



Minutes of the Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team)

4 March 2019

-: Present :-

Councillor Mills (Chairman)

Councillors Ellery, Excell, Haddock, Parrott, Stockman and Stocks

65. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Amil.

66. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team) held on 4 February 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

67. Torbay Virtual School Annual Report 2017-2018

Members noted the submitted report which set out the eighth annual report of the Virtual School Governing Body (VSGB) since the Virtual School was established in the academic year 2010/2011. It has been a busy and successful year overall for the Virtual School, with the main focus being on achieving the best outcomes for Children Looked After.

The report highlighted the improvements in national tests at Key Stage 4 with the GCSE results being amongst the best in England for Children Looked After. However, Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 2 showed a decline but this was for a very small cohort of children. The report also identified a number of priority areas for improvement as follows:

- To focus on English and Maths outcomes at KS4;
- To continue the focus of the PRIM (progress, review, intervention meetings) on Y6 and 11 with a view to commence these in Y5 and Y10;
- To determine the intervention necessary to improve progress in primary writing;
- To build on the improvement in the quality of Personal Education Plans to bring consistently high quality PEPS;
- To continue the focus and training on attachment in schools
- To improve the completion and quality of post 16 PEPS;

- To continue to strengthen the relationship between the VS staff and foster carers in order to ensure all foster carers have high educational aspirations for all our CLA;
- Ensure all foster carers have up to date knowledge of the changes within the curriculum at all key stages, life without levels, progress 8 and attainment 8, as well as understanding their role in PEPs, PP+ interventions and the support they provide for children placed in their care;
- To repeat the training for CLA Governors in schools in Torbay; and
- To determine the causes of the increase in Fixed Term Exclusions.

68. Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy 2016-20

Members considered the submitted report and noted that the Strategy was a key element in delivering aspects of the Children and Young People's Plan and Achieving Educational Excellence Everywhere Strategy's. By the adoption of the SEND Strategy it ensures help is offered at the earliest opportunity to support children and young people with what they want to achieve. The submitted report provided an overview of what has been achieved from the introduction of the Strategy and set out the future direction through a new action plan.

The Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team) made the following recommendation to the Elected Mayor:

That the Elected Mayor be recommended:

- (i) to note the progress made on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy and agree the revised action plan set out at Appendix 3 to the submitted report.

The Elected Mayor considered the recommendation of the Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team) set out above at the meeting and the record of decision, together with further information is attached to these Minutes.

69. Accessibility Strategy 2017- 20

Members considered the submitted report and noted the mid term review of the Strategy.

The Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team) made the following recommendations to the Elected Mayor:

That the Elected Mayor be recommended:

- (i) that the progress made on the Accessibility Strategy be noted; and
- (ii) that further consultation be carried out on the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Capital funding and the Assistant Director, Education,

Learning and Skills, in consultation with the Executive Lead/Cabinet Member for Children, be given delegated authority to make appropriate revisions to Torbay's Special Provision Plan by 31 May 2019.

The Elected Mayor considered the recommendations of the Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team) set out above at the meeting and the record of decision, together with further information is attached to these Minutes.

70. Torbay's Strategy for Supporting Disadvantaged Strategy Children's Learning

Members considered the submitted report and noted that the strategy **supported disadvantaged children's learning** and was a key element of the framework to deliver a vision for the children and young people in Torbay. Through greater collaboration, it would ensure children and young people were given the best start in life and could grow and prosper within safe families and communities that give them the best start for the future.

The Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team) made the following recommendations to the Elected Mayor:

That the Elected Mayor be recommended:

- (i) that the Torbay Strategy for Supporting Disadvantaged Children's Learning: Vision and Priorities 2018 to 2020, as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be approved;
- (ii) that the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Elected Mayor, Executive Member/Cabinet Member for Children's and key stakeholders, be authorised to make any final changes to the Strategy; and
- (iii) that the Cabinet receive regular updates on performance against the Torbay Strategy for Supporting Disadvantaged Children's Learning.

The Elected Mayor considered the recommendations of the Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team) set out above at the meeting and the record of decision, together with further information is attached to these Minutes.

71. Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health

Members considered the submitted report and the proposal that Torbay Council becomes a signatory to the prevention concordat for Better Mental Health.

The Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team) made the following recommendations to the Elected Mayor:

that the Elected Mayor be recommended:

- (i) that Torbay Council signs up to the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health;
- (ii) that the Director of Public Health be given delegated authority to make any required amendment to and sign the Torbay Council Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health Action Plan as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report; and
- (iii) that Councillors Stockman and Stocks be appointed as Councillor Mental Health Champions registered with the Centre for Mental Health.

The Elected Mayor considered the recommendations of the Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team) set out above at the meeting and the record of decision, together with further information is attached to these Minutes.

72. Summary of the direction of travel for integrating commissioning between NHS Devon CCG, Devon, Plymouth and Torbay Local Authorities in 2019/20

Members noted the contents of the submitted report which provided an update in respect of the direction of travel for integrating commissioning between NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Devon, Plymouth and Torbay Local Authorities in 2019/20.

A number of related work streams have been taking place over recent months involving a wide range of staff from partner organisations. For example:

- Intelligence leads from public health, social care and NHS have developed a common outcomes framework and been planning how to share knowledge, analyse data and provide integrated intelligence to inform planning, prioritisation and decision making.
- Staff with a role in planning in either Local Authorities or NHS CCGs have reviewed the current planning processes and begun designing how these can be adapted to facilitate a more integrated approach.
- Commissioning staff, including Heads of Service, senior officers and executives, have undertaken work to design joint processes, teams and meeting structures and, through doing so, have also increased their understanding of different ways of working and started developing a shared culture.

The proposed arrangements developed through this collaborative process take into account of the current position of the organisations, acknowledge and retain clear accountability and are designed in such a way as to enable implementation without significant re-organisation or disruption, whilst retaining the flexibility for further development.

The merger of Northern, Eastern and Western Devon CCG and South Devon & Torbay CCG is an important step in the journey to create a single strategic

commissioner for Devon as part of the CCG's ambition to better integrate health and care services to benefit our local communities. Together with delegated commissioning of primary care, the merger will enable the single NHS commissioner to work consistently and coherently with all local authorities across wider Devon as well as with local partners within each area.

From 1 April 2019, NHS Devon CCG will become a new statutory organisation serving a patient population of nearly 1.2 million people with a budget of more than £1.8 billion. The CCG will comprise a membership of 131 GP practices across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay and will be chaired by a GP with member representation as a core part of its governing body. Through its membership and staff, NHS Devon CCG will work with local communities and partner organisations to improve people's health and make sure they are able to receive high quality, local services.

Members raised a number of concerns and made a number of suggestions. The proposal needs to be more open and clear as to the role of Torbay Council, the governance structure (for example the inclusion of officer representation from Public Health and Children's Services as full members) and our ability to influence the Integrated Commissioning Executive and how local accountability will be safeguarded. Assurance is required as to how local communities are engaged and informed as further integration of health and care services evolve and consideration needs to be given to the relationship of Health and Wellbeing Boards and the Integrated Commissioning Partnership.

Chairman

Record of Decision

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy 2016-20

Decision Taker

Elected Mayor on 04 February 2019

Decision

That the progress made on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy be noted and the revised action plan set out at Appendix 3 to the submitted report be approved.

Reason for the Decision

Through the process of self-evaluation, the local area has identified key strategic priorities. There is much to do and the planned actions have been selected to reflect the ambition of the area and to ensure there is aspiration in what can be achieved.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 19 March 2019 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The submitted report set out a mid-term review of Torbay's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy 2016-20 which sets out the Local Authority (LA) strategy for improving outcomes and life chances for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) across the local area. The Local Authority has led the strategy and recognises that its success lies in the effectiveness of the partnership between all stakeholders. The strategy sets out what the local area will aim to achieve through partnership arrangements between the LA, educational settings, parents/carers, children and young people, other agencies and services in health and social care, including adult services and the voluntary sector.

The SEND strategy is a key element in delivering aspects of the Torbay Children and Young People's plan for 2014-2019 and Torbay's Strategy for Achieving Educational Excellence Everywhere for 2016 to 2020. These plans aim to give all children and young people the best start in life so they are safe, happy and healthy to reach their full potential.

The report highlighted that significant progress has been made across the key priority areas, however key priority actions still need to be delivered to drive forward practice across the local area. The initial action plan of the strategy has been reviewed and the report contains an updated action that represents the next phase of delivery. This action plan has been created across Education, Health and Social Care and represents the agreed priorities for delivery. The progress towards these actions are subject to regular review by the SEND operational group.

The Elected Mayor considered the recommendation of the Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team) made on 4 March 2019 and his decision is set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

None

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None

Published

11 March 2019

Signed: _____
The Elected Mayor of Torbay

Date: _____

Record of Decisions

Accessibility Strategy 2017- 20

Decision Taker

Elected Mayor on 04 March 2019

Decision

- (i) that the progress made on the Accessibility Strategy be noted; and
- (ii) that further consultation be carried out on the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Capital funding and the Assistant Director, Education, Learning and Skills, in consultation with the Executive Lead/Cabinet Member for Children, be given delegated authority to make appropriate revisions to Torbay's Special Provision Plan by 31 May 2019.

Reason for the Decision

The Department for Education (DfE) have recently announced increases to the original Special Educational Need (SEN) Capital Funding, therefore, additional consultation is now required. This consultation is due to take place from mid-April 2019 to nearing the end of May 2019 in line with requirements for it to be published along with the revised plan by 31st May 2019.

This proactive work to increase capacity for schools to be more inclusive and accessible for children and young people with SEND will relieve pressure on the High needs block funding.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 19 March 2019 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The submitted report set out a mid-term review of Torbay's Accessibility Strategy 2017 – 2020, which provided an overview of what has been achieved from the introduction of the strategy and sets out the future direction.

The Accessibility Strategy 2017- 20 sets out the Local Authority (LA) strategy for ensuring that accessibility of the curriculum, the physical environment and information for disabled pupils is central to the delivery of services and provide support to schools in meeting the needs of disabled pupils and raising their attainment.

Ensuring help is offered at the earliest possible point, with children and young people with SEND and their parents fully involved in decisions about their support and what they want to achieve. This will help lead to better outcomes and more efficient ways of working. The LA has led the strategy and recognises that its success lies in the effectiveness of the partnership between all stakeholders.

The Elected Mayor considered the recommendation of the Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team) made on 4 March 2019 and his decision is set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

None

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None

Published

11 March 2019

Signed: _____
The Elected Mayor of Torbay

Date: _____

Record of Decision

Torbay's Strategy for Supporting Disadvantaged Strategy Children's Learning

Decision Taker

Elected Mayor on 04 March 2019

Decision

- (i) that the Torbay Strategy for Supporting Disadvantaged Children's Learning: Vision and Priorities 2018 to 2020, as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be approved;
- (ii) that the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Elected Mayor, Executive Member for Children's and key stakeholders, be authorised to make any final changes to the Strategy; and
- (iii) that the Cabinet receive regular updates on performance against the Torbay Strategy for Supporting Disadvantaged Children's Learning.

Reason for the Decision

This strategy sets out the context for our approaches to meet the needs of vulnerable learners and significantly close achievement gaps. We aim to ensure there is a high quality range of support, and opportunities, to enable vulnerable learners to become confident individuals, effective communicators, successful and responsive citizens, to remain healthy and to achieve the educational and life outcomes which they deserve.

The strategy also aims to ensure that the full range of services and partners work together more coherently with Early Years and Childcare providers, schools, other educational settings, Public Health, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to maximise the impact of available resources in further raising the attainment and improving the progress of the most vulnerable learners.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 19 March 2019 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The submitted report set out a strategy for supporting disadvantaged children's learning, which is a key element of the framework to deliver our vision for the children and young people in Torbay. Our ambition is to ensure that through greater collaboration, we can ensure children and young people are given the best start in life and can grow and prosper within safe families and communities that give them the best start for the future.

The following priority areas are underpinned by a comprehensive action plan that has been developed with our Local Area partners:

- PRIORITY ONE – Participation
- PRIORITY TWO – Ensuring the needs of vulnerable pupils are met
- PRIORITY THREE – Parental Influence and Involvement
- PRIORITY FOUR – Performance and monitoring

The Elected Mayor considered the recommendations of the Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team) made on 4 March 2019 and his decision is set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

None

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None

Published

11 March 2019

Signed: _____
The Elected Mayor of Torbay

Date: _____

Record of Decision

Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health

Decision Taker

Elected Mayor on 04 March 2019

Decision

- (i) that Torbay Council signs up to the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health;
- (ii) that the Director of Public Health be given delegated authority to make any required amendment to and sign the Torbay Council Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health Action Plan as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report; and
- (iii) that Councillors Stockman and Stocks be appointed as Councillor Mental Health Champions registered with the Centre for Mental Health.

Reason for the Decision

The Elected Mayor and Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team) are asked to endorse Torbay Council's pledge to join the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 19 March 2019 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The submitted report set out a proposal that Torbay Council becomes a signatory to the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health.

We all have mental health. Even if we do not consciously think about it all the time, our state of mental health underpins everything we do on a daily basis. Nationally poor mental health affects at least one in four people each year, with one in six experiencing common mental health problems such as anxiety and depression in any given week. In Torbay 18% of adults reported having anxiety and depression and 25% report being unhappy when asked how they were feeling yesterday.

Many organisations (including local authorities; the NHS, VCSE sector and employers) are becoming signatories of the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health Consensus Statement.

Once an organisation has signed up to the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health there will be a formal announcement of new national and local signatories through Public Health England communications. Organisations will also be asked to promote their involvement and deliver joint communications on the prevention concordat and their specific commitments.

The Elected Mayor considered the recommendations of the Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team) made on 4 March 2019 and his decision is set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

None

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None

Published

11 March 2019

Signed: _____
The Elected Mayor of Torbay

Date: _____