HEALTH, SCHOOLS AND CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING
Tuesday, 21st February 2017

PRESENT: Councillor Rowbotham (in the Chair); Councillors, Sultan Ali, Cecile Biant, Surinder Biant, Gartside, Hartley, O’Neill, Robinson, Smith, Sullivan and Zaman.

OFFICERS: G. Hopper (Director of Children’s Services), A. Fallon (Director of Public Health), D. David (Assistant Director – Adult Care), I. Jolley, (Neighbourhoods Directorate), F. Orr (Children’s Services) and P. Thompson (Resources Directorate).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: None.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
There were no declarations of interests.

MINUTES
DECIDED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Health, Schools and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee held 15th December 2016 be approved as a correct record.

HEALTH, SCHOOLS AND CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17
The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Director (Legal, Governance and Workforce) that presented the Committee’s Work Programme 2016/17.

The Committee asked that consideration be giving to scheduling some of the issues below into the Committee’s Work Programme:

a. Young People’s mental health – the Chair reported that she was to meet with Councillor Smith to initially scope out this matter, with a view to a Members Study Group being undertaken.
b. Suicide prevention – the Chair advised that a training session on this subject, and available for all Members of the Council would be held on 2nd March 2017.
c. Drugs and alcohol services (generally) – the Chair undertook to meet with the Director of Public Health to expedite this matter.
d. Provision of sexual health services (since the provision of service has been taken up by a new provider) – the Chair advised that some background information on this matter had been circulated to Members of the Committee and further information in respect of ‘Whistleblowing’ policies and Key Performance indicators was still sought.
e. Obesity levels especially in children – the Chair advised that a working party existed within the Council that was looking into initiatives to tackle obesity levels across the Borough. Meetings of the Group were
attended by the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing and there was scope, if required, for the representation of elected members to be extended. Minutes of meetings of the Working Group would be presented to future meetings of the Committee.

f. Diabetes (levels of support available, accessibility of that support) – the Committee was advised about the levels of support for people that were either suffering from diabetes or were at risk of doing so. The Committee were advised that this matter was particularly pressing as the AGE Concern shop that was based in Rochdale town centre had now closed. The Chair undertook to pursue this matter with Councillor Robinson and suggested that a way forward was for the Committee’s Members to have an informal one-off meeting to enable Members to discuss this matter in greater detail.

g. Homelessness – the Chair advised that this matter was covered by the presentation later on in the meeting’s agenda.

h. Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (insofar as it impacts on skills/educational opportunities – the Chair advised that representatives of the Borough’s colleges (including Councillors who were on the college’s governing bodies) be invited to a future meeting of the Committee to discuss this further.

i. Coroner’s Service – the Chair advised that the newly appointed Coroner would commence her duties in May 2017 after which arrangements would be made for Committee Members to visit the new Coroner on-site including discussions about how the service deals with various cultural/religious sensitivities around deaths, especially in the Islamic faith.

j. Report on bereavement services (or maybe a one-off session) – the Chair advised that this was to be determined.

k. Visit to Pennine Care Foundation Trust facilities – the Chair advised that it was planned that the visits be held in late March or early April 2017.

l. Foster caring in the Borough’s Muslim community – the Chair advised that no further action be taken on this matter at this stage.

DECIDED – That (1) the report be noted;
(2) the Clerk to the Committee, in consultation with the Chair an Vice Chair of the Committee monitor the progress of the actions (a – l) above and update the Committee at the next meeting.

HOMELESSNESS PRESENTATION
56 The Committee received a presentation on the refresh of the Homelessness Strategy which has been recently undertaken.

The Committee was advised that statutory legislation requires the Council to have a Homelessness Strategy. The last review of the strategy was undertaken in 2012/13 and a working group had recently undertaken a consultation and a review of Case studies. The main aim of the strategy is prevention to be hopefully achieved through strong partnership working with the aim of developing a case management model with a multi-agency response.
A number of priority issues had been identified and the Committee was informed of measures which had been taken to ensure that these issues were addressed at an early stage with the aim of preventing families and individuals from becoming homeless.

DECIDED – That the presentation be noted and welcomed.

DIRECTORATE PLANS 2016-17 QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE UPDATE

57 The Committee scrutinised a report of the Director of Neighbourhoods regarding the position at the end of Quarter 3 (31st December 2016) of the activities contained in the Adult Care Services Directorate Plan 2016/17, the Children’s Services Directorate Plan 2016/17 and the Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2016/17.

In terms of Children’s Services the Committee sought clarification on action point CS011 (Children with SEND) and the Director of Children’s Services commented on the recent SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) inspection, carried out by the CQC (in respect of the authority’s SEND) which required some further work on the Council’s behalf and she undertook to submit the Children’s Service’s Action Plan in response to the SEND Inspection to a future meeting of the Committee.

In respect of Adult Care Services the Committee sought clarification on action points 3.02 (Implement Shared Case Record) noting that not all commissioners of services were signing up to the scheme; action point 1.1 (Integrated Commissioning) noting that the Director of Commissioning would be taking up her new role on Monday, 27th February 2017; and action point 2.2 (developing support planning to make better use of community resources), the Director of Adult Care reported that the development of the ‘Staywell’ website was empowering carers and service users and she urged Members to view the pages.

In respect of the Public Health and Wellbeing Directorate Members sought clarification on action point PH001d (Reducing sugar consumption) the Director of Public Health advised that the Council had now met the targets that were set out in the report and were planning for future initiatives in this regard in May 2017. In respect of action point PH005b (Obesity Action Plan) Members referred to a news story in the local media which commented in a negative way on the report of the Oral Health Scrutiny Study Group (in respect of ice cream vans operating adjacent to school premises. The Director of Public Health undertook to issue a press release in this regard.

On a general point, in connection with all three of the Directorate Plan updates, the Committee requested that Members be provided with a glossary of commonly used terms and phrases and that the use of acronyms ceased wherever possible in future reports.

DECIDED – That (1) the report be noted;
(2) the Director of Children’s Services be requested to submit the Children’s Service’s Action Plan in response to the CQC SEND Inspection to a future meeting of the Committee;
(3) Members of the Committee be supplied with a glossary of commonly used terms and phrases in respect of the Adult Care, Children’s Services and Public Health Directorates and that the use of acronyms ceased wherever possible in future reports.
The Committee scrutinised a report of the Director of Children’s Services that presented the Annual Service Reports for the Rochdale BSF Project Co1 – Hollingworth Academy & Rochdale BSF Project Co2 - Wardle Academy and Falinge Park High Schools Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Projects for 2015/16 Academic year and summarise the service delivery standards for the preceding 12 months.

The Committee were advised that in December 2006, the Department for Education and Skills (now the Department for Education) announced that Rochdale Council had been included in Wave 4 of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Programme. BSF was intended to be a long-term programme of investment and change that aimed to transform education for secondary aged pupils by providing 21st century learning environments. In broad terms BSF involved the refurbishment and/or new build of schools through either capital grant (Design and Build Contract) or PFI credits (Private Finance Initiative Contract). Within the BSF programme there were three PFI schools, Hollingworth Academy, Falinge Park High School and Wardle Academy. The three PFI schools are owned by the Authority with a licence to deliver certain agreed services having been granted to the contractor. This licence will remain in place until the end of the operational phase of each PFI contract, being 25 years from the service activation date.

DECIDED – That the report be noted.

The Committee scrutinised a report of the Director of Children’s Services including the Annual Service Report for the Rochdale Grouped Schools Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Project for 2015/16 and to summarise the service delivery standards for the preceding 12 months.

The Rochdale Schools PFI Project Agreement was signed in February 2006 for a period of 25 years with the following schools being included: Marland Hill Primary School, Springside and Hamer Primary Schools (including the M6 theatre), Hollin and Newlands Primary Schools, Oulder Hill High School Redwood High School.

The Committee was advised that the scope of services provided by Grosvenor Facilities Management comprised of: planned preventative maintenance, cleaning, catering, grounds maintenance, helpdesk, security, authority damage and vandalism, variations and lifecycle, utilities and energy and health and safety.

DECIDED – That the report be noted.

The Committee considered a report of the Oral Health Scrutiny Study Group which presented the final report of that Study Group prior to its submission to the Cabinet.

In September 2015 the Committee established a Scrutiny Study Group to attempt to gain an understanding of the prevalence and severity of dental decay amongst the Borough’s residents, especially amongst five year old children and to examine recommended actions for inclusion in the local Oral Health Improvement Strategy
2016 – 2020, to rectify the current situation. The Study was therefore closely linked to the development of the Borough’s Oral Health Improvement Strategy and was concerned with improving health outcomes for service users in the Rochdale Borough which should improve healthy life and wellbeing outcomes. As a consequence, this directly linked into the ‘People’, ‘Place’ and ‘Prosperity’ corporate priorities of the Council.

The Study was concerned with working collaboratively with a range of officers and health professionals to raise awareness and understanding of evidence based Oral Health Improvement recommendations by Greater Manchester Public Health England and Public Health England. The Study Group Members were asked to focus on good practice, evidence based provision and filling gaps in service and delivery, improving the Oral Health of the residents across the Borough of Rochdale.

In considering the report the Committee commented on the success of the Study Group and Members who were part of the Study felt that they learned a great deal about oral hygiene and its wider importance as a consequence.

**DECIDED** – That (1) the Council be recommended to approve and adopt the Oral Health Strategy, commissioned by Public Health England and entitled “Local Authorities improving oral health: commissioning better oral health for children and young people”;
(2) work by the Oral Health Promotion Officer, with regard to the suitability and appropriateness of oral health initiatives that local Mosques were undertaking, particularly those Mosques that are located in the Milkstone and Deeplish and Central Rochdale Wards of the Borough be noted;
(3) elected Members of Rochdale Borough Council be encouraged to continue to attend meetings of the Greater Manchester Oral Health Improvement Collaborative Commissioners meeting, following Councillor Sullivan’s example in this regard;
(4) the Director of Children’s Services be requested to continue to encourage relevant staff to undertake available training in oral health care;
(5) the Council’s Director of Public Health and the Portfolio Holder for Public Health and Wellbeing be requested to continue to lobby to have prominence of oral health within the Borough’s Locality Plan;
(6) the results and outcomes of the national survey into the oral health of five year old children, published (by Public Health England) in May 2016, be noted;
(7) the Oral Health Promotions Officer, in consultation with appropriate external providers continue to liaise with local General Dental Practices to explain the various tooth brushing programmes that are available for pupils, and that the Oral Health Promotions Officer also be requested to continue to liaise with representatives of appropriate providers to examine ways of increasing the number of schools in the Borough that are engaged in Tooth Brushing Programmes and that staff in the Council’s Public Health Directorate be requested to undertake ‘mapping’ exercises to identify the locations of dental practices in the Borough that are engaged in the various tooth brushing programmes;
(8) the Director of Children’s Services be requested to continue with the provision of suitable training and guidance for those with guardianship responsibilities for ‘looked after children’, foster carers and prospective adoptive parents in terms of oral hygiene and food hygiene, and in this regard the Council’s Public Health Service be requested to review the current policies of the Council;
(9) the Public Health Directorate continue to examine the Borough’s obesity figures (as an indicator of likely sugar intake and potential dental caries) for Primary schools falling within the existing secondary school hot food takeaway ‘exclusion zones and the Public Health Directorate’s Licencing team continue to ‘map out’ routes of mobile food vendors (in particular ice cream vans), with a view to considering restrictions of trade within a given perimeter of primary schools, further noting that a report will be submitted to Planning and Licensing Committee in due course requesting that the Council review its policies regarding the ice cream vans trading adjacent to schools in the Borough;

(10) the Public Health Service be recommended to continue to work with colleagues within Oldham Council’s Public Health Service to deliver oral health improvement packs on Post-natal wards at Oldham Hospital via midwives in the Maternity Unit, bearing in mind that Oldham and North Manchester General Hospital, now provide maternity facilities for this Borough’s women;

(11) the Study Group fully acknowledges the long term benefits of fluoridation of the domestic water supply which would be wide ranging and long lasting, and urges the Cabinet and the Council to concur and to push for both a North West and a Greater Manchester wide approach in this regard.

CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP
61  DECIDED – That the minutes of the Board meeting of the Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale NHS Clinical Commissioning Group, held 16th December 2016, be noted.

GMCA/AGMA SCRUTINY POOL
62  DECIDED – That the minutes of the meeting of the GMCA/AGMA Scrutiny Pool, held 13th January 2017, be noted.