

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

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

held on Thursday, 20th June, 2019 at Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings,
Earle Street, Crewe CW1 2BJ

PRESENT

Councillor J Saunders (Chairman)
Councillor P Butterill (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors J Buckley, C Bulman, A Gage, S Handley, G Hayes, M Houston,
A Moran and JP Findlow

Apologies

Councillors M Addison and M Beanland

1 ALSO PRESENT

Councillor Dorothy Flude – Children and Families Portfolio
Mark Palethorpe - Acting Executive Director of People
Ali Stathers Tracey - Director of Transformation programme
Vicky Howarth - Project Manager
Jacky Forster - Director of Education and 14-19 Skills
Jacquie Sims -Director of Children's Social Care
Jamilia Tausif - Senior Commissioning Manager

2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4 WHIPPING DECLARATIONS

There were no declarations of the existence of a party whip.

5 PUBLIC SPEAKING/OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public present who wished to speak.

6 CHILD AND YOUNG PERSON'S STORY

A case study was outlined to the Committee about a girl whose parents had a history of drug misuse. The girl had been cared for by a close relative and had remained there for several years. That relationship had subsequently broken

down leading to her 'sofa surfing' with other family members. For a short period of time the girl had been identified as being vulnerable to potential Child Sexual Exploitation and drug misuse and had consequently been placed into foster care. She had recently successfully been reunited with her mother and was again attending school with very little involvement of social workers and now had a much improved relationship with her mother.

7 HIGH NEEDS FUNDING

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the progress of the School Forum's High Needs Formula Working Group (HNFWG). This included further development of the new model for allocating High Needs top-up funding, along with conducting a pilot study and public consultation.

The report was supplemented by a presentation given by Vicky Howarth on the Cheshire High Needs funding consultation June/July 2019.

RESOLVED

(a) That the progress of the working group to date be noted and the following actions endorsed:

- The development of a proposed matrix and banding system for mainstream schools based on the model developed by Essex County Council
- Open consultation on proposed changes to the High Needs Funding Model used in Cheshire East
- The carrying out of a pilot exercise using the new proposed matrix and banding system with a small number of mainstream schools;

(b) That the matter be brought back to this committee for an update report in March 2020.

8 CHESHIRE EAST EARLY HELP STRATEGY 2019-2022

Ali Stathers Tracey presented a report on the Council's early help strategy 2019/22 which set out how partners who worked with children, their families and carers would deliver services to prevent escalation of needs that required targeted or intensive interventions from statutory agencies.

The Chairman welcomed the strategy and suggested it would assist committee members if officers could provide practical examples of the process to provide additional insight.

RESOLVED

(a) That the report be received;

(b) That the matter be brought back to a future meeting and officers be requested to illustrate how the process operates in practice by using a real example of an anonymised young person going through the system.

9 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN

The Committee considered the Children and Young Peoples Plan which had been refreshed up to 2021. The plan was collaborative document produced by the Cheshire East Children and Young Peoples Trust which was a group of people who provided services for young people and families. The plan had built upon the success of the 2015/18 plan to achieve the next steps of achieving the joint ambition to make Cheshire East a great place to be young.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

10 FORWARD PLAN

The Committee gave consideration was given to the areas of the forward plan which fell within the remit of the Committee.

RESOLVED

That the forward plan be received.

11 WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee reviewed its work programme.

RESOLVED- That, subject to items being added to review High needs funding in March 2020 and the matter relating to Cheshire East Early Help Strategy to be brought back on a date to be determined, the work programme be noted.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 4.15 pm

Councillor J Saunders (Chairman)