



**Early Support and Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Commission**

**2:00 p.m. Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019, Room 77, The Guildhall, Alfred Gelder Street, Hull, HU12AA**

**Present:**

Councillors: Kennett (Chair); Belcher; Healand (substitute for Cllr Pritchard); Ieronimo; Kirk; Matthews, and Randall (Mrs)

Young People Representatives: Scarlett; Emily; Finnan; Brandon; Courtney; Evelyn (Minutes 58-61)

**In attendance:**

M. Kohler (Scrutiny Officer)

A. Murphy (Corporate Director Children and Family Services) Minute 53

J. Moxon (Assistant Director Learning and Skills) Minute 54

K. Keaney (Head of the Virtual School) Minute 54

C. Brown (Head of Operational Analysis, Research & Assurance) Minute 55

J. Ashbridge (Information Management Research Manager) Minute 55

N. Colthup (Head of LSCB) Minute 56

D. Clark (Team Manager – Vulnerable Exploitation & Missing) Minute 58

C. Finnigan (Interim SEND Manager) Minute 59-61

A. Tew (Head of Personalisation and Long Term Support) Minute 60

L. Tether (Transition Manager) Minute 60

R. Roberts (Head of Early Help and Commissioning) Minute 61

**Apologies:**

Councillors: Collinson; Haines; McMurray; Pritchard and Nicola.

**Minute Number**

<b>51</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	<b>(a) M. Kohler</b>
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Councillor Ieronimo declared an interest at minutes 59 - 61 insofar as he was a SEND Parent.  
Councillor Randall declared an interest at minute 59 insofar as she was a governor at Northcott School.

**Recommendations:****Reasons for Recommendations:**

a) N/A.

a) N/A.

<b>52</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 14<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2019</b>	<b>(a) N/A</b>
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The Scrutiny Officer submitted the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019

**Recommendations:****Reasons for Recommendations:**

a) That the minutes of the meeting of this Commission held on Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2019 be taken as read and correctly recorded and be signed by the Chair.	a) N/A.
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<b>53</b>	<b>CORPORATE DIRECTOR CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILY SERVICES</b>	<b>(a) N/A</b>
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A. Murphy, Corporate Director Children, Young People and Family Services attended the meeting to update the Commission on key and current issues and for members to identify matters to be considered.

The Commission was informed:

- i. In terms of regulatory activity, a revisit was undertaken by Ofsted/CQC in October and a letter would be published following the general election providing details of whether progress had been made. Ongoing monitoring was also being undertaken by Ofsted/DfE in relation to the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services with a further monitoring visit due to take place in January to focus on services for Looked after Children and Care Leavers.
- ii. The Improvement Advisor was now in place and it was his role to provide advice and guidance and report back progress to the DfE. In preparation, a review in terms of the focus of Ofsted's next monitoring visit had also been undertaken by the Improvement Advisor. An announcement was expected at the beginning of the year as to whether it was felt that significant progress had been made.
- iii. Training of staff was constantly under review along with resource levels and pressure points within the service with consideration being given to providing short term resources within certain teams.
- iv. The number of Looked after Children was continuing to increase however work at the front door fit with the national picture.
- v. In relation to training of staff, an exercise was being undertaken to provide training/mentoring to frontline and middle managers which

would also include a half day assessment. Additional funding had been provided for this training to be provided through Odgers Connect and the assessment would provide a summary of strengths service wide in order to inform training needs going forward.

The Commission discussed:

- i. Whether the contents of the letter following the SEND Monitoring Visit were known and whether they had been shared with the Lead Member and other groups; the Corporate Director advised that the contents of the letter were under embargo due to the general election however had been shared with the Lead Member, the Chief Executive, Senior Officers and the CCG Leadership.
- ii. Whether staff morale had picked up since the recent social worker lobby and whether there was an assurance that staff felt confident and appreciated within their role; the Corporate Director explained that a programme of visits was being undertaken by the Corporate Parenting Board which were also available to Scrutiny. A variety of views were being collected due to the highly pressurised environment the Council, and Children’s Services in particular were in, taking into account the level of external scrutiny. The lobby had taken place two days following a meeting between Unison; the Head of Human Resources and the Assistant Director and an action plan had been agreed to address concerns. The situation was under constant discussion and support measures/relationship building would continue. Staff were being encouraged to come forward and raise any specific issues which they felt were not being resolved.
- iii. That members of the Corporate Parenting Board were undertaking visits; staff had been very open and honest and this approach allowed for a two way conversation.

<b>Recommendations:</b>	<b>Reasons for Recommendations:</b>
a) That the report is noted.	a) N/A.

J. Moxon, Assistant Director Learning & Skills and K. Keaney, Head of Virtual School attended the meeting to provide the Commission with the Virtual School for Looked After Children Annual Report.

The Commission was informed:

- i. The role of the Virtual School was to advise and support schools; ensure that three statutory personal education plans were undertaken for each child per year and to administer the Pupil Premium Plus grant. The school had also taken on an additional responsibility for previously Looked after Children (LAC) and training was also being delivered to support staff specific to attachment.
- ii. Details provided within the report were highlighted as follows:
  - The rates of LAC in the city were double the national average, increasing the number of school aged LAC. There was an even distribution across age ranges and a correlation in the number of school aged LAC in receipt of SEND Support, currently at 48%.
  - In terms of provision types, quality and Ofsted rating, 20% of LAC did not attend a mainstream school. It was the task of the Virtual School to ensure LAC have the best opportunities and are placed in good or outstanding schools where possible however a child would not always be moved when Ofsted grading changed in the interests of maintaining stability. 84% children were placed in primary schools rated as good/outstanding alongside 63% children of secondary school children.
  - LAC within an early year's placement became responsibility of the Virtual School when they reached 4 years old. Work was however undertaken closely with the Early Years Team to offer advice and support. Speech; language and communication for the early year's cohort was a focus as this was currently lower than the city profile.
  - For Key Stage 1 outcomes, only half of LAC had achieved the expected standard however this needed to be considered alongside the small numbers of LAC.
  - Performance was stronger in Key Stage 2 and was currently exceeding national figures.
  - The headline score for Key Stage 4 had dropped particularly for English Language however the attainment score had increased and other qualifications had also assisted in lifting the scores. Out of 47 children, 29 had completed their GCSE's and of those children who did not sit GCSE examinations, seven pupils had an EHCP; five pupils were Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC); five pupils were missing UASC; one pupil was disengaged, and seven students experienced multiple school

placements.

- There was no statutory responsibility for Post 16 however the Virtual School employed two Transition Workers to support the Year 11 cohort in applying for appropriate courses and continuing to support them up to the age of 18.
- Attendance and exclusions for LAC was positive and subject to rigorous monitoring. In relation to the number of exclusions, it was important to be mindful of the statistics in that it was a small number of children in the cohort. Permanent exclusions were currently at zero and work was undertaken to ensure this was maintained through alternative arrangements such as additional support or managed moves.
- In relation to Personal Education Plans (PEP) it was the responsibility of the Social Worker to track. The Virtual School also had oversight of Pupil Premium Plus whereby individual schools were able to apply for additional funding.
- In addition to the above, the report also provided details of the annual celebration event; annual conference; Children's University and Letterbox Club, and priorities for 2019/20.

The Commission discussed:

- i. The attendance figures and congratulated the Virtual School on their achievement. In relation to Ofsted ratings, there was concern in relation to moving children to alternative schools and that this needed to be managed carefully; the Virtual School Head explained that a comprehensive risk assessment would be undertaken when a school had failed which would advise whether there was confidence in the child staying at the school, also bearing in mind that stability was crucial. Other moves may be undertaken to prevent permanent exclusion and there was a need to monitor this in the future.
- ii. It was pleasing to see that no permanent exclusions had been undertaken; the Virtual School Head advised that there would be new Ofsted regulations which would bring fundamental changes and if a child was moved to a Pupil Referral Unit, in that there would be an expectation for the host school to monitor the placement with an exit strategy in place as this would only be a temporary arrangement.
- iii. That the drop off in numbers was significant in relation to Post 16; the Virtual School Head explained that there were statutory rules in relation to how figures were counted and LAC remained as such until age 18 at which point they would be leaving care. From an education perspective some children would not receive support beyond this age and the Virtual School would like to develop this further.
- iv. Whether the Virtual School was content that PEP reviews were being undertaken in a timely way and whether any interventions were required; the Virtual School Head advised that there was no capacity for the Virtual School to attend all PEP termly reviews and that it

<p>was the responsibility of the Social Worker to track progress. Any PEP reviews which were not being undertaken were shared with Social Care.</p> <p>v. Pupil Premium Plus and whether interventions were timely and reviewed regularly; the Virtual School Head advised that there was a rigorous application process in place which would need to demonstrate needs over and above the funding already being provided along with the desired impact.</p> <p>vi. That the recent celebration event was heart-warming and there was a suggestion that it would be useful to invite social workers to future events.</p> <p>vii. The Post 16 children who complete their GCSE's; the quality of career advice available to decrease the number of Children Not in Education, Employment or Training, and what route others were taking; the Virtual School Head advised that it was the role of the Transition Workers who would attend PEP reviews in Year 11 to cover all routes for each child, working closely with Connexions. All schools had a statutory requirement to provide advice and the majority of children were moving into higher education.</p> <p>viii. That there was a high percentage of special educational needs and whether there was a wide range of conditions; the Virtual School Head explained that for the younger LAC; speech, language and communication was the most common condition however for the older cohort it was around social, emotional and mental health.</p>
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<b>Recommendations:</b>	<b>Reasons for Recommendations:</b>
<p>a) That the Corporate Parenting Board are asked to consider performance in relation to reviews of Personal Education Plans which are not being undertaken at the required time.</p>	<p>a) To provide challenge with a view to improving performance in this area.</p>

55	<b>SERVICE BASED PERFORMANCE MEASURES – 2019/2020 QUARTER 2</b>	<b>(a) C. Brown (b) M. Charlton/V. Paddison</b>
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C. Brown, Head of Operational Analysis, Research and Assurance and J. Ashbridge, Information Management Research Manager attended the meeting to report the latest available service-based performance measures – 2019/2020 Quarter 2 to the Commission.

The Commission was informed:

i. Performance details as outlined within the report were summarised as follows:

- Referrals to Children’s Social Care were on a downward trend which may be due to thresholds in decision making. A review would be undertaken to ensure thresholds were effective and the rate was appropriate.
- There was a steady reduction in the total number of early help referrals however this may be as a consequence of the introduction of the ‘Portal’ which identified early help at source.
- The percentage of assessments completed within 45 days had seen an improvement in the nationally set target and was currently at 92%.
- Children subject to a Child Protection Plan had fluctuated with recent figures at the end of quarter 2 reduced to 82 per 10,000 from 95 in quarter 1.
- The actual number of looked after children was reported at 790 at the end of quarter two however figures had moved significantly since this figure was reported.
- The percentage of 2 year olds accessing free nursery provision was currently at 84% and was down slightly however was an increase on the previous year end figure.
- The combined not in education, employment or training position was currently at 7.6% however the next quarter figure would be more accurate due to young people currently being in transition.
- Average caseloads per qualified social worker was recorded at 17.7 and was being maintained.
- Care leavers not in education, employment or training was a seasonal measure and was showing a slight reduction at 42% however was performing better amongst statistical neighbours.
- The number of children with three or more placements was up from the previous year from 8% to 11% which equated to 83 children.
- Repeat referrals of domestic abuse was traditionally high and there was no comparative data however work was being

undertaken with partners in order to maintain performance.

The Commission discussed:

- i. The average number of caseloads per qualified social worker and that the current number was higher; the Head of Operational Analysis, Research and Assurance explained that guidance issued by the DfE was used to calculate the figure however internally this figure may be higher.
- ii. Whether there was any work being undertaken to reduce the number of repeat referrals received in relation to domestic abuse.

<b>Recommendations:</b>	<b>Reasons for Recommendations:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) That in relation to the qualified Social Worker average caseload, an extract from the workforce return is included in future reports.</li> <li>b) That a briefing in relation to work being undertaken to reduce Domestic Abuse Repeat referrals is circulated to the Commission outside of the meeting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) To gain a further understanding of how the figures are calculated.</li> <li>b) To enable the Commission to measure the performance against work being undertaken on the ground.</li> </ul>

56	<b>LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD – ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019</b>	<b>(a) N. Colthup</b>
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N. Colthup, Head of LSCB attended the meeting to provide the Commission with the Local Safeguarding Children Annual Report.

The Commission was informed:

- i. That this was the last report of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) as a consequence of new arrangements now being in place. The report described the progress against set priorities to reduce the harm to children from domestic abuse and to reduce the harm to children from exploitation. The report also contained details of learning from serious case reviews and auditing.

The Commission discussed:

- i. In relation to trafficking, particularly around asylum seekers, whether there was more intelligence being gathered resulting in an awareness of a worsening trend; the Head of LSCB explained that numbers were small and that children arriving in the port would go missing almost immediately. Work was being undertaken with the border agency to tighten up how children were received to ensure there were planned placements and that photographs and finger prints would be taken to enable the prospect of easily identifying children. Support would also be provided for ages 16-25 in terms of pursuing the right to remain.
- ii. Whether the deficit in funding for the LSCB had made an impact going forward; the Head of LSCB confirmed that the deficit had been made good at the end of the financial year as there was now income from the Police and the new arrangements for the partnership cost less. Further conversations would be held with partners as the Local Authority was still contributing a significant amount within an equal partnership.

The Commission was further informed:

- i. In relation to Domestic Abuse, EHASH had undertaken daily triage with the intention of getting it right for children and families. Different ways of working would be considered through new provision and additional investment, with work undertaken elsewhere with the family as a whole for standard and medium risk cases in order to gain better outcomes.

The Commission further discussed:

- i. That there were rising figures associated with domestic abuse/anti-social behaviour and whether this was as a consequence of increased awareness of how to report; the Head of LSCB advised that it was difficult to answer and that there were currently more reports at an average of 800 per month which could be down to awareness. 40% of referrals to EHASH were also concerns for children due to domestic abuse.
- ii. In terms of self-referrals of Domestic Abuse, the potential of additional funding had been requested through the People and

<p>Communities OSC as a consequence of the limited funding for the voluntary perpetrator programme; the Head of LSCB advised that this programme had successfully been completed for 60-80 men over a 4 year period; this was a 12 month programme from start to completion however it was also considered that something further upstream was required.</p> <p>iii. Whether there was more focus being placed on CCE and less on CSE; the Head of LSCB advised this was not the case however there was now much more awareness of CCE.</p> <p>iv. Whether there were any outcomes as a result of the 800 reports associated with domestic abuse; the Head of LSCB advised that it depended upon the nature and whether a prosecution was made. Outcomes would be circulated to Commission for information. Earlier intervention was being considered from a children’s social care perspective in that prevention would break the cycle.</p> <p>v. Consideration should also be given to the child in the womb and effects of domestic abuse in later behaviours; the Head of LSCB agreed and explained that a significant proportion of children feel they are to blame and this in turn affects their ability to learn; form relationships and have a greater risk of becoming involved in crime.</p> <p>vi. That there wasn’t a parity of support for male victims for example a safe haven for a man with his children; the Head of LSCB agreed that the service was more geared up for working with female victims and there was still disparity with 1 in 5 victims of domestic abuse being men.</p>	
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<b>Reasons for Recommendations:</b>
a) That information in relation to the outcome of the reports to the police in relation to domestic abuse are circulated to the Commission outside of the meeting.	a) To provide the Commission with an understanding of the outcomes following police reports of domestic abuse.

57	<b>EARLY SUPPORT AND LIFELONG LEARNING OSC OUTSTANDING ACTIONS DECEMBER 2019</b>	<b>(a) M. Kohler</b>

M. Kohler, Scrutiny Officer presented the outstanding actions.	
The Commission agreed to the removal of the completed actions from the outstanding action list.	
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<b>Reasons for Recommendations:</b>
a) As per the minute.	a) N/A.

<b>58</b>	<b>VULNERABLE, EXPLOITED, MISSING, &amp; TRAFFICKED (VEMT) CHILDREN</b>	<b>(a) N/A.</b>
<p>Debbie Clark, Team Manager – Vulnerable Exploitation and Missing attended the meeting to provide the Commission with an update on the work across the partnership in Hull to support vulnerable, exploited, missing and trafficked children.</p> <p>The Commission discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. There was a protocol for children who go missing and the service response in terms of a return interview. Return interviews were voluntary and could be declined however it was important to ensure that young people knew they had someone to talk to along with the ability to identify any additional risks.</li> <li>ii. The report contained figures of the number of children reported missing and number of return discussions completed. For those with no return discussions undertaken, this could be due to multiple missing episodes in quick succession and children also being able to decline return discussions.</li> <li>iii. There were increasing numbers of children and young people going missing for varied reasons and higher numbers were missing for longer periods of time. Work was undertaken closely with partners including Refresh and Cornerhouse who provided a wide range of</li> </ul>		

- offers for support.
- iv. Children at risk of CCE/CSE and adults who may pose a risk to children and young people were discussed within MACE meetings which involved a wide range of partners. In terms of the type of referrals received, boys were referred for CCE and girls for CSE however crossovers were also considered to ensure that assumptions were not being made. From August-October, 31 young people had been discussed at MACE and 23 suspects/adults of concern. Further work was being undertaken in order to better understand CCE, looking at the different types.
  - v. The Team were undertaking direct work with children and young people and also increasing awareness with other professions and within children's homes to achieve early intervention.

The young people representatives asked:

- i. There was concern that the process followed for looked after children, for example they wanted to stay over at a friend's house; that this could sometimes take one month to resolve and would often increase the frequency of missing episodes; there were also issues in that if they were staying over at a friend's house and the carer was aware of their whereabouts, they would still be reported as missing; the Team Manager advised that work was being undertaken with Children's Homes and Foster Carers to consider what was a missing episode and what was absence without authorisation. Feedback such as this would be collected within return interview discussions and the Social Worker would then speak to the young person to consider what was going wrong. The processes followed however were required for children in care.
- ii. How the risk was determined for the 19 males where the risk was considered to be CCE and whether there were any faults with the system; the Team Manager advised that it was often difficult to determine risk however there was a risk indicator tool which was suggestive of the types of exploitation; consideration was also given to whether there could also be a crossover of risk. A review was undertaken on a 6 weekly cycle to ensure that the current association was as up to date as possible.
- iii. Whether there was a fear amongst young people of further consequences and being judged by their peers if they came forward; the Team Manager explained that staff worked on the basis that young people were likely to say there was nothing wrong; they may be frightened and although there may be no evidence, alternative support would be offered to provide the courage and confidence for young people to come forward.

The Commission discussed:

- i. That the figures of return discussions undertaken were good and whether there was a way of separating the data for Looked After Children; the Team Manager advised that figures could be broken down however the system would also record as a missing episode although staff were aware of the child's whereabouts and there was no immediate risk. There was a need to consider how this was recorded as absence without authorisation.
- ii. That there were drug dealers in operation in particular wards in the city with potential exploitation taking place; the Team Manager explained that a problem profile was not available however there was an awareness. The Detective Inspector responsible for CCE and organised crime would develop a mapping exercise due to the increase in county lines and the need for an understanding of how many children and young people were involved locally.
- iii. That a recent media story referred to a child at risk of CSE within another local authority area who had not been believed; what assurances were there that this would not be the case in Hull; the Team Manager assured members that all would be listened to with further opportunities provided to talk by going back to the child, with historic cases also considered. There was a good CSE Team in place with the Police whose role was to support victims and ensure prosecution undertaken as far as possible.
- iv. How big a problem trafficking was in Hull; the Team Manager explained that children identified as being at risk of exploitation did have an element of trafficking and particularly for those young people coming into the country would be subject to some form of trafficking. Trafficking was not necessarily taking place out of the area and there were no figures currently of any cases being trafficked outside of Hull with information suggesting exploitation was taking place in the city.

The young people representatives further asked:

- i. What was in place to deal with the culture shock effect for young people in the event that a fellow student in school was subject to CCE which may also create fear; the Team Manager explained that work was being undertaken through a dedicated PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) who was talking to children and staff in schools to raise awareness in relation to the risk of exploitation.
- ii. As part of the Young Mayor's safety campaign consideration was given to whether there was an over exaggerated fear as a consequence of news and media and that this caused worry and anxiety; the Team Manager advised that it was not unusual to feel afraid however young people needed to gauge their environments; be provided with enough information to enable them to stay safe however continue and enjoy life as normal.
- iii. Whether any work was being undertaken to raise awareness of exploitation in the non-mainstream schools; the Team Manager

explained that all schools should be undertaking this type of awareness work and direct work was also offered for individuals. Further information would be gathered outside of the meeting to be considered further.

The Commission discussed further:

- i. The increase to the missing episodes and what were the causes; the Team Manager advised that there would always be seasonal issues however a dialogue was required whereby consideration could be given to what could be done instead and also help parents to understand the reasons. Consideration was being given to developing seminars to be delivered in school. In summary, the causes were unknown however there was an assurance that work was being undertaken around this.

<b>Recommendations:</b>	<b>Reasons for Recommendations:</b>
a) That the report is noted.	a) N/A.

<b>59</b>	<b>SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) – SEND SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY AND PLANNING</b>	<b>(a) N/A</b>
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C. Finnigan, Interim SEND Manager attended the meeting to provide the Commission with the opportunity to consider the feedback received following the consultation on the draft SEND Sufficiency Strategy prior to formal publication.

The Commission was informed:

- i. There was a rising number of children with an Educational Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and those with the most complex needs required a place within a special school. A plan had been developed for the next five years in terms of providing special school places in the immediate and long term.

- ii. In terms of work already undertaken, this included the successful application to build a new free school which was hoped to be in place by September 2021; Ganton school had been extended to provide additional specialist provision for autism; Northcott School had also undertaken alterations to allow for additional places and the resource bases had also been developed to allow for specialist classes to be delivered attached to mainstream schools.
- iii. A new Head of SEND was due to take up their post in January.

The Young People representatives asked:

- i. How the plans would be developed further; the Interim SEND Manager advised that the service had talked to families in relation to needs and the new school would be available for those children with severe learning difficulties. There was also a need to continue to develop the resource bases.
- ii. The new build project at Kelvin Hall Secondary Academy and why this had not happened sooner as older children may be uncomfortable being placed in a setting with younger children; the Interim SEND Manager explained that secondary schools had no space however Kelvin Hall were now able to develop new build space.
- iii. The Autistic Spectrum was varied and not a one size fits all, how would schools adapt to meet all needs; the Interim SEND Manager that provisions were very much child centred and provided a whole range of specialist provision. The range had been included within the strategy and there was awareness of staff of how to identify and meet specific needs.
- iv. Concern that schools may not have the resources to help children; the Interim SEND Manager advised that resource bases were available for children across the city and were separately funded to mainstream schools. There would be a specialist teacher in place per 10 children with 2-3 Teaching Assistants. A training programme had also been identified for teachers to gain skills in this area.

The Commission discussed:

- i. The feedback from the consultation showed that most agreed with suggestions however whether people were asked what they wanted; the Interim SEND Manager advised that the free school application had been made prior to the final version of the strategy however the consultation gave a feel for which options were favoured and this would provide a basis for a way forward.
- ii. Whether the staff training in particular for Teaching Assistants was being monitored to ensure that children were not being let down; the new SEND post would be responsible for monitoring and engaging with schools and in addition, the Hull City Education Partnership

had also made a commitment of best practice.

The Young People Representatives further asked:

- i. That there was concern in relation to access for counselling post 16; there was a high amount of mental health problems and not all young people were able to access support, and concern that there would also be a strain placed upon the provision resulting in a reduction in quality; the Transition Manager explained that Colleges also offered counselling support and resources would be transferred with the individual to enable a similar level of support to be provided. There were resources available in order to continue to provide support for those in need.

<b>Recommendations:</b>	<b>Reasons for Recommendations:</b>
a) That the report is noted.	a) N/A.

<b>60</b>	<b>SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) JOINT AREA INSPECTION – TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD</b>	<b>(a) A. Tew</b>
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C. Finnigan, Interim SEND Manager; L. Tether, Transition Manager and A. Tew attended the meeting to update the Commission in respect of the Transition to Adulthood Work stream which has arisen from the SEND Inspection that took place in Hull in October 2017.

The Commission was informed:

- i. A protocol had been developed to ensure the smooth transition of young people, for which consultation had been undertaken with the Parents Forum. An Operational Group had also been established in order to ensure a continuation of health care from Children’s Services through to Adult Services. The structure was well established; a tracker was in place in order to monitor and it was now

- known how many young people would need support as they were identified at a younger age.
- ii. A new team had been established in relation to high needs and a focus had been placed on transitions. Needs of the young person would be assessed and briefings undertaken with operational managers in order to further understand difficulties.

The Commission discussed:

- i. Direct payments and whether this was incorporated when considering further education; the Head of Personalisation and Long Term Support advised that longer term planning would be undertaken and direct payments were becoming more popular to support independence.

The Young People Representatives asked:

- i. Whether work was being undertaken to enable more young people to become independent travellers and whether the local bus companies were involved; the Transition Manager explained that an Independent Travel Trainer had now been recruited; risk assessments had been completed and work undertaken alongside the young person to encourage safety. A meeting had also been undertaken with bus companies and they had also offered their support.
- ii. Whether consideration had been given to developing an app to access the 24/7 grid, the Transition Manager agreed that the 24/7 grid would lend itself to an app and this should be considered moving forward. Work was being undertaken to ensure that all staff know how to use the grid. This would also be streamlined for young people if they had no access.

The Commission further discussed:

- i. How many internships the were Council supporting; the Transition Manager advised that this was currently 4-5 per year and was looking to be increased to offer to other providers. Some providers such as Wyke and Wilberforce College were also looking to set up their own higher functioning internships.
- ii. How many internships could be achieved and whether contracts let by the Council could include a clause around offering internships; the Transition Manager advised that Hull College were offered 20; Northcott offered 15 and HYA offered 6. In terms of contracts, this could be done through procurement in order to strengthen the offer.

- iii. Whether some managers were more open to others and whether training had been delivered to increase awareness of the advantages; the Transition Manager explained that the Senior Transition Co-ordinator would be willing to talk to managers and there was more scope for the Council to take the lead.

The Young People Representatives commented:

- i. That there was so much untapped potential; that learning disabilities and mental health had a stigma and there was concern that children and young people may not be supported appropriately in school. In view of this there were so many young people proving themselves and this was commended.

<b>Recommendations:</b>	<b>Reasons for Recommendations:</b>
a) That consideration is given to developing an app or similar facility to access the 24/7 grid online tool.	a) To enable the 24/7 grid to be as accessible as possible for young people.

<b>61</b>	<b>SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) – THE LOCAL OFFER</b>	<b>(a) – (b) R. Roberts</b>
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C. Finnigan, Interim SEND Manager and R. Roberts, Head of Early Help and Commissioning attended the meeting to update the Commission in respect of the Local Offer workstream which has arisen from the SEND Inspection that took place in Hull in October 2017.

The Commission was informed:

- i. That the Local Offer was a requirement of Government and its purpose was to provide clear, accessible information about what services were available for parents, children, and young people 0-25 years with SEND.

- ii. Children, Young People and Parents were involved in the decision making about their own care and support and also about the development of services.
- iii. There was an increased awareness of available resources through professionals; word of mouth of parents and Children and Young People and through the local offer website.
- iv. In terms of the website, users had increased by 47.41% over the last 12 month period more users were providing feedback along with children and young people being more engaged in developing the website, and social media was also used alongside the development of a professional area for training, forms and policies. The key challenge was keeping the site up to date and professionals were taking the responsibility and promoting the site to families.
- v. In summary, the Local Offer would never stand still or be complete and would continually be developed to engage parents/children and young people.

The Young People Representatives asked:

- i. How it would be ensured that the local offer was easy to understand; the Head of Early Help and Commissioning welcomed young people's involvement and it was suggested that a session be set up to consider the local offer in more detail.
- ii. Whether young carers would be categorised as having a mental disability; the Head of Early Help and Commissioning advised that this would not necessarily be the case and it was found that young carers were often the most resilient. Individual support would be provided within schools.

<b>Recommendations:</b>	<b>Reasons for Recommendations:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) That the development of an app for the Local Offer website is explored to ensure ease of access for young people.</li> <li>b) That a session with young people is set up with the Voice and Influence Team to look into developing the Local Offer website.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) To enable the Local Offer to be as accessible as possible.</li> <li>b) To enable young people to have an opportunity to influence the format of the local offer website to ensure it is easy to understand for children and young people.</li> </ul>

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