



## **YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2017**

**10.00 - 11.35 am in the Shrewsbury/Oswestry Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND**

**Responsible Officer:** Tim Ward

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### **Present**

Shropshire Councillors

Councillor Joyce Barrow (Chairman)

Councillors Peggy Mullock (Vice Chairman), Hannah Fraser, Vince Hunt, Kevin Pardy, John Price, Robert Tindall, Kevin Turley and Arthur Walpole

### **67 Apologies and Substitutions**

67.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Andy Boddington, Sian Lines (Anglican Diocese) and Carol Morgan (Roman Catholic Diocese)

### **68 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

68.2 There were none declared

### **69 Minutes**

69.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2017 had been circulated

69.2 RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2017 be agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### **70 Public Question Time**

70.1 There were no questions from members of the public

### **71 Members' Question Time**

71.1 There were no questions from Members.

### **72 Adoption Update**

72.1 The Director of Children's Services advised the meeting that National Government was encouraging the creation of Regional Adoption Agencies in order to gain economies of scale and access to a larger pool of adoptive parents. She reminded Members that the Council had been in discussions with Councils in the Black Country regarding the creation of a regional adoption service but had not

progressed the matter as there were no economic benefits and no guarantees of better outcomes for children. The Director of Children's Services informed Members that she had advised the Department of this and that they had accepted the Council's position.

- 72.2 The Director of Children's Services informed Members that officers had been in dialogue with Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Adoption Services with a view to setting up some collaborative working around training and assessments, without the formation of a formal partnership, and that an update would be brought to a future meeting of the Committee when this had been progressed.
- 72.3 The Chairman thanked the Director of Children's Services for her update and asked that thanks be given to all the staff involved for their valuable work

### 73 **CAMHS Update**

- 73.1 Members received a presentation from a mother whose children had needed to access the CAMHS in which she described her experiences and frustrations with the services offered. The Director of Children's Services expressed concern with some of the things stated and agreed to meet with the mother after the meeting.
- 73.2 The meeting considered the report of The Director of Strategy and Service Redesign, Shropshire CCG, which provided Members with an update on progress to date, including governance arrangements to support the process, details on the work to reduce the waiting list with the current provider and outlined the next steps in advance of the 'go live' date of the 1<sup>st</sup> May.
- 73.3 The Commissioning and Redesign Lead, Mental Health and Learning Disabilities, Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group reminded Members that the contract for the new 0-25 Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service had been awarded to South Staffordshire and Shropshire Foundation Trust (SSSFT) who would act as the lead in a partnership of organisations made up of Kooth (an online service that offers emotional and mental health support for children and young people), Healios (specialists in online counselling) and The Children's Society.
- 73.4 The Commissioning and Redesign Lead advised the meeting that £400,000 additional funding had been gained to enable the reduction of the current waiting lists prior to the commencement of the new service. He then outlined the work that was being carried out.
- 73.5 A Member expressed concern that two of the partner organisations offered on line services. The Commissioning and Redesign Lead stated that the online services were offered within a package of options for treatment and that treatments could be tailored to individual needs.
- 73.6 A Member commented that the current CAMHS Service had failed and that it was hoped that the new service would not repeat the mistakes made. The Director of Children's Services commented that the need for change was well recognised and that the new services had been designed to take account of the previous poor performance.

73.7 Members welcomed the measures put in place to reduce waiting times prior to the commencement of the new service and the commitment made to provide an improved service through the new contract and asked that a further report be brought to the Committee to update them of the performance of the new service once the contact had been in place for 6 months.

73.8 RESOLVED

- 1. That Members note the progress of the implementation to date
- 2. That a further report be brought to the committee once the new contract was fully operational.

74 **Date of Next meeting**

74.1 Members were advised that the next scheduled meeting of the Young People's Scrutiny Committee would be held on Wednesday 24 May 2017 at 10.00am

74.2 In closing the meeting the Chairman thanked all Members and Officers for their work and support.

Signed ..... (Chairman)

Date: .....