HEALTH, SCHOOLS AND CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING
Thursday, 27th July 2017

PRESENT: Councillor Rowbotham (in the Chair); Councillors Sultan Ali, Cecile Biant, Dutton, Gartside, Sullivan and Zaheer (substituting for Councillor O'Neill)

OFFICERS: G. Hopper (Director of Children’s Services), J. McGregor (Assistant Director Children’s Social Care), F. Davies, J. Daniels, J. Entwistle (Children’s Services) and P. Thompson (Resources Directorate).


APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
11 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ali Ahmed, Blundell, O’Neill, Smith and Donna Williams.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
12 Further to the Council’s Code of Conduct, Councillor Zaheer declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of agenda items 8 (HealthWatch Rochdale – Annual Report 2016/17) and 10 (Obesity Action Group) insofar as she was the Assistant to Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing. Councillor Zaheer left the room during consideration of these two items of business.

URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS
13 There were no urgent items of business.

MINUTES
14 DECIDED - That the Minutes of the meeting of the Health, School and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee held 22nd June 2017 be approved as a correct record.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC
15 DECIDED – That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business since it is likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information, namely information relating to the business or financial affairs of any particular person (including the person holding that information).

ACT AND SUNRISE
16 The Committee scrutinised a report of the Director of Children’s Services which advised Members of the Sunrise Team’s work during 2016/17 and also of work of the ACT (Achieving Change Together) Team.

a. Sunrise Team

The Sunrise Team was a multi-disciplinary team designed to tackle child sexual exploitation. Full details of the team composition and its function were detailed in the Sunrise Annual Report 2016/17; which was the fourth annual report to be produced and was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

Contained within the submitted Annual Sunrise Team Report was the progress updates against the 2016/17 challenges and developments which included: Revision and securing ongoing funding/commissioning across the partnership; Revision of Operation Noric to ensure continued targeting of offenders and support for victims; the development and implementation of Project Phoenix; the continue to contribute to the national work regarding support for victims and prosecution of offenders; the development of educational resource for Year 7 pupils in the UK for social media; to develop outreach support for young people and staff; to develop a pro-active response to the placement of high risk Child Sexual Exploitation victims within the Rochdale Borough by other Local Authorities.

The Sunrise team’s report highlighted the operational work undertaken under four key strands of the Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy, namely: Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Public Confidence.

b. ACT (Achieving Change Together)

The ACT project was a partnership between Wigan and Rochdale local authorities, Greater Manchester Phoenix CSE Project, the Children’s Society and Research in Practice on behalf of the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities. The project derived from concerns that too many young people affected by sexual exploitation were ending up in high cost or secure accommodation that did not necessarily meet their needs. The goal of the project was to improve outcomes for young people and their families and provide effective alternatives to high cost and secure accommodation for those vulnerable to CSE in Greater Manchester.

The project was planned with three phases: first, a programme of action research to understand more about the problem identified, including a review of national evidence and the conduct of local research to further understand the experiences of young people, families and professionals; second, a co-design process, enabling young people, families and professionals to reflect on and refine the emerging evidence and co-produce a framework of good practice principles and a pilot practice model; third, the implementation of an evidence based pilot service across Wigan and Rochdale to work with up to 30 young people.

The intended long-term outcomes for young people were: reduced risk of sexual exploitation; improved emotional and mental health; stable, supportive
living situations; positive relationships with family, carers and professionals; awareness of rights and risks and being able to make healthy choices for themselves. For the partner agencies, long-term outcomes included: new pathways for young people vulnerable to exploitation leading to more effective, integrated practice; less escalation and fewer referrals to high cost and secure accommodation; an evidence based and cost effective service model that can be replicated in the region; an action learning and co-production approach to design and development which is seen to be effective and adopted more widely; and increased public confidence in Greater Manchester’s responses to CSE.

The Committee scrutinised the Sunrise and ACT presentations in detail welcoming the work that was being carried out in association with other agencies and authorities, especially with Wigan MBC.

Members noted the work that was being undertaken in partnership with the Probation Service which had led to a number of successful prosecutions. The Committee also commented on the numbers of missing children, details of which were routinely referred to the MASS (Multi-Agency Safeguarding and Screening Service). Other issues that the MASS was involved with included ‘sham’ marriages and people trafficking.

**DECIDED – That the report be noted and welcomed.**

The press and public were readmitted to the meeting.

**SCHOOL ADMISSIONS AND THE ALLOCATION OF SCHOOL PLACES 2017**

The Committee scrutinised a report of the Director of Children’s Services that presented information on the School Admissions arrangements and allocation for 2017 to the Health, Schools and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This included the Council’s Annual Report to the School Adjudicator.

Rochdale Local Authority had a statutory duty to ensure there were enough school places for children in its’ area who want them; to make arrangements for parents to apply for school places and to ensure every parent in the borough received the offer of a school place. The Council exercised this duty by planning for enough school places and by setting out clear arrangements for the allocation.

The Local Authority has the responsibility for co-ordinating admissions between other local authorities and its own admission authorities in its area. For In year admissions and transfers the local authority is not required to co-ordinate these with own admission authority schools. In Rochdale Borough, by agreement, the Authority does co-ordinate within year admission for secondary schools but not primary schools.

The Director of Children’s Services submitted a table, that was appended to her report, which summarised at Borough level the number of first preferences received and places offered on the national offer day for secondary schools in the Borough. There were 2780 Year 7 places in Rochdale Borough Secondary schools and it showed that on 1st March
2017, 2475 children had applied for school places and of these 2375 (95.96%) were allocated their first preference school; 42 parents were not allocated any of their preferred schools and there were 236 vacancies remaining after all the on time applications were processed. 229 Rochdale Borough resident parents were offered places at schools outside the Borough, compared to 205 in 2016.

Members of the Committee discussed the report in some detail seeking clarification on a number of issues including: parental choice/preference for their child’s education, late applications, ‘out of borough’ applicants and the admissions criteria documents, including documentation that was forwarded to parents to assist with their children’s applications. Members also asked about ‘infant class size legislation' which was designed to limit class sizes to a maximum of 30 pupils in Key Stage One; the process for dealing with applications for school places from families of asylum seekers and refugees; and if they could be supplied with copies of the admissions criteria (for both primary and secondary education). The Education Authority offered all Members of the Council an open invitation for them to discuss issues relating to the allocation of school places.

DECIDED – that (1) the report be noted;
(2) members of the Committee be supplied with details of the primary and secondary schools admissions criteria.

LINK4LIFE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2016/17

The Committee scrutinised a report of the Chief Executive of the Rochdale Boroughwide Cultural Trust which provided information relating to the performance of the Trust, trading as Link4Life, during the fourth quarter period of 2016/2017 (January – March 2017). The Committee was reminded that the Council’s Sport, Leisure and Cultural Services transferred to the Rochdale Boroughwide Cultural Trust (trading as Link4Life) on the 1st April 2007 under the terms of a Partnership Agreement between the Council and the Trust. This Agreement spans 15 years (2007 – 2022) with an option to extend for a further five years.

The Trust had undertaken a review of its medium to longer term aspirations and developed a new Corporate Strategy as a document that articulates the Trust’s strategic vision, key aims and business objectives. Supplementary to this new strategy was a revised Corporate Business Plan, primarily an internal document providing further detail in terms of the actions and measures designed to address identified challenges and opportunities as well as delivering the Trust’s vision, aims and objectives. To further support this vision, revised service plans have been drawn up detailing key priorities and performance measures in line with revised service goals.

To underpin what the Trust does, Members were also advised that the Link4Life Board had approved a refreshed set of Core Values, which outline how the Trust will operate. These were described as ‘PRIDE - in where we work and what we do’, as follows: Passion, Respect, Integrity, Drive and
Excellence.

In terms of specific health measures the Trust had developed a Culture, Health and Participation (CHAP) Service, approximately two years earlier that was designed to bring together three of Link4Life’s complimentary and community focused programme areas, namely: Culture (Arts and Heritage); Health and Wellbeing; and Sports and Physical Activity Community Outreach.

The Committee was advised that health and wellbeing initiatives had resulted in 129 people completing the Trust’s Functional Fitness course since April 2016 with two further courses now underway at Middleton Arena and at Heywood Sports Village. Health ‘MOT’s’ have been undertaken across a number of Link4Life and Council sites to over 100 employees. Health awareness events were also held at the Council offices, Number One Riverside which was attended by 112 employees and 11 external provider organisations.

DECIDED – that the performance of the Rochdale Boroughwide Cultural Trust, trading as Link4Life, at the end of Quarter 4 2016/17 be noted.

HEALTHWATCH ROCHDALE - ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17
19 The Committee received the HealthWatch Rochdale Annual Report 2016/17. The report highlighted who HealthWatch were, what their role was and their staffing resources (both in paid and voluntary capacities).

The report advised that in 2016/17 all HealthWatch organisations in Greater Manchester had played, and would continue to do so in 2017/18, an active role in readiness for the devolution of executive health and social care powers to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority from April 2017. HealthWatch would, it was reported, continue to monitor any proposed changes, insofar as they affect the residents of the Rochdale Borough.

HealthWatch had throughout the year developed strong relationships with key partners including the Clinical Commissioning Group and the Council but still managed to maintain their independence and ability to scrutinise and challenge these bodies. HealthWatch was fully engaged with the Borough and held regular meetings across the four Township areas. Members of the Committee expressed their satisfaction with the work that HealthWatch undertook in the Borough.

The Chair agreed to meet with representatives of HealthWatch to discuss ways in which the already good working relationship between the Council and Healthwatch could be improved.

DECIDED - That the Healthwatch Rochdale Annual Report 2016/17 be noted.

4TH QUARTER SOCIAL CARE COMPLAINTS
20 The Directors of Children’s Services and Adult Services presented a report that provided Members with a summary of Adult and Children’s Social
Care complaints received during the fourth quarter 2016/2017 (January – March).

Social care complaints are subject to a statutory reporting framework which are scrutinised by the Care Quality Commission. The Council’s Customer Feedback Team extracted and reported on the information recorded for social care services during the study period, including the number of complaints received at each stage of the process, the numbers of complaints that are investigated and responded to within the permitted timescale and the numbers that were upheld.

**DECIDED – That the report be noted.**

**OBESITY ACTION GROUP**

21 Further to Minute no. 9 of the Committee’s last meeting, on 22nd Jun 2017, Members considered the minutes of the meeting of the Obesity Action Group held 15th March 2017. In considering the report and the appendices attached thereto the Committee had asked at the last meeting if they could have sight of the letters that notified parents about their child’s perceived obesity, requesting information about who determines what information is put in these letters and that examples of such letters be forwarded to members, for information? The Committee had also asked for information about the underlying reasons for the greater prevalence of obesity in children from BME groups; if there any way of mapping obesity in the Borough; members expressed concern at the terminology in the report. The Committee also asked if the terms of reference, of the Obesity Action Group could be submitted to the Committee for information and also requested to know how the information was disseminated to schools.

Subsequent to the last meeting the Director of Public Health had provided the required information, outlined above, for Members of the Committee.

**DECIDED – That (1) the minutes of the Obesity Action Group, held 15th March 2017 be noted;**

(2) the Director of Public Health be requested to submit a report, detailing the prevalence of childhood obesity in the Borough of Rochdale, to a future meeting of the Committee.

**HEALTH, SCHOOLS AND CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18**

22 The Committee considered a report of the Interim Director of Resources that presented the Committee’s Work Programme 2017/18.

The Chair reminded Members that the Committee had been consulted, at an informal session of the Committee’s membership, on 20th July 2017 on the proposals put forward in a report of the Joint Director of Commissioning regarding proposals Integrated Commissioning and the development of Integrated Health and Care Delivery that was submitted to the Cabinet’s meeting on 25th July 2017 (minute 26 refers), where the recommendations contained therein were approved.
The Chair referred to a question that was raised at the Council meeting on 12th July 2017 regarding PIP payments to Young Carers and it was agreed that a report on this matter be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

DECIDED – That (1) the report be noted;  
(2) a report on PIP payments for Young Carers be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR PENNINE ACUTE HOSPITALS NHS TRUST
23 DECIDED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, held 28th February 2017, be noted.