

# PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

## Monday, 4 March 2019

**PRESENT** – Councillors Liddle (Chair), Daley, Oates, Jacqueline Slater, D Smith and Whittle.

**OFFICERS** – Cllr Brian Taylor, Cllr Julie Gunn, Cllr Maureen Bateson, Dominic Harrison, Jayne Ivory, Elizabeth Clarkson, Sue Moore (LCFT), Joanne Moore (LCFT), Abdul Ghiwala, Paul Lee, Paul Conlon, Firoza Hafeji

**ATTENDANCE** – Uday Akram (Youth MP), Madison Walker (Member of Youth Forum), Amine Gherensi (Member of Youth Forum) and Umaimah Talgaonkar (Member of Youth Forum)

### RESOLUTIONS

#### 1 Welcome and Apologies

Following introductions the Chair welcomed Members to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors P Akhtar, Khonat, Casey. Apologies were also received from Robert Arrowsmith. The Chair gave a special welcome to the newly elected Youth MP Uday Akram and new members of the Youth Forum.

#### 2 Declarations of interest in items on this Agenda

There were no declarations of interest received.

#### 3 Minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd December 2018

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the last meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018 were approved as a correct record and were duly signed by the Chair.

#### 4 Joint Working on Mental Health and work of the Lancashire Care Foundation Trust (LCFT)

The Chair invited representatives from the Lancashire Care Foundation Trust, Sue Moore, Director of Strategic Development and Joanne Moore, Director of Operations to present information on work carried out at the Trust regarding Mental Health.

The Trust had been undertaking a programme of improvements and welcomed the opportunity to discuss the progress to date and the timeline for improvement of services. The Committee were informed that the Trust would look at using what was available and re-shaping services to meet the needs of service users. There had been a significant increase in activity and especially through presentation at accident and emergency departments. The Committee were informed of the multi-agency crisis plans that were in place to deal with issues such as suicide prevention and how these added value to services provided and could identify issues that needed addressing to assist those in need. The need for early intervention was stressed and the Trusts priority was to deliver services as local as possible and through schools and not Accident and Emergency Departments.

The Trust gave details of the resources available to them and the access they had to additional services in the private sector that could assist in dealing with pressures that arose. The services provided were currently being mapped on a Lancashire wide basis and transformation would happen over a period of 2-3 years. The aim of the review would be to reduce the need for beds and provide the preventative services that would reduce this need. The Trust worked with all partners including the Local Authority and CCG to meet the needs and address issues that were presented.

Members were informed that the Trust had recently bought a bus and named it "Harry" which attended various venues. Families were able to book appointments to seek advice or support. It was noted that workshops were to be held in churches and mosques to identify what support the community would like with Mental Health.

At the request of the Committee, the Trust agreed to come back to the Committee in the near future to outline progress on the reshaping of services to meet need and progress on introduction of preventative interventions and outcomes.

Members noted the Mental Health, Suicide and Learning Difficulties Needs Assessment: Lancashire and South Cumbria report.

#### **RESOLVED –**

1. That Sue Moore, Director of Strategic Development and Joanne Moore, Director of Operations be thanked for the detailed information.
2. That Lancashire Care Foundation Trust be invited to a future meeting in the new municipal year to update the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the progress.

## **5 Safeguarding**

The Chair invited Paul Lee, Head of Safeguarding, Community Protection and Specialist Services and Abdul Aziz Ghiwala, Safeguarding Development Manager for Children's to share a presentation on the work and developments to address the findings of the Ofsted review. It was noted that Nancy Palmer had retired in February 2019.

Members heard that the Ofsted focused visit took place in November 2018 and identified improvements in some aspect of the practice. The impact of the Family Group Conference Service was identified as having a positive impact on children and families. However the authority had come under some criticism as a partnership for the lack of progress in relation to neglect.

The Committee heard that feedback from the Ofsted focus visit stated that some children benefit from the good-quality work by individual practitioners, but for many children, particularly those suffering neglect, the service remained too variable, and some children lived in neglectful situations for too long, where they suffered harm. Ofsted also stated that despite a recommendation from the inspection in 2017, that practice in response to neglect was an area for improvement, the partnership had not progressed the work quickly enough.

The Committee were informed of next steps as:

- Complete the multi-agency audit and feedback findings by end of March 2019 as a priority
- Update action plan in response to the findings
- Work together to implement the strategy

Mr Ghiwala explained that within 3 months an external review of MASH was to be carried out by Professor David Thorpe, from Lancaster University, based on understanding of best social work and multi-agency practice informed by research. The findings from the review were to be fed back to the LSCB. An investment in strength based practice approach in Children's Services and key partners will be carried out. Also further sessions on graded care profile will be delivered to support the team identify neglect at an early stage.

Members were updated on actions to be completed within the next 6 months as:

- Update strategy and further multi-agency audit to assess impact
- Complex Case Hubs to be developed to work with families.
- Training to be provided across the partnership

The Committee noted the annual reports which included:

- LSAB Annual Report and Business Plan 2018-19
- LSCB Annual Review 2017/18 and Business Plan 2018/19.

The Chair recommended that Members read the case studies included in the reports, at their own leisure, as they included life studies which were informative and interesting to read.

#### **RESOLVED -**

1. That the Paul Lee, Head of Safeguarding, Community Protection and Specialist Services and Abdul Aziz Ghiwala, Safeguarding Development Manager for Children's be thanked for the detailed information.
2. That Nancy Palmer, previously the Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Board, be thanked for the reports and for the Committee to wish her a prosperous retirement.
3. That a further update be brought to the People's Overview & Scrutiny Committee in the new municipal year.

## **6 Corporate Parenting Specialist Advisory Group**

The Chair invited Cllr Julie Gunn, Chair of Corporate Parenting Specialist Advisory Group (CPSAG) and Jayne Ivory, Director of Children's Services & Education to update the Committee on the progress and future development of the Group to meet the needs of the service users.

The Committee heard that every Elected Member was a Corporate Parent and were invited to attend the CPSAG.

Members heard that a Corporate Parenting Board was to be established to provide strategic leadership across the borough and to ensure that all local authority departments and key partner agencies promoted and championed their responsibilities as corporate parents to improve outcomes for our cared

for children and care leavers. It was noted that the Board would provide strategic intelligence and regular reports on impact to the CPSAG and contribute to and drive a Corporate Parenting work plan.

The Committee heard that a young care leaver had been appointed as a Vice Chair for the CPSAG to give the Group a young person's perspective.

Members were informed that a "Make a Noise" consultation was held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2019 where children and young people of all ages came together in the half term holiday to take part in a fun afternoon with participation activities and informal chats. The learning from the consultation would influence and strengthen the work of the CPSAG and pave the way for a work plan which would be driven by the proposed Corporate Parenting Board.

**RESOLVED** – That the Committee thanked Cllr Julie Gunn, Chair of Corporate Parenting Specialist Advisory Group and Jayne Ivory, Director of Children's Services & Education for the verbal information.

Signed: .....

Date: .....

Chair of the meeting  
at which the minutes were confirmed