



Report to Children, Young People & Family Support Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

21 November 2016

Report of: Executive Director Children, Young People & Families

Subject: Sheffield Parent Carer Forum, State of Sheffield 2014 Report - update report

Author of Report: Tim Bowman, Head of Inclusion & Targeted Services

Summary:

This paper follows from updates produced for this Scrutiny Board on 25th January 2016 and a paper presented to the Sheffield Carers Board on 28 July 2016. The paper draws heavily upon the later document.

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	X
Other	

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

- Consider the report and provide any comment

Background Papers: n/a

Category of Report: OPEN

1. Issue

This paper follows from updates produced for this Scrutiny Board on 25th January 2016 and a paper presented to the Sheffield Carers Board on 28 July. The paper draws heavily upon the later document. The purpose of this paper is to:

- update on the actions underway
- describe the activity still to be completed and further work to be done
- propose a number of actions to improve co-working between Sheffield City Council and the Sheffield Parent in the future

2. Background

The latest Sheffield Parent Carer Forum (SPCF) State of Sheffield report which was published in autumn 2014 set out a number of recommendations to commissioners and providers of education, health and social care services.

In response to the recommendations Sheffield City Council began to develop an action plan based on the agreed areas of priority, which complemented work already being addressed through the Implementation of the SEND Reforms. Since January 2016 the reforms have been incorporated into a wider Inclusion Strategy which aims to transform the way services are provided for vulnerable children, young people and their families. The Inclusion Strategy describes in more detail the work being done to implement the SEND Reforms (and respond to the issues raised by parents and carers). There is more to be done to involve parents in the co-production of this strategy and in the associated work packages. Recommendations about how this can be improved are contained in section 4 of this report.

In addition to specific work related to areas highlighted in the State of Sheffield report we (SCC) have also continued to strengthen our relationship with SPCF and develop new ways of working and a much more collaborative approach to agreeing and addressing areas of priority. Including:

- SPCF being key members of the SEND Co-Production Group
- SPCF being core members of the parents group which meets with the Executive Director for Children, Young People and Families
- Monthly meetings with the members of SPCF, the Inclusion Programme Manager and lead officer for parental engagement.
- Involvement in a number of working groups, including a quality assurance group who are looking at the quality of Education Health and Care Plans and work on the review of the Local Offer and Short Breaks.

All of these routes allow members of the SPCF and the SCC to discuss matters of concern, ongoing issues and explore solutions and actions in partnership.

Through the regular meetings with SPCF it was agreed that a working document would be established that would take forward the recommendations of the State of Sheffield report and that this action plan would inform and be informed by the Inclusion Strategy which would provide a framework to ensure the recommendations would inform policy and delivery across a range of service areas.

Four key areas were identified:

- Cumulative Impact of Disability
- High Levels of Isolation
- Impact of Parental Wellbeing
- Work, Finances and Childcare

3. Update on Actions Underway

Recommendation for SCC	Work undertaken by SCC	Responsible Officer
Cumulative Impact of Disability		
Sheffield City Council and Sheffield CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) systematically collect data on the number of children and adults with disabilities and/or long-term health conditions per household and use this information to design and commission services.	A joint all age LDD needs assessment was completed in 2016, and a joint needs assessment of Children’s Complex Care in 2014/15. Joint needs analysis has been undertaken and a data sharing agreement has been agreed, which will inform the work of the joint commissioning group. The analysis of the use of short breaks services considers the use by household.	Joint Commissioning Group
Sheffield City Council ensures that social care assessments take account of the cumulative impact of providing care for more than one disabled person.	See scrutiny update paper.	Children and Families Service
Sheffield City Council awards the short breaks grant per disabled child instead of per family. Consideration should be given to lowering the threshold for accessing the grant for families with more than one disabled child.	During 2014 and 2015 various conversations have been held with parent carers regarding Short Breaks services in Sheffield. A Consultation will be launched shortly. This will include options on how the short break grant may operate in the future.	Lorraine Hall
High Levels of Isolation		
Mainstream leisure providers (e.g. leisure centres, cinemas, theatres, restaurants, sports clubs) invest in disability awareness training and work with disabled children, young people and their parents to identify and eliminate barriers to accessing services.	Although not within the remit of SCC, SCC will continue to work with partners such as SIV highlight what families are telling us are barriers to accessing their services through such things as the Every Child Matters, Sheffield Parents’ Survey, and the Short Breaks Consultation.	Rebecca Mason and Lorraine Hall

	<p>SIV have previously commissioned 'Check it Out' the Young Inspectors Group to inspect some of their service provision for children and young people from an inclusive perspective.</p> <p>In 2017 the Special Olympics (Olympics for UK residents with LD) is being hosted in Sheffield, offering a prime opportunity to raise a positive profile for disability and additional needs. Although not being led by SCC, a SCC officer group including childrens and adults services has been convened with the vision to develop a legacy – improving access to mainstream services is one of the ambitions.</p>	
Sheffield City Council funds a range of peer support projects (e.g. parent support groups, befriending schemes).	<p>The SPCF are funded through SCC to hold an annual family fun day which aims to engage families who may not always get involved with support groups.</p> <p>The role of third sector organisations needs to be strengthened to address the isolation felt by many families.</p>	
Impact on Parental Wellbeing		
Sheffield City Council prioritises short breaks services when assessing budget cuts.	<p>SCC remain committed to services for families of disabled children, and our goal is to continue to deliver short break services, support parents and carers, and offer activities which will improve the experiences and opportunities for disabled children and young people.</p>	Lorraine Hall

	<p>Although the funding we receive for short break and respite services has reduced, we have so far maintained most of the funding for short break and respite services.</p> <p>Following conversations with parent carers, children, young people and staff in 2014 and 2015, a consultation will be launched shortly on how we continue to provide the services in the future.</p>	
Sheffield City Council promotes short breaks services more widely to parent carers, using a range of communication methods.	<p>The information available on short break services is currently being reviewed and updated, and parent carers have been invited to be engaged in this work.</p> <p>This will cover both the Local Offer and the Short Break Statement.</p>	Lorraine Hall
Sheffield City Council ensures that the needs of parent carers are taken into account through a distinct carer's assessment which considers their need to work and to access education, training and leisure activities.	Work is being undertaken to ensure links are made with the support offered to carers within Adult services.	
Sheffield City Council commissions a specialist parenting course which focuses on increasing parents' knowledge and building resilience (e.g. modelled on the "Insider's Guide" courses developed by Amaze Brighton).	<p>A refresh of SCC's parenting programmes is currently underway.</p> <p>Previous workshops have been commissioned on supporting positive behaviour, and future workshops are being developed by the Special Needs Inclusion Play Service and SENDIAS.</p>	Candi Lawson

	SCC will ensure the needs of parents of children with SEND are addressed in the commissioning of future programmes.	
Work, Finances and Childcare		
The findings from this study inform the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA)	<p>The CSA considers the needs of Children with SEN, looking at ward profiles of need, and the information available on current provision. The findings from the State of Sheffield survey will be considered within the next sufficiency assessment.</p> <p>We will aim to implement a coordinated approach to undertaking surveys and ensuring we capitalise on opportunities to gather information that is meaningful and provides the insight to inform need and developments.</p>	Cathy Tandy & Lorraine Hall
Sheffield City Council reviews the sufficiency of inclusion grants for childcare providers.	<p>Through the review and refresh of the Local Offer, SCC will improve information on specialist childcare options.</p> <p>Members of SPCF are on the Local Offer working group and therefore can support the availability of appropriate information.</p>	Cathy Tandy & Lorraine Hall
<p>Sheffield City Council incorporates information from the DCATCH childcare folder into the local offer. This should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Specialist childcare options, e.g. 	<p>Through the review and refresh of the Local Offer, SCC will improve information on specialist childcare options.</p> <p>Work to understand the knowledge and skills</p>	Inclusion Programme Team – Alasdaire Duerden

<p>specialist childminders, Personal Assistants, direct payments for working parents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information about inclusion grants, training, mentoring support, resources and physical adaptations available to childcare providers; - Brokerage support for parents who cannot find suitable childcare; - Guidance for childcare providers regarding the reasonable adjustments duty 	<p>profile of wider childcare providers will be undertaken, to increase our knowledge and information on specialist provision.</p>	
<p>Sheffield City Council ensures that the Home-based Childcare Team has sufficient capacity to build on and expand the DCATCH-funded project to recruit, train and mentor specialist childminders and Personal Assistants.</p>	<p>SCC continued to implement training for childcare after the DECATCH project ended.</p> <p>We will look at how this can be incorporated into the induction for specialist childminders and personal assistants.</p>	

As well as the above 4 areas, progress has been made on the following recommendations:

SCC continues to develop the local offer in partnership with SPCF to ensure it is written from a user perspective, not a service perspective.

- Since January 2016, members of the SPCF and other parents have been part of the local offer working group, which has been looking at all aspects of the current local offer website and updating the content, look and navigation of the system. Young People have also been involved in this review.
- Although, the local offer was re-launched in summer 2016 following this joint work. There is much work still to do to improve the quality of content on the site. We will continue to work with the Sheffield PCF to co-produce these improvements.

SCC reviews the process of allocating banded funding to learners with complex needs in mainstream settings, and involves SPCF and school representatives in this review.

- A task and finish group, which included representatives from SPCF and the school sector was established in late summer 2015 to look at the banded and high needs funding. The recommendations made by the group were accepted by Schools Forum in February 2016 and implemented across schools in April 2016.
- This new locality approach is now underway in all localities. All localities have completed an assessment of learners using the new Sheffield Support Grid and a city wide group of Headteachers are providing oversight of implementation. We would like to engage parents in this work.

Schools work with parents of pupils with disabilities/additional needs to review how they communicate with this group of parents. Ideally, this should be done consistently across the local authority.

- The vision for the Inclusion Programme sets out clearly that **excellent communication and greater transparency to increase confidence in the system** is one of the ways we will achieve *the vision over the next five years to transform the lives and futures of vulnerable children and young people. Parental confidence in the education, care and health system will be very high and families will be well supported to enable their children to succeed.* And schools are crucial to delivering this vision.

4. Further work still to be done

Although we have developed some excellent joint working between Sheffield City Council and parents and carers on operational issues (see page 1), there is still more to do to ensure parents and carers are engaged and involved in strategic developments. A good example of this is the Inclusion Strategy. Parents have been involved in many discussions relating to the strategy have been involved in much of the thinking relating to specific work packages (i.e. Local Offer). Despite this the Parent Carer Forum still feel that they have not been well enough engaged in co-production of the strategy.

To address these concerns, officers and the PCF have agreed to host a session or series of sessions with parents on the strategy. These sessions will follow a similar format to previous discussion groups and will be designed to involve and engage parents on:

- The scope of the strategy
- The structure of its work packages
- Its targets and their associated timescales
- Whether the strategy addresses the key issues identified by parents in the “State of Sheffield” report.

This session(s) will be held this term and will feed into the draft strategy. Officers and the PCF have also agreed to review parental representation on the Inclusion Board. This review will focus in particular on joint working between the PCF and Healthwatch Sheffield.

5. Future co-working

Finally, officers from Sheffield City Council and representatives of the Sheffield Parent Carer Forum have recently discussed how joint working on the “State of Sheffield” could be improved in the future. Although we believe relationships are good and that we have worked together well on the critical issues raised in the State of Sheffield report, in other areas we have more slowly than we could have.

To respond to this we are proposing the following:

- Before consultation work on the next report is undertaken we will meet and discuss what issues we would jointly wish to look at and what the scope of the report should be.
- When the consultation is completed we will meet again to consider the recommendations and responses.
- Once the Sheffield Parent Carer Forum has agreed its recommendation but before publication of the report the Council will consider these recommendations and provide commentary to the report. This commentary will make it clear whether the council is accepting the recommendation and if so what plans it will make to address the issue.

We are also proposing that the next report (subject to funding being available) should be commissioned to coincide with the conclusion of implementation of the SEND Reforms in March 2018. This would mean the next State of Sheffield would be our main means to assess the success of our changes.

6. Recommendations

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

- Consider the report and provide any comment
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