

Out and about with SAVS



Every day I am attending meetings to represent the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in Southend. In order to keep our members up to date with what is going on I am producing a monthly report which gives information about which meetings I have attended, their purpose and key points of note to the VCS. Some of the information will be relevant to you and I hope it will all be of interest. If you want further information about any of the meetings or have something to contribute please contact me on 01702 356001 or asemmence@savs-southend.co.uk. I would love to hear from you.

Unless stated otherwise all the meetings are attended by me. However some meetings are attended by other members of staff. If you are attending any strategic meetings to represent the VCS it would be great if you could share this with us so we can include in this report.

Meetings attended July

Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) - 7 July 16

Purpose

The Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) main role is to improve the lives of children and young people in Southend by working with Health, Police, Probation and the voluntary sector on safeguarding.

The LSCB works to ensure that children and young people are:

- Safe from abuse, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation
- Safe and cared for

It also helps to reduce the chance of them suffering from:

- Accidental death and injury
- Bullying and discrimination
- Crime and anti-social behaviour.

Points to note

The Business Plan for 16-19 was approved and the priorities agreed as follows:

- Reduce incidents of self-harm among children and young people
- Reduce the number of children and young people who have experienced bullying including face to face, text or internet
- Ensure that the Violence Against Women and Girls, Modern Slavery and Domestic Abuse Strategies are effectively resourced and implemented to reduce the impact of Violence, Modern Slavery, and Domestic Abuse on children and young peoples' life chances
- Support families at the earliest opportunity to prevent their needs escalating and ensure early help (including that for young adults) is fully integrated with the multi-agency sharing of information and child protection processes
- Partners and strategic boards work together to identify, resource, and provide support to children and young people at risk of, or victims of,

exploitation (including child sexual exploitation and radicalization), to prevent harm and reduce the impact on their life chances; and to identify and disrupt perpetrators

The full plan can be found here:

http://www.safeguardingsouthend.co.uk/pdfs/lscb/Southend_LSCB_Revised_Business_Plan_2013_to_2016.pdf

The Ofsted report which looked at the effectiveness of the LSCB was presented and discussed; although adoption and progress of care leavers was rated as good, children who need help and protection, children looked after and achieving permanence, leadership, management and governance all require improvement. An action plan is being developed to address all the areas of concern highlighted by Ofsted.

The extensive agenda also received reports and discussion regarding the Domestic Abuse Strategy, MARAT, Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing Children Strategy, progress of Early Help and many other items.

Next steps

The next full meeting will be on 29 September

Police and Crime Commissioner(PCC) Forum - 7 July 16

Purpose

The PCC role is responsible for the following:

- Holding the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of policing in Essex
- Setting and updating the four year Police and Crime Plan
- Setting the force budget and council tax contribution to policing (precept)
- Regularly engaging with the public and communities
- Allocating grants through the Community Safety Development Fund and commissioning services
- Appointing the Chief Constable
- Bringing together community safety partners to reduce crime and support victims across Essex.

Points to note

This was the first public meeting in Southend held by the new PCC Roger Hirst. We had an overview of the crime in Southend and Roger's priorities: tackling anti social behaviour; more visible policing (more Special constables), tackling Domestic Abuse, serious violent crime (gangs) and road traffic issues. £100,000 has been committed to preventing young people getting involved in gangs.

Next steps

Next steps The Police and Crime Plan is currently being developed

People Scrutiny - 12 July 16

Purpose

Southend Borough Council has three multi-party Scrutiny Committees which support the work of the Executive (Cabinet) and the Council as a whole:

The People Scrutiny Committee;
The Place Scrutiny Committee; and
The Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee

The Committees meet on average six times a year, and the meetings are held in public.

I have a seat (non voting) on the **People Scrutiny Committee - the responsibilities of which are:**

- All Child and Adult Education
- Youth Services
- Children's Social Services
- Adult Social Services
- Public Health
- Commissioning / Procurement for Children, Adults and Public Health
- Health Scrutiny Role
- Other Voluntary Sector Reps are Southend Carer's Forum and Southend Healthwatch.

Points to note

This was the first meeting under the new administration.

There was a presentation about the Success Regime led by Sue Hardy, CEO from Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust followed by extensive questions and discussion. The public consultation(or communication as I think it will actually be) will take place in the autumn. Some of the key changes will be that patients may have to travel to Chelmsford, Basildon or Southend for certain types of treatment as there will be a focus on specialisms.

We had a report on the Ofsted report which had identified three areas requiring improvement. An Improvement Plan is being prepared and will be submitted to Cabinet on 20th September 2016.

The in-depth scrutiny project for 2016/1 was selected - it will be on 'Alternative provision - offsite education provision for children & young people'.

Next steps

Next meeting 11 October 2016 - everyone is welcome to sit in the public gallery at the Jubilee Room at the Civic Centre.

Patient Public Engagement and Involvement Steering Group - 12 July 16

Purpose

The Patient and public engagement and involvement group is one of the ways the Southend CCG engages with the wider community.

Points to note

I was only able to stay at the meeting for a short time as it clashed with the

People Scrutiny above. We had a presentation about the new Hospital Navigation Service which redirects patients for whom A&E is not the right place to be, to alternative solutions, e.g. their GP, pharmacist etc. We heard the results of the Stakeholder Survey which showed the CCG needed to improve on its engagement with patients and the public.

Next steps

The next meeting of this group is 13 September.

Success for All - 18 July 16

Purpose

The Success for All Children Group co-ordinates services across Southend-on-Sea to meet identified local need in order to improve outcomes for children.

The purpose of the group is to act as the delivery arm of the Health and Wellbeing Board in relation to priorities relating to Children and Young People.

Points to note

The meeting looked at the Ofsted report as mentioned previously.

We had an update on Southend Better Start - we have a new CEO, Alison Clare who is currently reviewing where we are up to. A new governance structure is being considered and different ways of working.

We had an update on the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service which is being delivered by NELFT. The number of children and young people being supported by the service has doubled since Nov 2015; from 1 July the crisis support offered has improved with services available from 9 am to 9 pm and an out of hour's service from 9 pm to 9 am. NELFT are recruiting for the Eating Disorders Service.

There was a discussion about how to deliver fully integrated children's services and plans for this to be taken forward at a separate meeting with additional partners.

Next steps

Next meeting of this group 26 September 16

Community Safety Partnership - 28 July 16

Purpose

Southend Community Safety Partnership bring together a number of partners to tackle crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in Southend.

The Partnership includes: Southend Police, Southend Borough Council, Essex Police Authority, Essex Fire and Rescue Service, Southend CCG, South Essex Homes, Southend Association of Voluntary Services (SAVS), DWP, and Probation Services. The CSP also acts as the Management Board for Drug and Alcohol and Youth Offending.

Points to note

Crime on the whole is still higher than last year with reductions in some areas such as dwelling burglary and violent crime. Bicycle theft, vehicle theft and shoplifting have increased. 101 is experiencing problems with people having to wait for hours

(on some occasions) to report a crime. Some of this is due to people ringing to seek help or report on ridiculous things which have nothing to do with the police. Work is underway to facilitate reporting through the internet to help overcome the unacceptable waiting times.

We were told about an indepth scrutiny project 'to investigate the case for additional enforcement resources for Southend'. I suggested the cause of crime be considered as part of the brief as prevention is always better and more effective.

We received and approved the YOS Youth Justice Strategic Plan and the Drug and Alcohol Manager's Report.

Next steps

Early Help Governance Group 20 July 16

Purpose

To oversee the progress being made to deliver a more targeted and integrated service to ensure children and families receive appropriate support before issues become serious or embedded.

Threshold Document has been reviewed and now signed off by LSCB. Is now being circulated. It is planned to have a formal launch of the new integrated service now that phase 1 is nearing completion.

Better Start Programme - new senior person from PSLA now in post, is reviewing all current proposals and projects. Highlighted the Test and Learn nature of the project and encourage other agencies to bring forward potential areas of focus for consideration.

OFSTED inspection which took place in May. SBC disappointed with the outcome as many areas being looked at were still being bedded in as part of the integrated plan so not yet as focused or able to demonstrate outcomes to achieve a successful inspection outcome.

Action Plans were checked for progress. Need to align work plans with the changes taking place in adult services. Low number of referrals from GP but still better than many other local authorities.

Mental health services of children - everyone expressed concern about the low level of resources and lack of integration with other areas of work. This makes this area of work a priority for the future. Issues include referral pathways, joint working and information sharing. Delays in achieving the whole Essex strategy has had an impact on this work in Southend.

Phase 2 of Early Help. Discussion about the future of this governance group and implementation of phase 2. Could this group become a sub group of Success for All as this group has overarching responsibility. SBD senior managers will discuss this and feedback.

Points to note

Will the threshold document be circulated to the voluntary sector? This was not clear.

Attendance at this group is poor with many agencies not represented or attendance being inconsistent.

If this group is discontinued will this reduce the opportunities for voluntary sector partners to be updated on progress and changes, the chance to challenge and hold others to account and be part of the 'integration' as phase 2 is rolled out?

Next steps

Wait for outcome of SBC in house discussions and plans for phase 2 governance.

Attended by Maureen Longley

Difference and Diversity Group - 14 July 16**Purpose**

This group is made up of educational professionals, SBC Staff and voluntary sector reps to look at Equality and Diversity within Schools.

Points to note

The 10 schools involved in the Equality and Diversity Champions Award are now finished their submissions and these were looked over.

The very draft format of the film was shown this will be edited by a smaller working party of the group.

The next 10 schools have been confirmed to take part this are all primary schools.

Next steps

A need for a secondary school equality and diversity offer will be developed over the summer holidays.

Attended by Dan Turpin