EDUCATION, CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL

Minutes of the meeting of the Education, Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel held on Monday, 15 July 2019 at 4.15 pm in Conference Room A, floor 2, Civic Offices

Present

Councillors Frank Jonas (in the Chair)
        Tom Coles
        Ben Dowling
        Hannah Hockaday

Officers
Alison Jeffery, Director of Children, Families and Education
Denise Lingham, Head of Safeguarding Monitoring
Mike Stoneman, Deputy Director of Children, Families and Education

1. **Apologies for absence**
   Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jason Fazackarley and Will Purvis.

   Declarations of Members' Interests
   There were no declarations of interest.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting - 17 June 2019**

   RESOLVED that the minutes of the Education, Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel held on 17 June 2019 be noted as a correct record.

4. **Review into support for children with disabilities**

   In discussion on the draft scoping document the following points were made:

   Portsmouth Parent Voice (PPV) (funded by PCC and based at the Frank Sorrell Centre) do crucial work in supporting families with disabilities and were instrumental in obtaining parents' views during the recent inspection of Children's Services. The Dynamite group aims to give a voice to young people with disabilities. Representatives from these organisations could give evidence and PPV could help with hearing from parents. Enableability was also suggested as a source of evidence.

   The panel discussed how much emphasis on health should be included in the review. As children's health and social care are becoming more integrated it might be helpful to consider parents' views and how health would benefit by coming under Children's Services. An inspection a few weeks ago reviewed health services and as health is covered by other organisations and committees it was agreed there would be not be a great emphasis on health.

The recent inspection showed that although the model for therapy services was good it was not communicated as well as it could be. The review could consider how families are made aware of services and help.

When considering provision for short breaks (respite) the panel agreed the review should include sites other than Beechside and also how parents access these facilities. For example, access to Beechside currently needs a referral from a social worker. The review could also include holiday play schemes and pre-paid schemes along with how families receive money to purchase respite and care packages. Education is due to carry out a consultation on targeted short breaks during the Autumn 2019 so perhaps the review and consultation could feed into each other.

Children's Services could write to parents who receive services but they have just been asked for their views during the recent SEND Local area inspection so asking again might be overload. Parents could be contacted through PPV or special schools.

Site visits to Beechside and schools would have to take place during the day but early evening would be the best time to meet parents.

Officers agreed to prepare initial evidence comprising a profile of children with disabilities, how many there are, what families appreciate, how far Children's Services' remit stretches and current spending. The panel could also receive information on PPV, Dynamite and Enableability. This will be circulated to members in advance of the next meeting.

The proposed timeline of meetings is:

- 16 September - meeting to discuss the evidence prepared by Children's Services and perhaps hear from organisations such as PPV, Dynamite and Enableability
- October - site visit
- November - meeting to consider evidence from site visit and provision for 19 to 25 years for which Children's Services now has statutory responsibility.

5. **Next meeting**
The next meeting will be held on Monday 16 September at 4.15 pm in Room B, floor 2, Civic Offices.

The meeting concluded at 4.45 pm.

Signed

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Councillor Frank Jonas (Chair)