

PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

31 JANUARY 2023

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(1) QUESTION FROM DAVID WEBB TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH INTEGRATION/CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, LEARNING AND INCLUSION

What ways and strategies have Southend Council Supported adults, children prior covid after covid with mental illness such as anxiety, depression, bi-polar, autism?

Thank you for your question Mr Webb. The Living Well strategy provides adult social care with direction moving forward, this looks wider than social care and considers all aspects of a person's life and the various services available. The services prior and since Covid have not altered drastically in name, but many have adapted in terms of quality, quantity and approach used.

Services for children and adults range from universal services which are available to all, to targeted services for a specific client group, through to specialist services for people with an identified need. For universal services in adults, much has been done to encourage a move towards a more inclusive and welcoming approach, with more understanding of various client groups, working with housing to consider design in properties which makes life more comfortable especially for those with Autism. For children, universal support includes support for schools to help the mental health and wellbeing of pupils and children, and an online mental health community where young people can seek support for their mental health and emotional wellbeing.

In addition, there is the Emotional Health and Wellbeing offer published online for all our schools, so they are better equipped to support the mental health and wellbeing of all their pupils, and projects such as 'You Are Here' bands that are worn by young people and professionals to promote good emotional wellbeing and mental health and to help young people feel connected with important people in their lives. Furthermore, we support all carers via our young carers service for all carers under 18 years of age and Carers First provide support for all our adult carers, no matter the age of the person they care for.

There are targeted services such as support for adults, TrustLinks recovery college and Net Park to allow people to learn and be creative, and for children specialist counselling and therapeutic health-based coaching for individuals and family units. Specialist services such as supported living services, the Autism Navigation service with Essex County Council which is a new service from June 2022, and for children there is the Child and Adolescent Mental Health service that provides advice and support to children, young people and families who are in need of support with their emotional wellbeing or mental health difficulties.

(2) QUESTION FROM DAVID WEBB TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, LEARNING AND INCLUSION

What standards have Southend pupils in all academic Primary Schools achieved in English, Maths, Phonics assessment and was it the same level of National level or exceed in key stage 1 and key stage 2 and, if below national standard, how has the council supported the school to raise standards in English and Maths?

Thank you for your question Mr Webb. All figures quoted here are for the 2021/22 academic year primary assessments for all pupils attending primary phase in Southend schools.

As a local authority area, 68% of Southend primary pupils met the expected standard for Key Stage 1 (KS1) reading which is above national, and 68% met the expected standard in KS1 maths which matched the national figure. For Phonics, 73% of Southend pupils met the expected standard for year 1 which was below national, but 87% met the expected standard at the end of KS1 which matched national figures. For KS2, 73% of pupils achieved expected standard in reading and 69% met expected standard in maths. Both are below the national standard.

The Council, working with the Education Board and its Schools Performance Sub-Group, uses a School Performance Strategy to promote good academic performance in all schools including support for schools to raise standards in English and Maths where school outcomes fall below expected standards. This work is managed by the Head of School Performance and Provision.