

Minutes of the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee Meeting held on 16 January 2017

Present: John Francis (Chairman)

Attendance

Maureen Compton	Robert Marshall
Mike Davies	Christine Mitchell
Terry Finn	Mark Olszewski
Bob Fraser	David Williams (Vice-Chairman)
Sandra Hambleton	

Also in attendance: Mark Sutton

Apologies:

PART ONE

36. Declarations of Interest

There were none on this occasion.

37. Minutes of the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee held on 12 December 2016

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee meeting held on 12 December 2016 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

38. Children and Families System Transformation Programme

The Children and Families System Transformation Programme worked to address the challenges identified within the children's social care system and the broader children's system. The approach had been agreed through the Families Strategic Partnership to implement the system transformation through a place-based approach, which Members had considered at their 12 December 2016 meeting.

A number of pilot projects had been developed to explore and test the delivery of different aspects of the Children's Transformation Model, with the potential to expand provision and practice where evidence demonstrated projects had been successful in delivering intended aims and where they represented effective use of resources. The Select Committee had last been updated on developments with these pilots at their 8 July 2016 meeting.

Since their July Select Committee all of the eight pilots were now active. All pilots were beginning to demonstrate positive outcomes, with those individuals who had benefited from the pilots giving positive feedback where hard data was not yet available. Five of the projects (Tamworth, Newcastle, Moorlands, Stafford and South Staffordshire) had

indicated they incurred delays in implementation. Cannock and Lichfield pilots, which had been in place for longer, were able to demonstrate positive outcomes at the end of this reporting period. The East Staffordshire pilot was endeavouring to develop grass roots change to culture and attitude as a means of addressing the issues which had arisen within a community and it was recognised that this would take some time to embed.

The Pilots had changed and developed to meet local need and enable effective partnership working. Additionally the creation of the place based approach could see a further evolution in the Tamworth and Newcastle pilots. Strong partnership approaches had been crucial in terms of sustainability, with Tamworth, Newcastle and Stafford pilots having secured either match funding from partners and/or a commitment to consider further support to maintain the approach.

Angela Schulp, District Commissioning Lead for Cannock, shared a case study example from the Cannock pilot. This pilot had been designed to deliver a coordinated community led family intervention service for children and families who required universal or Tier 2 interventions, helping build resilience and prevent escalation. The West Chadsmoor Family Centre (WCFC) and Community Engagement Support Services (CESS) were both commissioned to support families. Members heard of a successful early intervention case. The intervention had been relatively brief, a few hours each week over a five week period, but the results had been significant, improving the mental wellbeing, behaviour and confidence of the family.

Whilst applauding the success of this pilot Members asked for clarification over the time commitment needed from key workers to ensure its success and whether there was the capacity to maintain this in the longer term. The commitment varied dependent on the family need, with some families requiring only one visit whilst others may require a greater level of support. Work was ongoing with both WCFC and CESS to ensure they had the capacity to manage this work and to review if necessary. Local Support Teams linked with this work to monitor cases and consider whether they remained within the remit or required escalating.

Members noted the Cannock Pilot made use of Outcome Star. This was an evidence based tool for supporting and measuring change. The eight outcomes were chosen by the service user family so that they had ownership of their own support and every key worker had received training in using the Outcome Star process.

The Select Committee queried funding for this project and noted the reference to a payment by results funding process. The collaborative approach with partners in developing this pilot had enabled agreement to utilise Building Resilient Families and Communities (BRFC) district payment by results funding to extend contracts by a further twelve months, dependent on the success of the pilot.

The Select Committee noted that a new referral form had been developed in South Staffordshire following the lower than expected number of referrals from schools. The referral form had been made more accessible and Members asked whether this experience would influence work within the other seven district/boroughs. They were assured that this learning had been taken on board, with less detailed base line information requested to enable engagement with a wider partnership group.

Members were informed that the South Staffordshire pilot had seen an increase in referrals following use of the amended referral form and engagement activities. 18 referrals had now been made. Two of these had been triaged as requiring higher level intervention whilst 16 were receiving support through the pilot. Members felt this was a low level of take up when compared with other district projects, for example the Lichfield Project. The type of project work in Lichfield included group session work, with groups of between six and eight taking part in each session. The take up project numbers for Lichfield were therefore expected to be higher than those in South Staffordshire where there was individual intervention across whole family need.

The Select Committee welcomed detail of the emerging learning from the projects and emphasised the importance of sharing this across the County. Receiving appropriate and meaningful data in a consistent manner was also emphasised. Members felt this data was crucial to ensure effective and consistent monitoring and was particularly important where partner organisations involved in projects may change. There were complicated systems surrounding some data and there had also been differences in the type of data collected. In some instances, for example in early help, these differences could create barriers and whilst there was a need for consistent and robust data collection, there was also a need for some flexibility. Members were concerned that whatever services the County Council commissioned, the accountability/responsibility for those services remained with the Council and it was therefore imperative that there was evidence to enable the standard of services to be monitored. They also shared concerns over possible sub-contracting of commissioned services and again the need to monitor the outcome of such services. Some legal gateways existed that made data sharing at a lower level very difficult and work was currently underway with Information Governance to consider how these obstacles could be overcome.

The Select Committee was informed that at present these projects remained pilots, however the learning from them would help inform work across the County, considering the working practices that pilots had shown to be beneficial and how to develop these. Consideration was also being given to stretching the pilot areas to benefit a wider geographical area where this was deemed appropriate. Learning had also shown the need for the County Council to work differently, removing some unnecessary bureaucracy. Members emphasised the importance of volunteers in these.

It was noted that consideration had been given to extending the South Staffordshire pilot but that following the increase in referrals there was currently no capacity for expansion and therefore Huntington and Hatherton would not at this point be part of the pilot. Members shared concerns that both Huntington and Hatherton consistently suffered because of their geographical location and the way services were configured across South Staffordshire and Cannock. It was understood that these areas came under Cannock with respect to social care whilst geographically being part of South Staffordshire, often resulting in missing out on services such as those within the pilot. Officers agreed to give this further consideration and specifically to look at stretching pilots across communities rather than districts.

Members noted that a new CSE co-ordinator, funded by the Stafford pilot project, had been in place since 31 October 2016. The Chairman asked that a meeting be arranged for Stafford based Select Committee Members with the Co-ordinator at the earliest

opportunity. They were aware that the Stafford pilot was working within Doxey and Stafford Manor Primary Schools and were informed that, as with all pilots, the work would be stretched across the district as appropriate.

More specific data giving figures for pilot project progress was requested for future Select Committee reports.

RESOLVED – That:

- a) the approach to the Pilots be endorsed;
- b) pilots work across communities rather than districts, particularly when considering stretching the area of the pilot;
- c) data collection is thorough, consistent and meaningful from all partner organisations;
- d) a progress report be brought to Committee in six months, to contain specific data on progress made.

39. Update on work to address child sexual exploitation (CSE) in Staffordshire, to include progress against the CSAF Action Plan

[The Chairman welcomed Ellen Washington, Scrutiny Officer, Stoke-on-Trent City Council (observing the meeting). External Officers attending the meeting for this item were David Pattison, Director of Legal and Public Health Protection, South Staffordshire District Council, Robert Simpson, Regulatory Services Group Manager, Stafford Borough Council and Detective Chief Superintendent Tim Martin, Staffordshire Police.]

At the start of this item Members watched “Kayleigh’s Love Story”, a film produced by Leicestershire Police sharing a case from 2015 of on-line grooming and its tragic consequences. Members agreed this film had an immense impact.

The Select Committee receive a report updating them on progress to address Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Staffordshire on a bi-annual basis, with their last report being received on 8 June 2016. Members now considered developments since their June meeting.

CSE was a very complex area and work was ongoing through the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children’s Board (SSCB). The Child Sexual Abuse Forum (CSAF) was established jointly by the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Children’s Safeguarding Boards (LCSB) and their partners in January 2015. The CSAF was a way of sharing information, co-ordinating and driving the work on CSE through their CSE Action Plan.

Members noted reference to the Government review of LCSBs by Alan Wood and the wide-ranging reforms recommended to multi-safeguarding arrangements. Members asked whether there were plans to combine the Staffordshire and the Stoke-on-Trent Children’s Safeguarding Boards as a result of these recommendations. The Boards remained separate at present and Members were informed that combining them would need a political decision.

Detective Chief Superintendent Tim Martin informed Members that there was a partnership response and good joint working in tackling CSE. Three Police Teams were

responding to CSE issues: Preventing CSE; On-Street Child Exploitation; and On-line Child Exploitation. Members received details of work within each of those teams. Nationally there had been an increase in CSE reporting. Operation Safenet worked to proactively target groups or individuals who were seeking to distribute indecent images of children and those who were grooming children online. The Operation had been involved with 209 children, had issued 162 warrants and had resulted in 141 arrests. Members were also updated on two further recent operations, Operation Linear and Operation Shade.

Members noted that a CSE co-ordinator post, funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), had been vacant since 22 July 2016 and queried why this post had remained vacant. Members were informed that the post had been allocated but that the individual had not been released until January, although work had continued without the co-ordinator in post.

Members noted that following the trial of four men charged with a total of twenty-three offences, three had been convicted of sexual offences against four girls and one had been cleared. Members asked whether the availability of further resources would have secured the fourth conviction. Resources were always a challenge, however Member's heard that resources were moved to ensure there was adequate support for CSE as required on a daily basis.

Members asked whether membership of the Multi-agency CSE Panels was reviewed and specifically why Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) were only represented on two of these District Panels. The Panels were iterative, set up to help gather and share intelligence. Their membership had been extended, with each Panel growing and developing as appropriate. A review at the end of the first year had been positive with very useful intelligence gathered. The Panels would be reviewed again at the end of their second year. CAMHS worked within the commission given to them by SCC, however it was anticipated that as the benefits from Panel attendance became increasingly apparent CAHMS representatives would be more likely to extend their involvement.

The Select Committee noted the work of the North Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and asked if similar work was being undertaken in South Staffordshire CCGs. Members were assured that CSE and Safeguarding was embedded in CCG plans and suggested that the next six monthly CSE update focus on work within CCGs.

The Select Committee noted the work within communications and asked for clarification over the contacts made via the "council number". Members wished to clarify whether the phone number was a specialist number or whether calls went through the generic County Council switchboard. Their concern was around ensuring appropriate training for those responding to the calls. Officers agreed to clarify this after the meeting.

Members heard the range of ways in which the profile of CSE was raised and specifically how parental awareness was being addressed. They felt that the importance of CSE was such that it warranted a public broadcast campaign by Central Government to raise awareness and profile of the issues nationally, and suggested the appropriate minister be made aware of their suggestion.

Members heard from David Pattison and Robert Simpson on CSE safeguarding considerations in connection with licensing. A task and finish group had been established under the remit of the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Responsible Bodies Group to develop a coherent policy in relation to licensing issues. The Group worked to strengthening current arrangements and ensure a consistent and effective approach to licensing, particularly of taxi/private hire drivers in relation to safeguarding.

Members noted that 7 out of 9 authorities had now completed additional safeguarding checks through application questions. They also noted the rate of safeguarding/CSE training undertaken by drivers, many on a voluntary basis. Policies were being altered to make future training mandatory. Members also heard that CSE and safeguarding issues were embedded in the licensing work, with officers being trained to recognise signs for concern whilst undertaking a variety of inspection and licensing processes. Training had also been undertaken with staff and licensing committee members.

Members were aware of considerable work with District and Boroughs to raise awareness and improve safeguarding. They were informed of a range of monitoring undertaken, including spot checks on taxi drivers/vehicles and Christmas focussed joint operations with partner organisations such as Staffordshire Police.

A member asked if clarification could be obtained on whether all County Councillors were DBS (Disclosure and Barring Scheme) checked. The Scrutiny and Support Manager agreed to clarify this and report back.

RESOLVED – That:

- a) the progress report be received;
- b) the next six monthly CSE update focus on the work of CCGs;
- c) clarification over the council number for members of the public to report CSE and the level of staff training for officers receiving those calls be forwarded to the Select Committee;
- d) the Chairman write to the Minister requesting consideration be given to a public broadcast campaign raising the issues around CSE; and,
- e) that the Scrutiny and Support Manager clarify whether all County Councillors are DBS checked and report back.

40. Work Programme

The Select Committee considered their work programme and noted that the lead officer for the Adult Social Care Market Failure Policy item was now Andrew Jepp, Care and Commissioning Lead.

RESOLVED – That the change to the work programme be noted.

Chairman