

Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel

13 January 2022

Commenced: 6.00pm

Terminated: 7.30pm

Present: Councillors T Smith (Chair), Affleck, Cooper, Drennan, Martin, Owen, Patrick, Pearce, N Sharif, Sweeton.

Apologies: Councillors Alam, S Homer, Jackson, Welsh.

29. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel held on 4 November 2021 were approved as a correct record.

30. TAMESIDE SEND INSPECTION

The Panel welcomed Councillor Leanne Feeley, Executive Member (Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage); and Tim Bowman, Director of Education, to receive an update on the recent SEND inspection, outcomes and actions.

The Panel heard that between 18 and 21 October 2021, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission conducted a joint inspection of the local area to judge effectiveness in implementing the special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.

The inspection had three key areas of enquiry.

- Effectiveness of the local area in identifying children and young people's special educational needs and/or disabilities
- Effectiveness of the local area in meeting the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities
- Effectiveness of the local area in improving outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities

In each of the focus areas set out above, the inspection team identified strengths and areas for development. In total, 23 areas for development were identified and 16 areas of strength.

Published on 11 January 2022, the inspection report highlights significant areas of weakness, requiring a written statement of action (WSOA), with the local authority and CCG jointly responsible for submitting the WSOA. Inspectors identified 10 areas that the WSOA must address, with a deadline of 12 April 2022 for submission.

It was reported that since 2018, the leadership team had started to make inroads on the change needed to address historical weakness, with improvement plans not making enough impact. However and notwithstanding, the pandemic has hampered progress in this area and while the report is critical, Mr Bowman advised members that this reflects local awareness and self-evaluation that Tameside SEND services need to be better for all children and families.

Positive feedback was received on the continued efforts and dedication of front line staff working with young people and families.

Discussion touched upon current waiting times for diagnostic services, health pathways, resources and capacity within the system, joint working arrangements, existing complexities and barriers to prevent progress and the need to create an effective listening framework to support and deliver positive choices for children and families

Councillor Feeley and Mr Bowman responded to a number of questions from the Panel on:

- Implementation of the SEND reforms and identified weaknesses across Education, Health and Care services
- The identified high levels of dissatisfaction among parents and carers with provision
- A potential lack of awareness across households and communities of the local SEND offer
- Positives identified by Ofsted regarding commitment and dedications of frontline staff
- Current position with regard to demand, waiting lists and budgetary pressures
- Learning available from authorities that have been judged to be effectiveness and successful in implementing the reforms
- Framework in place to monitor improvements and progress for SEND services and outcomes for children

Resolved: That Councillor Feeley and Mr Bowman be thanked for attending the meeting.

31. ASSURANCE REVIEW OF LGSCO FOCUS REPORT – DOMESTIC ABUSE

The Panel received a service response to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Focus Report – HELP! Learning to improve council services for domestic abuse victims, published in November 2021.

32. REVIEW OF MENTAL HEALTH PROVISION (ACCESS AND CRISIS)

The Panel received a paper with interim findings from the review of Mental Health Provision (Access and Crisis).

33. GREATER MANCHESTER SCRUTINY

The Chair provided a verbal update on known activity of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

34. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair advised members that a number of Scrutiny reports are to be tabled at the joint meeting of Cabinet and Overview Panel on 9 February 2022. Items specific to the panel include:

- Scrutiny Update (summary of activity for 2021/22)
- Scrutiny Interim Report – Mental Health Support (Access and Crisis)
- Assurance Review of LGSCO Focus Report – Improving Services for Domestic Abuse Victims

All Scrutiny members have received an invitation to attend the Scrutiny annual budget briefing on 17 January 2022.

35. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel will take place on 10 March 2022.

36. URGENT ITEMS

The Chair reported that there were no urgent items for consideration at this meeting.

CHAIR