Merton Council
Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Date: 12 March 2019

Time: 7.15 pm

Venue: Committee Rooms C, D & E - Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX

AGENDA

**This is a public meeting – members of the public are very welcome to attend.
The meeting room will be open to members of the public from 7.00 p.m.**

For more information about the work of this and other overview and scrutiny panels, please telephone 020 8545 3390 or e-mail scrutiny@merton.gov.uk. Alternatively, visit www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny

Press enquiries: communications@merton.gov.uk or telephone 020 8545 3483 or 4093

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Public Information

Attendance at meetings

The public are welcome to attend meetings of the Council. Seating in the public gallery is limited and offered on a first come first served basis.
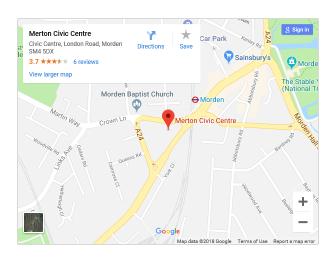
Audio/Visual recording of meetings

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Access information for the Civic Centre

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- Tramlink: Morden Road or Phipps Bridge (via Morden Hall Park)
- Bus routes: 80, 93, 118, 154, 157, 163, 164, 201, 293, 413, 470, K5

Further information can be found here

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Fire alarm

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Electronic agendas, reports and minutes

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Agendas can also be viewed online in the Borough's libraries and on the Mod.gov paperless app for iPads, Android and Windows devices.

Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel membership

Councillors:
Peter McCabe (Chair)
Andrew Howard (Vice-Chair)
Joan Henry
Sally Kenny
Rebecca Lanning
Dave Ward
Stephen Crowe
Hina Bokhari
Substitute Members:
John Dehaney
Natasha Irons
Najeeb Latif
Thomas Barlow
Carl Quilliam

Co-opted Representatives
Diane Griffin (Co-opted member, non-voting)
Saleem Sheikh (Co-opted member, non-voting)

Note on declarations of interest

Members are advised to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting. If a pecuniary interest is declared they should withdraw from the meeting room during the whole of the consideration of that mater and must not participate in any vote on that matter. If members consider they should not participate because of a non-pecuniary interest which may give rise to a perception of bias, they should declare this, .withdraw and not participate in consideration of the item. For further advice please speak with the Assistant Director of Corporate Governance.

What is Overview and Scrutiny?
Overview and Scrutiny describes the way Merton's scrutiny councillors hold the Council's Executive (the Cabinet) to account to make sure that they take the right decisions for the Borough. Scrutiny panels also carry out reviews of Council services or issues to identify ways the Council can improve or develop new policy to meet the needs of local people. From May 2008, the Overview & Scrutiny Commission and Panels have been restructured and the Panels renamed to reflect the Local Area Agreement strategic themes.

Scrutiny's work falls into four broad areas:

⇒ **Call-in**: If three (non-executive) councillors feel that a decision made by the Cabinet is inappropriate they can 'call the decision in' after it has been made to prevent the decision taking immediate effect. They can then interview the Cabinet Member or Council Officers and make recommendations to the decision-maker suggesting improvements.
⇒ **Policy Reviews**: The panels carry out detailed, evidence-based assessments of Council services or issues that affect the lives of local people. At the end of the review the panels issue a report setting out their findings and recommendations for improvement and present it to Cabinet and other partner agencies. During the reviews, panels will gather information, evidence and opinions from Council officers, external bodies and organisations and members of the public to help them understand the key issues relating to the review topic.
⇒ **One-Off Reviews**: Panels often want to have a quick, one-off review of a topic and will ask Council officers to come and speak to them about a particular service or issue before making recommendations to the Cabinet.
⇒ **Scrutiny of Council Documents**: Panels also examine key Council documents, such as the budget, the Business Plan and the Best Value Performance Plan.

Scrutiny panels need the help of local people, partners and community groups to make sure that Merton delivers effective services. If you think there is something that scrutiny should look at, or have views on current reviews being carried out by scrutiny, let us know.

For more information, please contact the Scrutiny Team on 020 8545 3390 or by e-mail on scrutiny@merton.gov.uk. Alternatively, visit www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny

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Committee: Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Date: 12 March 2019

Wards: ALL

Subject: Transitions from Children's to Adult's Services – Special Educational Needs and Disability

Lead member: Councillor Rebecca Lanning, Transitions Task Group, Chair

Contact officer: Stella Akintan, stella.akintan@merton.gov.uk; 020 8545 3390

Recommendations:

A. That the Panel consider the emerging outcomes from the Transitions task group review.

1	PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1. This report provides an update on the terms of reference and emerging findings from the review looking at transitions from children's to adult's services for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. (SEND)

2	DETAILS

2.1. In June 2018 this Panel commissioned a task group review to consider the experiences of young people who transition from children's to adult's services. The task group agreed to focus on one service area to ensure the review would be thorough and comprehensive.

2.2. The task group agreed to focus their attention on young people with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) as it emerged that this area has undergone significant service change following the Children and Families Act 2014, and associated SEND Code of Practice which recommends a more ambitious and aspirational approach to service provision. The task group also found that demand for SEND services in Merton are increasing, and it is an area of high spend within the council.

The Task Group Membership:
Cllr Rebecca Lanning (Chair)
Cllr Anthony Fairclough
Diane Griffin (Co-opted Member)
Cllr Natasha Irons
Cllr Dickie Wilkinson

The Task Group have met with the following witnesses:,
Senior Development Advisor, National Development Team for Inclusion
Service Manager, SEN Integrated Service
Interim Head of Older Adults and Disabilities
Head of Library and Heritage Services
Parents from Kids First, Merton Mencap Parents Forum

Chief Executive Merton Mencap

2.3. **The task group agreed the following terms of reference:**

2.4. Review the transitions process and make recommendations for improvement

2.5. Review opportunities to increase volunteering and employment to reduce isolation amongst adults with SEND

2.6. Review support for those with substantial needs to ensure they are able to maintain independence and not revert to critical care in future

2.7. **Emerging Findings**

2.8. With high aspirations, and the right support, the vast majority of children and young people can go on to achieve successful long-term outcomes in adult life, this includes higher education and / or employment, independent living and participating in – and contributing to – the local community[1]

2.9. To enable a good transition to adult life, a focus on life outcomes, including greater independence and employment, should be embedding into services from an early age to enable this cohort are supported to fulfil their potential and are able to contribute to society

2.10. Although the number of young people with SEND are increasing, the national eligibility criteria for adult services mean that a large proportion of young people who are eligible for children's services will not access publicly-funded adult social care. The welfare of those who do not meet the threshold but still may have substantial needs became a concern for the task group, as these young people may need additional support to prevent them from becoming more vulnerable in future.

2.11. The task group has identified a number of ways to improve the transitions process by supporting parents, carers and young people better navigate the system, and co-develop materials where appropriate.

2.12. The task group is considering a number of ways to support young people to prepare for adulthood by improving volunteering and employment opportunities for young people with SEND, especially those with more acute needs who face the greatest difficulty in accessing the job market.

2.13. The task group is in the process of finalising the review and the draft report and recommendations will be presented to this Panel in June 2019.

3 **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

The Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel can select topics for scrutiny review and for other scrutiny work as it sees fit, taking into account views and suggestions from officers, partner organisations and the public.

Cabinet is constitutionally required to receive, consider and respond to scrutiny recommendations within two months of receiving them at a meeting.

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[1] Department of Health, Department of Education (2015), Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years

3.1.   Cabinet is not, however, required to agree and implement recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny. Cabinet could agree to implement some, or none, of the recommendations made in the scrutiny review final report.

4   CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

4.1.   The Panel will be consulted at the meeting

5   TIMETABLE

5.1.   The Panel will consider important items as they arise as part of their work programme for 2019/20

6   FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

6.1.   None relating to this covering report

7   LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

7.1.   None relating to this covering report. Scrutiny work involves consideration of the legal and statutory implications of the topic being scrutinised.

8   HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

8.1.   It is a fundamental aim of the scrutiny process to ensure that there is full and equal access to the democratic process through public involvement and engaging with local partners in scrutiny reviews. Furthermore, the outcomes of reviews are intended to benefit all sections of the local community.

9   CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1.   None relating to this covering report. Scrutiny work involves consideration of the crime and disorder implications of the topic being scrutinised.

10   RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

10.1.   None relating to this covering report

11   APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

12   NOTE

13   BACKGROUND PAPERS

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