

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

held on Monday, 24th September, 2018 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3,
Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor Rhoda Bailey (Chairman)
Councillor A Moran (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors M Beanland, M Deakin, L Durham, D Flude, O Hunter, L Jeuda,
G Merry, M Warren and M J Weatherill

In attendance

J Saunders – Portfolio Holder for Children and Families
K Birtles – Head of Service, Cared for Children
K Rose – Head of Service, Children's Safeguarding
J Sims – Head of Service, Children in Need and Children Protection
M Tobin – Service Manager – Adoption Counts
J Tausif – NHS South Cheshire CCG & NHS Vale Royal CCG
S Westwood – Regional Adoption Manager

13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M Grant

14 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2018.

RESOLVED

That the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

16 WHIPPING DECLARATIONS

There were no whipping declarations

17 PUBLIC SPEAKING/OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public present wishing to speak

18 UPDATE ON CAMHS

Further to the meeting held on 26 March 2018, consideration was given to a presentation by Dr M Howard, CAMHS and R Lupton – team lead for Emotionally Healthy Schools. The presentation detailed; referrals to A&E, success of the out of hours service and waiting times for 16/17 year olds with eating disorders waiting to be hospitalised.

R Lupton outlined the on going work of the Emotionally Healthy Schools project including the offer to schools, which equipped teachers with the knowledge and understanding to deal with mental health and support children in the best way.

In regard to referrals to A&E, it was suggested that schools were improving in terms of detecting mental health issues, however, training was still required on how to deal with cases.

In regard to the out of hours service, it was noted that currently the process only related to Leighton Hospital and not Macclesfield, however, Dr Howard was also looking to extend the service to Macclesfield. Work still needed to be done on the collection and cleansing of data.

The Committee agreed that a report should be brought back to a future meeting providing an update on referrals to A&E and data analysis in relation to the out of hours service.

RESOLVED

That report on A&E referrals and the out of hours service be received by the committee in due course.

19 CORPORATE PARENTING ANNUAL REPORT 2017 - 2018

Councillor G Merry, Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Committee introduced the annual report. The purpose of the Committee was to ensure that the Council effectively discharged its role and as corporate parent to all children in care and care leavers from 0-25 years of age and to hold partners to account for the discharge of their responsibilities. It was noted that were currently 493 children in care which was an increase of 55 since March 2017.

RESOLVED

That the report be received.

20 FORWARD PLAN

Consideration to the areas of the forward plan which fell within the remit of the Committee.

RESOLVED

That the forward plan be received.

21 WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the work programme. It was agreed that a Task and Finish Group to look at the SEND local offer for 16-25 year olds be established and that members of the Health Adult Social Care and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee be invited to sit on that group.

RESOLVED

That a task and finish group on the local offer for 16-25 year olds be established and that members of the Health Adult Social Care and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee be invited to sit on that group.

22 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item pursuant to Section 100(A)4 of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and the public interest would not be served in publishing the information.

23 SERIOUS CASE REVIEW UPDATE

Consideration was given to a presentation on the serious case reviews and action plan, which informed the committee of what lessons had been learnt by the authority and how things should be improved in the future.

RESOLVED

That the LSCB action plan be considered by the committee in due course.

24 IMPACT OF THE REGIONAL ADOPTION AGENCY

Consideration was given to a report on the impact of the regional adoption agency which informed the Committee that Cheshire East Council had statutory duties to secure children's permanence via adoption. In June 2015 the Department for Education issued a policy paper 'Regionalising Adoption' inviting Local Authorities to join up to deliver services with the aim of placing more children for adoption and achieving permanence for children who may wait longer to find an adoptive family. In July 2017 Cheshire East Council joined with Manchester, Trafford, Salford and Stockport councils as the Regional Adoption Agency 'Adoption Counts'. The report outlined the journey for Cheshire East in the first year.

RESOLVED

That a further report on the impact of the Regional Adoption Agency be received in September 2019.

25 CHESHIRE EAST ADOPTION PANEL CHAIR REPORT

Consideration was given to the Adoption Panel Chairs report which provided quality assurance feedback as to whether there was a thorough, rigorous, consistent and fair approach across the service in the assessment of whether a child should be placed for adoption, the suitability of prospective adopters and the proposed placements.

RESOLVED

That the report be received.

26 CHESHIRE EAST ANNUAL ADOPTION SERVICE REPORT 2017/18

The Committee gave consideration to the Annual Adoption Service Report 2017/18, which was considered alongside the Cheshire East Adoption Panel Chair Report.

RESOLVED

That the report be received.

The meeting commenced at 1.30 pm and concluded at 4.08 pm

Councillor Rhoda Bailey (Chairman)