- Input was provided to the residential homes apart from those covered by the B Positive initiative which had their own provision.

The Deputy Director also commented as follows:

- Partnership working with other agencies, including this one, had been modelled on a LAC population of 870 but this had now increased to over 1000 together with a significant number of young people being cared for under

SGOs.

- It was considered the right thing to have these services for young people at the point of entry.
- This was an excellent service and the challenge was now with commissioning services in terms of funding.
- The support provided for Social Workers was very valuable but there was also the need for the opportunities for direct work with young people.
- Negotiation was undertaken in respect of provision for young people from Bradford in out of district placements and, usually, the Authority in whose care the young person was placed would be asked to provide these services.

Members discussed other potential sources of funding for this vital work, although it was noted that they may be temporary in nature or have caps imposed in terms of cost.

The Portfolio Holder commented that a cost benefit analysis should be undertaken in respect of Bradford children with outside placements and children from other authorities placed in Bradford. The matter should be considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Bradford District Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Co-opted Member said that this issue had been raised and was being considered by the CCG.

The Clinical Lead said that 15% of those children/young people seen by the team had been from outside the authority and they had received the same service in terms of assessment and therapy as a Bradford child. In response to a question from the Children in Care Council (CICC) representative she explained that there had been significant consideration given to the implications of charging other local authorities.

Further to other questions she also explained that:

- A higher score in the Carer Questionnaire 6 months after a first appointment indicated a better result
- An 'outcomes day' was due to take place on 4 May and this would provide a larger data-set for future analysis.
- In terms of Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) scores it had been found that borderline clinical cases tended to move to sub-clinical level after 6 months work.

**Resolved –**

- (1) That the Deputy Director (Children's Social Care) be requested to prepare a report, in consultation with the Clinical Lead for Looked After and Adopted Children (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)), for submission to the Bradford and Airedale Health and Wellbeing Board, in respect of the funding of the CAMHS Psychological Assessment and Therapy Service for Looked After and Adopted Children to ensure that the service is sustainable in the future.**
- (2) That the strongly held view of the Corporate Parenting Panel in**

**respect of the need for appropriate levels of funding to ensure that there are no restrictions placed on eligibility or scaling back of this vital service be reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board.**

- (3) That the Deputy Director (Children's Social Care) be requested to investigate all other possible funding streams to support this necessary work for Bradford's Looked After Children.**

***ACTION: Deputy Director (Children's Social Care)***

### **37. EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER**

Previous references: Minutes 38 (2015/16) and 36 (2016/17)

A report was submitted by the Deputy Director, Education, Employment and Skills (**Document "T"**) in relation to the achievements of the Authority's Looked After Children (LAC) in Early Years and Key Stages 1, 2 and 4 for 2017. The data concerned those young people who had been in care continuously for a minimum period of twelve months.

The Virtual School Head introduced the report and highlighted the following points:

- In Early Years, the cohort was 24 children. The percentage achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD) had risen from 29% in 2016 to 50% which was the highest ever figure achieved. The figure for all Bradford children was 68%, which was closing on the national figure of 71%.
- There had been a continued improvement in Key Stage 1. In Reading, Writing and Maths the percentage of LAC meeting the national age related expectations was better than achieved by LAC nationally in all subjects and closer to the figure for non LAC in Bradford.
- In Key Stage 2; 32% of LAC nationally had achieved the new combined expected standard which was a 7% increase. In Bradford this figure had increased by 11% to 28%. More work was needed specifically with boys in reading writing and maths but the gap to the national figure was closing.
- In Key Stage 4 there had been 65 children in the cohort. The grading system had been changed to a number based system between 1 and 9, 4 being a low pass. The Progress 8 score was a key measure which recorded progress across 8 key subjects and a figure between -1 and + 1 was classed as average. Bradford LAC had achieved -1.02 but this was much better than LAC nationally. Bradford LAC's Attainment 8 score (average attainment across the 8 subjects by the end of Key Stage 4) was in line with that achieved by Virtual Schools nationally but lower than that for non LAC. The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) score (numbers of pupils achieving A\* to C in core academic subjects) was also in line with the national figure.
- Overall the results were at least equal to or above national figures at all key stages; this was down to the work done by the teachers within schools and the Virtual School.

He responded to questions from Members:

- In Bradford 75% of Pupil Premium was directed to schools and 25% retained

for bespoke intervention.

- The aim was to improve upon the existing figures in the next year but each cohort was unique so it could be difficult to compare year on year. Changes in the way data was processed nationally could also make comparison with previous years problematic.

The Portfolio Holder referred to the Area Opportunities Fund and schools being invited to bid for funding for 'life skills' additional to those in the curriculum. It was suggested that the Virtual School (VS) should make a request for funding.

It was suggested that links should be made between the Virtual School and the CICC; its members would provide good role models for younger LAC.

It was noted that this report was a positive story and that Bradford was very much a leader in this field; there was a strong focus on attainment outcomes as well as the pastoral element.

The Virtual School Head said that the collection and use of data as if all these young people were within one school was a challenge for the team but the work was outcome and attainment driven.

In response to questions he confirmed that:

- The VS also provided challenge to schools and each school had a designated teacher for LAC.
- A member of VS staff was designated to specifically focus on attendance. The attendance figure for Bradford Virtual School children was 96.1% which was better than the national figure and the figure for Bradford children.

#### **Resolved –**

- (1) That the contents of Document “T” and the positive progress being made be welcomed and that the continuing work of the Virtual School be supported.**
- (2) That the Interim Deputy Director, Education and Learning be requested to approach the Bradford Opportunity Area Partnership Board in respect of the possibility of the Virtual School accessing Essential Life Skills Funding.**
- (3) That it be noted that the Virtual School Head will attend a future meeting of the Children in Care Council.**

***ACTION: Interim Deputy Director, Education and Learning  
Virtual School Head***

#### **38. B POSITIVE PATHWAYS PROGRAMME - UPDATE**

Previous references: Minutes 5 and 22 (2017/18)

The Deputy Director (Children's Social Care) presented a progress report in relation to the B Positive Pathways Programme (**Document “U”**).

- B Positive was operating from The Willows Children's Home alongside 3 other satellite homes. These were traditional residential homes with additional provision including psychologists, speech and language therapists, occupational therapy and police officers so that young people could access these services in-house.
- The programme meant that a different approach was taken with adolescents in crisis to try and overcome the problems so that they were not brought into care unnecessarily. Since commencement of the initiative 17 young people had been helped and successfully returned to their home or a family member; it was believed that this was the best outcome for the young people. Work had also been undertaken with 48 young people who had been deemed to be 'edge of care' to prevent them from entering long term care.
- An additional home had now been opened and the Authority's aim was to reduce external placement unless this was a positive move to better address an individual's needs. An 8% reduction in placement outside the district had been achieved since the programme started and this would also bring about financial savings as they were likely to be more costly.
- The possibility of some staff being facilitated to become crisis foster carers was under consideration.
- Two 'Mockingbird' fostering constellations had been set up which enabled additional support to be provided for the child and wider support for foster carer families. This had been launched at the beginning of the year and was operating very effectively.
- The money for B Positive was provided by the Government and the Authority needed to demonstrate that this investment was effective. Data was thus being collected to evidence the outcomes and a cost benefit analysis would also be undertaken.

He responded to questions from Members:

- The concept of existing staff as crisis foster carers was a new way of working that had been developed in North Yorkshire; it was accepted that it challenged the traditional 'boundaries' between workers and the young people they cared for. If a young person was in crisis sometimes things had to move very quickly and it was better for them if they could go to a connected person; Residential Social Workers were one of the people with which many would have a connection. This would be a voluntary opportunity and full assessment would be undertaken. If the idea was pursued it would be done on a bespoke, case by case basis. North Yorkshire had also had foster carers working on a casual basis within residential homes to assist in building relationships.

In response to a question from the CICC representative in respect of the longer term stability of the young people who had been assisted by the programme to date, the B Positive Programme Manager said that a tool had been created to monitor the journey of each individual and a monthly check would be undertaken on each child that came through the programme. The 17 young people would maintain access to an outreach team for support and this was not time limited. There would be no conclusion until there was certainty that the situation was working for all parties.

She also explained that a number of local authorities were collaborating in respect

of the sharing of good practice and provision of mentoring support.

**Resolved –**

- (1) That the contents of Document “U” and the progress of the B Positive Pathways programme be welcomed.**
- (2) That a further progress report be submitted to the Panel in 2018/19.**

***ACTION: Deputy Director (Children's Social Care)***

Chair

**Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a correct record at the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel.**

THESE MINUTES HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON RECYCLED PAPER