

**Children, Young People and Family Support Scrutiny and Policy Development
Committee**

Meeting held 3 October 2013

PRESENT: Councillors Gill Furniss (Chair), Talib Hussain, Karen McGowan, Mohammad Maroof, Lynn Rooney, Colin Ross, Andrew Sangar (Deputy Chair), Ian Saunders, Nikki Sharpe, Diana Stimely and Cliff Woodcraft

Non-Council Members in attendance:-

Jules Jones, Education Non-Council Voting Member
Alison Warner, Education Non-Council Voting Member

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Helen Mirfin-Boukouris and from Gillian Foster and Joan Stratford.

2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

2.1 No items were identified where resolutions may be moved to exclude the public and press.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 5 September 2013 were approved as a correct record, and there were no matters arising.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

5.1 There were no questions raised or petitions submitted by members of the public.

6. TEENAGE PREGNANCY UPDATE

6.1 Sue Greig and Amy Buddery from the Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) Public Health Team, Sheffield City Council, provided an update on teenage pregnancy statistics in the City.

6.2 Ms. Buddery reported that Sheffield was on track to meet the targets set for 2020. She added that there had been a decline in the number of teenage pregnancies, which was encouraging but that the number of young people under the age of 16 choosing to deliver their babies had increased. She added that Sheffield was the

third best performer in terms of core cities for reducing the number of teenage conceptions, but she added that the maternity rate had increased, and the abortion rate had also dropped. She outlined some of the vast inequalities across the City, highlighting statistics in particular postcodes to show the differences which existed.

6.3 She went on to report that there would be a new integrated model for the delivery of sexual health services which would come into effect from 1 January 2014, which would see sexual health services delivered via a One Stop Shop approach. There were currently two main centres, at the Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM) centre at the Hallamshire Hospital, and the Central Health Clinic on Mulberry Street. This would form part of a hub and spoke model, with these two centres as the hubs, and a series of community outreach sites to complement them.

This new model would provide an increased choice of access for young people, either in the community, or in a more 'anonymous' city centre setting, depending on what they preferred. The model would also see work continue with colleagues in the School Nurse team, Community Youth Teams and GP practices across the City. She emphasised that this was a priority area of work for the Local Authority.

6.4 Members of the Committee raised questions and the following responses were provided:-

- It was agreed that it would be beneficial to examine the wider surroundings of a young person's situation, not just the postcode where they lived. This could take into consideration the welfare benefits received, employment, family history and education. Ms. Buddery confirmed that she was already involved in an extensive piece of work of this nature with the University of Sheffield, which was examining wider factors such as these and the correlation to teenage pregnancy.
- There were a number of theories of why the number of abortions had declined in the under 16s, with factors such as young people not having the confidence to access services, and therefore presenting themselves too late to have a termination. There were also concerns around young people's aspirations.
- It was confirmed that there were no exact figures for the number of repeat terminations, particularly for the under 18s, but it was suspected that the number was fairly low. It was agreed that there needed to be more robust data-sharing arrangements in relation to this.
- It was confirmed that all young women accessing sexual health services were offered contraception proactively. This was in the form of Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC), alongside other methods.
- There were concerns that the centre at the Hallamshire was not 'young person' friendly, but Ms Buddery emphasised that this was just one venue where young people were able to access services.

- She confirmed that the Hallamshire site offered specialist 'young people only' clinics and staff working there included specialist Doctors and Nurses trained in working specifically with young people.
- The Mulberry Street Clinic had always been traditionally very young person focused and the sexual health service had plans underway to further develop the young people's offer at the city centre site.
- The new integrated service was being delivered by Sheffield Teaching Hospitals, which was why it would be hosted at the Hallamshire site, not the Children's Hospital. There was also close working with the Jessop's Wing, and specialist Saturday youth clinics were delivered by the Mulberry Street Clinic.
- There were concerns that sex education for young people with Special Educational Needs was not fit for purpose, and it was agreed that this would be considered as part of the peer led citywide review of the provision of Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), including sex and relationship education, which was being led by the CYPF Public Health Team.
- Members were concerned that the service was on track to meet targets currently, and that by reorganising the service this might potentially damage the progress made. Ms Buddery confirmed that the plans had been made in line with national recommendations, and that integrated services had been in operation in Newcastle for four years, which were working extremely well. The service would also be performance managed to ensure that delivery progressed as expected and sexual health outcomes were achieved.
- It was confirmed that not all schools proactively delivered a comprehensive timetabled programme of sex and relationship education, but that sex and relationship toolkits were available for both primary and secondary schools. A plan to undertake a citywide peer led review of PHSE to include sex and relationship education had been presented to both the City Wide Learning Body and the Children's Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board, and both committees had endorsed this.
- There was an emphasis on the importance of safeguarding and data-sharing, and it was confirmed that further work was required to understand the pathways which existed to support women having multiple births and repeat abortions. It was highlighted that any vulnerable women identified during pregnancy were offered enhanced access to LARC on Jessop's Wing.
- Statistics for teenage pregnancy were currently received via the Office for National Statistics and via local sexual health services, which had been used to inform the report.
- It was agreed that more work was needed to help give young people the

courage and confidence to access services at the right time, and to raise self-esteem and aspirations.

- It was noted that the teenage pregnancy rate for Looked After Children was three times higher than the national average the last time it was investigated.
- Members were interested to see how many babies delivered resulting from teenage pregnancy went on to become adopted.
- It was noted that there was joint work happening across South Yorkshire already in relation to sexual health, and that some services could be commissioned jointly in the future.
- There were concerns that the sexual health service were sending out letters inviting people for Sexually Transmitted Infection screening when they may not be potentially 'at risk' but Ms Buddery confirmed that an age group would be targeted for a particular campaign, i.e. chlamydia screening which aims to offer screening in people aged 15-24 years, just as over 50s would be targeted for breast screening, etc, and that it was often a 'blanket' approach. Ms Buddery highlighted the fact that she was working with the sexual health service to identify which interventions were the most cost effective, as sending out mail outs may not be an approach used for the future.
- Members congratulated the service on the excellent results achieved.

6.5 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) notes the contents of the report now considered;
- (b) welcomes the new approach towards an integrated service;
- (c) offers its congratulations to the service for the excellent work achieved and requests that the Policy and Improvement Officer writes to the service on behalf of the Committee to congratulate them;
- (d) requests information to be sought from Social Care teams to assess how many teenage pregnancies result in adoption;
- (e) requests a full breakdown of the City by area with the numbers of teenage pregnancies in each Ward;
- (f) requests a report back on the wider factors surrounding teenage pregnancy resulting from the work carried out with the University of Sheffield;
- (g) requests that a review be conducted into the quality of sex and relationship education currently provided for young people with Special Educational Needs; and

- (h) requests a further report to the Committee in June 2014, to assess the progress of the new integrated service.

7. SCHOOL GOVERNANCE - VACANCY MANAGEMENT, RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

- 7.1 Pat Toner, Iain Peel and Mike Patterson, Children Young People and Families service, reported upon School Governance arrangements in the City. It was noted that Eric Pye had retired from the role, after many years' service with the Council.
- 7.2 Mr. Toner and Mr. Peel reported that the City Wide Learning Body (CWLB) had commissioned a large piece of work to examine the Governance arrangements in the City. It had looked in detail at 18 Governing Bodies, to get a feel for what the current practices were.
- 7.3 As a result of this review, recommendations had been made back to the CWLB in April 2013, around the themes of obtaining high quality governors, training and support, access to data and governor retention.
- 7.4 Best practice had been identified and it was hoped that this would now be shared across the City. This was particularly important as more schools moved to Academy status. It was noted that 40 new Governors had been recruited successfully in the last Academic Year, and that the Government had also produced new legislation around the composition of Governing Bodies. There was still currently a 12.7% vacancy rate in Sheffield, which was higher than the national average, but measures were being put in place in order to reduce this. In line with new legislation, many Governing Bodies had reduced in size, some from as many as 26 down to 12. This meant that Bodies could operate in a more effective and streamlined way. Further plans to target the recruitment of University staff and senior civil servants to Governing Bodies were in place.
- 7.5 It was noted that although many schools (145) bought in clerking arrangements for Governor meetings, this was not always the case, and Members were keen that information for all Governors was always clear and accessible. Improvements were still to be made in terms of recruitment of Governors, particularly those from black and ethnic minority backgrounds, and also around the accessibility and quality of the training on offer. Academies did not have an obligation to have a Local Authority member on board, but all of the Academies in Sheffield had so far taken up the offer of having one, thus retaining essential links with the Council. There was an emphasis on the importance of parental engagement within schools, as a model for increased recruitment of parent governors, and also to improve communications across the School. It was noted that Ofsted had access to 'Parent View' before they made a visit to any school, so they were able to assess the climate of the current parental engagement before they arrived.
- 7.6 Members were keen that, although smaller, leaner Governing Bodies could potentially govern more effectively, that they did not lose their 'heart' by being too 'business-like' and potentially intimidating for laypeople. Everyone agreed that the Governing Bodies having roots in the community was essential to its success.

The review had also found that, alongside the traditional skills set sought from Governing Body members, such as HR, and finance for example, the greater emphasis was on finding exemplary soft skills in its members, such as communication skills, empathy and patience. The Chief Inspector of Schools, Sir Michael Wilshaw, had commented in his latest paper that an effective Governing Body was key to the success of any school.

7.7 Members agreed that a fundamental rethink was required to increase the take up of training amongst Governors. A Governing Body comprised a minimum of seven members (including two parent governors, one member of staff and the Headteacher).

7.8 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) notes the information now reported in respect of the Governance review;
- (b) supports a review of current training and recruitment methods for Governing Bodies, and
- (c) Requests a report back to Committee in 12 months' time.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

8.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Thursday, 5th December 2013, at 2.00 pm, in the Town Hall.