

Report to Committee to consider applications to undertake certain duties by Members and Foreign Travel by Officers	FTC/18/14
Date of meeting: 16 December 2014	
Attendance at the National Children and Adult Services Conference - Feedback	
Report by: Councillor Dick Madden, Cabinet Member for Adults and Children in conjunction with: Councillor Anne Brown, Cabinet Member for Communities and Healthy Living Councillor Rikki Gadsby, Deputy to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Health Living Councillor Anne Naylor	
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1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. To provide feedback from Members and Officers following their attendance at the National Children and Adult Services Conference in October, as requested by the Committee when it approved the application in June of this year.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. That the report be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1. On 24 June, the Committee approved the attendance of four councillors at the National Children and Adult Services due to take place in Manchester from 29 – 31 October. The arrangements for officer attendance were also subsequently noted (see report at item 4 on the agenda for this meeting). As a condition of approval, the Committee requested that a feedback report be submitted to a future meeting, to include any learning points and suggestions as to how these could be taken forward in Essex.
- 3.2. The delegates who attended the Conference were:

Members

Councillors Dick Madden, Anne Brown, Rikki Gadsby and Ann Naylor

Officers

Dave Hill, Sheila Norris, Helen Lincoln, James Bullion, Nick Presmeg, Barbara Herts

- 3.3. This report is based on input from all delegates.

4. The Conference

- 4.1. The Conference consisted of daily plenary, sub-plenary, and innovation sessions. These plenary sessions consisted of Government Ministers and Opposition Party Spokespersons giving speeches and then answering questions regarding the topics of Children's Services, Adults Operations, and Health Services. An example of this was Jeremy Hunt MP and Eric Pickles MP who spoke on health and community engagement. A copy of the Conference Schedule at a Glance is attached as an appendix to this report.
- 4.2. An example of a sub-plenary session was entitled 'A Guide to Getting Ready for the Implementation of the Care Act 2015-16', and also 'Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation'.
- 4.3. Councillor Madden is proud to state that an example of an innovation session was a presentation by Essex County Council entitled 'Relationship based social work practice – Delivering change and driving improvement for children and families at lower cost'. Another example was 'How to integrate health and social care'.
- 4.4. In more detail, Councillor Madden can confirm he attended a session regarding Improvement through Ofsted Inspection, which was presented by the Deputy Director of Ofsted, Debbie Jones, who made delegates aware of up to date intelligence on Ofsted Inspections throughout England and Wales, and proposals to widen Ofsted Children's Services Inspections into more of a multi-agency inspection.
- 4.5. Councillor Madden commented that, interestingly, Children's Services who had been either assessed as inadequate or requiring improvement were vocal in criticism of Ofsted's New Inspection Framework, however, Councillor Madden recognised and spoke openly in support of Ofsted, stating irrespective of outcomes, nationally Children's Services must have an inspection framework and requested that the Deputy Director emphasised to Sir Michael Wilshire, Chief Inspector of Ofsted, that the progress of multi-agency inspections be accelerated and not wait a further 12 months.
- 4.6. Councillor Madden also attended a presentation by Greater Manchester Police and the National Policing College on 'Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation'. It is fair to say that Councillor Madden did not learn anything new in relation to this but he did note that there was no open discussion of the fact that all convicted CSE cases in England and Wales to date, other than one, involved perpetrators being young Asian men. He is unclear as to the reasons for this.

- 4.7. At the end of the first day Members attended a Conservative Party Group meeting where opportunity was given for all Members to debate national policy matters, in particular health.
- 4.8. On the second day of the conference, Councillor Madden attended a presentation by the organisation Wave Trust, which is exploring a preventative approach to creating a large scale reduction in levels of child abuse, neglect and domestic abuse.
- 4.9. He considered that this was, in effect, a sales package to health and local authorities on an academic theory in reducing levels of reported abuse etc. In his view, the sample presented was very small and statistically not of a level that would warrant support from local authorities.
- 4.10. Later on the same day, probably the best received of all presentations throughout the conference was a workshop presented by Essex County Council Children's Social Care regarding the improvement journey of Essex Children's Services over the last 3 years.
- 4.11. Many delegates could not get into the presentation due to popularity and unfortunately had to be turned away. The presentation given by Helen Lincoln and supported by her officers was very open and honest about the Council's journey and most certainly well received by local authorities throughout England and Wales who were represented in the hall.
- 4.12. All Members attended a joint speech as indicated above by Jeremy Hunt MP, Secretary of State for Health and Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Planning.
- 4.13. Later in the afternoon Councillor Madden attended a debate on Political Leadership in Challenging Times which, though it had some interest, the main thrust of the debate was around devolution of powers from central government to local government. The debate continues!
- 4.14. On the evening of the second day, Members went to a dinner arranged by the LGA which gave them the opportunity to meet other local authorities. They shared a table with representatives from Norfolk, Hertfordshire and Sandwell, West Midlands. To summarise the evening dialogue has commenced regarding Children's Services sharing information with all three authorities.
- 4.15. On the final day of the conference Councillor Madden attended a breakfast meeting with representatives of charities who provide management of Children's Centres in Essex.
- 4.16. In addition, all Members attended the speech of Edward Timpson MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families, who spoke about fostering and adoption, and a national innovation fund he had launched at the previous conference a year ago. Following the presentation, Councillor

Madden along with other lead Members for Children's Services met privately with Mr Timpson.

4.17. Councillor Ann Naylor concentrated on the sessions listed below, which included the Better Care Fund (BCF), and she was impressed by the Royal College of GPs and College of Social Work - House of Care Model and a session on Integrated Care and the BCF.

- Dame Kate Barker presented her Commission - a New Settlement for Social Care & Health.
- The Better Care Technology Session included a presentation from the London Borough of Havering, which would be worth a visit.
- Nicky Morgan was impressive in her new role as Education Minister.

4.18. Councillor Naylor commented that it was a great pleasure to attend and support Helen Lincoln and her team who gave an excellent interactive presentation on the ECC Methodology for Children's Services.

4.19. Councillor Anne Brown, dealing in particular with the Adults portfolio, has listed below matters she identified and will bring back to Essex.

- Deprivation of Liberty needs joint approach quickly
- There is a greater need for good Peer Reviews between local authorities
- Care staff deficiencies were flagged and there will be a 29% shortfall in numbers by 2020
- Better support for Care Homes was flagged up as a way to stop Acute Admissions

4.20. Councillor Brown also noted the following points made during sessions she attended:

David Pearson, Association of Directors of Adult Services (ADASS) President said

Need open book accounting with providers
In Scotland there was a 53% take up by Carers
Need for an End of Life Strategy

Kathy Roberts, talked about carers and providers

Need Advocacy service
Should understand Care Act – how do they get information?
Information sharing should be at local level

Claire Swinston talking about the Care Act

Doesn't agree that finding is OK for 2016/17
Expect deferred payments to be lower than thought

Self-funder payment information coming in later- response in December
Main material on line in December

Andrea Sutcliffe from CQC - 90% of Care Homes give variable care