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HEALTH, SCHOOLS AND CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING Thursday, 18th February 2021

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

OFFICERS: J. Hallsall (Assistant Director – Children’s Services Directorate), T. Harrison (Assistant Director (Adult Care Services Directorate), F. Davies (Children’s Services Directorate) and P. Thompson (Resources Directorate).

51 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors McCarthy and Susan Smith and K. Jones (HealthWatch Rochdale).

52 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interests.

53 **MINUTES**

Resolved:

That the Minutes held 19th November be approved as a correct record.

54 **1ST & 2ND 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 first and second quarter periods of 2020/2021 (April – September 2020).

Social care complaints were subject to a statutory reporting framework which were scrutinised by the Care Quality Commission. The Council’s Customer Feedback Team had 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 were investigated and responded to within the permitted timescale and the numbers that were upheld.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

55 **ADULT, CHILDREN & PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTORATE PLANS 2020-21: QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

The Committee scrutinised a report detailing progress during the third quarter 2020/2021 (1st October – 31st December) towards the achievement of the targets contained in the Adult Care Directorate Plan 2020/2021, Children’s Services Directorate Plan 2020/2021 and Public Health Directorate Plan 2020/2021.

Resolved:
That the report be noted.

56 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.

Reason for the Decision:
Should the press and public remain during the debate on the following item, 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.

57 ROCHDALE ACADEMY SEN SCHOOL

The Committee scrutinised a report of the Director of Children's Services which advised that in 2019 Rochdale had been awarded one of the new central government Special Educational Needs (SEN) schools. As part of this process the Department for Education (DfE), required the Children's Services to abide by cost stipulations with regards to delivery of the new school.

To continue further with delivery of the school the DfE required approval from Rochdale Council for expenditure related to the costs and the approval for provision of an associated 'Section 151' letter to formalise the payment agreement. This meant that the only alternative to the new SEN school funded by the DfE, would be a Council funded new school or increased expenditure on 'out of borough' provision.

The Committee was informed that this report had been presented to the Cabinet at its meeting on 26th January 2021, where the recommendations contained therein, were approved. The recommendations had been presented as to continue further with delivery of the school the DfE required approval the Council for expenditure related to the costs and the approval for provision of an associated 'Section 151' letter to formalise the payment agreement.

Resolved:
That the report be noted.