

HEALTH, SCHOOLS AND CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING Monday, 21st September 2020

PRESENT: Councillor Dutton (in the Chair); Councillors Sultan Ali, Dale, Davidson, Gartside, Hartley, Massey, McCarthy and Sullivan; Mr. J. McGrath (Independent Co-opted member).

OFFICERS: J. Hassall (Assistant Director – Children’s Social Care), F. Davies (Children’s Directorate) and N. Suleman (Resources Directorate).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: N. Baig (Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale NHS CCG).

31 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Susan Smith and Kate Jones (HealthWatch Rochdale).

32 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interests.

33 **MINUTES**

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Health, Schools and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held 20th November 2019, be approved as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of Mr. John McGrath (Co-opted member) as being present.

34 **NEED FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES 2021 - 2024**

The Committee scrutinised a report of the Director of Children’s Services which provided details about the need for Primary School Places 2021-2024.

The Committee was informed that the Council has a statutory duty to provide education and school places to all school aged children living in the borough and consequently had a duty to plan adequately for predicted pupil numbers.

Current housing development plans along with the housing allocations defined in the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework, GMSF (currently still under consultation) dictated that pupil numbers in Rochdale would continue to grow in some localities and plans must be put in place to create the needed school capacity. New housing build rates have been above those required to be delivered by the GMSF for two years.

Parental choice created a situation where parents who can, are more likely to travel longer distances to school, this means that spare capacity is more likely to be concentrated in fewer schools and consequently over supply of school places is a consideration. Falling birth rates and increased housing mean that places were constantly under review.

The Committee was advised that this report was being submitted to the Cabinet, at its meeting to be held on 29th September 2020, for determination.

Resolved:

The Committee supports the proposals detailed in Section 2 of the submitted report and recommends their adoption by the Cabinet when that body considers this report on 29th September 2020.

35 SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES 2021 AND 2022

The Committee scrutinised a report of the Director of Children's Services which provided details about the need for Secondary School Places 2021 and 2022.

The Committee was advised that the Council has a statutory duty to offer every pupil living in the borough, who applies, a Secondary school place. Where the council offers a school place that is over the statutory "safe walking distance" for the age of that child the council is required to provide free school transport. Because bus transport in the area is provided through Transport for Greater Manchester, any child offered a school place, which is over the statutory distance criteria, is offered a free bus pass that is provided from council funds. The council receives no central government funding for school bus transport.

The council does receive Basic Need funding to provide additional school places for both permanent and temporary school building expansions and bulge classes. The allocation of Basic Need funding from central government is reported annually to the council Cabinet and the report this year was approved on 31st March 2020.

A shortage of Secondary school places was forecasted for the 2021 and 2022 intakes, and for school intakes in every following year until the time that two new mainstream schools are delivered for the Borough.

The Committee was advised that this report was being submitted to the Cabinet, at its meeting to be held on 29th September 2020, for determination.

Resolved:

The Committee supports the proposals detailed in Section 2 of the submitted report and recommends their adoption by the Cabinet when that body considers this report on 29th September 2020.

36 THIRD PHASE OF NHS RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The Committee scrutinised a report of the Assistant Director – Commissioning, which set out changes in ways of working across health and social care in order to meet the needs of the population, in the context of the third Phase of NHS response to COVID 19.

The Committee was informed that work would continue on the data based submissions following feedback from Greater Manchester and the North West

Region. It was anticipated that there would be further challenge across all areas to maximise restoration of activity.

The submitted report focused on: -

- the initial process adopted in Rochdale to support system readiness
- the second submission to Greater Manchester
- the other returns required as part of this process
- next steps for the Rochdale system

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

37 3RD & 4TH QUARTER SOCIAL CARE COMPLAINTS

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 third and fourth quarters of 2019/2020.

Social care complaints were 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.

Decision: That the report be noted.

38 ADULT, CHILDREN & PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTORATE PLANS 2019-20 QUARTER 4 PERFORMANCE UPDATE

The Committee scrutinised a report detailing progress during the fourth quarter 2019/2020 (1st January – 31st March) towards the achievement of the targets contained in the Adult Care Directorate Plan 2019/2020, Children's Services Directorate Plan 2019/2020 and Public Health Directorate Plan 2019/2020.

Resolved:

The report be noted.

39 HEALTH, SCHOOLS AND CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME 2020/2021

The Committee considered a report which presented the Committee's Work Programme 2020/2021.

Resolved:

The report be noted.

40 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:

That the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business, in accordance with the provisions of Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

Reasons for the decision:

Should the press and public remain there may be a disclosure of information that is deemed to be exempt under Parts 1 and 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

41 SECONDARY SCHOOL PROVISION - 2021 AND 2022

The Committee scrutinised the restricted appendix to the report of the Director of Children's Services which provided details about the need for Secondary School Places 2021 and 2022.

Resolved:

That the funding allocations for schemes as detailed in the appendix to the report be noted.