

CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONING COMMITTEE

Wednesday 8 September 2021, 09:30 - 10:55

Present

Councillor Jim Cammell (Chair)	Lead Member for Children's and Young People's Services - SCC
Nick Browne (NB)	Clinical Director of Partnerships / Neighbourhood Lead - CCG
David Warhurst (DW)	Chief Finance Officer - CCG
Councillor John Walsh (JW)	Executive Support Member for Education and Learning - SCC
Councillor Bill Hinds (BH)	Lead Member for Finance and Support Services - SCC
Tom Regan (TR)	Clinical Lead for Transformation - CCG
Sharmishtha Ghangrekar (SG)	Neighbourhood Lead – CCG
Karen Proctor (KP)	Director of Commissioning - CCG

In Attendance

Debbie Blackburn (BD)	Assistant Director Public Health Nursing and Wellbeing - SCC
Harry Golby (HG)	Assistant Director of Commissioning - CCG
Wendy Hodgson (WH)	Service Improvement Manager - CCG
Zoe Fearon (ZF)	Assistant Director Children's Social Care - SCC
Madha Ayub (MA)	Senior Programme Manager - SCC
Chris Hesketh (CH)	Head of Financial Management - SCC
Mike Relph (MR)	Senior Democratic Services Advisor - SCC

Apologies

Steve Dixon (SD)
Charlotte Ramsden (CR)
Joanne Hardman (JH)

1. Apologies for Absence

The above apologies were noted.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no relevant declarations of interest in any of the items on the agenda.

3. Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 July 2021

RESOLVED: THAT subject to the inclusion of Karen Proctor in the list of persons present, the minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2021 be approved as a correct record.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Finance Report

DW presented a report which provided an update relating to the year to date financial performance and forecast and associated risks to the financial plan of the Children's Integrated Fund for 2021/22.

Members raised issues, commented on, and noted them, as follows:

- It was suggested that there was a need to emphasise that the closure of any residential accommodation for children was only a temporary measure arising from the Covid-19 pandemic and the arising impact on staff numbers.
- General concerns were expressed in terms of the growing demands on financial resources and the long-term ability to maintain services. It was suggested as the social-economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on families were realised, these would only increase. These likely significant future challenges were recognised and contingency plans were already being developed to mitigate them.
- The provision of services and support to young people leaving care remained a priority and would be delivered and managed through a comprehensive 5-Year Plan. A key element of this was their access to contraception and had to be resourced accordingly. Sexual health services were currently under review and while their importance remained undiminished, it was difficult to provide accurate long term financial budgetary forecasts for them.
- A comprehensive review of child safeguarding at a Greater Manchester level was currently being developed, on which further details and updates would be shared in due course.

RESOLVED: (1) THAT the financial position for 2021/22 be noted.

(2) THAT the savings programme for 2021/22 to deliver a balanced plan be noted.

(3) THAT the risks to the Children's integrated fund for 2021/22, as detailed in section 5 of the report, be noted.

6. Domestic Abuse Business Case

DB presented a report which set out a business case for continued and additional investment in domestic abuse provision in Salford. The business case included details of the intent of funding, the groups of people supported around domestic abuse, as well as identifying issues, the service types, and associated service delivery requirements for the response to domestic abuse in Salford.

Members raised issues, commented on, and noted them, as follows:

- Funding arising from the business case had been factored into the development of the wider budgetary process for 2022/23.
- Did the business case provide an opportunity to review the delivery model for domestic abuse related services? Was the current service fully comprehensive and took account of all diversity issues? The existing service was regularly evaluated and benchmarked against other local authorities, as well as in terms of adopting recognised best practices. This however did not mean it should not evolve and adapt to effectively deal with existing and new challenges. Customer feedback was a valuable tool in measuring the effectiveness of the services provided. DB noted that the proposals had been consulted with the National Domestic Abuse Commissioners Office.
- Securing a lead provider is key to the success of the proposals contained in the business plan. This was recognised, but there are contingency plans in the event that does not prove possible.
- It was suggested the success of the plan was dependent on establishing what types of intervention were the most effective and using evidence-based data to do this. This was recognised and the key focus should be on measures to break the "cycle" which was often common with domestic violence, particularly by those who had experienced abuse as children.
- Changing people's perceptions of domestic violence was also important to tackling it and work on this could tie-in with the Salford Learning City initiative.

RESOLVED: (1) THAT the report be noted

(2) THAT approval be given to Option 3, namely a lead provider model enabling one organisation to 'hold the ring' on all elements of the proposed provision, by stimulating the market and providers being encouraged to collaborate.

7. Community Paediatrics Services Specification and Business Case

HG and WH submitted a report which sought support for additional investment into the community paediatric services, which had received the endorsement of the Service and Finance (S&F) Group and would allow the development of the service, so as to enable it to fully deliver the service specification.

Members raised issues, commented on, and noted them, as follows:

- The contract for the service would be a block one, rather than an activity based one.
- It was suggested that there should be a more comprehensive multi-agency partnership and holistic “grass roots” approach to service delivery, rather than one dependent on intervention arising from medical assessment.
- Investment in care of young people had long term benefits, including financial ones, though these could not be guaranteed, nor budgets determined by them.
- The focus of the service very much remained a preventative needs-based one, providing support to the young people concerned, rather than a solely reactive diagnostic one.

RESOLVED: (1) THAT the report be noted.

(2) THAT approval be given to the implementation of option 5 as outlined in the business case, enabling the service to meet the service specification.

(3) THAT approval be given to the additional investment to allow commissioning of the service to meet the revised specification for the reasons outlined in business case attached as an appendix to the report now submitted, together with the expected in-year costs for 2021/22 of £104,803 and recurrent costs of £354,256.

8. 0-25 Highlight reports from sub-groups

The following items were submitted to the Committee for information -

- 0-25 Highlight (Salford Thrive)
- 0-25 Highlight (CAN ERG)
- 0-25 Highlight (Therapies ERG)

RESOLVED: THAT the update reports be noted.

9. Urgent Business - Part 1

There were no items of urgent business.

10. Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED: THAT, under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

11. Urgent Business - Part 2

There were no items of urgent business.

12. Dates of Future Meetings

RESOLVED: THAT the next meeting of this Committee be held on Wednesday 10 November 2021, at 9.30am.