

JOINT GMCA AND AGMA SCRUTINY POOL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 13 JANUARY 2017 AT MANCHESTER TOWN HALL

PRESENT

Bolton Council	Cllr Debbie Newall
Bury MBC	Cllr Roy Walker Cllr Stella Smith
Manchester CC	Cllr Ahmed Ali
Oldham MBC	Cllr Colin McLaren Cllr Cheryl Brock
Rochdale MBC	Cllr Michael Holly
Stockport MBC	Cllr Yvonne Guariento Cllr Iain Roberts Cllr John McGahan
Tameside MBC	Cllr Gillian Peet Cllr John Bell
Trafford MBC	Cllr Pam Dixon Cllr Michael Young Cllr Barry Brotherton
Wigan MBC	Cllr John O'Brien

IN ATTENDANCE

GMCA	Cllr Cliff Morris Jim Taylor
SALFORD CC	Charlotte Ramsden
GM H&SC PSHIP	Lord Peter Smith Warren Heppolette
GMIST	Susan Ford Nicola Ward

17/01 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr David Jolley (Salford), Cllr Kevin McKeon (Bolton), Cllr Neil Butterworth (Rochdale), Cllrs James Wilson and Zahra Alijah (Manchester) and Cllr Pam Stewart (Wigan).

17/02 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all those present.

17/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in respect to any item on the agenda.

17/04 MINUTES OF THE GMCA AND AGMA SCRUTINY POOL MEETING HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 2016

The Minutes of the GMCA and AGMA Scrutiny Pool meeting held on 9 December 2016 were submitted for consideration.

RESOLVED/-

To approve the Minutes of the GMCA and AGMA Scrutiny Pool meeting held on 9 December 2016.

17/05 GMCA/AGMA SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD PLAN

Members received a report to review and amend the Work Programme for the Joint GMCA and AGMA Scrutiny Pool for 2016/17.

Susan Ford, GMIST informed members that at their request officers were preparing a future scrutiny item on the current social housing status across Greater Manchester.

Gemma Marsh, New Economy gave a verbal update on the work as a result of the recommendations made by the Employment and Skills Task and Finish Group in July 2016, including –

- Work commissioned through the European Social Fund (ESF) to provide advice and guidance to those young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEETS).
- Targeted support to young people who are currently in school, but at risk of becoming NEET.
- The introduction of a careers and enterprise scheme where schools have a coordinator to link businesses with the school and shape career advice. The coordinator's role is also to work with the senior leadership team to build the capacity of young people as they reach employment age to ensure they have the desired skills for the GM labour market.

- Ongoing work with the voluntary sector to their role in providing grass roots schemes (through ESF funding) for local residents.
- A pilot has been launched to support young people accessing work through travel passes for apprentices. This further supports the work of the 'bike to work' scheme.
- The introduction of an Employer Engagement Framework to understand the skills need of employers and how devolution to GM could further assist with ensuring there is provision to support the growth of particular skills sectors.

Members were pleased to see good progress across all the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group but asked how the sustainability of the schemes will be secured following Brexit and the changes to European Funding. In addition, to know how the success of the new interventions would be measured.

Officers reported that through the work with senior leadership within schools there has been a change of mind set towards careers programmes which includes dedicated resources to support these schemes. It is anticipated that this local approach will help to ensure the sustainability of programmes in the future. Current ESF programmes are also having sustainability plans built in to ensure their continuation, the latest statement from the Treasury indicates that all current EU funding is to be honoured. GM are continuing to canvass for future Government funds to ensure the continuation of schemes.

With regards to measuring success, a framework to monitor and track the progress of individuals is being developed which would identify all the interventions which have supported the learner.

A member questioned how companies are linked with particular schools and whether there was even coverage of the scheme across GM. Officers agreed to provide a list of schools and businesses who are involved with the Careers and Enterprise Scheme, but reported that all areas have schools which are engaged with the scheme, the majority of which are identified as serving disadvantage areas.

Members further asked whether local career schemes are linked effectively to the Careers and Enterprise Scheme. It was reported that the schemes work together to increase their reach and share lessons learnt.

A member commented that devolution to GM offers a perfect opportunity to design a curriculum offer which businesses can also help to shape. Officers reinforced that the scale of the 2018 Government budget is not confirmed, however the post 19+ education budget devolution offers the first opportunity to shape the curriculum against the desired skill sets.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note items for the 2016/17 Scrutiny Work Programme.
2. To note the progress with Scrutiny's Task and Finish work as set out in section 2 of the report.
3. To provide a note to members detailing the schools and business partnerships created through the Careers and Enterprise Scheme.

17/06 GM REVIEW OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

Councillor Cliff Morris, GMCA Portfolio Lead for Children's Services introduced a report which provided an update on the GM Review of Services for Children which formed part of the Greater Manchester Devolution Agreement.

Jim Taylor, Lead Chief Executive for Children's Services explained to the Pool that despite a number of political changes, that the review was still progressing and was further evidenced through a number of significant policy initiatives all contributing to the Children and Young Peoples agenda. However, the GMCA wished to continue to progress the review recommendations to ensure that GM remains ahead of future policy development.

In October 2016 GM submitted an investment plan and business case which was accepted by the Department for Education (DfE) and would be next taken to Ministers for decision. This would ensure the levels of investment needed to implement the outcomes of the review over the next three years.

Charlotte Ramsden, Director of Children's Services at Salford Council (and GM Lead DCS) reported that there was strong coordination between all GM local authorities and progress had already been made with regards to the outcomes of the review. One of the areas of particular success was youth justice, where GM had created one vision and one system to more effectively and efficiently work with young offenders. There had been significant collaboration with colleagues from other organisations regarding the Health and Social Care Locality Plans which also offered real opportunities for improving services to children and young people.

A member asked about how the GM authorities engage effectively with Academy Trusts and Multi Academy Trusts. Officers reported there were good relationships with Academy Trusts across GM, and their data is included with data for each local authority. The DfE have assured that GM would be consulted on any further Academy or Multi Academy Trusts as their creation would impact further local decisions such as the Spatial Framework. It was further reported that GM had influenced DfE with regards to the integration of Academy Trust data and would continue to work in partnership with the Regional Schools Commissioner to oversee the education outcomes for all children in GM.

Members further asked who has the power and authority to intervene if an Academy or Multi Academy School was failing. Officers reported that the Board of Governors would be the first to intervene and the future role of the local authority in relation to standards is currently under development by DfE. The Regional Schools Commissioner still retains ultimate responsibility.

A member asked whether the opportunities to link social and economic benefits through the Greater Manchester Challenge were still being utilised. It was reported that following the success of the Greater Manchester Challenge scheme, opportunities still remain to further challenge and support the parts of the system which are struggling.

Members of the Pool questioned how the DfE's plan to reform the GM Safeguarding Children's Board would impact the work of the local authorities. Officers commented that the local Safeguarding Children's Boards have a key role in safeguarding children within

their local authority so they would retain their core business but there were some tasks which maybe more effectively done collectively at a GM level.

A member asked whether the careers advice in GM was sufficient enough to give young people the building blocks needed to progress into the workplace, and if not, what GM were doing about it. Officers reported that each school provides an individual level of careers advice and support, but nationally it is reported that there has been a squeeze on resources as a result of a crowded academic system. The GM Education and Employability Board aims to share good practice, and develop links between schools and businesses but recognises that the broadening of the curriculum is the responsibility of all.

Members further asked whether GM were concerned about the number of local authority children's services being reported as inadequate. The report references the national agenda which discusses what happens if a local authority falls into 'inadequate' and a new initiative which allows the intervention of the Secretary of State. GM are building on their strong networks to reduce the risk of any of its local authorities falling into 'inadequate' status through peer support, and early intervention planning.

Members raised concerns that the funding for the Schools Improvement Programme was now held by the DfE but that local authorities across the UK were falling into 'inadequate' status. Officers reported that GM local authorities will have the opportunity through devolution to provide greater support one another and would continue to lobby for funding to support interventions. Recent announcements have already confirmed some funding allocation, but the DfE are currently evaluating how this will impact GM.

A member commented that the introduction of Regional Adoption Agencies was a significant positive step through GM devolution and that the creation of three hubs should be included within the outcomes of the Review of Children's Services. Officers agreed that the introduction of Regional Adoption Agencies would ensure a strong partnership approach across GM that would further be supported by a consistent singular court process.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the progress made on the Greater Manchester Services for Children Review including those areas of work where Greater Manchester had received no direct funding from Central Government.
2. To note the process for finalising the funding ask of the Department for Education to support the next phase of Review.
3. To note the immediate next steps for the Review.

17/07 GREATER MANCHESTER HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP (GMHSCP): TAKING CHARGE – SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT

Lord Peter Smith, GMCA Portfolio Lead for Health and Social Care introduced a report was which informed members of the progress in Greater Manchester since the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership (GMHSCP) took charge of their £6bn health and social care budget, and the £450m Transformation Fund, in April 2016. He

reminded members that the GMHSCP included the engagement of 37 local health and social care providers plus NHS England. Their collaboration had been successful, but there were still challenges around reducing the gap in life chances across communities in GM. The Transformation Fund provided a unique opportunity to improve the system through devolved decision making and funding to support implementation.

Warren Heppolette, Executive Lead for Strategy System and Development at the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership took members through a short presentation which provided an update on the Greater Manchester 'Taking Charge' Plan. This document provides a shared strategy for health and social care across GM, and the six month review specifically highlighted the achievements of the GMHSCP, performance against the main strategic objectives and the current challenges faced by health and social care providers.

A member asked why the surplus (showed in page 11 of the report) was not being used to alleviate other problems in the NHS budget. It was reported that the financial picture was complicated, but that any surplus in the system equates to a deficit in another part of the system and was not actually true surplus. There is an ongoing conversation amongst commissioners and providers as to how to calculate an accurate GM balance.

Members praised the work of the Partnership and commented that the integration of health and social care was excellent, however concerns were raised about the impact of winter pressures on health services and the increase of waiting times etc. The GMHSCP can attribute the rising figures of a&e waiting times and reduced bed capacities to a number of factors including; patients with complex issues who are not able to be discharged, a general increase in admissions to a&e, and a lack of specialist staff across the UK. The Partnership further recognise that the delayed discharge figures are not satisfactory and the variation across GM needs to be addressed. Through the Partnership, a recognition that all issues have a knock-on effect to other providers and patient outcomes has helped to move to a 'whole system' approach.

A member reported that at another meeting it was reported that the North West Ambulance Service target for hand over to hospitals was not being met mainly through the lack of hospital resources to accept a patient upon arrival. It was felt that this was just one example of the issues currently being faced by emergency care and that the GMHSCP needed to ensure this was a priority for improvements. It was reported that the Partnership recognise that NWS hand over targets are part of a systemic process which has further difficulties due to its complex set-up and accountability. However, members of the Partnership are aware of the concerns and remain committed to working together, to sharing their difficulties and learning from one another.

A member of the Pool asked whether bereavement services were within the scope of the GMHSCP as often associated issues can lead to further health and social care concerns. Officers reported that nothing was out of scope for the Partnership and they would be encouraging and supporting all partner organisations to tackle the mental health priorities through all workstreams. The member further asked whether bullying was also considered within the Mental Health Strategy. Again it was recognised the wider impact of bullying on mental health and officers informed the Pool that schools had been offered training around the 'thrive' model through the Children's Mental Health Board.

A member reported that locally there have been criticisms about the gap between the vision and the reality of health services especially in relation to the provision of primary care services. The Partnership recognise that this is a real issue and that funding will not be the only answer. All public services need to re-think what the NHS means for people in the 21st century as currently 40% of people who visit their GP have wider social issues that need non-medical support. In tackling these root cause issues the demand on GP services and hospitals would be dramatically reduced.

Members were grateful that the report offered a baseline for health and social care issues in GM so that all partners were aware of where we currently are, and where we want to be. However, there was some concern that through local commissioning there was variation across CCG's as to what services were provided for local residents. It was reported that the Partnership are working to ensure a balance between local need and a GM standard of services to ensure that people have access to the healthcare they need irrespective of where they live.

A member asked whether the devolved powers would give scope for GM to implement some of the ICT enablers. It was reported that there remains a number of issues in relation to paper records and data sharing across-organisations however GM devolution has created a single GM fund for digital transformation with Salford FT taking the lead. Rochdale have also attracted a private investor to support the GM health and social care system through their partnership with Google to support digital sharing.

Members asked how the process for approving applications to the Transformation Fund was determined to ensure its transparency. Officers reported that all applications are supported by the GM Health and Social Care Partnership and approved at the Partnership meetings.

A member asked whether neurological conditions and asthma were seen as priorities for the 'Taking Charge' plan. It was reported that they were not within the first wave but work was already underway in relation to neurological conditions and asthma would be considered as part of the discussions on health outcomes.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the report.
2. To share the report with relevant groups and stakeholders in their own localities.

17/08 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2016/2017

10 February 2017

10 March 2017

7 April 2017

All meetings would be held 1:00pm - 3:00pm at Manchester Town Hall unless otherwise advertised.

CHAIR