

Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board

22 February, 2016

Summary of Matters Considered at the Board

Report of the Chair, Councillor Underhill

The Scrutiny Board met on 22 February, 2016 and the following items were considered. I have selected the main points of the discussion which I feel members of the Council will be particularly interested to know more about. For more detail, a copy of the minutes is available on the Committee Management Information System (CMIS) via the Council's website at <http://cmis.sandwell.gov.uk/cmis5/>

1. Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Board Impact on Children's Health

The Chair of the Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Board, Councillor Cooper, attended the meeting to report on the work of that Board relating to the health of the borough's children and young people.

Councillor Cooper informed the Scrutiny Board that he had, upon taking up the role of Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, instigated a review of how that Board had effectively contributed to change. Following this review, and a consultation process that included stakeholders and local people including children and young people, the Health and Wellbeing Board adopted five new priorities for 2016-2020. All of these priorities include areas of action that would have a positive impact on the health of Sandwell's children.

A refreshed Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy was being finalised and would be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board for agreement in March. The Strategy would then be shared with Scrutiny members.

Members noted that the Health and Wellbeing Board is committed to seeking engagement from a wide range of stakeholders and has sought the views of young people through the Youth Parliament and SHAPE events.

2. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

Members received a presentation from representatives of the Sandwell and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. The Government has made funding available to Clinical Commissioning Groups to transform these Services; locally this was split between the Sandwell and West Birmingham areas as the Clinical Commissioning Group was cross-boundary. This money is ring-fenced for use to bring about service transformation for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

The Sandwell Transformation Plan was submitted in October 2015 and was fully assured by NHS England in November 2015. A Transformation Board, with senior representatives from the Clinical Commissioning Group, the Council, schools, NHS England and an Educational Psychology doctor, has been established to lead this work.

It was reported that the current provider of the majority of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services has indicated their willingness to work with the commissioners to bring about a strengthened specification for existing services and for the future service model.

The Board noted that this topic had been considered by Scrutiny Boards over a number of years and members are pleased to note that the issues identified during previous scrutiny involvement are now starting to be addressed by all partners.

3. Recommendations from the Challenge to Schools and Academies Workstream

The Board received a report on recommendations identified by the Chair of the Challenge to Schools and Academies Workstream. These would be submitted to the Cabinet in due course.

4. Update from the Chair and Vice-Chair

The Board was asked to submit ideas for future work programme items and members made a number of suggestions that would feed into the work programming process for the forthcoming municipal year.

**Councillor Underhill
Chair of the Children's Services Scrutiny Board**