

COMMISSIONER NEWSAM'S MEETING
Monday, 7th December, 2015

Present:- Councillor Watson (in the Chair) along with Commissioner Newsam.

Also in attendance were:-

Jane Parfremment, Assistant Director, Safeguarding Children and Families
Nicole Chavaudra, Joint Assistant Director Commissioner, Performance and Quality
Clare Burton, Operational Commissioner,

31. MINUTES OF THE OPEN PART OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18TH NOVEMBER, 2015

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th November, 2015 were approved as a correct record.

32. CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF ST. EDMUND'S CHILDREN'S HOME

Consideration was given to a report presented by Jane Parfremment, Assistant Director of Safeguarding Children and Families, which detailed the options and proposed recommended action for St. Edmund's Children's Home following a period of additional support and management intervention.

Background information was provided on the current position and the key issues facing St. Edmund's Children's Home, the interim arrangements and on the action plan that had been put in place, details about the residential cohort and how it was felt that their current needs were not being met.

An outline was provided on the options and proposed recommended action (which was set out in detail as part of the report) recommending that a formal period of consultation take place with stakeholders. This would gather views and preferences on the proposal and its implementation and give some understanding whether or not there were any possible unintended consequences.

Advocates had been provided for the young people in St. Edmund's Children's Home, one meeting had already taken place and a review called.

Commissioner Newsam expressed some concern about the current position and explored the circumstances that led to the findings and recommended action following the intervention and strengthening of management arrangements. He also sought clarification on the results of investigations and the effectiveness of the action plan monitoring put in place.

Jane Parfremment, Assistant Director of Safeguarding Children and Families, provided in-depth information on the key issues facing St. Edmund's, which despite the significant investment and capacity the issues remained deep seated and ingrained.

It was noted that the Interim Head of Service for residential homes had also given priority to St. Edmund's and put in place an intense period of management intervention. Further issues of concern were also identified during the visit by the Strategic Director, which were immediately fed back and responded to.

Commissioner Newsam referred to the independent evaluation and asked what progress had been made and the proposed plans for the young people moving forward and was advised the Regulation 44 Officer had visited the home independently and given an independent review, which had been inconclusive and would be followed up accordingly.

In terms of the young people who were currently at St. Edmund's alternative placement plans were being considered, in consultation with the young people's own wishes and feelings, should the decision to close be finalised.

Commissioner Newsam explored further what equality impact assessment work had been carried out with the young people and the actions undertaken to mitigate the risk of closure and was informed that full equality impact assessments for the young people would be completed, should the decision to close be approved.

Councillor Watson asked what the plans were for the building should the decision to close move forward and was advised that the building would be used as a substitute whilst refurbishment works were undertaken at Wood View. No other alternative for the building had yet been considered.

It was, therefore, agreed that a period of consultation be commenced by officers throughout December, 2015 and early January, 2016 on the proposal for a planned closure and a further report on the outcome be submitted to Commissioner Newsam's decision making meeting in the new year.

Minded to Grant Decision:- (1) That the specific management actions that have been taken to improve St. Edmund's Children's Home identified in the body of the report be noted.

(2) That it be noted that despite management action and some evidence of improvement to secure the immediate safeguarding needs of the young people who live there St. Edmund's Children's Home has only provided limited assurance in relation to longer term sustainable improvement.

(3) That it be noted that although St. Edmund's Children's Home has the physical capacity for up to six placements the Council is unable to move more young people into the home because of its inability to meet the needs of young people with more complex issues. This issue has meant that we have had to move young people out of the borough.

(4) That despite robust management actions being taken and the low occupancy of the home, both outlined in the report, it was recommended that consultation be progressed in relation to the planned closure because the home has demonstrated an inability to consistently do the following:-

- Meet leadership and management standards at the required level.
- Follow management instructions.
- Record in line with regulatory standards.
- Apply judgement and respond to the changing needs of the young people.
- Be sufficiently attuned to the emotional needs of the young people.
- Meet the complex needs of young people requiring residential care.

(5) That the commencement of a period of consultation by officers throughout December, 2015 and early January, 2016 on the proposal to close St. Edmund's Children's Home no later than 31st January, 2016 be approved.

(6) That a further report detailing the outcome of the consultation be submitted for Commissioners' decision in January 2016.

33. COMMISSIONING OF LONG TERM POST CSE SUPPORT - SERVICE SPECIFICATION

Consideration was given to a report presented by Nicole Chavaudra, Joint Assistant Director Commissioner, Performance and Quality, and Clare Burton, Operational Commissioner, which set out details of the Service Specification for the long term post CSE support services for victims, survivors and their families in Rotherham to be commissioned from the 1st April, 2016 for three years, with an option to extend for a further two years.

There are two main service areas to be commissioned which provide a range of services to meet the levels of needs identified and also to offer a choice to individuals, which included:-

- practical, emotional support and advocacy and
- evidence based therapeutic interventions.

The demand for post CSE support services from 1st April 2016 had been estimated based on a CSE needs analysis undertaken by Public Health and the number of victims, survivors and family members that were currently receiving services which were originally commissioned in

October 2014 following the Jay report.

The current Children and Young Peoples' Services budget for commissioning CSE Support Services was £200,000 per annum, however to meet the needs of victims, survivors and their families more had to be spent, with a projected total spend of £408,114 for 2015/2016. This represented a significant investment in the development and commissioning of CSE support services by RMBC and the Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group (RCCG), which had resulted in a very different support offer for victims and survivors to that offered following the Jay and Casey reports in 2014. As such, a comprehensive range of services now existed.

To continue to provide choice, and in recognition that victims and survivors of CSE would continue to come forward for support, post CSE support services still needed to be commissioned for the longer term. These post CSE support services would continue to complement the range of services for CSE victims and survivors that were being provided in Rotherham.

A transition plan for victims and survivors currently accessing services through organisations that may not be re-commissioned was being developed in line with the arrangements described in the report. Additional capacity had been factored into the first year of the long term post CSE contract to enable victims and survivors currently receiving support to continue to receive support.

It was proposed that the existing CSE Helpline for Rotherham was also de-commissioned from the 31st March, 2016 given the low number of calls received as it did not represent value for money. The expectation would be that the long term post CSE support services would provide an 'on call' facility during the evening to enable victims, survivors and their family members to make contact outside of office hours.

Further details of the service specification for post CSE support was outlined and reference made to the outcomes and performance management arrangements.

It was also pointed out that Early Help had also been using the information to consult with young people on the receipt of support and this was being explored further with the meeting with providers.

The needs analysis developed by Public Health and been used to calculate the number of victims, survivors and parents requiring support through the commissioned services over the next three years, It was recognised that there would be some new victims, but had been factored in and calculated for each year.

Commissioner Newsam sought clarification on the methodology and how actual figures had been calculated based on actuals and projections and

tied into the CSE needs analysis and suggested that greater clarity be made to the report to make this clear to the reader.

Whilst it was noted the costs to deliver post CSE support was estimated the budget provision was available and careful monitoring of service provision by the Commissioning Team was required to avoid any risk of provision being provided longer than required. To this end 20% of the funding would be held and would be released when outcomes and numbers had been achieved.

It was not possible at this stage to give clear assurances as to whether the availability of provision would result in increased numbers asking for support. Rotherham had remodelled its provision based on demand and was ahead of others experiencing the same problems.

The Clinical Commissioning Group had also been involved in commissioning services, including psychological support, which would be contracted across the organisation to provide advice and share information alongside supporting individual young people.

The Clinic Commissioning Group had also been involved in the development of the service specification. However, it was noted that victims or survivors did not appear to be presenting for support through the primary care system or through G.P.'s or choosing to use the helpline.

Minded to Grant Decision:- (1) That the demand for post CSE support services be noted.

(2) That the Post CSE Support Service Specification be approved, subject to more detailed clear methodology being incorporated into the report.

(3) That a three year contract (with an option to extend for a further two years) being commissioned to provide post CSE Support Services at a total value of £599,600.

(4) That the de-commissioning of the CSE Helpline be approved as this was not value for money.

34. MINUTES OF THE CONFIDENTIAL PART OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18TH NOVEMBER, 2015

The confidential minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th November, 2015 were considered.

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.