

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

To: Council

Date: 10th May 2016

From: Executive Director: Children, Families and Adults Services

Purpose: To consider the Annual Report 2015/16 for the Children and Young People Policy and Service Committee.

Recommendation: Council is recommended to note the Children and Young People Policy and Service Committee Annual Report 2015/16.

<i>Officer contact:</i>		<i>Member contact</i>	
Name:	Adrian Loades	Name:	Councillor Joan Whitehead
Post:	Executive Director: Children, Families and Adults Services	Portfolio:	Chairwoman, Children and Young People Policy and Service Committee
Email:	Adrian.Loades@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	Email:	joan.whitehead@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel:	01223 727993	Tel:	01223 699114

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Children and Young People Committee comprises the following Members: County Councillors - D Brown, P Brown, S Bywater, D Divine, P Downes, S Frost, D Harty, J Hipkin, M Leeke, M Loynes, F Onasanya, J Whitehead, J Wisson and Co-opted members - Roman Catholic diocesan representative P Rossi and Church of England Diocesan representative P Stanton.

The Chairwoman is Councillor Joan Whitehead, the Vice-Chairman is Councillor David Brown and the Spokesmen/women are Councillors David Brown, Daniel Divine, Peter Downes, John Hipkin and Fiona Onasanya.

- 1.2 Over the last twelve months the committee has met eight times. Section two of the report highlights a number of significant issues considered by the committee during this period, full notes and a full list of decisions taken can be found via the link included at source documents.

2.0 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE WORKLOAD

- 2.1 Key Issues decided over this period of time include:

2.1.1 Business Planning

The Committee considered reports on business planning over the period to 2020/21 in September, November, December and January as strategic direction and saving proposals were developed. During the process the Committee considered and commented on the approach to demographic pressures and inflationary pressures for 2016/17 business plan, the level of fees and charges for the Children, Families and Adults (CFA) services within the remit of the Committee, the ongoing stakeholder consultation and discussions with partners and service users regarding emerging business planning proposals, and requested for General Purposes Committee to consider the implication of increasing Council Tax by 5%. The Committee also agreed the Capital Programme for 2016-17 and agreed that following adoption by full council where it proves necessary for new schemes to be added to the Capital Programme in response to unplanned housing development, these are detailed in the Finance Performance Report for approval initially by the CYP Committee and then General Purposes Committee. In January 2016, the Committee agreed to forward the savings proposals and Capital Programme to General Purposes Committee as part of consideration for the Council's overall Business Plan.

2.1.2 Commissioning Children's Centres

The current contract for Children's Centres expired in March 2016 and a report was brought to the board in June 2015 to seek the Committee's approval to award a short term contract without competition. The Committee approved the application for a Voluntary ex-ante Notice in order to enable the County Council to award the contract for Children's Centres from March 2016 for 18-24 months without competition, pending a wider scale commissioning process during 2017.

2.1.3 Future New Schools for Cambridgeshire

A variety of proposals for new schools and sponsors were brought to Committee over the course of the year. In May 2015, the Committee noted the need for two new secondary schools in Huntingdonshire in response to the planned Alconbury Weald and Wyton housing developments. In September 2016, the Committee endorsed Cambridge Primary Education Trust (CPET) as the Council's approved sponsor for the new primary school at Clay Farm housing development Trumpington, Cambridge. In December 2015, the Committee confirmed Chesterton Community College as the Council's preferred sponsor for the new secondary school to serve the North West Cambridge and Darwin Green housing developments. In February 2016, the Committee endorsed the provision of a new secondary school in Wisbech in response to demographic change and proposed level of development.

2.1.4 School Funding Formula 2016/17

In January 2016 the Committee was advised of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Allocations published by the Department for Education (DfE) on 17 December 2015. The Committee approved the local schools funding formula, prior to submission to the Education Funding Agency (EFA), and, endorsed use of the previous year's Income Deprivation affecting Children Index (IDACI) data, subject to Department for Education approval.

2.1.5 School Improvement Board and Education Performance

In February 2016, the Committee was informed of the educational performance in Cambridgeshire. Main headlines include that results in the Early Years, Primary age range and at GCSE had all improved, but performance in Key Stage 2 was still below the national level, and the gaps between vulnerable groups and their peers remained too wide at all key stages. Addressing these gaps remained the key school improvement priority. One of the actions being taken to improve performance in Cambridgeshire is the bringing together of different types of schools under the Cambridgeshire School Improvement Board with the aim of working collaboratively to meet the County's priorities. In June 2015, the Committee considered a report about the planned establishment of the Cambridgeshire School Improvement Board to lead on primary, special and cross-phase issues (the Secondary Academies Improvement Board led by the Regional Commissioner for Academies and Free Schools leads on secondary school issues). The Committee resolved to approve the Terms of Reference for the Cambridgeshire School Improvement Board and to appoint Councillors P Downes and J Whitehead to serve on the Board.

2.1.6 Looked After Children Strategy and Mutualisation of the Multi Systemic Therapy Teams

The final draft of the Looked After Children Strategy (LAC) 2015 - 2021 (Building Family Resilience) and action plan was brought to the Committee in March 2016 after a consultation exercise. The Committee asked that three update reports, highlighting progress against the action plan and delivery of savings, are submitted to the Committee throughout the year and that update reports should also be submitted to the Corporate Parenting Board. The Committee approved the final version of the LAC strategy and action plan. A month prior to bringing

the LAC strategy to Committee, the Committee unanimously agreed to the mutualisation of the Multi Systemic Therapy Teams (MST Standard and MST Problem Sexual Behaviour) and gave permission for a Social Impact Bond to be explored as a potential future form of investment for financing the procurement of the service. MST forms one of the 'edge of care' services as part of the LAC strategy and as such is an element of the delivery savings attributed to the LAC strategy.

2.1.7 Future Approach to Support Complex Special Educational Needs for Children in Early Years Settings

The Committee considered a change in the approach to supporting and funding complex special educational needs in the early years. The Committee resolved to support the move from funding children in early years settings with complex Special Educational Needs and Disabilities through Early Years Access Funding to funding through Education, Health and Care Plans by 2021. The Committee also resolved to support the introduction from April 2016, for two years, of a limit on the maximum amount of hours per week (15 hours) the Local Authority funds per child through the Early Years Access Funding unless the child is eligible for free school meals, when the maximum would be 30 hours.

2.1.8 Cambridgeshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMH)

In June 2015, a report was brought to Committee detailing plans to improve emotional health and wellbeing services. These plans include redesigning the CAMHS pathway, the development of a whole system response to support children and young people through the delivery of the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy and support for 17-18 year olds with transitions from CAMH to adult mental health service. The Committee was also alerted to the current issues of increased waiting lists for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMH's) including the temporary closure of waiting lists for Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) referrals. The Committee was concerned in relation to the current status of children's mental health services and sought a progress report on this item. In March 2016 a report was brought back to the Committee which reported reduced waiting times and the re-opening of the ADHD and ASD waiting lists. The Committee welcomed the progress made in reducing waiting times and supported the direction of travel outlined in the transformation plan which was approved by NHS England in November and included an additional £1.5 million to be available to support the development of better access to CAMHS and the Eating Disorder services and the focus on the ITHRIVE model of delivery which focuses on need rather than a structured tier system and ensuring children and young people are thriving and supported in their local community.

Source Documents	Location
Agenda and Minutes of the Children and Young People Policy and Service Committee	http://www2.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/CommitteeMinutes/Committees/Committee.aspx?committeeID=73