

Minutes

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

27 September 2017



Meeting held at Committee Room 4 - Civic Centre,
High Street, Uxbridge UB8 1UW

29. **MAJOR REVIEW - SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES IN THEIR EARLY YEARS - WITNESS SESSION 1** *(Agenda Item 7)*

Officers introduced the revised scoping report and explained that the review had been scoped to focus on three key areas; identification, intervention and transition.

The Committee heard from the witnesses below.

Witness 1 - Zoe Sargent Head of Children's Services and Operations, Hillingdon Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust

- The Health Visiting Service comprised of three teams including health visitors, community staff nurses, nursery nurses and administrative staff.
- This service was provided to children from the ages of 0 - 5 and staff worked closely with children's centres, social care and other health care professionals as well as General Practitioners.
- Support and guidance was offered from an early stage including 1:1 support.
- The type of support included antenatal contact between 28 - 32 weeks of pregnancy assessing family needs, home visits 10 - 14 days after birth, health reviews for children between eight months to a year and two - two and a half years and child health drop ins.
- The service worked alongside children to safeguard families and provided additional support for a family if their child had a disability.
- Some of the steps taken to support families involved advice and guidance and referrals to the Child Development Centre in Hillingdon, if there were social communication concerns.

Witness 2 - Tirzah Bagnulo, Inclusion Team Manager, Disabilities Service

- The services provided by the Borough's Inclusion Team to schools, parents and colleagues fell into different categories focussing on different areas.
- The first category, training, support, information, advice and guidance services, provided specialist training to teachers and early years practitioners on tools that would enable detailed assessments or observation directly informing the identification of skills, abilities or special education needs and disabilities (SEND).
- The second category, links with other services involved working with advice and guidance for referral routes, children's Centre staff, early years practitioners, SEND Team and CAMHS.

- The third category involved shared pathways.
- Some of the challenges of the service included the amount of children on the waiting list for health services following referral, communications between health services and education professionals, children not always being identified and services not being accessed by families, due to a lack of information.
- Areas for recommendations could include a central database where information on a child is stored in one place and easily accessible by a range of users, an integrated review at two years old and effective communications between health visiting staff and day care providers.

RESOLVED -

- 1. Witnesses be thanked for their attendance, evidence and recommendations; and**
- 2. The evidence be noted as part of the major review.**