

# **CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

6 OCTOBER 2015

The meeting commenced at 4.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

**Present:**

Councillor: Chris Simmons (In the Chair)

Councillors: Ged Hall and Trisha Lawton.

Also present: Councillor Jim Ainslie as substitute for Councillor Sheila Griffin in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 5.2.

Jo Heaney, Commissioning and Delivery Manager, NHS Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees CCG

**Co-opted members:**

Julie Cordiner (C of E Diocesan Representative)  
Michael Lee (RC Diocesan Representative)

**Young people's representatives:**

Rebekah Kadhim, Lauren Howells and Jack Palmer.

**Officers:**

Sally Robinson, Director of Child and Adult Services  
Danielle Swainston, Assistant Director, Children's Services  
Mark Patton, Assistant Director, Education, Learning and Skills 0-19  
Rachel Smith, Strategic Commissioner  
Julie Reed, School Place Planning, Admissions and Capital Manager  
Jacqui Braithwaite, Principal Educational Psychologist  
Helen White, Participation Manager  
Helen Swales, Participation Worker  
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Officer

### **38. Apologies for Absence**

Councillors Mary Fleet, Sheila Griffin, John Lauderdale and Brenda Loynes.

### **39. Declarations of Interest**

Councillors Simmons, Hall and Ainslie declared personal interests in Minute No. 45 as local authority appointed school governors.

**40. Minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2015**

Confirmed.

**41. CAMHS Transformation Locality Plan** (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

**Type of decision**

Key Decision (test (ii)) Forward Plan Reference No. C&AS40/15

**Purpose of report**

To approve the Hartlepool CAMHS Transformation Locality Plan and to grant delegated powers to amend the plan as needed following the assurance review process to ensure that funding is secured.

**Issue(s) for consideration**

The Principal Educational Psychologist reported that the Tees CAMHS Transformation Group was established in 2012/13, and involves representatives from each local authority area, the Clinical Commissioning Group, TEWV and the voluntary and community sector. The key focus of the group was to develop a Tees CAMHS Transformation Strategy in response to the national 'No Health Without Mental Health' strategy.

Earlier this year, a report was published by the Children and Young People's Mental Health Taskforce entitled 'Future in Mind'. This report identified a number of proposals the government wished to see in place by 2020 and established a clear direction with key principles about how to make it easier for children and young people to access high quality mental health care when they need it. The key drive was to establish a whole system approach focusing on prevention of mental ill health, early intervention and recovery.

Additional funding had been identified to support the aims set out in 'Future in Mind'. In order for CCGs and local areas to access these monies, localities were required to develop and submit their Transformation Plans to NHS England by 16th October 2015. Therefore, during the summer, Hartlepool had been working closely with the CCG and partners to build upon the Tees CAMHS Transformation Strategy and associated Transformation Locality Plan to ensure that all actions and targets are aligned with the requirements as set out in 'Future in Mind'. The plan would then go through the assurance process at a regional level before any funds were released.

In order to achieve this ambition in the short time scale available, the

plan was/would be taken to the following forums for discussion and information:

- Adults Mental Health Forum – 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2015
- Hartlepool Health and Wellbeing Board - 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015
- Children's Strategic Partnership – 17<sup>th</sup> November 2015

The Principal Educational Psychologist gave a presentation to the Committee setting out the process of developing the Transformation Locality Plan and the subsequent processes that were required including the new governance arrangements.

The tight timescales had placed a significant burden on officers and partners in developing the new plan. It had been hoped that there would be some information sharing from those authorities that had submitted plans early to NHS England but this had unfortunately not happened. It was acknowledged that the document would be a 'living' document subject to adaptation even after submission and approval. The deadline for submission of 16 October required officers to seek delegated authority to make the necessary amendments and inclusion of the information still being gathered.

The Commissioning and Delivery Manager from NHS Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees CCG commented that NHS England would be looking for an indication of increased investment to bring a transformation of services; more of the same was not an option.

The Church of England Diocesan representative commented that while there was much in the plan about awareness raising with schools and professionals there was little aimed at parents. Parents know what to do when a child is physically ill but had little or no guidance on what to do if their child had mental health issues. Using social media to connect with children and young people would give them access to advice and guidance in a way they understood.

One of the young people's representatives indicated that one of the issues they had identified was the waiting time to gain access to CAMHS. The Principal Educational Psychologist indicated that one of the key issues was that by moving resources to prevention, the waiting lists for intervention should reduce. The CCG representative stated that this was an issue that had been identified by the CCG and there had been some staffing changes in order to reduce waiting times.

The Chair welcomed the proposed plan. The access to CAMHS had improved in recent years but more was needed for young people and their families. Bringing those most affected into developing new services was a positive move towards developing the services they actually needed as opposed to fitting need to what was available.

The Chair considered that the most important factor for the future was

ensuring that the changes to the service were having a positive impact.

### **Decision**

1. That the Hartlepool CAMHS Transformation Locality Plan be endorsed;
2. That delegated authority be granted to officers to amend the plan if it fails to meet the NHS England requirements to ensure that funding is released;
3. That the strategic governance for the implementation of the plan lay within the remit of the Children's Strategic Partnership and the Joint Commissioning Executive reporting to the Health and Wellbeing Board;
4. That periodic updates be submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board in line with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and also to the Children's Services Committee.

## **42. School Admission Arrangements for 2017/18** (Director of Child and Adult Services)

### **Type of decision**

Key Decision test (ii) applies. Forward Plan Reference Number: CAS41/15.

### **Purpose of report**

To consider and agree the proposed admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools in Hartlepool for 2017/18 academic year.

### **Issue(s) for consideration**

The Strategic Commissioner reported that all admission authorities must set admission arrangements annually. Where changes were proposed to admission arrangements, the admission authority must first consult on those arrangements. If there were no changes proposed they only need to be consulted on at least every 7 years. Consultation must be for a minimum of 6 weeks and must take place between 1 October and 31 January of the school year before those arrangements are to apply. The consultation period allowed parents, other schools, religious authorities and the local community to raise any concerns about proposed admission arrangements.

There are no changes proposed to the current admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools that require public consultation. The published admission number for each Community

and Voluntary Controlled School was set out in Appendix 1 to the report. The admission numbers for Voluntary Aided, Foundation Schools, Academies and free schools were also included for information.

There were also no changes proposed to the admission arrangements including the over-subscription criteria in respect of Community and Voluntary Controlled schools which were set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

The coordinated Admission Schemes for Primary Schools and Secondary Schools for 2017/18 would be formulated and published on the Authority's website by 1 January 2016, in accordance with the Schools Admissions Code.

The Strategic Commissioner also reported that there had been a large number of applications for reception classes in September 2015. Arrangements had been made with a small number of schools (four) to take additional children to alleviate some of the demand pressures in the north of the town. These 'bulge' classes were a temporary measure only and the places had been offered in accordance with the published admissions policy.

Following the primary National Offer Day (16 April 2015) there were a number of parents dissatisfied that they did not receive one of their school preferences and the Council subsequently received a petition seeking a review of the admissions policy on the allocation of primary school places to include attendance at nursery as part of the admissions criteria. The petition was brought to the attention of Children's Services Committee on 16 June 2015.

Committee resolved that headteachers should be made aware of the terms of the petition. Headteachers have been informed and governing bodies would also be made aware of the petition in the autumn term. A report will be brought to a future Children's Services Committee which will outline the responses received. Should Members decide to formally consult on the terms of the petition, because of the statutory consultation timescales, recommendations could only be considered for the 2018/19 Admissions Arrangements.

In view of the pressure for primary places in the north, it was proposed to permanently increase capacity at two schools. However, to enable the buildings to be extended will require Committee to approve funding allocations which was the subject of the following agenda item.

### **Decision**

That in respect of Community and Voluntary Controlled schools admission arrangements for 2017/18 -

1. That the admission numbers as set out in Appendix 1 to the report

be approved.

2. That the current admission arrangements as set out in Appendix 2 to the report be approved.

## **43. School Place Planning / Basic Need Funding**

*(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

### **Type of decision**

Key Decision test (i) applies. Forward Plan Reference Number: CAS 39/15.

### **Purpose of report**

To seek approval to spend the 2015/16, 2016/17 and part of the 2017/18 Basic Need capital funding allocations.

### **Issue(s) for consideration**

The Strategic Commissioner reported that in previous years, Hartlepool's primary schools have had surplus capacity across the town and the need for additional places was not considered to be an issue. In 2012 the town was split into three geographical planning areas for funding purposes; North West, Central and East and South West. This helped secure Basic Need funding from the Department for Education.

There has been pressure on primary school places in the north of the town for the 2015/16 academic year and it was expected that the pressure for places would also be an issue for the 2016/17 academic year. This was due to a combination of significant planned developments in the North of the town and the increasing popularity of schools in that area.

Officers had identified two schools in the north of the town where capacity could be increased without deviating from the principles set out in the Child and Adult Services Department, Early Years and Schools Infrastructure Plan. The plan outlined the principle that no primary school would be larger than a two form of entry i.e. a Published Admission Number (PAN) above 60 which was 420 places and a secondary school no bigger than 1250 pupil places which was 250 per year group.

The identified schools are Clavering and Hart. The intention was to increase the published admission numbers for these two schools. This would initially provide an additional five places at Clavering and three places at Hart in the Reception year and eventually a total of 35 and 21 pupil places respectively would be created across all year groups. However, works would be required to be carried out to accommodate the extra places in advance of the expected funding payments.

The proposal was to commence works at Clavering - Phase 1 (Key Stage 1 area) and Hart in February/March 2016. A second phase scheme would also be required at Clavering in 2017, to accommodate those additional pupils in Key Stage 1. A feasibility study for Key Stage 2 building works had yet to be carried out.

The Building Design and Construction team had provided estimated costs for works at Clavering and Hart Primary Schools. Initial discussions with the headteachers of both schools had taken place and both had agreed to a 10% contribution. The estimated costs for each school were detailed in a confidential appendix to the report. The appendix contained exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006) namely, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

The Chair commented that the pupil projection figures had not taken account of the unintentional effects of past changes to the criteria. Hopefully, this proposal would provide a longer term solution to some of the issues experienced this year.

### **Decision**

1. That the Basic Need funding on schemes to increase capacity at Clavering and Hart Primary schools, as detailed in confidential Appendix 1 to the report be approved.
2. That it is noted that if capacity is permanently increased at Clavering, further works would also be required to the Key Stage 2 area of the school.

## **44. Commissioning of Emotional Wellbeing Support Service for Parents** *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

### **Type of decision**

Non key decision.

### **Purpose of report**

To request approval from Children's Services Committee to implement a procurement exercise through tender submissions for the provision of an emotional wellbeing service for parents.

### **Issue(s) for consideration**

The Assistant Director, Children's Services reported in 2014, Hartlepool Borough Council commissioned a provider to deliver an emotional

wellbeing service for parents involved with the Think Family, Think Communities (TFTC) programme, who were affected by the issues stated above. Due to the success of this service, Hartlepool Borough Council would like to mainstream this approach, by offering emotional wellbeing support to all parents involved with children's services. Evidence from the initial pilot shows that parents have welcomed this support and it has enabled them to improve their own emotional wellbeing in order to meet their children's needs.

It was proposed that the service is commissioned in line with the council's contract procedure rules. The service would be advertised for two years with an extension for a further two twelve months, based on demand, satisfactory performance and funding being available. The total value of the initial two year contract is proposed to be £45,000 per annum (£90,000 for the initial two years contract period).

### **Decision**

That the procurement of a mentoring service for children and young people be approved.

## **45. Schools Formula 2016/17 – Item referred to Children's Services Committee by Schools Forum** *(Assistant Director, Education, Learning and Skills 0-19)*

### **Type of decision**

Non-key Decision.

### **Purpose of report**

To provide an update on the EFAs published Schools Revenue Funding for 2016/17 and the implications for School budget setting.

### **Issue(s) for consideration**

The Assistant Director, Education, Learning and Skills 0-19 reported that the Schools Forum at its meeting on 8 September had considered the school budgets for 2016/17. One of the issues that the Forum considered was the percentage rate to be included in the schools funding formula for deprivation. The average rate of funding allocated via deprivation factors by Hartlepool's statistical neighbours is 9%. The North East average deprivation rate is 11.3% and Hartlepool's was one of the highest at 15%.

In light of the government's forthcoming spending review and the potential for the introduction of a national funding formula for all schools, there was much debate on the deprivation percentage particularly in reducing the rate. The Assistant Director indicated that schools had asked for some modelling of figures to be done based on the status



quo, 12% and 9% rate. In the discussions it was considered that going to the 9% rate in 2016/17 may be too big a drop in funding for some schools in one year. When it came to a vote on the issue, the forum was split equally between maintaining 15% and reducing to 12% and therefore sought guidance from the Children's Services Committee.

It was questioned as to whether any discussion had been held on the lump sum element of school funding which currently stood at £75,000 per annum. The Assistant Director said there was some debate but there was an over-whelming majority in support of retaining the lump sum at current level. The reasons behind the government move to a national funding regime were questioned. The Assistant Director indicated that there was a national debate on school funding and the simplistic view was that it would be fairer and more transparent across the country.

The Committee discussed the issues around the deprivation percentage to be included in the funding formula and two proposals were put forward: 13.5% and 12%. Following a vote by show of hands, the rate of 13.5% was agreed and the Chair asked that this be reported back to the Schools Forum as a compromise figure for 2016/17 which would help schools move towards a reduced deprivation figure.

#### **Decision**

That the Committee indicates its support for a deprivation figure of 13.5% being included in the schools funding formula for 2016/17.

### **46. Pupil Achievement Summary 2015 (Provisional)** (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

#### **Type of decision**

For information.

#### **Purpose of report**

To provide summary of pupil achievement outcomes from public examinations 2014-15, and to indicate any significant trends.

#### **Issue(s) for consideration**

The Assistant Director, Education, Learning and Skills 0-19 reported that children and young people in Hartlepool undertake formal assessments of their attainment and progress throughout each academic year. These assessments were a mixture of teacher assessments, which were moderated and standardised, and tests or examinations that were set nationally. Formal national testing and examinations usually happen in the summer term each year, although some 'early entry' public examinations were taken by Year 10 and Year

11 students at other times throughout Key Stage 4.

The national figures quoted were very early figures, taken from a (large) sub-set of all schools, and had to be considered as indicative only at this stage. Firmer figures would be published by the Department for Education in late October/early November.

The report gave a detailed summary of outcomes at Early Years Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. At the time of writing the report the Assistant Director stated that there was still a great deal of uncertainty nationally Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 and in Hartlepool about final outcomes for individual students as a result of many appeals across a wide range of GCSE subject areas. In addition, there were some errors in the first national data release. This meant that summative indicators for individual schools were still changing almost on a weekly basis.

In summarizing the results, the Assistant Director stated that at primary level in Hartlepool schools were doing an excellent job in preparing children for secondary school and had to be congratulated for this work.

Members welcomed the report and echoed the comments in relation to the performance of primary schools in Hartlepool. It was evident that a lot of good practice was taking place and the narrowing of the performance gap between boys and girls to well below the national average was a sign of this.

The Chair referred to Hartlepool's involvement in the pilot for children to start at school nursery at age 2. Hartlepool had been congratulated on the performance in achieving a 88% uptake and being the highest achieving local authority in the country in this regard.

There was concern at the secondary school performance information being finalised. The Assistant Director commented that an updated report would be submitted to Committee.

### **Decision**

That the report be noted.

## **47. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent**

### Date of Next Meeting

The Chairman indicated that after a pre agenda meeting earlier in the day it was suggested that the next meeting of the Committee scheduled for Tuesday 3 November be cancelled. The date of the next meeting of the Committee would therefore be Tuesday 1 December 2015 commencing at 4.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

The meeting concluded at 5.30 pm.

**P J DEVLIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

**PUBLICATION DATE: 23 OCTOBER 2015**