

Children and Young People Policy and Scrutiny Committee

10:00	Monday, 07 January 2013	Committee Room 1, County Hall
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NB There will be a pre-meeting for Committee Members only at 9.30am, in Committee Room 1

Quorum: 5

Membership

Councillor T Chapman
Councillor S Barker
Councillor J Baugh
Councillor A Brown
Councillor R Callender
Councillor J Deakin
Councillor I Grundy
Councillor E Hart
Councillor T Higgins
Councillor S Hillier
Councillor L Mead
Councillor D Morris
Councillor T Sargent
Councillor J Young

Chairman
Vice-Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Non-Elected Members

Richard Carson
Stuart Geddes
Rev Richard Jordan
Marian Uzzell

For information about the meeting please ask for:

Matthew Waldie , Committee Officer

Telephone: 01245 430565

Email: matthew.waldie@essex.gov.uk



Essex County Council

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Part 1

(During consideration of these items the meeting is likely to be open to the press and public)

		Pages
1	Apologies and Substitution Notices The Committee Officer to report the receipt of apologies for absence and substitution notices as appropriate.	
2	Declarations of Interest To note any declarations of interest to be made by Members	
3	Minutes To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2012 (copy herewith).	7 - 14
4	Matters Arising/Chairman's Report	
5	Families with Complex Needs CYP0113 To consider a report, CYP/01/13, on Families with Complex Needs. Alastair Gibbons, Director of Local Delivery – North, and Philippa Bull, Head of Locality Commissioning – Mid, will be in attendance, to respond to Members' questions.	15 - 18
6	Childrens Centres CYP0213.doc	19 - 28
7	Special Educational Needs and Disability T&F Group CYP0313 To receive a progress report on the work of the SEND Task & Finish Group, from Councillor Higgins. Scoping Document attached, as CYP/03/13.	29 - 32
8	Safeguarding To receive an oral update on the work of the Families Safeguarding Sub-Committee.	

9 Forward Look

To note that the agendas for the next two meetings will include the following items:

FEBRUARY

- Domestic violence issues
- Ofsted inspection outcomes
- Peer review outcomes

MARCH (morning and afternoon)

- Youth centres
- Youth Strategy Groups
- YEA work streams

10 Dates of Future Meetings

To note that the next Committee activity day is scheduled for Thursday 7 February 2013.

The following dates are reserved for this Committee as activity days, and may comprise:

- Meetings in private
- Meetings in public
- Working groups
- Sub-Committee meetings
- Outside visits

Thursday 7 March 2013

Thursday 4 April 2013

11 Urgent Business

To consider any matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered in public by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.

Exempt Items

(During consideration of these items the meeting is not likely to be open to the press and public)

To consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of an agenda item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local

Government Act 1972 or it being confidential for the purposes of Section 100A(2) of that Act.

In each case, Members are asked to decide whether, in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption (and discussing the matter in private) outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

12 Urgent Exempt Business

To consider in private any other matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD AT COUNTY HALL, CHELMSFORD, ON THURSDAY 6 DECEMBER 2012

County Councillors present:

T Chapman (Chairman)
S Barker (Vice-Chairman)
A Brown
R Callender
J Deakin
I Grundy

E Hart
T Higgins (Vice-Chairman)
S Hillier
D Morris
J Young

Non-Elected Voting Members present:

Mr R Carson
Mr S Geddes

Rev R Jordan

The following officers were present in support throughout the meeting:

Graham Redgwell Governance Officer
Matthew Waldie Committee Officer

The meeting opened at 10.00 am.

1. Apologies and Substitutions

The Committee Officer reported the receipt of the following apologies:

Apologies	Substitutes
Cllr J Baugh	
Cllr L Mead	
Cllr R Pearson	
Cllr T Sargent	

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Higgins declared that she is on the management committee of Stepping Stones, a nursery for Special Needs children in Colchester. Councillor Callender declared that he has a daughter working in Social Care in Suffolk. Both were personal interests.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People Policy and Scrutiny Committee held on 1 November 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising

The Chairman summarised discussions she had had with officers regarding the possible attendance of some young people at the meeting in March 2013.

5. School Attendance in Essex

Introduction

Members received report CYP/23/12, providing background information on and Duties and Responsibilities in respect of School attendance in Essex. The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Tim Coulson, Director for Education and Learning, and Julie Weddell, County Manager, Education Welfare, SA & CE SIEY.

Mr Coulson pointed out there were three main levels to be addressed when considering this issue:

- i) When it is appropriate for a child to be “too ill” to attend school
- ii) What makes a child want to go to school (the biggest area)
- iii) Those children with ongoing attendance problems – “persistent absentees”. This is the toughest and the most important area, as this will substantially impact on their school career and possibly the course of their entire life.

He added that recent changes had led to a shift in responsibility more towards schools themselves. This has had a significant impact on the Education Welfare Service (EWS) at the County Council, reducing its resources but leaving it with the most punitive areas. The authority to declare an absence as unauthorised remains with the individual school.

Discussion

Officers responded to points raised by Members:

- Schools’ approaches vary – some are very rigid on attendance issues, while others use more discretion. What differentiates between schools the most is how they deal with time taken off for family holidays
- It is now up to each school on how it allocates resources in respect of following up on attendance, so it is hard for the Council to gauge how needs are being matched to attendance
- There is a correlation between poor attendance levels and a lack of attainment
- The EWS now charges for the provision of its services, but all schools are offered a free termly consultation – it is for schools to decide whether to take up this offer
- Many schools currently operate on a “pay-as-you-go” basis, which presents EWS with resourcing problems. The intention is to get schools to subscribe to these services in future. Some schools do employ an EWO direct
- The raising of awareness with schools and parents of the importance of good attendance (by EWOs attending meetings with parents, for example) has helped reduce unauthorised absences significantly

- The monies received from Penalty Notices are used for the administration of the scheme; the Council is not allowed to “profit” from these fines. About 30% of the Notices are not paid, so prosecution for non-payment is needed. No comparison with other authorities was available at the meeting and officers undertook to provide appropriate figures after the meeting
- In response to concern expressed, that some parents were not aware of their responsibility under the law, it was pointed out that schools had appropriate materials. It had been suggested that ECC should issue something to all parents
- Home school agreements, when used, can be very helpful, although the most important element of these was the relationship with the parents that these engendered. A school showing commitment to engaging with parents and the local community would often succeed in lowering absenteeism
- It was noted that a private company has been authorised to issue penalty notices in respect of a limited number of schools in the Colchester area. Once the Notices had been issued, any follow-up has to be done by council officers. Concern was expressed at this; this arrangement seemed not to reduce the workload but was likely to create more problems. The accreditation of such a company was carried out by the Police. The Council would need to monitor performance carefully, to ensure any such organisation was doing its job well, and to inform the Police if it was not
- If a child is missing school because he/she is having to care for a parent or sibling, an EWO will make an assessment of the situation, to see if other resources need to be employed
- The EWS can provide a late gate attendance scheme, to assist schools in dealing with those pupils that are consistently late for school. Although the DfE recommends closing the Register half an hour after the registration period ends, each school has to set its own policy.
- Mr Coulson confirmed that he would be contacting the new Police Commissioner in the near future, to discuss the Police role in this subject.

The Chairman thanked officers for their contribution and the Committee **Agreed** that:

- i) A report should come to the scrutiny meeting on 7 February 2013 detailing data on schools generally but drawing attention in particular to those which have relatively high or low rates of attendance compared to the county average (and, if known, the reasons for this).
- ii) Details of numbers of penalty notices and prosecutions for each Local Authority in 2011/12 (so that these can be compared to the data shown for Essex in the agenda item) should be provided for Members after the meeting

6. Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

Introduction

Members received report CYP/22/12, on Special Educational Needs and Disability in Essex. Tim Coulson, Director for Education and Learning, introduced the item.

He drew several points to Members' attention.

- This has moved across into Councillor Castle's portfolio. He hopes that the Committee will get involved in the policy making process
- The number of children in Essex with special needs is high in comparison with the rest of the country.
- The Government is bringing in a new, more holistic approach in 2014 (with Education, Health and Care Plans) with more details to follow before it will be clear what impact this will have
- Two particular issues are being addressed – the first concerns resources, seeing if a child needs to go to SEN; the second looks at the sending of children outside the County
- One approach will be to see if funds currently being used to pay for these services out of County can be used to build further specialist provision in Essex. The colocation of special and mainstream schools can be effective, and there is often much to commend having greater numbers of those with special needs actually in mainstream education. Those with autism provide a good case in point, as they can be provided for in mainstream schools with extra facilities. However, it is not easy to find schools that are willing to take on these extra responsibilities
- An important element of the new legislation is "the local offer", which seeks to make it clear to parents just what is available, and also what they themselves can do. When a child is diagnosed early on in life, this can be substantial, although it is less the case when diagnosis is delayed. One area that has improved in recent years is diagnosis of dyslexia
- Members noted the specific proposals to upgrade the Market Fields premises

Discussion

Members raised some issues, to which Mr Coulson responded.

- Although records are kept on children from birth, the system struggles in the transition for some when children get to school. Evidence suggests that a greater proportion of Essex children are identified as having special needs than in other authorities. This indicates that Essex should be providing better facilities within mainstream schools, and looking at better ways of integrating such children into mainstream education. There is however a recognised national rise in diagnosed cases of autism
- All authorities take children from other authorities and Essex does not have a disproportionately high number of its children being educated out of county
- There is a clear rise in special needs diagnosis when children start secondary school. This implies either that primary schools do not recognise these needs, or that secondary schools cannot deal with these needs within their existing structure/facilities/modus operandi. It was

noted that children's centres are playing an increasingly important role in working with those with the greatest needs

- With regard to reading difficulties, children going to secondary school without being able to read are stigmatised and will never thrive. In primary schools, special volunteer reading groups operate to assist those with difficulties; a similar approach at secondary level could be of great benefit. Another approach might be the creation of an intermediary school, which concentrates on core skills
- ADHD, HDD and Aspergers are other important areas of need but are not mentioned in the paper
- It may often be difficult for some children to endure the constant presence of an adult; research suggests such support is limited in its educational benefits, but it does help the school integrate and deal with the child
- The role of parents is very important, but they are not necessarily in a good position, with their clear emotional involvement. This creates added pressure on those working with them, who need to maintain a professional stance
- One suggestion was that Members needed further information and training and should take part in a workshop centred on this, similar to the one conducted relating to safeguarding.

It was **Agreed** that a Task and Finish Group should be set up, to consider issues around children with special needs. The membership will be Councillor Higgins as chairman, Councillors Hillier and Morris, and the Rev. Jordan. The Governance Officer will identify a number of issues the Group may wish to address, based on the discussion at this and previous Committee meetings, and draw up a scoping document. It was also agreed that the Group should begin work without delay and report back to this Committee from time to time.

7. Academic results in Essex

Members received an oral report from Tim Coulson, Director for Education and Learning.

Full results from the summer 2012 examinations were expected soon: Primary figures later in the month and Secondary ones in January. He intended to bring a full report to the Committee in February, with substantial data.

As far as Ofsted ratings were concerned, 61% of Essex primary schools were in the middle category. 20 primary schools were "inadequate" – and all of these, from now on, would be expected to convert to academies, with a strong sponsor. 150 schools "required improvement" (formerly called "satisfactory"). These schools will be told that change will be required, with encouragement that they convert to academies, again linking with a stronger partner school.

The specific issue of Leadership was raised. There has been work done – Essex encourages aspiring senior managers to take the National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH) – but there are a large number of ageing head teachers, and so a large gap is likely in a few years' time. Getting the balance right in how to deal with weak management is difficult. In the past 12

months, Essex has exercised its powers of intervention 12 times and removed the governing body on 4 occasions. Mr Coulson pointed out that there are some very good schools across the County, but there is a genuine inequity as to whether a child will actually attend one or not. Raising the standard of schools generally remains a high priority.

The Chairman thanked Mr Coulson for his contribution and looked forward to his comprehensive report in the new year.

8. Forward Look

The agenda items already agreed by the Committee for the next two meetings were noted.

For January 2013 it was agreed that there would be two substantial items:

- Families with Complex Needs
- Children's Centres;

plus an update on the work of the Families Safeguarding Sub-Committee.

For February 2013 it was agreed that there would be two substantial items:

- Domestic Violence
- Children's Partnership Review;

plus a full report on the academic results in 2012 and an update on school attendance.

9. Issues in Basildon Hospital

- a) It was noted that the CQC has been looking into two incidents at Basildon Hospital involving children, where one had died. The Essex HOSC and the Safeguarding Board are both following events and, in these circumstances, the Committee agreed that it should take no action on this at present and should await the findings of these other bodies.
- b) Members would be provided with an update (not as an agenda item) in respect of the development of the Basildon Academy.

10. Date of next meeting

It was suggested that the next meeting should be rescheduled to a later date in January, with the new date to be confirmed after the meeting. *[Meeting subsequently moved to Monday 7 January, at 10.00 am, Committee Room 1. Pre-meeting for Members only at 9.30 am.]*

The meeting closed at 12.15 pm.

Chairman

Report to Scrutiny Committee

Families with Complex Needs (including Family Solutions – ‘troubled families’)

Date: 7th January 2013

Purpose of report: To provide information about the development of Family Solutions and Community Budget Family with Complex Needs programme, including the procurement of a targeted volunteer service

Contact for further information: Alastair Gibbons/Philippa Bull, Implementation leads, Families with Complex Needs

1. Background

The national programme ‘Troubled Families’ began with a launch by David Cameron in late 2010 aiming to turnaround the lives of 120,000 of the most ‘troubled families’. In Essex, this number is estimated by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to be 2,200. In Essex we have called this programme ‘Family Solutions’ and we have agreed with DCLG that we work with at least 370 of the 2,200 families by March 2013.

Defining what constitutes a ‘troubled family’ is difficult. The DCLG definition is based on 3 main criteria:

- youth crime/antisocial behaviour
- persistent unauthorised absence from school
- adults in a family being in receipt of out of work benefit

and a fourth local factor – broadly defined in Essex.

Funding from DCLG takes the form of a mixture of up front ‘attachment fee’, co-ordination costs financial support and payment by results (PbR). There is a weighted approach to payment with the first year being mostly composed of attachment fee.

DCLG estimate the cost of each intervention (change programme for families) to be £10,000 of which they will contribute £4,000. The rest of the funding has to be sourced through local partnerships.

With the development of Community Budgets across Essex, Family Solutions will merge with the development of Families with Complex Needs multi-agency teams, of which there will be eight across Essex from October 2013.

2. Family Solutions Teams – Phase 1

Four quadrant based teams have been established from 1st December 2012. The teams, supported by a team manager and practice supervisor, are composed of staff with a variety of skills including social work and education skills. The focus within the teams is on achieving results against the troubled family framework to maximise funding opportunities. The criteria for referral have a focus on educational disengagement, youth crime prevention and adult basic skills as well as agreed local discretion areas.

There is a staff base of circa 50, all recruited on their ability to work collaboratively with families. A key philosophy of the new service is that families generally want to achieve the best outcome for their children and Family Solutions should assist and not hinder this aspiration.

The teams are supported by an additional 10 Youth Offending Service Early Intervention and Prevention project workers, seconded on an initial 12 month basis and funded by YOS Partnership. Additionally, there has been good engagement with Job Centre Plus which has been able to shape the type of provision needed to help adults back to sustainable employment and to develop local Job Centre Plus links.

The Education Welfare Service has also committed valuable strategic time through a 2 day a week deployment of a senior manager within EWS to build the critical links with schools.

The staffing costs for 2013/14 are £1,874,767 which is funded 100% from the troubled families attachment fee funding.

The teams are based in relevant and accessible community settings to encourage as much practical engagement with children and families as possible.

The teams are located:

- West – Watgardens- Harlow
- Mid – Carousel Centre- Braintree
- North – Green lodge- Tendring
- South – Rainbow Family Centre- Basildon

A great deal of work has also taken place to try to identify the families who will be worked with in order to meet the DCLG requirements for continued funding. To date, over 1,800 potential families/ young people have been identified using the YOS and education data bases as a 'filter'. Any potential family identified through these data bases are then shared with Department for work and Pensions (DWP) to see how many of the names are also claiming out of work benefit.

Of the 1,800 names 487 (or 27%) have been identified as families in receipt of out of work benefits. This does make achieving the full PbR claim of £800 per family unlikely as the majority of families are not in receipt of benefits.

One key plan for future is to develop parent to parent support. This will be developed under the framework of the 'Families with Complex Needs' Community Budget Strand.

3. Phase 2: Families with Complex Needs

The proposal in the Families with Complex Needs Whole Essex Community Budgets (WECB) Business Case is to establish a new approach across Essex to work holistically with disadvantaged families with multiple difficulties. This approach builds on the Family Solutions (Troubled Families) Teams, establishing 4 further teams in October 2013

Therefore Phase 2 will see the establishment of 8 family teams each working intensively each year with up to 180 disadvantaged families with multiple difficulties for up to a year. Teams will be both multi-disciplinary and multi-agency with staff and resources from ECC children's services, district council services, Health, Mental Health, and others. The teams will be located in accessible premises in the areas that they serve. The eight teams will be cover:

- Castle Point and Rochford
- Harlow and Uttlesford
- Epping and Brentwood
- Chelmsford and Maldon
- Braintree
- Basildon
- Colchester
- Tendring

There is the potential to establish 4 further teams in 2014 (one for each District) with the option for further expansion in 2015.

The teams will provide an evidence-based multi-agency family-centred approach to support and enable families to identify what to change, build resilience, improve their lives long-term and become active participants in local communities.

This new approach requires significant cultural change by and within all agencies and professionals working with children and families, in working practices, in roles and responsibilities, in multi-agency co-operation and in the way in which they all engage with families.

Stakeholder engagement is a critical and a significant amount of work has already been carried out with the district, borough and city councils both collectively and individually to secure their involvement and their commitment to the project. Action has also been taken to engage with health via the Clinical Commissioning Groups and Public health. This work is on-going and a key milestone is achieving sign up to contributing to the teams by the end of March 2013.

Volunteer Programme

As part of the Business Case there is a plan to commission a peer mentoring/volunteer programme to offer longer term support to families by local volunteers and the opportunity for family members to become volunteers themselves when they have been through the programme. This approach builds upon community resources and resilience by extending the opportunities for volunteering and peer support.

The plan is to develop a specification for this targeted volunteer programme. The organisation(s) who gains the contract will be responsible for recruitment, training, support and supervision of the volunteers. The size of the contract will depend on the resources available from partners for the volunteer programme.

A workshop has been held with voluntary sector organisations to discuss the form and shape of the specification.

The targeted volunteer programme is part of the Community Budgets – Families with Complex Needs programme, but it also links to the Community budgets – Strengthening Communities programme which is about stimulating voluntary and community resources across Essex.

Policy and Scrutiny Scoping Document

CYP/02/12

Committee	Children and Young People Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Topic	Children's Centres	Ref: File Ref:
Objective	Children's Centres - scrutiny of progress made since the new management arrangements were introduced	
Reasons for undertaking review	<p>To update Member knowledge of the Children's Centres performance under the new contracting arrangements</p> <p>To review how these services are being delivered to date</p>	
Topic suggested by	Follow on from Cllr Terri Sargent agenda item in November 2011	
Method <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial briefing to define scope • Task & Finish Group • Commission • Full Committee 	Update – see Annex, attached	
Membership	N/A	
Issues to be addressed		
Sources of Evidence and witnesses	<p>ECC Schools, Children's and Families Directorate</p> <p>Reports of visits to Centres by individual Members</p>	
Work Programme	Discussion at Committee meeting on 7 January 2013	
Indicators of Success	Members are satisfied at the quality of service being provided and that it is being provided to the appropriate client group	

Meeting the CfPS Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Critical Friend Challenge to Executive</i> • <i>Reflect Public voice and concerns</i> • <i>Own the scrutiny process</i> • <i>Impact on service delivery</i> 	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>		
Diversity and Equality	Are the appropriate children and families receiving a service, and how is this decided?		
Date agreed by Committee			
Future Action	TBA once matter has been discussed by Committee		
Governance Officer		Committee Officer	Matthew Waldie
Service Lead Officer(s)	Carolyn Terry, Interim Lead, Early Years and Childcare		

Purpose of report

The ECC Early Years and Childcare Service updated the Children and Young People Policy and Scrutiny Committee in November 2011, on the commissioning arrangements taking place with the intention of awarding 4 quadrant based contracts for 85 of the 86 Essex Children's Centres.

This report is an update to the CYPPEC on the Children's Centre contract award and implementation of the revised service implementation

Background

Previously the Essex Children's Centres were delivered through 20 contracts with 13 Lead body delivery partners. Following a review of the services, it was agreed to tender for four quadrant based contracts to achieve financial savings and secure efficiencies in service delivery through revised service specification with a greater focus on targeted interventions.

One centre was outside of the scope of this tender and will continue to be delivered by Suffolk County Council until March 2014.

Children's Centre Contract Award and Implementation

On the completion of the tender process in January 2012, four contracts were awarded, from April 2012 until March 2014:-

- North East Essex – Barnardo's
- Mid Essex – 4Children
- West Essex – Spurgeons
- South Essex – Barnardo's (in partnership with Pre School Learning Alliance (PSLA) and Castle Point Association of Voluntary Services (CAVS))

Following contract award, ECC worked closely with both the previous lead bodies and new contractors to ensure a smooth transfer of children's centre staff to their new employers from April 2012 and business as usual for service delivery for families.

Each of the Children's Centres has a designated main site, based within the community the centres are serving. These properties have been secured through either existing ECC premises or local lease arrangements. Where the premises are non-ECC buildings, the council has taken a head lease to cover the lifetime of the Children's Centre contracts and sub leased to the relevant Lead Body. The majority of these leases are signed and finalised.

To ensure the council maintains its visibility as the accountable body for the delivery of these services, all centres have been branded in line with ECC standards. Each building has a sign erected outside in corporate colours and size, these reference the relevant lead body as a partners in the delivery of these services. Approximately three quarters of these signs are in place. Where these are outstanding, the majority are due to leases not yet being finalised. Work is continuing to get this completed.

Standard paperwork for use by each centre has also produced in line with ECC standards to ensure that families and partners receive quality, standard documents.

Service Delivery and Performance Measures

As part of the revised Children's Centre Service Specification, each Lead Body is responsible for providing:

- priority targeting of the greatest resource to the highest area of need, whilst ensuring appropriate universal provision is accessible
- quick response, flexible and reactive services
- Family Worker capacity, with a range of skills and knowledge to support individual families and groups e.g. coaching skills, early child development and health needs
- outreach (within homes where appropriate) as well as community-based intervention and support
- infant development pre-birth - 5 years advice to underpin all the work
- equality of access and consistency in provision across the area, to include diverse groups within the community, children with SEN and minority ethnic groups
- consistent, accessible and up-to-date information, advice and guidance for parents
- clear referral pathways that are well communicated and understood
- the involvement of children and families in the design and delivery of services
- a workforce and organisation(s) that recognise and execute their safeguarding responsibilities effectively
- a competent multi skilled workforce able to deliver universal and targeted interventions to support family life and/or signpost to appropriate services
- the overcoming of barriers to partnership work, engagement with integrated processes and multi-agency working
- joined up work, where appropriate, preventing duplication of effort and resource

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) have been agreed with the new lead bodies to monitor the impact of service delivery. These KPIs enable monitoring on the number of children the Lead Bodies are reaching, with additional reporting on providing services for vulnerable groups within each children's centre catchment area. These are monitored on a quarterly basis and to-date quarter 1 and quarter 2 data has been collected and analysed. Quarter 3 data is due to be submitted in January 2013.

Children's Centres are integral to supporting parents and carers to understand their role in supporting their children to develop and learn and in promoting a quality home learning environment.

Parents of children referred to access up to 15 hours of Free Early Education Entitlement for vulnerable 2 year olds, through a nursery or pre-school setting, must also register their child with the local children's centre and agree to meet with the staff to review if any other additional services would be beneficial to the family.

As part of the transfer to the new lead bodies each centre has also received a visit from a local councillor. These visits were undertaken over the summer period by the following councillor:-

- North East Essex – Cllr Pike
- Mid Essex – Cllr Madden
- West Essex – Cllr Gooding
- South Essex – Cllr Riley

Children's Centre Inspection Analysis

There have been 31 inspections of Children's Centres in Essex. 23% of the inspections took place in the Mid Essex, 29% in North East Essex, 26% in South Essex and 23% in West Essex.

All percentages in this document are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Overall Effectiveness

Figure 1 shows the breakdown of the 31 inspection outcomes for Essex under 'Overall Effectiveness'.

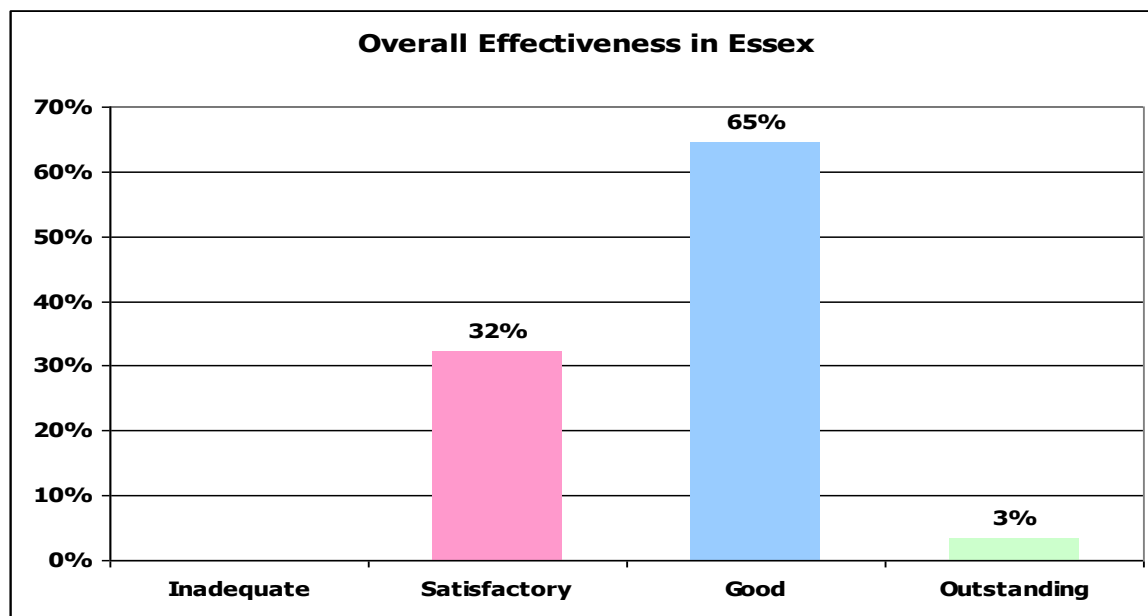


Figure 1

Figure 1 shows that 68% of Children's Centres inspected in Essex were rated as Good or Outstanding under 'Overall Effectiveness'.

0% of Children's Centres in Essex that were inspected were rated as inadequate under 'Overall Effectiveness'

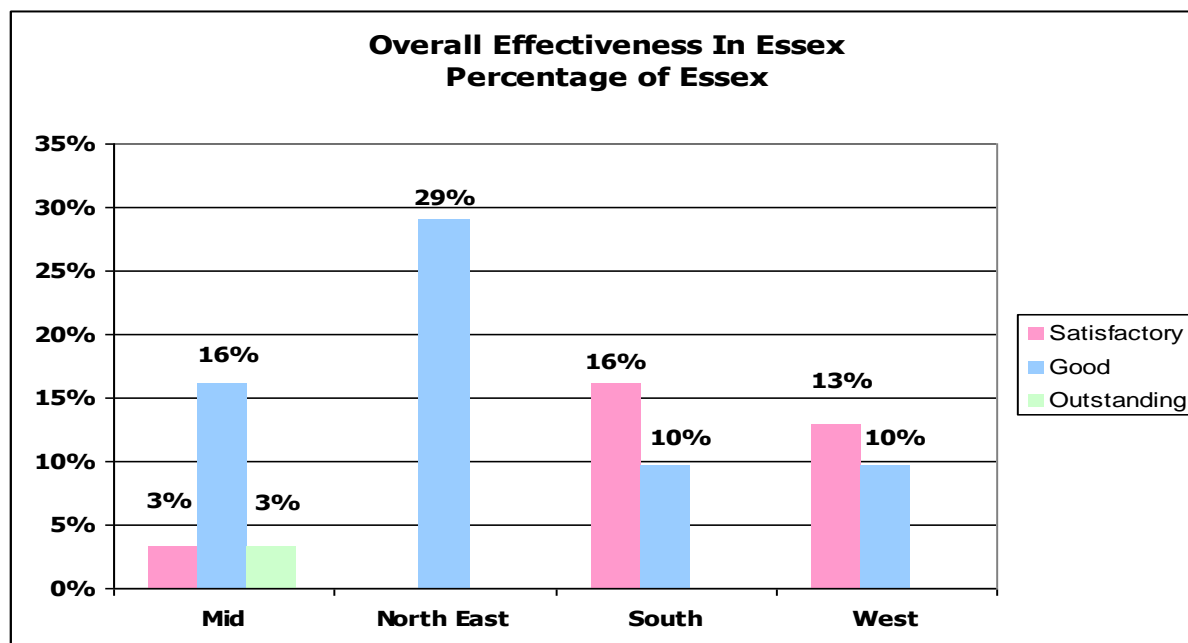


Figure 2 shows a breakdown of 'Overall Effectiveness' at quadrant level, for example, that 3% of the Children's Centres that were inspected and rated as Satisfactory are in Mid, 16% in South and 13% in West. Figure 3 shows how this translates within each district.

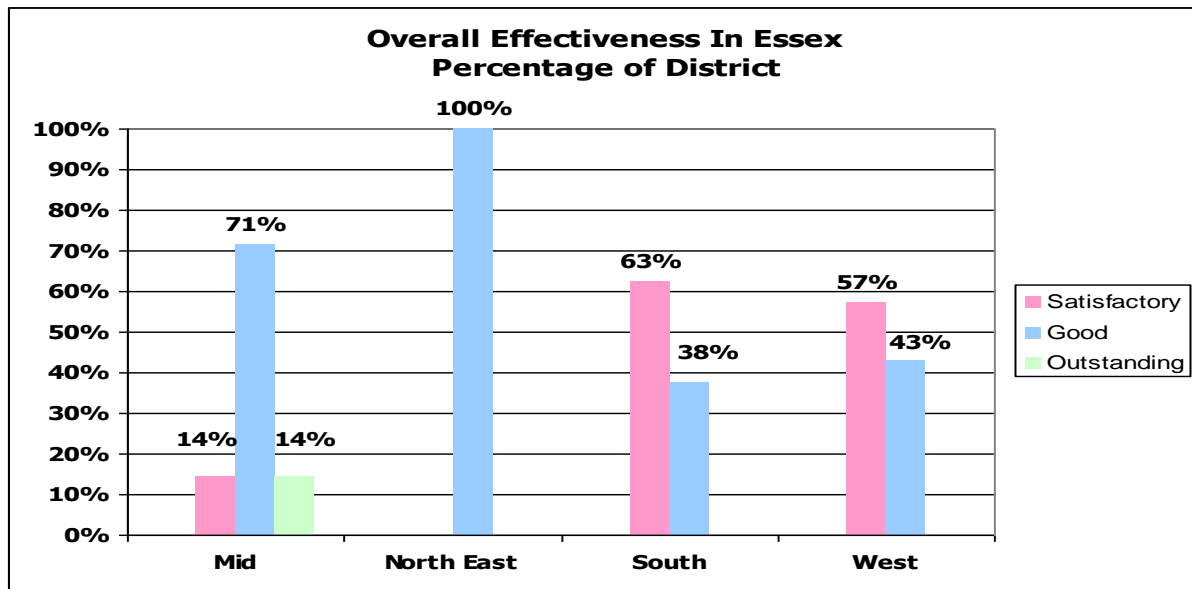


Figure 3 shows, for example, that 14% of the Children's Centres that were inspected in Mid were rated as Satisfactory, 71% as Good and 14% as Outstanding under 'Overall effectiveness'

Capacity for Sustained Improvement

Figure 4 shows the breakdown of the 31 inspection outcomes for Essex under 'Capacity for Sustained Improvement'.

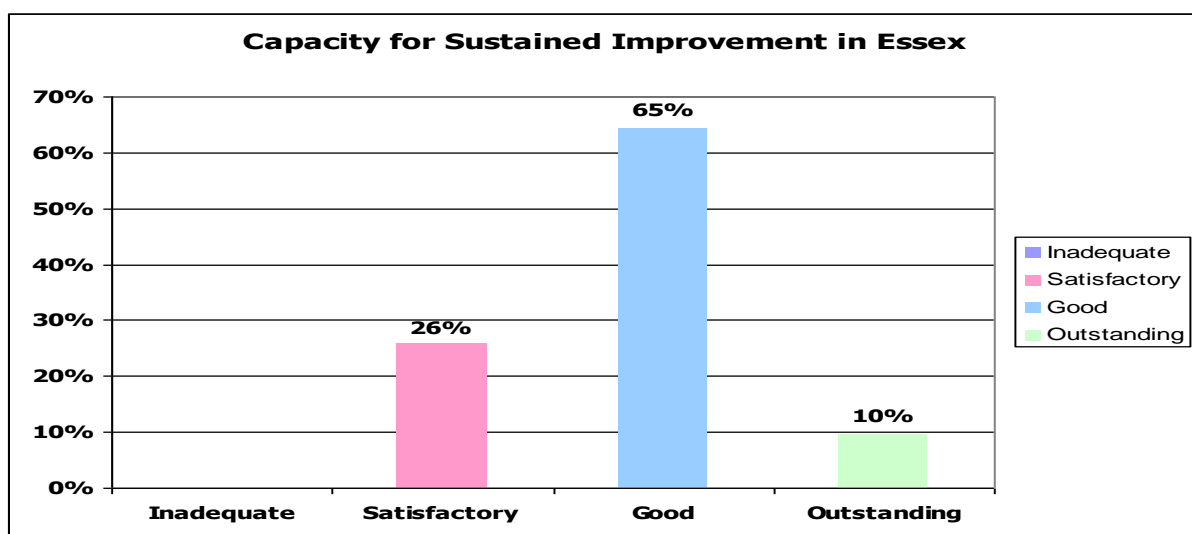


Figure 4 shows that 75% of Children's Centres inspected in Essex were rated as Good or Outstanding under 'Capacity for Sustained Improvement'

0% of Children's Centres in Essex that were inspected were rated as inadequate under 'Capacity for Sustained Improvement'

Successes and Challenges

South Essex – Barnardo's in partnership with PSLA and CAVS:

Successes:

- The volunteer coordinator role has had an impressive impact in the short time it has been in operation. A number of community members including children's centre families are actively engaging in a number of different volunteer roles.
- Work with Young / Teenage Parents in many children's centres in the South Quadrant shows robust engagement and good attendance at targeted delivery sessions.

Challenges:

- Partners engaging with children's centres such as Schools, Health and Social Care are currently dependent on local relationships rather than a strategic approach to joint working. This is being addressed across the County as is a key theme for all quadrants.
- Data sharing is inconsistent and it is difficult to establish a clear route to enable this with partner agencies.

North East Essex – Barnardo's

Successes

- 100% success rate for both good/outstanding Ofsted judgements
- Senior staff and team leaders have now been appointed and will be in place in January 2013.
- 4 new advisory boards have been convened, are independently chaired and had good commitment from partners
- Barnardo's innovation fund launched in December – bids to be received by end of January.

Challenges

- Completion of re-structure for frontline staff, within acceptable timeframe.
- Data sharing protocol in place with maternity services to support centres in the identification of pregnant women within their reach areas
- Resolution to on-going lease issues that restrict access to key children centre buildings

North East Essex – Suffolk County Council

Successes

- Cherry Blossom staff engaged with local advisory board

Challenges

- Increasing reach to vulnerable families living in reach area
- Data sharing protocols with ECC health and JC+ partners to include this centre
- Agreeing future [joint] procurement processes for service delivery post March 2014
- Accessing data and information required by ECC for procurement process [TUPE, asset register, building]

West Essex – Spurgeons

Successes

- 2 'Good' Ofsted gradings for CCs in West Essex since the contract with Spurgeons commenced

- Development of quadrant wide partnership working, for example the implementation of the 'consent to contact' cards, used by partners to refer families into the CCs
- TUPE of staff from 4 different organisations into Spurgeons and resulting restructure completed to timescale within the first 3 months of the contract
- Implementation of the CEVCO (Community Engagement and Volunteer Co-ordinator) role in each district and the recruitment, induction and training of volunteers (18 volunteers at point of Q2 monitoring)

Challenges

- Information sharing to support CC reach and registration (information sharing with Midwifery being a particular challenge)
- Maintaining a service with a very lean staffing structure, where staff are sick, on maternity leave or posts otherwise need to be recruited to
- Facilities issues, in particular in relation to timescales for Mitie to carry out repairs
- Evidencing impact and tracking of children's progress to the level required by Ofsted for an 'outstanding' grading

Mid Essex – 4Children

Successes

- TUPE transfer completed - the children's centre workforce is settled into their new roles and localities.
- The cluster model approach is working well and resources are being allocated accordingly across 9 sub clusters and 4 main clusters.
- Second round of new governance meetings have been held at district and quadrant level; Terms of Reference are in place with core membership now established. Key partners contributing to children centre core purpose are attending regularly, including but not limited to; Health, Midwifery services, Social Care, Education, JCP and ACL.
- Quarterly contract monitoring processes are working well with successful submission of quarterly reports for KPI data and finances. The addition of regular contract meetings every 6 weeks are working well with clear communication channels now working effectively.

Challenges

- Ensuring robust evidence is provided to show performance against the requirements of the KPI's.
- Monitoring of registrations and reach for the most vulnerable families and working with 4Children to incorporate evidence of impact and outcomes in addition to KPI reporting data.
- Maintaining regular attendance at district and quadrant governance groups to support collaborative working.
- The new children centre governance model implemented since April 2012 is due to be reviewed in 2013 to ensure support, advice and challenge function aligns with new contract monitoring processes.
- The involvement of families within the governance structure continues to be an area of focus that needs to be more robust and more meaningful. New community feedback process established but needs strengthening going forward

Next Steps

As part of the on-going contract management, there are a number of areas to complete and continue to focus on to ensure a quality service is delivered to Essex families. These include:-

- Finalising all outstanding leases and building signage
- Finalise web pages for each centre to enable easy access to Information, Advice and Guidance for families
- Agree a data sharing protocol that is consistent across the county
- Monitor the service delivery to ensure that this is targeted at the most vulnerable families
- Ensure that Children's Centres support families to understand their role in educating their children and in accessing their full entitlement of the Free Early Education Entitlement
- Review and monitor all data and service feedback to support any future decisions on the commissioning arrangements for the Children's Centre services

Policy and Scrutiny Scoping Document

CYP/03/13

Committee	Children and Young People Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Topic	Review of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)	Ref: CYP_SCR_034 File Ref: E.41.01/7/41
Objective	Provide a scrutiny Members input into the review of SEND services in Essex prior to the introduction of a new strategy in mid-2013	
Reasons for undertaking review	<p>SEND data between 2008 and 2012 highlights a number of areas for review and improvement.</p> <p>Need to improve confidence in the Essex system and plan for continuous improvement.</p> <p>Need to respond to recent legislative changes.</p>	
Topic suggested by	The Committee	
Method <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Initial briefing to define scope</i> • <i>Task & Finish Group</i> • <i>Commission</i> • <i>Full Committee</i> 	YES, but with regular reports to the main Committee	
Membership	Councillors Higgins (Chairman), Hillier and Morris and Rev Jordan	
Issues to be addressed	<p>Strategic issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What proposals the Council intends to consult upon and how has it arrived at these proposals? • How do these tie in with Government initiatives? • Will there be options up for discussion or just one proposal? • What form will the consultation take – i.e. will there be public meetings / how will families of disabled children be involved / how will schools be involved / will some consultees be regarded as more 'significant' than others? • What are the timescales for the consultation period, considering 	

	<p>responses and approving the strategy? Could this be lengthened by the need for elections in May next year?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the costs involved and how will they be met? • How will all schools be taking this forward given that many are now Academies? • How will the strategy be monitored to confirm that it is working? <p>Specific issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Statements being made and whether it is too many / are some schools seen as SEN friendly • Development of Education, Health and Care Plans • Children with autism / children with ADHD • Why children are sent to schools outside the county and can this number be reduced • Greater potential for co-location of mainstream and special schools (i.e. the Colman model in Norfolk) • Early intervention and improving links between nurseries and primary schools • Influencing parental views (i.e. the thought that a Statement is a panacea for all ills) • Current links with health and how will these change with the introduction of CCGs <p><u>A fundamental point underlying all these issues is how can the Council be sure that it is clear about what is the best for each individual child and putting the right provision in place.</u></p>
Sources of Evidence and witnesses	SCF Directorate officers
Work Programme	<p>General discussion at CYP 6/12/2012</p> <p>Chairman's briefing and scoping review 18/12/12</p> <p>Meetings as required from January 2013</p>
Indicators of Success	<p>Input is made into the proposals that are consulted upon.</p> <p>Way in which the consultation is to be undertaken is clear.</p> <p>Scrutiny members have had an input before the final strategy is approved by the Cabinet Member.</p>

Meeting the CfPS Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Critical Friend Challenge to Executive</i> • <i>Reflect Public voice and concerns</i> • <i>Own the scrutiny process</i> • <i>Impact on service delivery</i> 	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>		
Diversity and Equality	These issues underpin the whole scrutiny.		
Date agreed by Committee	December 2012		
Future Action	Action to cover period December 2012 to April 2013		
Governance Officer	Graham Redgwell	Committee Officer	Matthew Waldie
Cabinet Member Lead Officer(s)	<p>None initially, but Committee may wish to clarify issues prior to final strategy being approved.</p> <p>Tim Coulson, Director for Education and Learning</p> <p>Annemarie Blackshaw, Head of SEN/AEN Provider Services</p> <p>Karen Jones, Project Manager</p>		

