

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Wednesday, 21 June 2017, County Hall, Worcester - 10.00 am

Present:

Minutes

Mrs F M Oborski (Chairman), Mrs J A Potter (Vice Chairman), Ms P Agar, Mr R W Banks, Ms R L Dent, Ms P A Hill, Mr S M Mackay and Ms S A Webb

In Attendance from Adult Care and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Panel:

Mr A C Roberts, Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families
Derek Benson, Independent Chairman, Worcestershire Safeguarding Children's Board

Mr T Baker-Price
Mr P Grove
Mr P B Harrison
Mrs E B Tucker

Other Attendees:

Jill Hughes (Young Adults Team Manager), Richard Keble (Assistant Director of Adult Services), Hannah Needham (Assistant Director for Families, Communities and Partnerships), Tina Russell (Assistant Director Safeguarding Services (Children's Social Care)), Stuart Watkins, Allie Webster, Sarah Wilkins (Group Manager for Children with Disabilities), Sheena Jones (Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager) and Samantha Morris (Overview and Scrutiny Officer)

Available Papers

The members had before them:

- A. The Agenda papers (previously circulated);
- B. Presentation handouts for Support for Children with Disabilities During Transition to Adulthood and the Draft Children and Young People's Plan 2017-21 and Presentation Notes (circulated at the Meeting)
- C. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 March 2017 (previously circulated).

(Copies of documents A and B will be attached to the signed Minutes).

273 Apologies and Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

Apologies were received from Ms T L Onslow.

274	Declaration of Interest and of any Party Whip	None.
275	Public Participation	None.
276	Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting	The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 March 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
277	Support for Children with Disabilities During Transition to Adulthood	<p>Attending for this item were:</p> <p>Andy Roberts, Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families Jill Hughes, Team Manager, Transitions, Young Adults Team and PLOT Richard Keble, Assistant Director Adult Services Tina Russell, Assistant Director Social Work Safeguarding Services Stuart Watkins, Group Manager Sarah Wilkins, Group Manager for Children with Disabilities Services Safeguarding Services (Children's Social Care)</p> <p>The discussion was held jointly with the Adult Care and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Panel, as the support services provided children with disabilities during their transition to adulthood were relevant to both adults and children.</p> <p>Members received a Presentation (copies circulated at the Meeting) which covered an overview of the Service and following the subsequent discussion were asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the information provided • Determine whether any further scrutiny or information was required at this time • Agree any comments to be highlighted to the Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Children, Families and Communities, and for Adult Social Care <p>During the Presentation, the following areas were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition to adulthood was a very complex area in terms of legislation, providing support and

families accessing that support

- It was a very significant time for young people and their families, involving change, choices and decisions about staying healthy, getting a job, having a place to live, living well, staying safe, preparing for adulthood and providing the right support for carers
- The Learning Disability Partnership Board had sub-groups for each of these important areas and expert members advising them. Families were also represented on the Board by the Worcestershire Association of Carers
- Formal planning generally started in year 9 (aged 14 years) with a 'transition review' held by the school
- Transition required co-ordination across a range of agencies with clear pathways through health, social care, housing and education
- The Young Adults Team (YAT) was launched on 11 June 2012 to support 16 – 25 year old young people with additional needs with transition planning and the move into adulthood. It was an integrated team bringing together social workers from Children Families and Communities and Adult Services. The roles unique to the Team included a Housing Project Officer and Carers Support Officer
- The YAT continued the work of Children With Disabilities Team by working through the Children's Pathways 16-18, including Child in Need/Looked After Children/Safeguarding and at approximately 17 years and 6 months the Care Act Assessment would begin
- Adulthood outcomes (slide 8) were confirmed as national outcomes and did not including education as this wasn't appropriate for everyone
- In terms of the impact of the YAT achieving independence, Members were advised that:
 - 90% of young people were in settled accommodation (target 77%) 10% therefore were in temporary accommodation, which would not include bed and breakfast as an option
 - 20 young people were in Supported Living
 - Improved NEET figures (reduced by 1/3rd)
 - 58% of young people were in receipt of a Direct Payment (target of 35%)
 - 97.5% of reviews up to date (target of 95%)
 - Increased numbers were in paid employment, and in voluntary work/work experience

During the discussion, the following main points were made:

- There was a responsibility for young people up to age 25, but the support provided would end when an individual was in a settled and sustainable placement. This meant that the hand off point of a case was flexible
- It was important for young people to have a single Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan and for discussions and plans for the adulthood to take place much earlier, when children were quite young
- When a young person's care transferred from the YAT, it would move to the Review Team or the Vulnerable Adults Team
- If Members wished to raise a casework query they should approach the Assistant Director Adult Services who would co-ordinate a response
- Social Workers were handling up to 33 cases each, dependent on experience and complexity of the case and would each receive an Annual Health Check of caseloads; feedback from Social Workers to date was positive and caseloads were manageable
- In response to a concern about the Winterbourne View situation and avoiding the situation where people with learning disabilities were put in such placements. Reassurance was given that there was a National Programme for Transforming Care for People with Learning Disabilities and that Worcestershire had the best performance in the Country.

The following Information was also requested:

- Details of the membership of the Connecting Families Strategic Group
- An overview of new supported living developments
- A SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) Analysis of each of the partners that the Service worked with
- A redacted case study so that the journey of a young person could be followed.

The Chairman thanked the Cabinet Member and Officers for attending the Meeting.

278 Draft Children and Young People's Plan 2017-21

It was agreed that this was an area requiring further Scrutiny, the scope of which should be discussed by the Chairmen of both Panels to develop a proposal for consideration by OSPB in due course. Members interested in joining a Scrutiny Task Group should advise the Scrutiny Officer.

Attending for this item were:

Hannah Needham, Assistant Director – Families, Communities and Partnerships
Allie Webster, Operational Manager – Partnerships, Families, Communities and Partnerships

Copies of the Draft Children and Young People's Plan 2017-21 and Presentation Notes were circulated at the Meeting.

The Panel was asked to:

- Consider and comment on the draft Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2017-21;
- Determine whether it would wish to carry out any further scrutiny, and
- Agree whether it would wish to make any comments to the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families and the Health and Well-Being Board.

In accordance with the Council's constitution, the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) would receive, comment and advise on the draft CYPP as part of the Council's policy framework. However, in previous years, consideration of the draft CYPP had been undertaken by the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel (or its predecessor body). Accordingly, at its meeting on 19 June the OSPB agreed to formally delegate consideration of the draft CYPP to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

By way of introduction, the Panel received a presentation and were advised that the new Plan would be owned by all partner agencies working with children, young people and families and would

- Set expectations around the way we work in Worcestershire
- Clarify the collective ambition and aspirations for all children and young people in Worcestershire
- Identify key priorities and success measures

- Build on and add value to existing plans
- Would change over time to respond to need

During the discussion, the following main points were made:

- The lateness of the draft Plan being circulated to the Panel didn't allow sufficient opportunity for preparation - the Assistant Director acknowledged and apologised for the tight timescales
- Although the Plan was good, the Panel would like to see the detail about implementation, how the outcomes would be measured and how it fitted with issues raised in the Ofsted Inspection Report published 24 January 2017. The Panel were advised that that the Plan was a 5 year Strategic Plan and the detail had yet to be worked through, but there would be definite links to the safeguarding issues identified by Ofsted and performance measures put in place
- The Panel were keen to see a gap analysis early on in the process to establish whether improvements relating to some of the key issues such as obesity, mental health, child poverty were showing significant improvements early on in the process
- Although there were links to the safeguarding work, it was important to remember that the Plan was about all children and young people not just the vulnerable
- A returning Member expressed concern at the pace of change in that she was hearing the same things that she had heard 4 years ago
- Working with partners was a key theme underpinning the Plan; it would be important when working out the detail for the County Council not to assume too sole responsibility for delivery given that this was being shared with partners and therefore, a mutual responsibility
- It was suggested that in order to ensure a commitment to mutual partnership working and responsibility, consideration should be given to formalising the agreement to the responsibilities. It was however, felt that as there was no formal legislation, the County Council could only try to influence not insist on formalising the responsibility
- Jill Gramann, Non-executive Director, Worcestershire Health & Care NHS Trust (WHACT) observing the Meeting was invited to

contribute to the discussion and made the point that WHACT were 100% committed to partnership working with the County Council – this was acknowledged by the Officers at the Meeting. Additionally, the Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager agreed to advise the Health and Well-being Board that the Panel endorsed the partnership approach but was concerned Partners delivered on their respective actions

- Partners pledging to be brave enough to always do the right thing for children and young people was a very good value to have in the Plan
- Derek Benson, Independent Chairman of the Worcestershire Children Safeguarding Board (WSCB) confirmed that the WSCB had had sight of the Plan and that partners pledging to be brave enough to always do the right thing for children and young people was to be applauded.

It was agreed that a summary of the comments made by the Panel would be sent to the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families.

The meeting ended at 12.10 pm

Chairman