

# **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON THURSDAY 16TH MARCH 2017**

## **PRESENT:**

**Councillors: Kirsten Hearn (Chair), Mark Blake, Liz Morris and Reg Rice**

**Co-opted Members: Luci Davin (Parent Governor representative) and Yvonne Denny (Church representative)**

## **21. FILMING AT MEETINGS**

The Chair referred Members present to agenda item 1 as shown on the agenda in respect of filming at the meeting. Members noted the information contained therein.

## **22. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mallett and Uzma Naseer (parent governor representative).

## **23. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

## **24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Ms Denny reported that she was Vice Chair of the Bridge Renewal Trust, whose premises were located in the same building as that proposed for the use by Haringey Youth Zone (see agenda item 9).

## **25. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS**

None.

## **26. MINUTES**

### **AGREED:**

That the minutes of the meeting of 23 January 2017 be approved.

## **27. CAMHS TRANSFORMATION PLAN**

Catherine Swaile, the Vulnerable Children and Young People's Joint Commissioning Manager, reported on progress with the transformation of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) within the borough. She reported that the

Transformation Plan had recently been updated to take into account work that had been completed since the original plan had been approved.

She stated that CAMHS incorporated a wide range of emotional well being services. These included the new Choices service, work with the Council's Early Help services and psychological support for parents. The main service base was at Burgoyne Road. Although there was an outreach team based on the St. Ann's site, there was no in patient CAMHS provision there. There was also a pilot GP service within the borough as well as counselling and psychotherapy that was delivered by Open Door in Crouch End and Tottenham. There was emergency provision at the North Middlesex and Whittington Hospitals, although this was not available at weekends. In patient services were provided by the Beacons in Edgware as well as Simmons House in Muswell Hill. Schools also provided some support themselves.

CAMHS generally dealt with young people up to the age of 18. However, some services could work with older children if necessary, for example Open Door and the Tavistock and Portman Trust. Consideration was being given to varying the contract with Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust so that there was greater flexibility in order to assist with the transition by young people from CAMHS to adult mental health services.

In answer to a question regarding waiting times from referral to assessment, Ms Swaile reported that 46% of children and young people waited between 0 and 4 weeks, 39% waited between 4 and 8 weeks and 9% waited between 8 and 13 weeks. 2% waited more than 26 weeks. The waiting time for the Choices service was a maximum of 28 days. However, there was a national drive to focus more strongly on the second appointment as this was generally when treatment commenced. The average figure for this in Haringey was 71 days. Average waiting time nationally was currently 11 weeks. It was acknowledged that this was quite long, especially in terms of the life of a child.

In answer to a question regarding provision for black and minority ethnic (BAME) children and young people, Ms Swaile stated that she was not aware of any evidence that they were following different routes. CAMHS worked closely with the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) and, in addition, had identified the fact that provision in the Youth Offending Service was currently insufficient. In response to this, additional staffing had been allocated to it. She felt that interventions needed to take place at an early stage in order to reduce the risk of children and young people entering the youth justice system. Schools also had a responsibility to provide support.

Ms Swaile reported that provision for BAME communities had been benchmarked against census data in 2015. It was found that there was little variance between different ethnic groups. However, there was under representation amongst children and young people who identified themselves as Black British. Work was required to improve engagement and NHS trusts also needed to improve their ethnic monitoring. The Panel noted that Open Door in Tottenham was undertaking specific work to engage with the black community.

In answer to a question regarding provision of young children at risk of exclusion, Ms Swaile reported that there was currently a pilot project involving 11 schools aimed at

improving communication and facilitating early intervention. In addition, schools could provide direct access to CAMHS services. In particular, there was support available at the Chestnuts Centre on attachment and trauma. Provision was either commissioned by schools or the CCG.

In respect of care leavers and looked after children, Ms Swaile reported that they were able to access services until they were 18. However, a number of services were still open to young people after they had turned 18. It was acknowledged that there was a gap in provision in the transitional process to adult services. Mind had undertaken some work in respect of this but it had now come to an end.

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Ms Swaile reported that the child house model for those who have experienced child sexual assault is now live and it is possible to access a range of services, though not, as yet, in a single location.

The Panel thanked Ms Swaile for her contribution and requested that written responses to the questions from the Panel that it had not been possible to cover in the time available be circulated.

The Panel noted that it had received some evidence as part of its review on disproportionality within the youth justice system that there had been an increase in emotional and behavioural issues reported amongst children in primary schools, which had been referred to in the recommendations. They requested that an update on progress with this be referred to a future meeting of the Panel.

**AGREED:**

1. That a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Panel on CAMHS provision for BAME young people and, in particular, those who come into contact with the youth justice system; and
2. That a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Panel on action to address the recent increase in emotional and behavioural issues reported amongst children in primary schools, as referred to in the Panel's review on disproportionality within the youth justice system.

**28. DEVELOPMENT OF POST 16 PROVISION/SCRUTINY REVIEW ON YOUTH TRANSITION**

David Grant, School Improvement Adviser in the Children and Young People's Service, reported on progress with the implementation of the recommendations of the

Panel's review on youth transition and the development of post 16 provision within the borough.

He reported that the Academy of Excellence in Tottenham was aiming to accept 175 admissions this year and 700 overall in the coming years and would be occupying the previous Tottenham UTC building. Haringey 6<sup>th</sup> Form College was enjoying improved academic results. It provided a range of courses, including GCSE re-sits and vocational options.

The Panel noted that the percentage of young people who went to university in 2016 in the Hornsey constituency was now 43%. It was 29% in the Tottenham constituency but this was 50% higher than it had been 10 years ago. There were no existing school 6<sup>th</sup> forms in Tottenham but this was now changing with the new Harris Academy. The largest provider in Tottenham was the Haringey 6<sup>th</sup> Form College. ADA, the National Digital Skills College had opened in September 2016 and, in addition, the London Academy of Excellence would open in September 2017. 55% of young people went outside the borough for their 6<sup>th</sup> form education but they tended to perform less well than those who remained in-borough. The out of borough provision that young people accessed was mainly determined by their reputation, peer groups and transport links.

Mr Grant reported that there was unfilled capacity at the Haringey 6<sup>th</sup> Form College. There were currently 800 young people on roll but a further 400 could be accommodated. A lot of work had been undertaken by the new Principal to develop good links with schools. The destinations of students and "added value" statistics were both good and standards were improving. However, there was an unwarranted negative perception of the Centre that was proving difficult to overcome.

A Panel Member expressed concern in respect of behavioural issues in respect of students that had previously been encountered at the College. Mr Abbey reported that 4 years ago the College had been rated as "requires improvement" by Ofsted. In the last two years, improvements had taken place and it was now rated as "good". Despite the progress made, changing perceptions was challenging. However, there was now a wider range of choices for post 16 in Tottenham than in previous years. He agreed to bring the issues that had been raised in respect of Haringey 6<sup>th</sup> Form College to the attention of the College's trustees.

In answer to a question, Mr Grant reported that there was a wide range of provision available for children with special educational needs and disabilities, although facilities varied between colleges. With a suitable health and education plan and support, it was possible for young people to study at all levels.

Vicky Clark, Assistant Director of Development and Growth, reported that the demographics of those who attended the recent careers fair at Alexandra Palace had not been specifically monitored as this would have not been practical. However, it appeared that a larger proportion of attendees had come from the west of the borough and approximately a third had come from Tottenham. There was a need to improve marketing and, in addition, consideration could be given to alternating venues to different locations across the borough.

In respect of apprenticeships, she stated that the reputation of these had been poor but was now improving. The Economic Development Team nevertheless needed to do more to promote them and work was taking place to achieve this. There were a lot of small businesses within the borough and apprenticeships could be more difficult for them to administer than larger organisations. It was also important that schools promoted apprenticeships more effectively. The Panel noted that a member of the Economic Development Team worked closely with schools and their careers advisers to ensure that suitable options were provided for young people. Work also took place with the College of North East London. There was also a particular need for young people to develop employability skills to enable them to stay in employment. Case studies of the experiences of young people and employers were being developed and work was taking place with The Voice newspaper to promote these.

Councillor Weston, the Cabinet Member for Children, reported that post 16 was a complex area and better co-ordination was required. Young people were happy to travel and this included across the borough as well as outside. Significant numbers of young people from the east of the borough attended provision in the west. Councillor Ayisi, the Cabinet Member of Communities, reported that the issues in Haringey were not dissimilar to those experienced elsewhere. Those young people who attended colleges tended to adjust better to university life. There was a need to engage more effectively with employers in respect of apprenticeships and ensure that there was clarity on entry requirements.

## **AGREED**

That the Director of Children's Services be requested to bring the concerns expressed by the Panel Members in respect of historic behavioural issues at Haringey 6<sup>th</sup> Form College to the attention of the College's trustees.

## **29. HARINGEY YOUTH ZONE**

Councillor Eugene Aysisi, the Cabinet Member for Communities, reported on proposals to develop a Haringey Youth Zone. A limited budget of £250,000 was currently available for youth services in the borough and this was an opportunity to bring in additional funding to further develop universal youth provision. OnSide, the Council's proposed partner in this development, was a charity that worked across the country. The partnership would bring in £3 million of capital funding as well as an annual £750,000 in revenue funding for three years. There was no final agreement as yet on the site for a new facility. OnSide had committed to keep the Bruce Grove Youth Centre open as a delivery site. A local charitable organisation would be established to operate the new facility once it had been built, with a partnership between Haringey and Onside taking the proposal to forward. A working group would be established to support work on the detail.

Youth offer provision in the borough was currently limited and focussed on Bruce Grove Youth Space. The key to the success of the proposed development would be engaging and working with those within the local community who were best placed to advise on how to ensure that the new development and offer were attractive and sustainable. It was acknowledged that some young people were reticent to move around the borough but the majority were not and the facilities and the offer would

encourage them to attend the new provision irrespective of location. In addition, the proposal provided an additional £750,000 revenue for youth services across the borough.

In answer to a question, Gill Gibson, the Assistant Director for Early Help and Prevention, reported that five youth zones facilities had been established for more than three years. There was currently no facility in London although several were currently under development. OnSide had been established in 2008 in Bolton and aimed to be open 7 days a week and all year round. The charity had brought together the private sector as well as youth service professionals. Cllr Ayisi reported that other authorities had provided £400,000 but OnSide had accepted a lower amount from Haringey. OnSide were committed to working with the borough to develop provision. Young people would be fully engaged in the design and development process.

The Panel noted that the programme would be established jointly with young people and focus on a range of activities, including enterprise, music and sport. It would provide a safe place for young people to meet and find someone to talk to. There was also a commitment to establish youth outreach in the 9 months leading up to the new facility opening. OnSide were aware of post code issues and had encountered similar issues in North Manchester and Wolverhampton. There would be specific provision for girls and LGBT young people. A specific charitable trust would be created to run services in Haringey. The key to ensuring that diversity was considered would be to ensure appropriate representation from the local community on the Haringey board.

Ms Gibson reported that the proposals were consistent with the Council's aspirations and strategies for children and young people. As a registered charity, the new facility would be in a position to attract external grant funding. The future financial risk levels were considered to be low and it was felt to be a successful operating model that could be sustained. The key risk for Haringey was the possibility of being left with the premises, should local fund raising not be achieved. The Panel noted that it would initially be a three year commitment by the Council and that potentially £12 of social benefit would be generated from each £1 invested. Success would be the establishment of a financially viable service with increased provision, more young people in employment and less anti social behaviour. The Panel noted that there had been a reduction in anti social behaviour in Manchester following the establishment of a youth zone there.

Cllr Ayisi reported that it was proposed to re-locate the community groups from Chestnuts Community Centre into alternative accommodation prior to securing permanent premises as part of local re-development. It was not anticipated that the new building on the site would encroach significantly beyond the footprint of the current building.

The Panel expressed concern that the Equalities Impact Assessment had not been undertaken at an earlier stage. It was important that it was not an after thought and considered fully in the development of the proposal. It was also noted that dialogue has been taking place for two years and felt that engagement could therefore have taken place at an earlier stage.

Councillor Ayisi commented that the proposal had been developed in the last few months. In terms of the procurement process, there was no similar provider to compare the proposal with and it was considered highly unlikely, following soft market testing, that other organisations would be able to match the model presented.

**AGREED:**

1. That the report be noted but that the Panel expresses its concerns in respect of the “one size fits all” model and lack of earlier engagement; and
2. That Councillor Mark Blake be appointed to the Working Group.

**30. SCRUTINY REVIEW ON CHILD FRIENDLY HARINGEY**

Councillor Weston reported that she welcomed the Panel’s report and was pleased that the Panel had focussed on this issue. She would respond in due course but hoped that it would be possible to agree most, if not all, of the Panel’s recommendations.

**AGREED:**

That the report and its recommendations be agreed and submitted on behalf of the Panel to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for approval.

**31. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

**AGREED:**

The consideration be given to the inclusion of a review on the issue of care leavers within the future work plan for the Panel.

**32. VOTE OF THANKS**

It being the last meeting of the Panel for the current Municipal Year, the Chair was thanked by the Panel for her work as Chair. The Chair thanked Members and officers for their kind assistance and co-operation.

CHAIR: Councillor Kirsten Hearn

Signed by Chair .....

Date .....