

## PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**MINUTES** of the meeting held on Thursday, 7 January 2016 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 1.20 pm

**Present:**

**Voting Members:** Councillor Liz Brighthouse OBE – in the Chair

Councillor Neil Fawcett (Deputy Chairman)

Councillor Lynda Atkins

Councillor John Christie

Councillor Sam Coates

Councillor Yvonne Constance OBE

Councillor Janet Godden

Councillor Mark Gray

Councillor Charles Mathew

Councillor Patrick Greene (In place of Councillor Steve Harrod)

Councillor Sandy Lovatt (In place of Councillor Stewart Lilly)

**By invitation:** Sarah Mitchell, Independent Chair, Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board (OSAB)

**Officers:**

Whole of meeting John Courouble, Research Intelligence Manager; Sue Whitehead (Corporate Services)

Part of meeting

**Agenda Item**

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**Officer Attending**

Maggie Scott, Chief Policy Officer; Jim Leivers, Director for Childrens' Services; Rebecca Matthews, Interim Deputy Director, Education & Learning;

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Maggie Scott, Chief Policy Officer; Katy Jurczynsyn (Capital Team)

7

Kate Terroni, Deputy Director Joint Commissioning

8 & 9

Tan Lea, Strategic Safeguarding Partnerships Manager

*The Scrutiny Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting [, together with a schedule of addenda tabled at the meeting/the following additional documents:] and agreed as set out below. Copies of the agenda and reports [agenda, reports and schedule/additional documents] are attached to the signed Minutes.*

## **1/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS**

(Agenda No. 1)

Apologies were received from Councillor Steve Harrod (Councillor Patrick Greene substituting) and Councillor Stewart Lilly (Councillor Sandy Lovatt substituting).

## **2/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - GUIDANCE NOTE ON BACK PAGE OF THE AGENDA**

(Agenda No. 2)

Councillor Liz Brighthouse declared an interest through her association with Windale Primary School.

## **3/16 MINUTES**

(Agenda No. 3)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 2016 were approved and signed.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2015 were received.

## **4/16 BUSINESS MANAGEMENT MONITORING REPORT FOR THE SECOND QUARTER 2015/16**

(Agenda No. 5)

Chief Policy Officer, Maggie Scott, presented a paper outlining the Council's performance for the second quarter of 2015/16. Director of Children, Education and Families, Jim Leivers attended, with Rebecca Matthews, Interim Deputy Director, Education & Learning, to allow for a focused performance discussion on key areas of concern.

During discussion the following points were made together with a number of specific requests for additional information and/or further consideration.

### *Adult Social Care*

During discussion concern was expressed over reablement and delayed transfers of care (paragraphs 8 and 9) with reassurance sought that the actions would have a sustained effect. In noting that there had been a focus on these issues at the previous meeting the Chairman commented that there was a review of indicators underway to increase the effectiveness and focus of the Committee. Members sought an explanation of the reasons behind the increase of self-funders in care homes?

### *Environment & Economy*

During discussion a member highlighted that contrary to information in the media recycling in at least two of the District Council areas was among the best in the country. Maggie Scott noted that the indicators were the Council's own and although marked amber they were only 1% off and it was a positive story. It was agreed that, as part of the next focus on Environment and Economy, the reasons behind the fall in

recycling and whether it is linked to the incinerator and the impact of new EU Guidance be picked up.

The Committee recognised the great success of the Frideswide Square scheme.

### *Public Health*

In response to a query on why the data in relation to users leaving drug treatment successfully was still based on the old provider when the new provider took over in April 2015, the Committee was advised that the new service was still being embedded. The service would be part of the next Public Health focus by the Committee.

### *Trading Standards*

Following a query from a member, Maggie Scott agreed to arrange a briefing note on how the Doorstep Crime Unit's savings were calculated.

### *Children, Education & Families*

Councillor Liz Brighthouse declared an interest through her association with Windale Primary School.

There was lengthy discussion of the performance figures with the following matters highlighted:

- 1) Councillor Godden queried why figures were not available for indicator 23 and Jim Leivers undertook to respond to members directly on this query.
- 2) Asked about the Council's responsibilities in respect of failing Academy schools Rebecca Matthews confirmed it was not the Council's responsibility if an Academy failed. However the Council did have an overall responsibility to children in Oxfordshire so would offer support. She detailed where the failing schools had accessed support through the Council but commented that what was important was that they accessed support from whatever source. Jim Leivers added that he was aware of issues and had raised them directly with the Regional Schools commissioner.
- 3) Referring to the figures around students getting 5 A-C GCSEs a member (paragraph 20) a member highlighted the importance of having some context and detail around the figures themselves. There was discussion of the factors that could impact on a school's attainment.
- 4) The Committee received an update on the progress with the 4 new children's homes and considered the implications on children's placements. It was expected that the target for out of county placements would reduce significantly.
- 5) Following comments from members Jim Leivers indicated that there would be a separate paper on the work of the MASH.
- 6) Following comments from Councillor Mathew regarding permanent exclusions it was agreed that he receive a copy of the recent paper considered by the Education Scrutiny Committee.

**5/16 SERVICE & RESOURCE PLANNING 2016/17 TO 2019/20**  
(Agenda No. 6)

**a Developing the New Corporate Plan**

Maggie Scott, Chief Policy Officer presented a paper on developing the draft Corporate Plan and Performance Scrutiny Committee were asked to comment on the draft and structure of the new Plan, considering in particular the overall message, priorities, and focus.

Members made detailed comments on the draft Corporate Plan which it was agreed would be included within the draft considered by Cabinet at their meeting on 26 January 2016.

**b Service & Resource Planning 2016/17 to 2019/20**

Lorna Baxter, Chief Finance Officer, presented savings proposed for Capital and Treasury Management.

The Performance Scrutiny Committee considered the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement briefing, highways asset management programme and capital proposals for 2016/17 – 2019/20, and the draft Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2016/17.

During discussion the following points were made:

- 1) Referring to the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement the Committee noted that their meeting in December was ahead of the settlement, which had changed the financial position considerably. There was discussion of the change in the formula and the timing of it and Committee supported the Cabinet making the strongest possible response.
- 2) A member whilst supporting the loan to King Alfred School expressed concern about the repayment from the disposal of East Site in and the risk of a free school being developed. Officers indicated that they were looking at this and the terms had not yet been finalised.
- 3) There was an explanation of how the self-assessed incentive fund would operate and that the aim was a drive to become more efficient.

**6/16 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**  
(Agenda No. 7)

Kate Terroni, Deputy Director Joint Commissioning presented a report updating Performance Scrutiny Committee on progress towards implementing the Oxfordshire

Adult Social Care Workforce Strategy and outlining the strategy's proposed delivery plan including governance arrangements.

During discussion members generally expressed support for the Strategy but stressed that the transition to fewer contractors would be difficult and sought assurance on how the process was to be managed. The Committee was advised that the move would be gradual.

Responding to further questions Kate Terroni confirmed that there would be targeted work with schools and she referred to the temporary one year post to lead on workforce capacity projects. Asked about the expected impact on vacancies Kate Terroni advised that a small reduction in turnover would have an impact on the numbers recruited. The intention was that the locality based approach would increase productivity as there would be less travelling between clients. During discussion members raised the possible role of colleges in providing students doing childcare development courses. Although there was a need to focus on recruiting and retaining good carers there was a role for temporary workers if they had the right skills. Asked about how the quality of carers was assessed Kate Terroni referred to the Customer Standards that were now being used in contract management and it was suggested that they could be more widely published.

**7/16 OXFORDSHIRE SAFEGUARDING ADULT BOARD (OSAB) ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15**  
(Agenda No. 8)

The Committee had before them the annual report of the OSAB on the work of the Board and of its partners, assessing the position of the partnerships in relation to the safeguarding adults at risk within Oxfordshire. Sarah Mitchell, Independent Chair, OSAB was in attendance for this item and presented the contents of the report.

During discussion Members raised the following matters:

- 1) A member queried what was happening in relation to an adult MASH, and highlighting that referrals came through many routes. Seona Douglas, Deputy Director Adult Social Care advised that the MASH was being looked at.
- 2) Members commented on neglect in a person's own home as the major problem and queried the nature of that, how it was identified and if it was self-inflicted when it was considered abuse. Seona Douglas explained that it was about being quite assertive about engaging and informing people. Often people knew when things were not right. There was a line between poor practice and abuse and poor practice could become abuse.
- 3) Concern was raised about the care pathway for vulnerable people being cared for in their own home. They might only see their carer and if carers did not turn up this could lead to numerous interventions from the ambulance service. The Committee queried how they could challenge to be assured that the right interventions were in place to prevent abuse. How could they challenge the role of the ambulance service, managers and carers. Sarah Mitchell responded to the concerns raised, outlining what was being done and their future focus.

- 4) A member commended the report and welcomed the introduction of corporate relatives.
- 5) A member queried whether there was a link between abuse and the inability of people to use personal budgets. Sarah Mitchell agreed that there was an issue around the reduction in service and partners including district councils were working to identify what was the safety net and how were agencies working together. However there was no evidence that personal budgets had led to more safeguarding alerts.
- 6) Responding to concerns around accountability and governance with regard to the relationship between the Board and the Council Sarah Mitchell explained that her responsibility was to the Head of Paid Service and the organisation had oversight of the Board. She was independent as she was not employed on a day to day basis. She met with her peers across the country. In addition she was accountable to the NHS and CCG and able to challenge all partners equally

The Performance Scrutiny Committee:

- Noted that the adult safeguarding partnership is working across Oxfordshire but there are severe pressure points in relation to the increased complexity of cases and activity in the system;
- Considered the implications for the partnership in relation to increasingly fewer resources being made available due to budgetary considerations.

## **8/16 OXFORDSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (OSCB) ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2014/15**

(Agenda No. 9)

The Committee considered the annual report from the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board providing an independent analysis of the safeguarding services provided to the County's children over 2014/15, and outlining the challenges ahead over the next year. Tan Lea, Strategic Safeguarding Partnerships Manager attended to present the report.

In considering the report members highlighted the following:

- 1) With regard to mental health needs a higher proportion of children were waiting longer for appropriate support. Tan Lea confirmed there was concern over the increased waiting list and outlined what was being done including the setting up of a Transformation Board.
- 2) The figures relating to missing children had gone up and in noting that better processes were now in place a member queried when the results of the changes would be known. Tan Lea commented that children missing from home could be an indicator of child sexual exploitation. The return interviews were carried out by a number of agencies including the Police. The Missing children's panel met regularly and the latest figures were expected to the end of June meeting. It was suggested that that information be added to the item on Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs at a future meeting.

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- 3) Details were requested from a member who had heard that there was to be new money for CAHMs. Councillor Gray, Chairman of the Education Scrutiny Committee advised that that Committee had requested an item on CAHMs later in the year.
  - 4) There was some discussion of parental mental health and what was done to ensure that this information was captured with regard to dependent children. Tan Lea advised that there was work to develop a joint database for adult and children's services as part of the significant cultural change to a whole family approach.
  - 5) A member questioned if there was a way to track if school nurses were making a difference in being able to pick up cases of self-harming. Tan Lea advised that they intended to look at all pathways to this information.

Performance Scrutiny Committee:

- Noted that the child protection partnership is working effectively across Oxfordshire but there are severe pressure points in relation to the increased complexity of cases and activity in the system; and
- Considered the implications for the partnership in relation to the deficits in appropriate provision for those children that require access to CAHMS provision.

**9/16 FORWARD PLANNING OF MEETINGS**

Councillor Brighthouse referred to the additional meeting scheduled for 18 February 2016. In addition to the item on Children's Services she had received a request to include an item on a decision made by officers from Environment & Economy in relation to a pipeline from the John Radcliffe Hospital to the Churchill Hospital.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing 2016