

Cabinet – Tuesday 13 July 2021

Agenda Item 8 (References from Other Bodies)

Notes:

1. Only the Chair of the referring body / motion owner may speak on a referral from Council, a Committee, or Scrutiny Committee (Cabinet Procedure Rule 2.3 (d) & (e)).

Referring Body	Page Nos
a) Covid Task and Finish Group (2 March 2021)	
Briefing Note and various recommendations (Councillor D Hopkins)	2
b) Health & Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (23 June 2021)	
(i) Reduction of waiting times for Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (Councillor Priestley)	2 - 3
(ii) Reducing obesity in children (Councillor Priestley)	

(a) Covid-19 Task and Finish Group (2 March 2021)

Briefing Note and recommendations sheet attached as Annex A

Response from Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council):

I'm again very grateful to Councillor Hopkins and indeed to the whole Group for their continued hard work and diligence in preparing this briefing note and recommendations.

I agree with the proposed 'next steps' and am working with officers in relation to the additional recommendations. I'm happy to commit that a detailed response in relation to these recommendations is made available in time for the September Task and Finish Group meeting.

There has already been much work in response to the various recommendations of the Group, although we are all aware of the evolving and continually changing nature of the pandemic and our response. We will keep the applicability of the recommendations under review as we go about our work. Upon receipt of the final report of the Group later in the year, Cabinet will again look at what actions can be taken forward.

(b) Health & Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (23 June 2021)

- (i) *That the Cabinet member for Tackling Inequalities and Child Poverty be asked to consider what more the Council can do to reduce waiting times for CAMHS.*
- (ii) *That the Cabinet member for Tackling Inequalities and Child Poverty and relevant officers be requested to develop a programme of activity aimed at reducing children's obesity and that this be accompanied by a communications plan.*

Response from Councillor Carr (Cabinet Member for Tackling Inequalities and Child Poverty):

- (i) I understand the critical importance of this subject, but we do need to be mindful that CAMHS is a clinical health service commissioned and provided by the NHS. We must be clear not to confuse our concern and desire to see improvement, as a local authority, with the clear responsibility of the NHS for these services. We must not dilute or undermine where accountability lies in respect of CAMHS or core mental health services in general.

As a partner to the local CCG and provider (CNWL) we consistently offer feedback through our various working arrangements.

The Leader of the Council has also consistently raised mental health services as a key priority for the emerging BLMK Integrated Care System and the need to ensure that provision is not seen as Cinderella service.

On wider children's mental health the Council already provides preventative mental wellbeing support for children and young people, notably through Kooth and our school nursing service and has put additional resource into these in light of the pandemic and rising demand through extra funding for the Youth Information Service (YIS), however again we should not confuse our strong support for these additional services with the core mental health provision that should be provided and funded by the NHS .

I will make contact with the Clinical Commissioning Group to express my concern about waiting times for CAMHS in MK and see what more can be done.

(ii) There is an existing programme of activities and communication activities aimed at reducing children's obesity delivered by MKC and other stakeholders. These include:

- the health visitor programme;
- the National Child Measurement Programme;
- weight management services for children and families;
- healthy pregnancy interventions;
- the Summer of Play;
- health education delivered through schools;
- holiday activities and food programme;
- restrictions on the opening of new takeaway outlets near schools;
- Eat Out Eat Well scheme;
- the planned Love Exploring App;
- 'whole system' work to make obesity everybody's business and ensure it's prioritised and embedded in everything we do; and
- the general promotion of walking and cycling.

Notwithstanding this, I wholeheartedly endorse the promotion of any beneficial health activities. I will review the position in respect of the reach and effectiveness of these measures and will be discussing with the Director of Public Health how we can make improvements.

Briefing Note



Cabinet

13 July 2021

Covid-19 Task & Finish Group

Councillor David Hopkins
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Purpose

To update the Cabinet on the work of the Covid-19 Task and Finish Group (TFG) and to present to Cabinet for consideration the TFG's latest recommendations (Annex A).

Background

The Response to Covid-19 in Milton Keynes Task and Finish Group was established in June 2020 by the Scrutiny Management Committee to provide an analysis of the response by Milton Keynes Council and its partners to the Covid-19 pandemic, assess what worked and what did not, assess the value of any lessons learned during the crisis and make recommendations on strategies and procedures the Council should consider putting in place so that it is in a position to provide a robust but flexible response to any such future emergencies.

The TFG met on a number of occasions during the summer and autumn of 2020, hearing from a range of witnesses, from both the Council and its external partners and discussing with them their service's or organisation's response to the pandemic, what they thought the problems were, how they overcame them, lessons learned and what they would do differently in the future. The TFG's findings and recommendations from those meetings were presented to Cabinet in December 2020.

This Briefing Note is to provide an update on the work of the TFG since December and set out the next steps.

Update

The TFG met on the 2 March, when it received updates on the Council's response to the pandemic from both the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council and discussed with them the progress made against the interim recommendations that were presented to Cabinet in December 2020.

It also received updates from representatives of the community and voluntary sectors on the work they had been doing to support local communities and voluntary organisations in Milton Keynes since their previous report to the TFG in the summer of 2020.

Finally, the TFG did a new piece of work on the issue of domestic abuse during the pandemic, hearing from MK-ACT and with further contributions from the voluntary sector representatives.

From the evidence heard at this session, the TFG drew up an additional list of recommendations which it now presents to Cabinet for consideration.

Next Steps

Given the current, further delay to the final lifting of all lockdown restrictions, it was agreed that there was little point in holding further meetings until such time that the restrictions were lifted and that it made sense to hold the next meeting a few weeks after that date in order to assess the impact of a possible return to what might be a "new normal".

The TFG is therefore scheduled to meet on 6 September, when it will review progress and receive updates how far the Council and its partners have come in the past 18 months. This will be followed by the final meeting of the TFG on 4 October which will wind-up the TFG and agree the final report for presentation to Cabinet/Council later in the year.

RESPONSE TO COVID-19 TASK AND FINISH GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

2 MARCH 2021

NUMBER	SUBJECT AND DECISION	DECISION REFERRAL	PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTION
Update from CEO & Leader of the Council			
1.	That a meeting of the Broadband Stakeholder Group be convened by the lead Cabinet member (Cllr Middleton) at the earliest opportunity, to which the suppliers of broadband services across Milton Keynes be invited to submit their plans to achieve this ambition in <u>every part</u> of the Borough and that a roadmap with tight timescales be prepared, showing just when and how those targets will be achieved.	Cllr Middleton	Broadband Stakeholder Group
2.	That the Cabinet, through the Director of Partnerships and Communications, commissions Borough-wide research designed to establish local residents' insights/hopes/concerns as Milton Keynes emerges from the pandemic, with particular emphasis on the concerns of the young, of minority groups and of those with disabilities. The outcome of this research to assist the Borough in the design and format of its long-term recovery plan.	Cabinet	Director of Partnerships and Communications
3.	That Covid Vaccine Champions be identified by the Cabinet among community leaders/ influencers across Milton Keynes and that they be fully supported in a vaccine take-up campaign among these (often harder to reach) groups.	Cabinet	Director of Partnerships and Communications? / Public Health Team?

NUMBER	SUBJECT AND DECISION	DECISION REFERRAL	PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTION
Community & Voluntary Sector			
1.	That working with partners through the Community Foundation and Community Action:MK, the Cabinet focuses funding and support on the building of community capacity, supporting the growth of social networks and social action and thus focusing on bringing all sectors together in projects that deliver on local priorities. Funding should also be focused on “training the trainers” programmes to deliver maximum coverage and benefits across the whole Borough.	Cabinet	Voluntary Sector Partners?
2.	That the Council works with its partners to develop new funds for 2021/2022 focusing (through a Corporate membership initiative) on tackling Child Poverty and converting the outstanding Covid response into a Friends Scheme to provide on-going support.	Cabinet	As above
3.	<p>That working with partners, the Council reviews and, if necessary, changes systems and processes to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplify and speed up change systems and processes to allow for a swifter turnaround of applications for funding; • Work with organisations so that they are better prepared for funding (due diligence process, creation of bank accounts and governance for authorisation is clear and agreed in advance); • Improve partnership working across the plethora of organisations operating in Milton Keynes to avoid duplication and waste (especially on the distribution of food). 	Cabinet	As above

NUMBER	SUBJECT AND DECISION	DECISION REFERRAL	PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTION
	Domestic Abuse		
1.	That the Cabinet undertakes a community awareness campaign (in conjunction with its partners, including Thames Valley Police and the Community /Voluntary Sector) to encourage community members to report domestic abuse in their neighbourhood and repeats this as a priority at the start of any future lockdown.	Cabinet (Cllr Townsend – Community Safety)	SaferMK Partnership?
2.	That resources and funding should be reviewed and if possible increased to support the work of domestic abuse charities in Milton Keynes.	Cabinet	
3.	That the Children and Families Service makes training available to all councillors and community leaders on recognising the signs of domestic abuse.	Children & Families Service	Group Head
4.	That the Cabinet contacts the MPs for Milton Keynes asking them to do all they can to work with and take briefings from locally based experts on domestic abuse with the aim of working together to ensure that all take full advantage of this once in a generation opportunity to transform the response to domestic abuse nationally and in particular across Milton Keynes.	Cabinet	Leader of the Council
	Mental Health		
1.	That the Cabinet embed and prioritise support for improved mental health and wellbeing within the community, voluntary and charitable sectors, working in tandem with NHS services.	Cabinet	Local Mental Health Service providers / CCG?
2.	That the Council continues working with the NHS and its voluntary organisation partners, together with line-managers, housing and education staff, to increase the supply of such services, to identify and assess those at particular risk.	Public Health Team? Local Mental Health Service providers / CCG?	Voluntary Sector Partners?