

## **DISCLAIMER**

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**Agenda Item No:04**

# **Bristol City Council**

## **Minutes of People Scrutiny Commission**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015

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### **Scrutiny Members Present:-**

Cllr Alexander(Chair), Cllr Watson, Cllr Glazzard, Cllr Morgan, Cllr Means, Cllr Phipps, Jenny Smith, Cllr Kirk.

### **Members:**

Assistant Mayor Massey, Cllr Milestone, Cllr Pearce, Cllr Stone, Rob Telford, Assistant Mayor Hance

### **Also in Attendance:**

Alderman Price, Judith Brown - Expert Witness, Roger White – Parent Governor Co-optee

### **Officers in Attendance:-**

John Readman – Strategic Director People; Hilary Brooks – Interim Service Director Children & Family; Lucia Dorrington & Helen Pitches – Service Manager, Joint Commissioning; Airlie Fife – Service Manager; Karen Gazzard – Service Manager; Paul Jacobs – Service Director Education & Skills; Sally Jaeckle – Early Years; Jackie Turner – Service Manager; Carol Watson – Service Manager;

Public Forum –

#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Joffe, Cllr Greaves, John Swainston, Education Co-optee.

#### **2. Public Forum**

None

#### **3. Declaration of Interest**

None

#### 4. Minutes

##### Resolved:

**That the Minutes of the meeting of the commission held on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2015 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

#### 5. Action Sheet

The Action was noted

#### 6. Whipping

None

#### 7. Chair's Business –

- **Frenchay Hospital Site** – South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group are looking into the provision of a community hospital details to be available in March 2016.
- **Care Quality Commission Thematic Review** – CQC thematic review now concluded. The Chair extended compliments to BAB for their contribution to the process.

#### 8. The Integration Education & Capital Strategy

The Commission received a presentation on the report, from Paul Jacobs, Service Director Education & Skills.

The commission were informed that the purpose of the strategy:

- To meet the statutory duty to ensure sufficient education provision in the city
- To engage City leadership in developing high quality provision.
- To develop an integrated approach across education phases and sectors as part of the vision for Bristol: A Learning City.
- To ensure high levels of coherence across education and non-education sectors.
- Ensure Strategically ready with the clarity of vision to lobby for resources and investment.

Developing Schemes

- Essential Schemes: to meet the most urgent statutory/service needs
- Potential Landmark schemes: meet at least one 'statutory need'; co-locate or integrate; show clear partnership benefits.

- Emergent Schemes: 'in development' but necessary to achieve Strategic Objectives.

The following comments were noted from the discussion that followed.

- a. Secondary schools applications had been positively impacted by the raised confidence in Bristol Schools. This in turn brought forward the need for additional places particularly in the North and Central/East of the City.
- b. The service monitored educational needs using a 'pupil projection' tool that included information on property developments and immigration projections.
- c. The experts in the Place service are responsible for the updating of condition surveys on all school buildings. A priority list noted the schools in most need. The business case notes the arguments for a school building whether it should be subject to a full refurbishment or ongoing schedule of repair. Final decision based on the cost of borrowing for the work to be undertaken.
- d. Funding continues to be an issue. Devolution is viewed as the means to enable wider discussion between Post 16 Colleges and other providers and Local Authority. The service continues to engage with the Regional School Commissioner and as wide and influential audience to convey the pressure that Bristol is under due to the population growth.
- e. Members were concerned about school admission criteria's in relation to the ward boundary changes in relation to catchment areas and were reassured that catchment areas would remain the same.
- f. Members were informed that schools in the north of Bristol had a number of schools oversubscribed and a few schools under-subscribed and any decision of new schools would consider capacity in that area.
- g. Schools built under the PFI arrangements are locked into specific contract arrangements which often impacted school funding. For example a secondary school with a decline in admission numbers results in a drop in funding with the gap being met by the LA. PFI contracts brought added complication to any plans to expand school buildings.
- h. Members were assured that all Free Schools were subject to the same Ofsted framework as maintained schools or academies and are accountable on that basis. The delivery of the curriculum is determined by a school.
- i. The service intends to ensure that new school sites consider the need for outdoor space.
- j. Members sought more information on the Learning City Partnership Board particularly when the Mayor would be taking key decisions and at what point Scrutiny could make a contribution. **Action: Learning City Partnership to report formally to the commission. Karen Blong and John Readman.**

**Resolved:**

- i. **That the report presentation be noted.**

**9. Bristol Annual Education Performance – All Key Stages**

The Commission received a report and presentation from Paul Jacobs and Sally Jaeckle, Airlie Fife and Jackie Turner. They explained the good progress being made in Education performance by Bristol Schools and noted the challenges remaining in the areas for those learners facing disadvantages or other additional challenges.

Bristol Secondary Schools now perform in the top 1/3 of Local Authorities in relation to percentage of Good or Outstanding Schools. Ofsted are increasingly recognising the good leadership, teaching and pupil progress happening in Bristol schools in each phase.

The following was noted from the discussion that followed;

- a. Members enquired about the performance of girls and boys across subjects. Girls continued to out-perform boys across the vast majority of areas of learning. There is a key focus now on narrowing the gaps in achievement.
- b. Questions were asked about the impact on results of Colston Girls School and Bristol Cathedral on the overall improvement in performance. Members were informed that Bristol's improved performance is a result of all schools improving over time. There is a culture of reform and sharing of learning between schools.
- c. There had been investment in Early Years with the intention of closing any gaps by providing support to parents thereby supporting their understanding of the need to improve teaching and learning skills. In turn this has contributed to success in Secondary Schools.
- d. Members agreed that the detailed discussion on key challenges would take place at a member briefing. **Action: Karen Blong & Paul Jacobs.**

**Resolved:**

- That the report be noted.**

**10. Children Services Improvement Plan**

The Commission received a report and presentation titled ' Getting to Good' one year on, from Hilary Brooks, Interim Service Director Children & Family.

Services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers In Bristol were inspected by Ofsted in 2014 and the service rated 'required

improvement'. The service devised four key priorities for improvement which were translated into 98 actions.

- The outcomes for Care Leavers – to maintain regular contact with social workers, undertake effective Pathway Planning and increase the number of care leavers engaged in education, employment and training.
- The educational outcomes for children in care – to ensure the attainment gap with their peers continues to close and complete all Personal Education Plans to high standards.
- The delivery of consistently good social work practice for children and families
- Effective leadership, management and governance

The plan was endorsed by Ofsted and one-off funding of £600k assigned to support the successful delivery of the Plan and the achievements of the ambitious targets.

Members were directed to note progress delivery detailed in the Improvement Plan Dashboard.

- a. Members requested the base information for the percentage figures provided. Percentage of what, to provide understanding of the indicators.
- b. Members attention were drawn to the service successfully reaching the requirement for all young people to be contacted by a social worker.
- c. Changes in the way social workers work enabled them more contact with families in line with the principles set out in the Signs of Safety principles.

**Resolved:**

- i. That the presentation and report be noted.**

**11. Adult Care community Support Re-commissioning**

The Commission received an updated report from Lucia Dorrington and Helen Pitches, Service Managers job-share, Joint Commissioning Adult Care, looking to the commission to contribute to the consultations draft commissioning Strategy and response to the 9 consultation questions.

Members were reminded that the re-commissioning centred on the community support services for adults that are delivered within community settings. Service users often have learning difficulties, mental ill health and physical disabilities. The support services promote independence, well-being and choice and control for adults in need of social care. Community support services act to prevent or delay the need for people to go into residential settings.

The service provision in this area is over spent and the commissioning proposes allows for the reassessment of outcomes in line with outcomes and the variation in costs and quality of services.

The consultation had engaged with over 100 service users and would continue online to the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

The following was noted from the discussion that followed:

- a. Members were concerned that the general reduction in budgets across a wide area of adult social services and now in community services would have a negative impact on supported service that supported service users to remain within the home & community setting and avoided them moving to the more expensive provision of residential care.
- b. Members viewed the provision of adequate transportation options essential to support service users to engage in activities. Members concern would be noted and influence would be used to address the issue with the appropriate providers because the issue did not fall within the remit of the service.
- c. The consultation had rebutted the presumption that services-users sought independence as their main priority. The early results of the consultation reinforced the complexity of service-user needs.
- d. Members were provided with an explanation of the 'Three Tier Model' for all care and support services (service users, carers and reviews of support plans) will drive the new good practice customer pathway model. The proposed model:-

#### 3-Tier Model

- Help to Help Yourself
- Help When You Need it
- Help to Live Your life

Community services support provide help when the service user need it and continues to support for the rest of their lives.

- e. Members reviewed the draft Commissioning Strategy document and the following comments were noted from the discussion;
  - Members noted the absence of diversity profiling of service users to capture BME users
  - Consultation question 1 listing the principles underpinning the commissioning process where commented on;-
    - i. In point (1) Members question the use of the word 'right'. The process had been driven because of restraints on available resources which should be reflected in the statement.
    - ii. Reference to 'dignity in care' should be incorporated at point (2) or (3).
    - iii. In point (3) Members were unclear what was meant by the statement.
      - The service often had inconsistencies with the costs for similar service provision.

**Action: Time would not allow for a full discussion on the consultation questions Members agreed to feed back via the online consultation portal. [www.bristol.gov.uk/csscommissioning](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/csscommissioning) - All**

## **Resolved**

- i. **That the updated report would be noted.**

## **12. Review of Short-breaks for Disabled Children**

The Commission received a presentation from Carol Watson and Karen Gazzard on the implementation of Short Breaks strategy and the impact on The Bush.

The Commission and the wider Member audience who joined the meeting were reminded of the drivers for change and the impact of reduction in residential beds. Key points:

- Family needs would always be reviewed to identify the best provision for the child and family.
- 58 Children retaining a short break at The Bush or Belbrooke
- Small number of children have had a reduction of one night in breaks for example 2 nights instead of 3.
- 42 Children receiving a family based provision via the short breaks service.
- Vacancies remain for new referrals.
- 143 new personal budgets since October 14. Provision varies according to need, maximum being provided currently 29 hours support a week. 850 disabled children now able to access a short break through targeted provision, without needing to go via a social worker.

The service working to establish a new overnight provision that would;

- Identifying where family based provision would be an option - children would be match carefully.
- Working with a provider to develop short break provision for 16-25 that would support easier transition to adulthood.

The following was noted from the discussion that followed.

- a. The Bush served the needs of service users requiring planned short breaks and not emergency needs. To do so would impact on service users planned breaks.
- b. Members were assured that any existing short breaks service user with emergency needs would continue to be supported.
- c. Members were informed that the service was working towards the full reduction to 5 beds. Due to a number of rising 18 year olds and other

considerations the facility is operating at 7 beds on certain nights during a transition period.

- d. A final decision had yet to be made on space that had come available at the Bush. Members were informed that the space was not large but could be developed to support work with young people.
- e. The service aims to support the needs of every family: working to establish the widest range of available provisions to meet those needs in a more creative way.
- f. The family of service users are supported by professionals who listen to families and note changes in circumstances to allow proper review and matching to available options.

**Resolved:**

- i. **That the Commission noted the presentation.**

**The meeting ended at 13:36**

**CHAIR**