

**Minutes of:****OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE -  
CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING SUB COMMITTEE**

**Date of Meeting:** Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019

**Present:** Councillor Susan Southworth (in the Chair); Councillor Grimshaw and Councillor Hankey.

**Also in attendance:**

Karen Dolton – Executive Director Children's Services  
Karen Whitehead – Strategic Lead Inclusion, Health and Partnership  
Mel Tunney - Strategic Lead (Early Help and Edge of Care)  
Susan French – Team Manager, Complex Safeguarding  
Sue Harris - Strategic Lead for Placement Services  
Julie Gallagher – Democratic Services

**Apologies for absence:** Councillor R Caserta and M Whitby

---

**CS.01      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**CS.02      MINUTES**

**It was agreed:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019, be approved as a correct record.

**CS.03      MENTAL HEALTH UPDATE**

Karen Whitehead, Strategic Lead Health and Partnerships attended the meeting to provide members with an update in respect of work being undertaken to support children and young people's mental health across the Borough.

An accompanying report circulated to members prior to the meeting included information in respect of the key priorities for 2019/2020 which include:

- Deliver a core service in line with the new GM Service Specification for CYP mental health. Most significantly:
  - Increase the upper age eligibility criteria from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> birthday for new referrals
  - Widen the service offer to include 8am – 8pm weekday working and weekend cover.
- Continue to deliver against the 5 Year Forward View for Mental Health targets for CYP Access, workforce development and community eating disorder waiting times.
- Deliver on ambitions in the NHS Long Term Plan:
  - increase funding for CYP mental health services
  - Develop services and improve access to timely, effective perinatal and parent-infant mental health care for mothers, partners and children.
  - Transform Crisis Care

- Continue to work with partners to ensure mental health support for children and young people will be embedded in schools and
  - Commission specialist neurodevelopmental nurse roles to support the ASD and ADHD assessment and care pathways, including delivery against the GM Standards for ADHD.
- As well as information in respect of the Healthy Young Minds Safeguarding processes.

Responding to a question from the Chair, the Strategic Lead reported that she was confident that additional monies would be made available across Greater Manchester, it is envisaged that a large proportion of this money will be directed in to early intervention services. Work will be undertaken to upskill and in some cases expand, the current workforce in the community. This work will be in conjunction with the work already ongoing at a neighbourhood/locality level.

In response to a Member's question with regards to support in school, the Strategic Lead reported that additional support would be made available for schools. The Council will continue to work with partners to ensure mental health support for children and young people will be embedded in schools and colleges, building on the link worker service. Additional resources will also be made available via school inclusion partnerships.

The GM Mentally Healthy Schools programme will also help to provide separate funding into the Borough some of which will support training and early support programmes. The Executive Director for Children's Services reported that 10% of Bury Schools have taken part in the Mental Health first Aid initiatives, this will be rolled out shortly to other schools in the Borough. Additional mental health training has also been provided for key staff within school eg pastoral support.

Members discussed and expressed concern with regards to lengthy waiting times to access some mental health services. The Strategic Lead reported that if a young person is in crisis there is a GM wide crisis resolution pathway for those in crisis that service will always be available. There is also a single point of access, one number that can provide support, signposting and Consultant advice.

The Strategic Lead reported that the largest number of referrals into the service are from schools, sometimes school staff feel vulnerable with regards to who is owning the risk.

Members discussed the emerging issue of knife crime within the Borough. The Strategic Lead reported that this a priority piece of work for partners, the police, housing and the community safety partnership. A review is underway at a Greater Manchester level which will also look at work undertaken in Glasgow, an area that has been successful in reducing instances of knife crime.

### **It was agreed:**

Karen Whitehead, Strategic Lead be thanked for her attendance and further information in respect of a breakdown of the origin of referrals in to mental health services be forwarded on to members of the Group.

### **CS.03 UPDATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

The Executive Director of Children and Young People attended the meeting to provide members with an update in respect of social worker retention, including staff turnover rates; use of agency staff and sickness levels.

The Executive Director reported that in respect of recruitment the department has been extremely successful in converting Agency Social Workers to permanent staff, this is the most successful method of recruiting staff. The conversion of Students into employees on qualification is also good. The use of agency staff is prevalent in particular teams within the department.

Responding to a member's question in respect of career progression, the Executive Director reported that a decision was taken in 2012 to flatten the management departmental structures, the opportunities for staff to progress, reduced. This has been reviewed subsequently and additional posts have been created including Assistant Team Managers, and Service Managers, providing a clearer career progression structure. The teams across the department now mirror each other providing a more efficient and effective service.

Members discussed social worker caseloads. The Executive Director reported that caseloads are regularly performance managed by the Executive Director and the Assistant Director. The newly qualified social workers have a protected reduced case load and will be monitored and supported.

#### **It was agreed:**

The Executive Director will attend a future meeting to provide a further update in respect of Social worker retention rates, sickness levels and use of agency workers.

### **CS.04 CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

Mel Tunney - Strategic Lead (Early Help and Edge of Care) and Susan French Team Manager, Complex Safeguarding attended the meeting to provide and update with regards to the development of the Phoenix CSE team into a complex safeguarding team. In practice this will mean that there will be a social care team dealing with Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Criminal Exploitation, Missing From Home and Domestic abuse. Police teams for CSE and Challenger will link in with CCE cases.

The work of the Complex Safeguarding Team continues to have three key priorities; prevent, protect and prosecute, and awareness raising is key in order to achieve this. The representatives highlighted some of the good practice work undertaken by their team, including:

- Staff completed a 6 week programme with the Asian women's group; providing training on signs of CSE; how to seek support and help and interventions.
- CSE Ambassadors - 90 young people from 10 secondary schools in Bury attended training to equip them as ambassadors within their schools.
- PCSOs have been linked to residential children's homes in their areas to provide support and maintain a level of communication. They will then develop better links and become SPOC's for the local children's homes.
- Management of offenders on bail/UI for CSE offences; Offenders to be made aware before their release that disruption visits will take place during the period they are on bail or UI.

- The team delivered an input to new Police recruits, CSE, Missing, DV and CCE covered. This was a good opportunity to get across key messages about the impact of the first police visit on young people.

Members discussed some of the challenges facing the team including demand – Due to the publicity of Trapped there has understandably been a real focus on highlighting this area of exploitation. The Complex Safeguarding Team Manager reported that they are already seeing schools in particular raising cases often involving several young people.

Members also discussed the opportunities including work being undertaken with GM leads to deliver a positive response to young people in Bury. As well as a Social Care Restructure. The proposal under the restructure is that the Youth Offending Prevention Workers currently in Team Oasis will move to be part of the Complex Safeguarding Team which fits with the team development specifically around criminal exploitation.

Members discussed the work being undertaken to address the emerging themes from schools of groups of young people involved in anti-social behaviour, growing reports of young people carrying knives and drug use. Police, local authorities, Greater Manchester Combined Authority, young people and an MP have launched a campaign to stop criminal gangs from grooming children and vulnerable adults to commit crime. The campaign, known as 'Trapped', aims to raise awareness of criminals who are grooming and exploiting children and young adults to commit crime on their behalf. Offenders use coercive behaviour to threaten and exploit victims and their families.

The Complex Safeguarding Manager reported that GM provided some funding to deliver a one off CCE input into two schools or Prus in each authority.

Responding to a Member's question, the Complex Safeguarding manager reported that it is anticipated that the number of referrals will grow and staff will need to work closely with the community safety partnership team, police, etc to respond.

#### **It was agreed:**

Mel Tunney - Strategic Lead (Early Help and Edge of Care) and Susan French – Team Manager, Complex Safeguarding be thanked for their attendance.

#### **COUNCILLOR S SOUTHWORTH**

**Chair (Note: the meeting started at 5pm and ended at 6.20pm)**