



Buckinghamshire County Council
Select Committee
Children's Social Care and Learning

Date: Tuesday 31 January 2017

Time: 10.30 am

Venue: Large Dining Room, Judges Lodgings, Aylesbury

AGENDA

9.30 am Pre-meeting Discussion

This session is for members of the Committee only. It is to allow the members time to discuss lines of questioning, areas for discussion and what needs to be achieved during the meeting.

10.30 am Formal Meeting Begins

Agenda Item	Time	Page No
1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	10:30	
2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To declare any Personal or Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.		
3 MINUTES To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 6 th December 2016.		5 - 14
4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS		



Public Questions is an opportunity for people who live, work or study in the county to put a question to a Scrutiny Committee about any issue that has an impact on their local community or the county as a whole.

Members of the public, who have given prior notice, will be invited to put their question in person.

The Cabinet Member and responsible officers will then be invited to respond.

Further information and details on how to register can be found through the following link and by then clicking on 'Public Questions'.

<http://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=788>

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| 5 | CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
For the Chairman of the Committee to provide an update on recent scrutiny related activity. | 10:35 | |
| 6 | COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES
For Members to update on any issue they are investigating on behalf of the Committee. | | |
| 7 | CABINET MEMBER UPDATES
i) Mr Zahir Mohammed, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills.

ii) Lin Hazell, Cabinet Member for Children's Services. | 10:45 | |
| 8 | PERMANENT EXCLUSIONS - FOCUS ON PRIMARY SCHOOLS
To allow Members to gain an understanding of the increase in permanent exclusions and discuss the reasons and actions being taken to address the issue.

Contributor <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms Laura Nankin, Head of Fair Access and Youth Provision | 10:55 | 15 - 26 |
| 9 | BUCKINGHAMSHIRE YOUTH SERVICE
For Members to consider the work of the Youth Service following the launch of Buckinghamshire Youth in June 2016.

Contributors <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms Laura Nankin, Head of Fair Access and Youth Provision• Mr James Fowler, Youth Service Manager | 11:20 | 27 - 36 |

10	MISSING AND CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION SERVICES An update on the re-commissioning of the Missing and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Services Contract. Contributors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Alison Byrne – Early Help and Education Commissioner. 	11:45	37 - 38
11	CHILDREN'S WORKFORCE INQUIRY To review an update on the implementation of the Children's Workforce Inquiry agreed recommendations 6 months on and to make an assessment of progress against the recommendations. Contributors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lin Hazell, Cabinet Member for Children's Services 	12:05	To Follow
12	COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME To discuss the Committee work programme.	12:15	39 - 42
13	DATE OF NEXT MEETING To note the next meeting of the Children's Social Care and Learning Select Committee on 21 st March 2017 10.30am in Large Dining Room, Judges Lodgings, Aylesbury.	12:20	

Purpose of the committee

The role of the Children's Social Care and Learning Select Committee is to hold decision-makers to account for improving outcomes and services for Buckinghamshire.

The Children's Social Care and Learning Select Committee shall have the power to scrutinise all issues in relation to the remit of the Children's Social Care and Learning Business Unit. This will include, but not exclusively, responsibility for scrutinising issues in relation to:

- Nurseries and early years education
- Schools and further education
- The Bucks Learning Trust
- Quality standards and performance in education
- Special Educational Needs (SEN)
- Learning and skills
- Adult learning
- Children and family services
- Early intervention
- Child protection, safeguarding and prevention
- Children in care (looked after children)
- Children's psychology
- Children's partnerships

- Youth provision
- The Youth Offending Service

** In accordance with the BCC Constitution, this Committee shall act as the designated Committee responsible for the scrutiny of Education matters.*

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For further information please contact: Kevin Wright on 01296 387832, email: kwright@buckscc.gov.uk

Members

Mrs P Birchley	Mrs W Mallen
Ms J Blake	Mr R Stuchbury
Mr D Dhillon (C)	Vacancy
Mr P Gomm	Vacancy
Mr P Irwin	Ms K Wood
Mrs V Letheren	

Co-opted Members

Mr D Babb, Church of England Representative
Mr M Moore, Roman Catholic Church
Ms M Nowers, Primary School Sector



Buckinghamshire County Council
Select Committee
Children's Social Care and Learning

Minutes

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE AND LEARNING SELECT COMMITTEE

Minutes from the meeting held on Tuesday 6 December 2016, in Mezzanine Room 2, County Hall, Aylesbury, commencing at 2.00 pm and concluding at 3.55 pm.

This meeting was webcast. To review the detailed discussions that took place, please see the webcast which can be found at <http://www.buckscc.public-i.tv/>
The webcasts are retained on this website for 6 months. Recordings of any previous meetings beyond this can be requested (contact: democracy@buckscc.gov.uk)

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mrs M Aston, Mrs P Birchley, Mr D Dhillon (Chairman), Mr P Gomm, Mrs V Letheren, Mrs W Mallen, Mr R Stuchbury and Ms K Wood

CO-OPTED MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr D Babb

GUESTS PRESENT

Mr Z Mohammed and Mrs J Teesdale

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mr K Burrell, Mr D Johnston, Ms S Sewell, Ms G Shurrock and Mr C Tribe

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Ms J Blake, Mr P Irwin and Mr M Moore.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.



3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

In response to a question about an update on the high number of foster carer resignations during 2015/16 the Deputy Cabinet Member for Children's Services stated that she would provide a written answer to the Committee.

ACTION: Deputy Cabinet Member for Children's Services

4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chairman welcomed:

- Mr Z Mohammed, Cabinet Member for Skills and Learning
- Mrs G Shurrock, Head of Special Educational Needs

Written public questions had been received from Mr P Miller and Ms J Creasy in relation to the development of a new SEND strategy for Buckinghamshire County Council:

- a. Please provide the data to show how a balanced SEND budget will be achieved resulting from the implementation of the proposed strategy.
- b. How will the BCC SEND leadership achieve better cross-system collaboration (including Social Services, all SEND providers, the RSC and other local LAs)?
- c. Why has BCC failed to respond to the Regional Schools Commissioner's invitation for an Expression of Interest relating to the development of regional special schools?

Mr Mohammed explained that a written response to the questions had been provided to the Committee. The response was noted as follows:

- a. The SEND Strategy will take into account both the priorities identified and the budget that is available. Further financial modelling will be undertaken once the SEND Strategy is finalised and published to ensure we can meet the needs of children and young people with SEND.
- b. The SEN Strategy is being finalised to ensure that it takes into account responses from the recent priorities consultation. This area has been identified as one of the priorities and the strategy will set out clearly the actions of how we will achieve this. Once the SEND Strategy has been agreed it will be published on the Bucks Local Offer Website.
- c. The LA has chosen at this time not to submit a bid for a new special free school, as it is aware that bids for a free school have been submitted for a site in Buckinghamshire. The LA needs to await the EFA's decision on these bids and to assess, subject to the outcome of these bids and as part of the SEN Review, the need for additional provision in the future which will be subject to either suitable sites being available or expanding existing provision.

In response to questions from Members of the Committee:

- The Chairman explained that Mr Miller and Ms Creasy had been invited to attend the meeting but had been unable to do so.
- Mr Zahir confirmed that there were no planned reductions in SEND provision in the County at this point in time.
- Ms Shurrock advised that some data being requested was currently being collated as part of the SEND review and not currently available.

There was a request that the Cabinet Member provide a fuller response to questions raised once all information was available.

ACTION: Committee and Governance Adviser to follow up.

A Member suggested that the SEND Strategy should be brought to the Select Committee once it had been to Cabinet on 9 January 2017.

ACTION: Committee and Governance Adviser to add to the work programme.

Mrs Shurrock updated the Committee on the continuing development of the new SEND Strategy and made the following points:

- There had been a good level of engagement with parents and carers as well as young people with Special Educational Needs to help develop the strategy.
- The review was timely given the pressures that Local Authorities were currently under.
- The general opinion was that the strategy had identified the correct priorities.
- There would be outcomes within the strategy with an explanation as to how they would be achieved.
- The strategy would be brought to Cabinet on 9th January 2017 and published on the Council's website.

5 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman confirmed that the Voice of the Child and Young Person Inquiry report had now been agreed following the Committee's meeting on 29th November 2016 and that it would be going to Cabinet to get a response to the recommendations on 9th January 2016.

Parent Governor Elections onto the Select Committee - the Committee had not received any nominations from Parent Governor's by the deadline of 18th November; however; there had been some expressions of interest since then and so the election process would be re-opened.

6 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES

Mr P Gomm thanked Mr Zahir for his help in resolving the previous issues regarding communication with some of the Children's Centres Advisory Boards and Members. He also reported that he was receiving an increasing number of emails about bullying in schools and he considered this might be an item for future consideration.

7 CABINET MEMBER UPDATES

Mrs J Teesdale, Deputy Cabinet Member for Children's Services provided an update on the following:

- Ms Aarushi Bahl who had attended County Council on 24 November 2016 had now joined the Chiltern and South Buckinghamshire Youth Parliament and she wished to congratulate her.
- There had been a second Ofsted visit between 30 November and 1 December 2016 and a verbal summary of initial findings had been provided. A letter would be received from Ofsted in due course. The initial feedback noted:
 - There was evidence that Social Workers knew children well and they had good relationships.
 - There was a clear commitment to keep children at the centre of what Children's Services did.
 - Clear management oversight and supervision
 - Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) were good advocates for children.
 - There was progress on the timeliness and quality of health assessments.
 - Social Workers were seeing children regularly.
 - Assessments for Looked after Children still needed to be updated regularly.
 - Public Law Outline meetings and Court tracker needed to be used consistently.
 - Legal services needed to provide a more timely and efficient service to all children.
 - Interviews with children returning from going missing needed to be more timely with greater management oversight.

Committee Members also congratulated Ms Aarushi Bahi on her appointment to the Youth Parliament.

In response to Members' questions Mr D Johnston, Managing Director – Children's Social Care and Learning Business Unit made the following points:

- The written response from Ofsted's findings would arrive on 10 January 2017 and would be forwarded on to the Committee.

ACTION: Mr D Johnston

- A small amount of funding was needed from across the whole Council to help support the Youth Parliament at the national level.
- There were still elements of children's services that needed to improve but three of these could be dealt with quickly as they were processing issues.
- A child entering the social care system started with the First Response Team and moved to the Children in Need Team. Every effort was made to ensure that the same Social Worker remained with the child throughout the process; however, there were occasions when this might not be possible.

Mr Johnston was told of compliments received by Members from families involved with Social Care as to how their cases had turned around with new systems in place.

Mr Z Mohammed, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills provided an update on the following:

- The Council was awaiting the second stage of the National Funding Formula consultation.
- Buckinghamshire schools had been mentioned specifically in a report by Sir Michael Wilshaw, Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Service and Skills. Highcrest School was noted for identifying and tracking the progress of the most able pupils and Bradley Taylor, Headteacher of Chiltern Gate Schools was recognised as an exceptional leader.
- There would be a grading change for GCSEs from the current 'ABCD' system onto "Progress 8" measures.
- The Council had lobbied hard in respect of the National Funding Formula and was optimistic as to what funding would be received. Buckinghamshire had one of the lowest funded secondary schools per pupil in the country at £4,000 per year; the lowest in Tower Hamlets by comparison was £7600 per pupil.

It was agreed that the Chairman write to Nick Gibb MP, Education Minister to invite him to speak to the Committee.

ACTION: Mr D Dhillon, Chairman

8 NARROWING THE GAP INQUIRY. RECOMMENDATIONS UPDATE

The Chairman welcomed:

- Mr Z Mohammed, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
- Mr K Burrell, Head of Schools (Primary) – Bucks Learning Trust
- Ms S Sewell, Senior Information Officer

The Cabinet Member introduced the report and highlighted the following:

- The attainment gap at Key Stage 4 had narrowed by 3% last year as a result of better attainment by disadvantaged pupils, whereas the gap had widened nationally by 1%.
- There had been a reduction in the gap in Phonics at Key Stage 1 and was now comparable to the national figure for the first time in a number of years.
- The inequality gap at Early Years Foundation Stage was lower than the national average.
- 88% of all schools in Buckinghamshire were rated as good or outstanding.
- Disadvantaged pupils were performing well compared to statistical neighbours at Key Stage 4.
- Attainment for non-disadvantaged pupils in Buckinghamshire was particularly good which made the gap bigger.

Mr K Burrell explained that:

- Funding for narrowing the gap went directly to schools
- Bucks Learning Trust (BLT) had worked with a range of agencies including governing bodies to help schools use their funding in the best way.
- BLT used both national and local good practice guidance and case studies to help schools gain the most impact from the funding.
- There was now more of a focus on tracking the progress of able disadvantaged pupils.

Mr Mohammed agreed to follow up the reasons for BLT not applying for funding to undertake an independent peer review on narrowing the gap projects – recommendation 9.

ACTION: Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

The following points were made during the discussion:

- There were two ways currently of measuring attainment for disadvantaged pupils either through the Pupil Premium or through those receiving Free School Meals.
- Some families eligible for the Pupil Premium did not apply which meant that the schools did not receive the funding. It also meant that it was more difficult to get a true picture of the number of disadvantaged pupils.
- The gap at Key Stage 1 and 2 was widening.
- The low numbers of disadvantaged pupils in some schools made it more difficult to use the pupil premium effectively.
- Some early years provision was focused on making sure children had the basic skills needed to get a good start in years 1 and 2.
- There was no separate data available to check whether attainment for pupils attending combined primary schools was better than non-combined.

Mr Burrell was thanked for his continued hard work in improving outcomes for young people in Buckinghamshire.

9 EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE

The Chairman welcomed:

- Mr C Tribe, Principal Educational Psychologist

During discussions Mr Tribe made the following points:

- One member of staff had taken voluntary redundancy followed by a large number of resignations from the service which now left a difficult situation with staffing levels.
- The per person costs shown in the report were to give a comparison of Buckinghamshire County Council's (BCC) costs compared to others providing Educational Psychology services.
- As well as dealing with reduced staffing levels, there had been an increase in statutory work which had meant moving staff away from traded services to the statutory work. As

a result there had been much less income generated by the service so far this year compared to previously.

- There was a national shortage of Educational Psychologists and two posts remained vacant which, if not filled, could cause some problems with fully delivering the action plan to address recruitment and retention and increase income generation.
- Some staff were still allocated to traded services work to help maintain a variety and improve staff retention.
- There was a clear line of career progression for Psychologist from trainee through to a senior and principle role which was more strategic.
- There was a waiting list of schools looking to buy services meaning a number of children were not receiving services that they would normally receive from BCC.

Mr Tribe agreed to provide information on how many assessments are undertaken

ACTION: Mr C Tribe

Members asked Mr Tribe to return to the Committee when he has an update on the situation.

ACTION: Committee Adviser to add to the work programme

10 QUARTER 2 2016/17 CHILDREN'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE - EXCEPTION REPORTING

The Chairman welcomed:

- Mrs J Teesdale, Deputy Cabinet Member for Children's Services
- Mr D Johnston, Managing Director to Children's Social Care and Learning

Mrs Teesdale introduced the report and explained that the report set a high benchmark for Children's Services to achieve:

There was a discussion about the report and Mr Johnston made the following points:

- There were a number of red indicators and targets had been set very high.
- For some indicators, the Council was performing below the challenging target it had set itself but was performing better than local and national averages.
- Stretching targets were set to drive improvement but some targets would need to be reviewed by the Improvement Board to make sure they remained realistic.
- To achieve good performance for some indicators meant relying on partners to undertake work and provide information back to the Council.
- There were some issues around how data for the indicator about repeat referrals was calculated, for example, if both a school and separately a Health Visitor contacted Children's Services about the same child on the same day then this would count as two referrals.
- There had been a large increase in child protection conferences being held and so the target for holding them on time was not met. It was important to focus on the quality of conferences as well as timeliness but additional resource would be brought in if needed.





- There were some issues around the quality of data recording which was affecting the indicator about the number of staff supervisions completed.
- The restructuring of the Children in Need service would provide increased management and assistant management resource for teams.
- In order to bring more children in care placed out of county back to within Buckinghamshire, agreement had been reached with three foster providers in the County that as placements became free they would be used for Buckinghamshire children.
- Work was being undertaken to identify around 15 or 20 residential beds within Buckinghamshire that could be used to bring children in care back into the County.

11 PREVENTING CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION INQUIRY 12 MONTH UPDATE

The Chairman went through the progress of recommendations. The following points were made:

- Recommendation 4. The Committee would need to have sight of the report to be able to decide if the recommendation had been met.
- Recommendation 6. Further information was needed to be able to agree whether the recommendation had been met.

Determination on progress was made using a red, amber green (RAG) rating system as follows:

-  Implemented
  On track
  May not be fully implemented
 not delivered/implemented

- Recommendation 1 – Tick
- Recommendation 2 – Tick
- Recommendation 3 – Tick
- Recommendation 4 – Amber
- Recommendation 5 – Tick
- Recommendation 6 – Amber
- Recommendation 7 – Green
- Recommendation 8 – Tick
- Recommendation 10 – Tick

RESOLVED

The Committee agreed the status of implementation of recommendations from the Child Sexual Exploitation Inquiry (12 months on) as above.

12 COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Members noted the future work programme.

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting to be held at 10.30am on Tuesday 31st January 2017 in the Large Dining Room, Judges Lodgings, Aylesbury.

CHAIRMAN



Buckinghamshire County Council Select Committee

Children's Social Care and Learning Select Committee

Report to the Children's Social Care and Learning Select Committee

Title:	Permanent Exclusions - Focus on Primary Schools
Committee date:	Tuesday 31 January 2017
Author:	Nick Wilson
Contact officer:	Laura Nankin, 07843642901 lnankin@buckscc.gov.uk
Cabinet Member sign-off:	Zahir Mohammed

1. Purpose of Agenda Item

The purpose of this report is to provide information relating to recent rise in permanent school exclusions, the research we have done to understand this rise and the actions we have taken to mitigate the issue. This report has a specific focus on the primary sector as this is where we have seen the biggest percentage rise.

2. Background

Last academic year 2015/16 Buckinghamshire saw almost a 100% increase in the amount of permanent school exclusions across both the primary and secondary sectors. This was most notable in the primary sector where the rise was from 6 permanent exclusions in 2014/15 to 24 in 2015/16.

Appendix 1 contains a table that breaks down the overall increase in numbers by year group since 2009/10. Table 2 outlines the reasons schools have given each year for permanently excluding.

National data is always 1 to 2 years behind and therefore does not include the recent rise in Buckinghamshire. In the academic year 2014/15 the national data showed that overall permanent exclusions from all schools have gone up from 0.06% to 0.07%, however



mainstream primary school permanent exclusions have remained the same at 0.02% of the population.

Buckinghamshire is reported to have had 0.01% of permanent exclusions for the primary sector, equal to our statistical neighbours (below the national average of 0.02%) and 0.13% from secondary mainstream (below the national average of 0.15% but above our statistical neighbours which was 0.07%).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/permanent-and-fixed-period-exclusions-in-england-2014-to-2015>

3. Summary

Children who are permanently excluded from schools have worse long term outcomes than their peers, their educational achievements suffer, they are more likely to develop mental health issues and become involved in the criminal justice system. A survey of 15 to 18 year olds held in custody reported that 90% of the young men and 75% of the young women had been excluded from school. There is a significant difference in the cost between educating pupils in mainstream schools, special schools and Pupil Referral Units (PRU's). In 2007 New Philanthropy Capital estimated the aggregate lifetime cost of permanent exclusions from school to be £650 million.

The decision to exclude a pupil is the sole responsibility of a Head Teacher and must be lawful, reasonable and fair. Head Teachers must have regard to the DfE guidance and the local Buckinghamshire guidance. Permanent exclusions should only be issued as a last resort after cumulative fixed term exclusions or as a 'one-off' for a serious offence.

Parents can appeal decisions through the Board of Governors and the Independent Review Panel although schools cannot be forced to re-admit the pupil even if the appeal is found against them.

The Local Authority has a responsibility to find a permanently excluded pupil an offer of education within six days of them being permanently excluded. PRU's invite parents and the pupil for interview to discuss the provision to be made available from the 6th day after a permanent exclusion.

The Buckinghamshire Primary PRU has 3 small sites and has 36 FTE places available. The Local Authority commission 10 FTE for permanently excluded mainstream pupils with the remaining 26 commissioned by schools to support behaviour and avoid exclusions. The increase in exclusions last year meant that all the places were full and there was no other provision available to fulfil the Local Authority's 6 day provision requirement.



Additionally the primary PRU only takes children in key stage 1 and 2 and does not have the expertise or facilities to accommodate compulsory aged reception children still at foundation level. Last year for the first time pupils in foundation level were permanently excluded. Therefore the Local Authority had to find alternative packages of education to ensure they met their 6 day provision duty.

4. Key issues

4.1. April 2016 - Primary Permanent Exclusions Review

Because of the steep rise in primary school exclusions a dive review was undertaken in spring 2016. The review focused on the previous 25 primary school permanent exclusions. This resulted in the following findings as at April 2016:

Local	National (based on stats 13/14)
Predicted: 18 increase in Permanent Exclusions (PX) cases from academic year 14/15 to 15/16.	29% increase.
88% of exclusions are boys.	Over 75% of exclusions were of boys.
96% (24 out of 25) involve SEN children. 20 of which were diagnosed prior to PX.	70% of exclusions of SEN pupils.
24% of exclusions were of Black or Black British pupils.	3 times more likely to be excluded.
56% of children excluded are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM).	Four times more likely to be excluded than non-Free School Meals pupils.
Over half of exclusions were due to persistent disruptive behaviour (PDB).	32% of exclusions for PDB.
Over ¾ of exclusions took place in schools rated "Good" or "Outstanding" by Ofsted. These schools were also more likely to exclude on more than one occasion.	Unknown.

4.2. Data Analysis

From the analysis, the report drew attention to six areas of the data that gave a clearer picture of the current situation in Buckinghamshire:

- **The Root of Permanent Exclusions in Buckinghamshire:** Unmet special educational needs are the primary reason that leads to permanent exclusions of pupils at primary level. Increasing numbers of children are being placed on Education Health Care Plans (EHCP's) and the needs of these children are not being met within mainstream education;

- **Breakdown by Academic Year:** There is a steady rate of permanent exclusion cases across all primary year groups therefore it is difficult to target strategies to a particular age. This academic year saw 2 reception aged children PX'd. This offers a unique challenge for the Council as Pupil Referral Units are not commissioned to provide education to foundation aged children.
- **Inconsistent use of Persistent Disruptive Behaviour:** Behaviour that schools perceive to be Persistent Disruptive Behaviour (PDB) differs throughout the county due to levels of tolerance. This leads to inconsistent treatment of pupils from school to school;
- **Permanent Exclusions in “Outstanding” Schools:** There is a correlation between level of Ofsted Rating and use of PX. Moreover, the higher the Ofsted rating, the more likely a school is to PX on more than one occasion;
- **Social Care and Education:** With 2/3 of PX pupils being known to Social Care, there is a need for more collaboration between services to increase opportunities for prevention and share knowledge about each child.

4.3. What Caused the Rise - June 2016

As a result of the initial findings further work was done to understand the possible reasons for the rise. This was done through interviews with other Local Authorities, Head Teachers, SENCOs, the PRU and Education Officers within the Council. Although it was impossible to draw any single conclusion based on the available data the following factors that came to the surface were:

- The national government’s language relating to permanent school exclusion has changed and the guidance they issued (then withdrew due to legal challenge) appeared to actively encourage its use;
- OFSTED has placed a greater emphasis on behaviour and schools may be responding by having a lower tolerance to poor behaviour in their schools thus excluding more readily;
- There are issues and time delays with getting support/assessment for SEND pupils;
- Higher thresholds and waiting lists for services that can support schools with behaviour means less support is available;
- A perverse financial incentive existed whereby it costed a school less money to exclude than to buy in additional support. Conversely schools were allocated less money when taking on a previously permanently excluded pupil therefore there was no incentive to reintegrate back into mainstream;

- The home situation is a contributing factor and a driver to behavioural concerns. The lack of information sharing between Social Care and Education means this is not managed effectively;
- Recruitment concerns surrounding experienced teachers who can effectively manage behaviour exacerbates the issues;
- Parents putting increasing pressure on schools not to have disruptive pupils in the classroom is a concern.

4.4. The Permanent Exclusion Avoidance plan

The Permanent Exclusion Avoidance Group was set up in the spring term 2016. It coordinates through one plan all the different initiatives that are being developed that could have a bearing on the number of exclusions in the County (both for secondary and primary age). It also identifies gaps and aims to further understand the issues and takes the lead for new work if applicable.

Some of the primary aged work that has happened since the initial plan was drafted includes:

- A revamped primary offer from the PRU which includes whole school behaviour support for 15 schools per term. Early results from this shows that fixed term exclusion are down in all the participating schools;
- Improved links between the Primary Exclusion Officer and the Early Help process. This will help support referrals of all appropriate primary 'at risk' pupils. Referrals and outcomes will be tracked and hopefully an Education Psychologist will be seconded to the Early Help Panel at some point in the future;
- A moving on process has been agreed with Primary PRU and our Special Educational Needs team. Data will be monitored next term to see if this has made moving SEND pupils on from the PRU any quicker;
- A more robust challenge to schools where the Local Authority feels exclusion reasons are weak;
- Single View has been implemented to join up Education and Social Care data;
- The Education and Social Care Protocol has been rolled out and termly Social Care attendance at Hubs and Liaison Group Meetings have been agreed;
- New training opportunities have been offered to schools on managing behaviour;
- Agreement has been reached for changing the funding formula that is used to charge excluding schools and allocate to admitting schools to produce a fairer system;
- The Graduated Approach and the SEND Strategy have both been developed and are currently going through the formal approval processes;

- A new transition process from early years to reception is being trialled to ensure that schools can support children entering reception appropriately.

4.5. Current Picture – Academic Year 2016/17 - Permanent Exclusions as at 31/12/2016

At the end of the Autumn Term there were 44 permanent exclusions overall (primary and secondary), down from 54 at the same time last year. In the primary sector there were 6, down from 13 at this point last year.

Of the primary sector two had EHC plans and a further two were under statutory assessment. The final two had identified SEND, a continuation of the trend seen previously where mainstream schools feel they are not able to support pupils with SEND.

The primary PRU is full due in part to a lack of places in special schools and the time taken to undertake a statutory assessment where this had not been instigated in a timely manner by the school prior to permanently excluding.

The reduction in exclusions in the primary sector is welcomed and is also reflected in the number of pupils at risk of permanent exclusion which is down from 40 to 19 (informal data collected by the Exclusions and Reiteration Team). The exact causal factors for this reduction are difficult to identify. Continuous monitoring throughout the year will continue and an end of year survey will be undertaken to ascertain guiding factors.

The increase in the secondary sector last year was influenced in part by an increase in one off serious incidents related to substance abuse and weapons related incidents and incidents such as these often result in more than one pupil being excluded at a time. This period there have been less one off incidents but only a small decrease in the overall reduction in the secondary sector.

The government's white paper 'Educational Excellence Everywhere' proposed that moving forward schools would retain the responsibility for their pupil's attainment even if they did permanently exclude. However a number of the proposals contained in this have been shelved and although government officials have stated they would still like this aspect of the white paper to be implemented there are no current plans to change the law to allow this to happen.

5. Resource implications

There were no new resources available to tackle this problem therefore any work that has taken place to reduce exclusions has been done by realigning existing resources.



The Local Authority did need to use the PRU contingency budget to spot purchase additional places at the PRU.

6. Next steps

There is still further work to be done and a number of initiatives are already being explored or are work in progress as part of the plan. These include:

- Research into the feasibility of developing a Pupils Educationally At Risk Panel;
- Improved and more easily accessible behaviour management resources for schools;
- A task and finish group to develop resources for schools on awareness of the risks of carrying weapons;
- Further research into the secondary sector permanent exclusions.

Report to the Select Committee for Childrens Social Care and Learning Appendix 1

1st January 2017

PRIMARY

Table 1:- Permanent Exclusions by Year Group – Primary School

Year group	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17 YTD
R'cept	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0
2	0	0	0	1	1	2	3	1
3	0	0	0	1	0	1	4	0
4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2
5	0	0	0	2	0	0	6	3
6	1	0	0	3	2	2	2	0
Total	1	0	0	7	4	6	24	6

Report to the Select Committee for Childrens Social Care and Learning Appendix 1

1st January 2017

Table 2:- Permanent Exclusions Broken Down by Category (stated by school) – Primary School

Reasons	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17 YTD
BUL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
DAM	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
DAR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PAA	0	0	0	2	1	0	6	
PAP	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	
PDB	0	0	0	4	2	5	14	6
RA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
SM	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
THE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
VAA	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	
VAP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
OTHER (W)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	1	0	0	7	4	6	24	6

DAM - Damage
 DAR - Drug and alcohol related
 PAA - Physical assault against adult
 PAP - Physical assault against pupil
 PDB - Persistent disruptive behaviour
 SM - Sexual Misconduct
 THE - Theft
 VAA - Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against adult
 VAP - Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against pupil
 Other (W) carry a weapon

Report to the Select Committee for Childrens Social Care and Learning Appendix 1

1st January 2017

Secondary

Table 1:- Permanent Exclusions by Year Group – Secondary School

Year group	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17 YTD
7	4	2	3	1	4	5	5	2
8	7	12	8	8	8	9	17	5
9	20	14	15	8	10	16	25	3
10	15	20	25	22	17	17	31	14
11	6	3	5	7	1	6	12	10
12/13			1	1	1		4	4
Total	52	51	57	47	41	53	94	38

Report to the Select Committee for Childrens Social Care and Learning Appendix 1

1st January 2017

Table 2:- Permanent Exclusions Broken Down by Category (stated by school) – Secondary School

Reasons	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17 YTD
BUL	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
DAM	2	2	1	1	0	1	2	
DAR	6	1	4	8	4	8	19	6
PAA	4	0	4	2	3	6	6	
PAP	7	10	11	11	7	4	7	1
PDB	18	26	28	19	21	24	43	26
RA	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	
SM	2	1	2	0	1	2	1	
THE	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	
VAA	4	5	5	2	2	2	5	
VAP	2	1	2	4	3	5	1	
OTHER	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	
OTHER (W)	1	0	0	0	0	0	10	4
Total	52	51	57	47	41	53	94	38

DAM - Damage

DAR - Drug and alcohol related

PAA - Physical assault against adult

PAP - Physical assault against pupil

PDB - Persistent disruptive behaviour

SM - Sexual Misconduct

THE - Theft

VAA - Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against adult

VAP - Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against pupil

Other (W) carry a weapon



Buckinghamshire County Council Select Committee

Children's Social Care and Learning Select Committee

Report to the Children's Social Care and Learning Select Committee

Title:	Buckinghamshire Youth Services
Committee date:	31 January 2017
Author:	Laura Nankin
Contact officer:	Laura Nankin/Lucy Pike lnankin@buckscc.gov.uk lpike@buckscc.gov.uk
Cabinet Member sign-off:	Zahir Mohammed

Purpose of Agenda Item

The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on how the Buckinghamshire Youth initiative has progressed since it was last discussed at the CSC&L Select Committee. The paper is for information only and includes:

- An overview of Buckinghamshire Youth;
- How budget reductions were managed;
- A brief analysis of the data set;
- Successes and challenges and how they are being overcome;
- Risks going forward.

Background

Buckinghamshire Youth was discussed by the Select Committee in October 2015 when the initiative was still under development. The committee were informed that Buckinghamshire Youth was a collaboration of 3 providers who would work closely together to ensure the best support for young people could be provided. By February 2016 the budget was agreed by full Council with an additional saving requirement of £1,755,000 split across the three Buckinghamshire Youth Providers.

Summary

Buckinghamshire Youth launched in June 2016. It is a partnership between:

- The Youth Service (internal BCC service)
- Adviza (formerly Connexions Bucks)

- Action4Youth (a voluntary sector organisation providing support to community youth groups)

The over-arching aim of the partnership is to:

- Ensure young people can access the right intervention(s) from the right professional(s) at the right time, preventing escalation into the more expensive statutory services;
- Improve outcomes for young people;
- Reduce duplication;
- Increase efficiencies across the 3 providers, including creating a single front door and utilising the voluntary sector offer.

Buckinghamshire Youth is a referral based service and is able to support young people who meet set criteria. Young people accessing the service all have additional needs which are sometimes complex and needing specialist support defined as Level 2 and 3 in the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children's Board Threshold Document. The full criteria is outlined in Appendix 1 and includes young people not in education, training or employment, young people at risk of offending or exploitation and many others.

Young people referred to Buckinghamshire Youth are provided with a package of support which can include:

- 1:1 Key Worker Support sometimes in the context of their families where a key worker will coordinate support for a family when referred through the Early Help Panel;
- Mentoring when less intensive support is required but young people still require low level support for example to maintain any change they may have made;
- Targeted Small Group Work to enable young people to learn from their peers, gain support from a positive peer group, and learn the skills needed to transition into adulthood successfully. Supported access to engage in activities in their community that support their social and personal development

In addition to the above the following work is also delivered by the Youth Service:

- Street Based Youth Work where youth workers meet with discreet groups of young people wherever they happen to be, in parks or other community spaces. This often takes place in areas of deprivation and/or rural areas where there are multiple problems at play, and/or where anti-social behaviour is prevalent.
- Youth Voice Work including delivery of the Children in Care Council. The Youth Voice initiatives provide a mechanism for the Council to consult with young people on a regular basis and maintain open dialogue.

The storyboard in Appendix 2 provides an overview of work completed to establish Buckinghamshire Youth.

Key Issues

1:1 and Groupwork Case Study

Tim is 16 and lives with his mum and step dad. He has been in care himself in the past and is currently on a Child in Need plan. His 3 younger siblings are all in care. Tim has a history of being exposed to domestic violence and poor conditions at home and has been a school refuser since April 2016. At the time of referral Tim rarely left home, was anxious about social situations, was vulnerable to exploitation, crime, and gangs, and was missing education. Tim had only online friends and preferred to communicate with others through a headset rather than face to face.

A youth worker worked with Tim over a period of months supporting him in 1:1 sessions to build his confidence and trust. Tim was encouraged to join an employability project where he has been able to gain support from his peers and try out the strategies he has been working on in his 1:1 sessions. As a result Tim has now:

- *Returned to education;*
- *Secured a p/t job;*
- *Achieved 2 sections of his Duke of Edinburgh's Award as well as other accreditations;*
- *Developed techniques for dealing with his social anxieties and is regularly meeting with friends outside of school as well as actively engaging in groupwork;*
- *Is doing things for himself that he would not previously have done on his own i.e. catching buses, going to the hairdressers etc.*
- *Has a renewed ambition and direction relating to future career choices and the qualifications he needs to take to get there.*

Data Analysis

Since launching in June 2016 data has been collated and analysed. The 6 month review identified:

- 158 referrals have been received from 21 different agency groupings, with the most referrals being made by Social Care, Schools, Family Resilience Service and Banardo's R U Safe.
- Most referrals came from Aylesbury Vale (61) and Wycombe (56) with a further 28 from South Bucks and 11 from Chiltern.
- The average age of young people referred was 14.16 which included young people ranging from 10 to 19 years old;
- Young people's progress is assessed using the Outcomes Star tool. The average improvement is 0.8. This is above the national average of 0.6.

It is interesting to note that:

- Since July the number of referrals into Buckinghamshire Youth has increased month on month, a reflection of the growing demand and how the service is valued by partner agencies;
- Between June and November Social Care have been the main referrer with 25.9% of the 158 referrals coming from a Social Care team or re-directed from First Response. This equates to 47.5% Children in Need, 10% Children in Care, 40% redirected from First Response and 2.5% from other Social Care Teams. This demonstrates the role Buckinghamshire Youth can play in supporting young people to overcome barriers that other agencies cannot resolve;
- Of the total referrals one of the most common presenting needs was support for young people linked to anger. This is representative of the high levels of referrals other agencies are receiving linked to behavioural issues and the role Buckinghamshire Youth is playing in supporting this increasing need;
- The second most common referrer has been schools with 13% of the total. 38% of these have been for 11- 12 year olds confirming that schools are well placed to identify need at an earlier stage and when pupils are at a younger age. It also identifies a cohort who would not previously have been supported prior to Buckinghamshire Youth launching (22% of all referrals).

Street-based Intervention Case Study

The Youth Service acted as the lead agency coordinating support in Buckingham around a group of young people exhibiting risky behaviours, including an escalation of drug and alcohol use and inappropriate sexual behaviour. Due to their unique approach youth workers were able to work with young people in community spaces and on their territory, maintaining trusting relationships with young people while facilitating information sharing across agencies to safeguard the young people effectively.

By the end of the project the number of young people using mephedrone had reduced with one prolific user having stopped completely. Serious concerns raised about 6 members of the group by Social Care, Thames Valley Police and Community Safety had been completely eradicated. Many group members were able to demonstrate a renewed focus on their futures, gaining employment, improving school attendance and adopting a positive outlook despite difficult home circumstances

Successes and Challenges

Since launching Buckinghamshire Youth in June 2016 there have been a number of successes and challenges:

Successes:

- Referrers, parents, carers and young people now only have one place to go to access support from 3 different providers. Developing a single point of access to Buckinghamshire Youth has also led to a reduction in duplication of support from across agencies;

- Referrals have been continually building and allocations have been completed jointly across the 3 providers. This has strengthened the package of support provided;
- The service has been very positively received. Young people, referrers and families have given positive feedback on the support they have received;
- The groupwork offer has added value to what can be provided in 1:1 settings and has given young people the opportunity to learn and gain support from their peers who are experiencing similar issues;
- 139 young people, many with multiple and complex needs have been or are in the process of being helped to achieve positive outcomes;
- Positive professional relationships with other agencies have been further developed (i.e. Family Resilience, Banardo's R U Safe. Social care etc.).

Challenges:

- As demand has increased there is limited capacity to take on new cases. Ensuring young people are progressed through the levels of support in a timely way is a challenge;
- Recruitment to vacant posts has been an issue and it takes time for new staff to be inducted and upskilled to take on a full case load;
- Ensuring volunteer mentors are recruited/available in the right area at the right time is difficult;
- Establishing and developing Bucks Youth across 3 providers, 2 of which are externally commissioned has taken time, managing conflicting priorities and different ways of working.

Resource Implications

Savings of £1,755,000 were achieved through the Buckinghamshire Youth initiative. These came from:

- A reduction in funding to the Buckinghamshire Youth providers and a broadening of their remit to include working with all vulnerable young people at a level appropriate to need;
- The addition of a cost effective mentoring service delivered largely by volunteers;
- Implementation of new referral criteria so resource is focused on the most vulnerable;
- Commissioning of a joint database to enable improved data support and economies of scale.

Changes to Connexions Buckinghamshire and the Youth Service

Connexions Buckinghamshire (Adviza) became part of the new Buckinghamshire Youth model, bringing with them their expertise in working with NEET young people. A reduction in funding led to the closure of their drop in centres and they no longer provide drop in careers advice and guidance. However an open access online service remains and schools buy services directly from Adviza (the responsibility to provide impartial advice and guidance lies with the school and not the Local Authority). NEET young people are still

provided for as part of Buckinghamshire Youth and an employability skills programme is part of the offer. Pupils attending PRU's, YOS and those in aftercare still get a service as identified vulnerable groups. NEET figures remain low across the county and partners in Buckinghamshire Youth are available to assist with tracking young people to help keep the "not known" figures low.

A reduction in funding to the Youth Service led to changes in some of the delivery. The Youth Service no longer holds the Duke of Edinburgh's Award operating authority licence that schools affiliated to, and those who wished to continue became directly licensed to the national charity. Youth Voice initiatives were also reduced and we no longer have a specialist team supporting this work across the board. Youth Voice work with Looked After children and young people and those with disabilities has been retained. Projects such as Young Inspectors and United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP) are no longer delivered.

Next Steps

Risks Going Forward

Clearly the Council continues to operate in challenging times with reducing budgets. Risks that may directly impact on the ongoing development of the Buckinghamshire Youth initiative include:

- Demand may outstrip supply and result in long waiting lists or an even more stringent referral criteria;
- Further reductions in budget will result in the service being able to help less young people with more young people escalating into expensive statutory services;
- Further changes and uncertainty may result in issues with retaining staff.

Opportunities

- Closer working with statutory services for better integration of Buckinghamshire Youth support options within intervention plans for some of the most hard to reach young people in Bucks;
- The use of street based youth work to engage young people directly in their social environments and intervene with risky or harmful behaviours and contexts;
- Further analysis of success of Buckinghamshire Youth in preventing young people who have previously received a specialist intervention from returning to the more expensive statutory services;
- The remit of the service to work with young people at evenings and weekends.

- 1. Appendix 1: Buckinghamshire Youth Referral Criteria**
- 2. Appendix 2: Buckinghamshire Youth Storyboard**

Buckinghamshire Youth Storyboard October 2016.

Why are we improving this area?

- To improve the pathway for young people aged 11 – 25 to access services
- To reduce duplication of services and ensure that young people are able to access the right level of service at the right time from the right professional
- To ensure those with the most need are able to access appropriate support and align services with demand
- To join up services who are often working with the same young people to make more targeted use of resource and provide a seamless service for young people
- To improve services based on young people's feedback

What are the next steps?

- Identify trends and patterns as more data is collected and analysed, enabling us to target young people more effectively
- Provide further training for staff on the areas identified as cases develop
- Continue to build the partnership across the 3 providers and ensure that young people are transitioning effectively from targeted intensive support through to universal provision as appropriate
- Recruit more volunteer mentors to increase capacity in this area of work
- Set up a steering group of partners to support and guide the development of Buckinghamshire Youth
- Evaluate progress to date in January, to inform future delivery.

What is the evidence of impact?

- 6 months in, 158 young people have been referred since Bucks Youth was established in June 2016, with an average age of 14 years.
- Aylesbury and Wycombe make the highest level of referrals reflecting the make-up of these areas
- 139 young people, many with multiple and complex needs have been or are in the process of being helped to achieve positive outcomes
- Of the 103 referrals picked up by youth workers, 36 positive outcomes have been achieved and a further 49 young people are currently working towards achieving their goals. The remaining 18 are in the relationship building stage prior to initial assessment.
- Average distance travelled on the youth star is 0.8 points, higher than the national average of 0.6.
- Partners have responded positively to the changes and referrals are steadily increasing
- 16 young people have attended groupwork sessions to date and initial feedback has been positive.

What changes have been made to date?

- Researched existing (2015) early help provision for young people with key stakeholders, made recommendations and identified new model of delivery to enable these recommendations to be achieved
- Established new delivery model: Buckinghamshire Youth – a framework bringing together 3 providers who work with young people: Youth Service, Adviza (formerly Connexions Bucks) and Action4Youth (April to June 2016)
- Created a vision for Buckinghamshire Youth that includes a set of values to inform the work
- Developed a single point of access for referrals, with jointly agreed referral criteria based on risk factors and support needs
- Established a joint allocation process where young people are discussed by representatives of the 3 providers and the most appropriate support package and worker is identified. Stuck cases are also reviewed here.
- Established a management group to oversee progress and provide leadership and direction across the 3 providers
- Implemented a robust Quality Assurance process to ensure young people receive the best possible support
- Delivered training to staff across the 3 providers to ensure they are equipped to support young people effectively
- Trained Business Support colleagues to take referrals over the phone and developed an online referral form and promoted this across a range of partners to enable them to refer easily.
- Refreshed information on the BCC and BFIS website to reflect the new remit of Buckinghamshire Youth and provide accurate information to referrers/families
- Distributed a newsletter as part of a communication strategy to keep internal staff updated on developments and achievements within Buckinghamshire Youth as it becomes embedded
- Created a new data set to monitor progress and support continuous evaluation and improvement
- Consulted with young people as part of the development phase and included their views in the resulting model. Continued to consult around branding to ensure the service appeals to young people.
- Included a wider age range of young people in our remit to ensure more vulnerable young people can access a service
- Established a mentoring programme to provide less intensive support to young people as their needs reduce
- Established group supervision across the 3 providers in addition to line management supervision to ensure learning is shared and support is effective
- Established groupwork sessions for young people in Wycombe and Aylesbury to support young people with their employability skills and personal development and wellbeing, in addition to the 1:1 support they are getting

Criteria for Referral to Buckinghamshire Youth

Referring an Individual

All 4 criteria below must apply:

1. Young person aged 11 – 19 (or up to 25 if SEND);
2. Young person has given consent for referral and on meeting the key worker, is happy to progress;
2. Young person has one or more of the following risk indicators:
 - Poor attendance at school;
 - Have been excluded from school;
 - Families who are known to Social Care or are CIN/CLA or leaving care;
 - Families referred via Early Help Panels;
 - Have witnessed domestic violence;
 - Have been involved with the criminal justice system;
 - Are young carers;
 - Have been involved with substance misuse
 - Demonstrating risky behaviour
 - Vulnerable to extremism.
3. Young person needs support with one or more of the following:
 - Anger issues;
 - Building positive relationships;
 - Positive decision making;
 - Taking responsibility for own actions;
 - Social engagement;
 - Social skills;
 - Behaviours;
 - Coping strategies;
 - Understanding their situation;
 - Finding or staying in employment education or training;
 - Identity (most likely need for life story work);
 - Emotional health and wellbeing;
 - Access to universal services.

Where possible the referrer or other appropriate adult is able to be part of initial 3 way meeting with key worker and young person, however this would not prohibit referrals being accepted.

There may be occasions where a young person could be accepted for groupwork and low need key work without meeting (2) above, however this would depend on capacity at any given time.

Referring a Group for Detached Youth Work

Buckinghamshire Youth will accept referrals for detached youth work in a community setting where a specific need for a time bound intervention is identified. The following 2 criteria must apply:

1. Peer group has one or more of the following risk indicators:
 - Affected by or involved in anti-social behaviour or low level offending behaviour,
 - Involved in risk taking behaviour
 - Risk of exploitation
 - Vulnerable to CSE
 - Negative peer group
 - Or an area of high deprivation or need and or experiencing issues within the community

2. The peer group must:
 - Regularly congregate together (minimum of 5 young people) to allow for peer group focused support or intervention;
 - Consistently congregate in a specific areas that allows the team to make initial contact and then sustain this contact week to week;
 - Congregate in an area that is possible/ appropriate for the team to work with them in.



Buckinghamshire County Council Select Committee

Children's Social Care and Learning Select Committee

Report to the Children's Social Care and Learning Select Committee

Title:	Child Sexual Exploitation Service
Committee date:	Tuesday 31 January 2017
Author:	David Johnson
Contact officer:	Alison Byrne
Cabinet Member sign-off:	Lin Hazell, Zahir Mohammed

Purpose of Agenda Item

To inform the Select Committee of the outcome of the tendering process for the contract for Missing & Child Sexual Exploitation Services and progress in implementation.

Background

The current contract, provided by Barnardo's ('R-U-Safe?' project), is due to finish on the 31st March 2017, with no further extensions to contract available. The Council examined the available options and made a decision to conduct a competitive tendering exercise. The agreed option was to draw up a revised specification for Missing and CSE Services, based on Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) priorities and to tender for a delivery partner to add value by providing investment to deliver additional outcomes. The benefits of this option were to keep the level of service as close to the current practice as possible; for continued provision of intelligence to support the police in the pursuance of perpetrators and to locate missing children and young people in a timely manner and for the Council and partner agencies to receive training and support, advice and guidance. The contract term is 3 years with the option for two further extensions of 12 months each and the anticipated start date of the contract is 1st April 2017.

Summary

Despite apparent initial interest from 4 providers across the market only one organisation, Barnardo's, submitted a bid in response to the tender. The Council followed a robust assessment process of the bid in relation to quality and price and Barnardo's achieved a



total score of 83.7% with an excellent overview and understanding of BCC and partnership strategic priorities and the requirements of the specification.

Key issues

As the Select Committee had reported on how Buckinghamshire supports children subject to CSE their feedback was sought at the start of the tendering process. Cabinet Member decision was to award the contract to Barnardo's and the award was published on 6th December 2016.

BCC priorities have meant that there is a greater emphasis on the missing work than the CSE work in the new contract but there are key performance indicators (KPI) for both elements of the contract; the % Return Interviews (RI) completed within 72 hours of notification of return, the % of Young People (YP) in care with reduced missing episodes, the % of YP with reduction in risky sexual behaviour and the % of YP with reduction in association with risky adults/peers. These KPI will be monitored on a quarterly basis.

Following Ofsted visits in August and November/December, concerns were raised about the quality, timeliness and frequency of RI. We have developed an improvement plan with Barnardo's which is monitored weekly. These areas are already showing improvement and will continue to be monitored under the new contract from 1st April.

Resource implications

The budget cap over the three year life of the contract was set at £912,000 with an expectation that around 50% of added value contribution was required to deliver the required specification. Barnardo's bid came in on budget at £912,000 but they will contribute 46% of the total service cost through their own funds to cover the 'Added Value' element of the specification. In summary the winning bid is made up of budget of £912,000 and voluntary funds of £777,670. The gross amount including added value is £1,689,670. So for every £1 invested by the Council this is matched by £0.85 in committed funds from Barnardo's for the next 3 years.

Next steps

Within the bid, Barnardo's included an implementation plan which is already in progress and being monitored. The new contract will commence 1st April 2017.

Children's Social Care & Learning Select Committee – Work Programme

31 Jan 2017	Buckinghamshire Youth Services	To receive an update after the re-structure of the Youth Service.	David Johnston, Strategic Director (Children and Young People)	Contributors: Ms Lin Hazell - Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Mr David Johnston - Managing Director Children's Social Care and Learning and Laura Nankin, Head of Fair Access & Youth Provision.
31 Jan 2017	Child Sexual Exploitation Service	An update on the re-tendering of the Child Sexual Exploitation Service Contract	Amanda O'Borne	
31 Jan 2017	Children's Workforce Inquiry	To review and consider the implementation of the Children's Workforce Inquiry agreed recommendations, 6 months on.	Carol Douch, Service Director (Children & Family Service)	
31 Jan 2017	Permanent Exclusions - Focus on Primary Schools	To inform the Committee on the increase in permanent exclusions from school, an analysis of reasons and actions being taken to address the issue.	Laura Nankin, Youth Service Operations Manager	
31 Jan 2017	Serious Case Reviews	Learning from Serious Case Reviews.	Matilda Moss, Safeguarding Business Manager	

Date	Topic	Description and purpose	Lead Service Officer	Attendees
21 Mar 2017	Change for Children (C4C) - 5 year Plan	To give Members the opportunity to discuss the 5 year programme of reconfiguration projects across the Children's Social Care and Learning Business Unit.	David Johnston, Strategic Director (Children and Young People)	
21 Mar 2017	Education Standards Summary Report 2016	For the Committee to consider a summary report of pupil's educational attainment across the County for 2016.	Atifa Sayani, Education Champion, Nicholas Wilson, Service Director Education	
21 Mar 2017	NHS England Sustainability and Transformation Plan	Understanding the impacts of integrating Health and Social Care on Children's Services including the NHS England Sustainability and Transformation Plan	David Johnston, Strategic Director (Children and Young People)	
21 Mar 2017	The Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy 2016	For Members to examine the new Special Educational Needs and Disability Strategy.	Gillian Shurrock, Head of SEN	
5 Sep 2017	Independent Reviewing Officer Service	For Members to look at the performance of the IRO service and current resourcing.	Sharon Graham, Interim IRO manager	
5 Sep 2017	National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS)	For Members to look at the performance of NYAS following recent management changes in Buckinghamshire.	Simon Brown, Operations Manager (Commissioning)	

Date	Topic	Description and purpose	Lead Service Officer	Attendees
5 Sep 2017	The Educational Psychology Service Action Plan	To update Members on progress with implementing the Educational Psychology Service Action Plan	Craig Tribe	

