

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 16 JUNE 2020

REVIEW OF DELIVERY MODEL FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION PROVISION

Summary

1. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education and Skills and the Director of Education and Early Help have been invited to the meeting to update the Panel on the review of the delivery model for medical education provision ahead of the discussion at Cabinet on 25 June 2020. This is specifically looking at the impact of COVID-19 on the review, as well as the progress made before and since COVID-19.

Background

2. The Medical Education Team (MET) is a service delivered by Worcestershire Children First (WCF), providing education for children who are unable to attend school because of medical needs including mental health difficulties. In January 2020 Cabinet approved a timeline and process for conducting a review of the MET. As part of this process, it was agreed that recommendations would be presented to Cabinet in June to inform changes and improvements which could be made to the provision from September 2020.

3. The availability of stakeholders such as schools, parents and health professionals to engage and participate in the MET review has been severely limited by COVID-19. This means it has not been possible to complete the review within the timescales originally approved. This engagement is crucial to the success of any proposed changes to the MET. New timescales are being proposed to allow for the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on the availability of stakeholders to participate in the review, as well as to minimise the negative impact that any “in-year” changes would have on the social, emotional and academic progress of children, young people and families being supported by the service from September. Extending the timescales will also allow the review to align with activity being undertaken as part of the SEND Written Statement of Action, as well as the review into Exclusions and Alternative Provision.

4. The MET has continued to support pupils during COVID-19. All pupils have had access to online learning, telephone subject support and safe and well checks from staff and some vulnerable children have been taught onsite. Work packs, emails activities and online materials have been provided for Maths, English, Science, Business Studies and PSHE, providing continuity of curriculum for students. A resilience course for older students and additional activities focused on emotional health and wellbeing have been an integral part of the offer.

Next steps

5. A report detailing a revised timetable for developing a new model of delivery for medical education provision will be discussed at Cabinet on 25 June 2020 and will be publicly available from 18 June 2020.

Purpose of the Meeting

6. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel is asked to:

- Consider the update provided since the last report to Panel on 23 January;
- 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 Education and Skills.

Contact Point

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager (Interim Monitoring Officer)) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- Agenda and minutes of Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel 23 January 2020 – available on the Council website [here](#).

[All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website here.](#)