

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL

Date of meeting: 11th September 2019

Meeting commenced: 2.00 p.m.

Meeting ended: 3.45 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Brocklehurst – in the Chair

Councillors: Jim Cammell, Laura Edwards (Vice Chair), Lewis Nelson, Mike Pevitt, Neil Reynolds, Madeline Wade, Ronnie Wilson

Co-opted Members: Dr Keith Archer (Church of England rep), Jacqui Morrissey (Foster Parents Association),

OFFICERS: Cathy Starbuck – Assistant Director Education Work and Skills
Jane Roberts – Commissioning Manager
Sam Palmer - Gaddum
Liz Wright – Democratic Services

MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC:
None.

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting.
- Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Joan Walsh, Councillor Jillian Collinson and Judith Elderkin.
- The Chair requested that the agenda item MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING be taken at the end of the meeting.

RESOLVED: THAT the agenda item MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING be taken as the final item of business on the agenda.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Nelson declared an interest as he was employed by Gaddum who provided services for Young Carers in Salford and who was making a presentation today. He confirmed he had taken advice from Democratic Services and would take part and speak on the council's strategy and approach on young carers but would withdraw from any discussions if any specific about contracts were discussed.

RESOLVED: THAT Councillor Nelson could take part and speak on the strategy and speak on the council's strategy and approach on young carers but would need to withdraw from any discussions if any specific about contracts for services were discussed.

3. THE SUPPORT FOR YOUNG CARERS (YC)

Sam Palmer (Gaddam Head of Carers Services) and Jane Roberts (Commissioning Manager) gave presentations on the services for Young Carers provided in Salford and the Salford Carers Strategy with a focus on Young Carers, respectively. The main points and issues raised from the presentations are summarised below.

a. The support for Young Carers in Salford (Sam Palmer)

- Gaddum were a charity commissioned by Salford City Council to provide services for carers in Salford and had been delivering the services and support for around 10 years to those between 5-95 years old.
- The 2011 census identified 22,000 adult carers in Salford.

- YCs were more likely to have long term health conditions and mental health issues.
- The service was person centred and delivered through personalised actions plans.
- There were various partnerships involved to enhance the services and support, such as the YCs Group that have a partnership with the Lowry and a team in the Salford Royal providing a hospital support group.
- What types of referrals were made and when did the hospital group provide support?
Referral forms were distributed to GPs, schools and social workers and referrals could be made over the phone and the members were directed to the website for further details about referrals.
- What assessments were used?
Gaddum did not use the statutory assessment and that it was a gap in Salford that the All Carers Strategy was aiming to address. Gaddum used their own assessment and would refer to other services if needed, for example if other issues in the family were identified such as drug or alcohol abuse.
- YCs were entitled to request a statutory assessment.
- The challenges faced to identify YCs were discussed.
- Gaddum attracted funding from a number of other sources to enhance its provision and Salford carers and Young Carers benefited from this as well. Funding streams included from Booths Charities who were very generous and whose current funding was supporting a three year post in the service.
- A bid was being submitted this week for funding from the Government's Innovation Fund to develop digital resources for carers to access and help address isolation. The initial bid was for £25,000 to develop the idea and then if successful an application for funding up to £400,000 could be made.
- Not many Local Authorities had a dedicated YCs Service like Salford had.
- Members raised concerns about the support offered to schools and how this would be addressed. It was an aim of the All Carers Strategy to develop the support to schools and it was proposed to develop an action plan and that this would be brought to a future meeting of the Children's Scrutiny Panel for consultation. The panel agreed to this.
- The Vice Chair outlined the personal budgets for carers.
- Was all the money, available for personal budgets, used?
Jane Roberts agreed to provide the members with the figures around personal budgets.
- The highest numbers of referrals were in Little Hulton, Barton and Cadishead, in that order.
- Why were these areas the highest in terms of referrals?
Some of the families were already accessing other services so were identified in the system. There could be more awareness because other projects in the area would signpost people to it. Gaddum would be looking into this data further to try and further understand the distribution of the referrals across the city.
- Was Gaddum promoted to schools?
Gaddum had a presence in schools and regularly gave assemblies for pupils and staff.

b. The All Carers Strategy

Jane Roberts gave a presentation and the following points were raised.

- The definition of a carer.
- Jane gave an overview of carers in Salford. It was projected that there were be just under 3000 YCs in Salford by 2034. This was based on the numbers identified as Young Carers at this time.
- Gaddum had led on the GM survey for YCs.
- Gaddum's contract had been extended to September 2020. The process for the procurement for the new contract would begin in January 2020.
- Key areas of the All Carers Strategy were highlighted that included:
 - Including Carers Champions and involvement of the Young carers in the communications strategy;
 - Helping YCs to self-identify and making it easier and more attractive for them to do so;
 - There was a clear pathway between children and adult services;

- The YCs themselves were very clear there should be No Wrong Door so that wherever they contact first they can access the support they need without having to repeat their information.
- The service was working with the GM Carers Board and Salford had a Carers Steering Group.
- The service was trialling carers' passports so that there was consistency of support for the YCs.
- Governance: The service reported to the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel last week and they had identified areas to improve such as key performance indicators and the Carers Passport. The service would report back to the panel in November.
- *What was the Young Carers Passport?*
It was a free tool (national tool) that the YCs complete and it contained what help they needed in terms of school, work, leisure and health. It could help with transition from primary to secondary school and would mean that the YC did not have to keep repeating their circumstances and they could have the consistency of support. The YC would have the right to say what information was included and shared.
- A member commented that an important benefit of the passport would be that the YC would not have to keep repeating their information and situation to each new professional they met but the it was also very important that the YC had confidence that their information would be secure and only shared appropriately for their benefit.
- *Where would the information on the passport be held and would the passport give the YC access to discounts for any services they have to pay for?*
How the information would be stored and shared was still being investigated. Discussions were ongoing about if discounts would be available across GM and how that would work. This would include whether or not the passport could be linked to the GM Opportunity Pass.
- It was highlighted that carers can get free tickets for the cinema and requested that it was investigated to see if this could be applied to YCs.
- *What was the age of the youngest YC and what kind of support do they get?*
If a YC was 5 years old, for example, they would be referred to Early Help. The support they received could include help for the parent with medication and preparation of food for the family. Everything possible would be done to keep the family together in the family home.
- YCs were often concerned that they could be taken into care if they self-identified as a YC.
- YCs could be more at risk from long term health conditions.
- Members requested to see the NHS health statistics referred to.
- *Did male YCs have more difficulties in speaking up and identifying as YCs?*
It was hoped that the communications strategy would help with this.
- *Did most of the 10 GM authorities engage with the GM Carers minimum standards?*
Salford had ensured that all Directors of the GM authorities had signed up to them.
- *What was the impact on the YC's educational outcomes and their access to higher educational opportunities? Where the YCs able to access respite in the summer holidays?*
Support was provided on an individual basis based on the YC's needs. If a YC aspired to go to university support would be provided as appropriate to help them achieve this. Many YC did well academically. Holiday funding was available to help access holidays and trips and projects were provided specifically in the summer to support YCs.
- It was noted that the Ceremonial Mayor's fund was available to apply to for funding up to £500 for individuals.

The panel thanked Sam Palmer and Jane Roberts for their detailed reports.
Sam Palmer and Jane Roberts left the meeting at this point.

RESOLVED: THAT

1. an action plan to developed linked to the All Age Carers Strategy and will be presented to a future meeting of the panel for consultation;
2. members would receive the figures around personal budgets from Jane Roberts
3. members requested to see the NHS health statistics that were referred to.

4. THE WORK PROGRAMME

- Dental Health would remain in abeyance at this time.
- The budget monitoring items had been picked up and were on the work programme.

- It was requested that when the report on the school performance data was presented in December that it included an overview of all key stage (KS) performance not just KS4.
- On the recommendation tracker it was requested that:
 - The tracker showed if any recommendations were still outstanding;
 - To include hyperlinks to the relevant reports;
 - Any recommendations from reviews to be included.
- It was agreed that the update on the School Provider Arm (SPA) be added to the Work Programme for the December meeting.
- It was agreed that the Pupil Planning Report due to be presented in October should focus on the strategy for primary and secondary school places and if Ward councillors had any specific concerns Cathy Starbuck offered to meet them to discuss the issues in their particular areas.

RESOLVED: THAT

1. the recommendations tracker be adapted as listed above;
2. that the December report on school performance data includes an overview of all key stage data not just KS4;
3. the SPA Update be included on the Work Programme for the December meeting.

5. SCOPING DOCUMENT – ACCESSING CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

- Councillor Edwards introduced the document.
- Waiting times for services was identified as a key issue.
- It was agreed that the following should be added to the review:
 - YC Service to be included and case studies provided by Gaddum and Jane Roberts
 - Post 16 and GM work to be included;
 - Looked After Children.
- Debbie Blackburn would be asked how best to ensure that Looked After Children were included in the review and who was best to approach.
- The Scoping Document would need to be presented to the Lead Members for Children and Young people's Services and the Lead Members for Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing for consultation and approval.

RESOLVED: THAT the review would also include the areas listed above.

6. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 10 JULY 2019

RESOLVED: THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2019 were approved as a true and correct record.

7. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 10 JULY 2019

There were no matters arising.

8. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 9th October 2019 at 2pm in Committee Room 4.