

SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 1ST JUNE 2020

Report of the Neighbourhoods and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

ITEM 11 CHILDREN AND FAMILY WELLBEING SERVICE UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

To provide an update to the Commission from the Neighbourhoods and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee after its review of the Children and Family Wellbeing Service at its meeting held on 10th March 2020.

Action Requested

That the Scrutiny Commission notes the observations and resolutions of the Neighbourhoods and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and considers whether a scrutiny panel on Children's Centres is necessary.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

At its meeting held on 9th December 2019 the Scrutiny Commission resolved that the Neighbourhoods and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee undertake its review of the Children and Families Wellbeing Service as scheduled and provide an update to the Commission (minute 83.1 2019-20 refers).

The Commission had considered whether to instigate a scrutiny panel on Children's Centres including consultation with external partners to commence in Spring 2020. It was acknowledged that as the Neighbourhoods and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee were undertaking a review of the Children and Families Wellbeing Service, this could create duplication of work and therefore the Commission requested an update.

The discussion and resolutions of the Neighbourhoods and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee are in Part B of this report.

Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report:

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with the recommendation of the Scrutiny Committee.

Risk Management

There are no specific risks associated with the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee.

Background Papers: Neighbourhoods and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Minute 32 2019/20, 10th March 2020

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Part B

Meeting Discussion and Resolutions

The Neighbourhoods and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee considered a report of the Head of Neighbourhood Services scrutinising how the new Children and Family Wellbeing Service model provided by Leicestershire County Council (LCC) impacted Charnwood Borough Council.

Assisting with the consideration of the report: Cabinet Lead Member for Communities, Safety and Wellbeing, the Chief Executive, the Head of Neighbourhood Services and the Children, Families and Partnership Manager.

Summary, key points of discussion:

- the process by which families were identified as requiring support. Officers asked to identify as part of safeguarding processes and training. Measured by LCC against different thresholds to determine required support. Families requiring early intervention go through the Locality team.
- how the success of the Service was monitored. Since the transition to the new Service, communication of performance data was sketchy. Officers to engage through the Locality team to obtain Borough specific data.
- how councillors could report abuse concerns, that the Council had designated safeguarding officers and a refresh of safeguarding training for councillors could be of value.
- benefit of scrutinising a Service provided by the County Council with its own scrutiny structure. Report very clear how the Borough Council interacted with the Service, need to be mindful of not overstepping Committee's remit.

RESOLVED

1. that performance data and numbers of case referrals for Charnwood Borough be requested from LCC and, if available, be circulated to the Committee in six months' time;
2. that the Committee notes the report.

Reasons

1. The Committee wished to understand the performance of the Service as it related to the Charnwood area and, as the Service was relatively new, allow for the generation of data.
2. The Committee considered that the report set out the terms of the relationship clearly and that further scrutiny was not required. If the Service was to be scrutinised it would be within the County Council's remit.