

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2016

Present:

Councillor Reid – in the Chair

Councillors Sameem Ali, Collins, Midgley, Madeleine Monaghan, Reeves, Stone and Taylor

Co-opted Voting Members:

Ms E Holt, Parent governor representative

Ms M Neall, Parent governor representative

Mrs B Kellner, Representative of the Diocese of Manchester

Councillor S Newman, Executive Member for Children's Services

Councillor N Murphy, Executive Member for Neighbourhoods

Councillor Flanagan, Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources

Councillor Bridges, Assistant Executive Member for Children's Services

Apologies:

Councillors Hewitson and K Simcock

Mrs J Miles, Representative of the Diocese of Salford

Mr A Muse, Parent governor representative

Mr L Duffy, Secondary sector teacher representative

Ms J Gudgeon, Primary sector teacher representative

CYP/16/33 Minutes

Decision

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2016.

CYP/16/34 Post-Ofsted Update

A member reported that the Committee had agreed to receive a Post Ofsted Improvement Plan Update, focusing on a particular area, at every meeting but there was no report with this title on the meeting's agenda. The Strategic Director of Children's Services advised that the reports for children's services provided updates on actions taken as part of the Ofsted Improvement Plan but that this had been omitted from the title of this month's report in error. The Chair request that a Post Ofsted Improvement Plan Update be included on the agenda for all future meetings.

The Strategic Director of Children's Services reported that Ofsted had recently carried out a monitoring visit but he had not yet received their letter, confirming the findings from their visit.

Decision

To request that a Post Ofsted Improvement Plan Update be included on the agenda

for all future meetings.

CYP/16/35 Budget Process 2017-2020: Update and Next Steps

The Committee received a report of the City Treasurer which provided an overview of the budget process to date and the next steps, including details of the Budget Conversation which closed on 16 September. The Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources provided an overview of the report, explaining that the Council was setting a three-year budget and outlining the process for this, including the involvement of the scrutiny committees and engagement with the public.

The Chair reported that savings were needed due to cuts in funding from the national government. The Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources advised that the Council would have a clearer view of its future financial position after the government's Autumn Statement.

The Chair informed members that the Committee would receive more detailed information at its November meeting, when they would scrutinise the budget savings options for children's services.

Decision

To note the report.

CYP/16/36 Youth Justice Service

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of Children's Services which provided a progress update on developments within the Youth Justice Service. The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods provided an overview of the report, highlighting the reduction in funding for Manchester's Youth Justice Service and the work being carried out in this area.

The Committee discussed a range of issues relating to Youth Justice. The Chair emphasised the benefits of Restorative Justice (RJ) and the Head of Youth Justice outlined some of the RJ work taking place across Manchester. Members discussed the issues faced by Looked After Children (LAC) entering or at risk of entering the Youth Justice system, including preventative work and support for LAC who were in custody.

The Head of Youth Justice noted that the Committee had previously proposed to visit a Young Offenders Institute (YOI) and reported that most Manchester young offenders were sent to Wetherby YOI. She informed members that she and officers from other local authorities had concerns about safeguarding arrangements at Wetherby YOI, which she had shared with the relevant Boards and with Wetherby and that it had recently received a poor inspection report from Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI). However, she reported that the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Commissioner was funding a safeguarding post at Wetherby. She also shared concerns that large scale YOIs such as Wetherby were unsuitable for young offenders. She requested that she accompany members on their visit to Wetherby, to which the Chair agreed. At the recommendation of the Executive Member for

Neighbourhoods, members also agreed to invite members of the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee, as they were the Council's designated Crime and Disorder Committee, which included Youth Offending within its remit.

A member recommended that the Committee establish a Task and Finish Group to consider the issue of young people in custody in consultation with the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee, to which the Chair agreed. Members proposed that Councillors Sameem Ali, Madeleine Monaghan, Stone, Collins and Reid and Ms Neall could join the Task and Finish Group.

Decisions:

1. To arrange a visit to Wetherby Young Offenders Institute and invite members of the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee and the Head of Youth Justice to attend.
2. To propose a Task and Finish Group to consider the issue of young people in custody in consultation with the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee. To propose that Councillors Sameem Ali, Madeleine Monaghan, Stone, Collins and Reid and Ms Neall be included in the Task and Finish Group's membership.

CYP/16/37 Children and Young People's Plan

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of Children's Services which introduced the refreshed Children and Young People's Plan, developed by the multi-agency Children's Board. The plan was appended to the report. The Strategic Director of Children's Services introduced the report across its main themes.

Members welcomed the report. A member noted that the plan referred to protecting "children and young people from being exploited, including child sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation and radicalisation" and asked if this could be amended to include forced marriage. The Strategic Director of Children's Services agreed to amend this.

The Executive Member for Children's Services reported that this was an overarching plan which set out what the city wanted to achieve for all Manchester children and that it would be refreshed on an ongoing basis in consultation with children and young people. She suggested that a summarised 'plan on a page' be produced. The Chair supported this, advising that a one-page document should be produced similar to the 'Our Promise' document for LAC. She recommended that the Committee receive a further report at an appropriate time and for this to include a 'plan on a page' which could be shared more widely.

The Chair emphasised the importance of Early Years, stating that the first five years of a child's life were the most important for determining their future development. A member reported that the Ofsted Subgroup regularly considered Ofsted reports for the early years sector. The Director of Education and Skills advised that, while there were some poor providers, 86% of early years settings in the city were now judged as good or outstanding by Ofsted, which represented a significant improvement.

Decision:

To receive a further report at an appropriate time and for this to include a 'plan on a page' which could be shared more widely.

CYP/16/38 Update on Manchester's implementation of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) reforms introduced in September 2014 and information on the Local Area inspection of SEND

The Committee received a report of the Director of Education and Skills which provided members with information on the number of pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) in the local area, and how this compared with national data. The report also outlined the progress Manchester was making to implement the Special Educational Need and Disability (SEND) reforms and information on local area inspections of SEND which were introduced in summer 2016. The Director of Education and Skills introduced the report across its main themes.

A member expressed concern that the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), which funded provision for children with SEND, had not increased to meet the increasing demand. The Head of Education Strategy, Access and Inclusion informed members that the High Needs Block was not linked to pupil numbers so had not increased as Manchester's school age population had increased significantly over recent years. She outlined the expansion of additional special school places across the city and reported that these were being funded from a budget which had not increased. However, she advised that providing additional special school places within the city was more cost effective than funding places with independent providers. She also reported that there were further budget pressures due to the additional duties to provide support to children and young people with SEND up to the age of 25.

The Head of Education Strategy, Access and Inclusion informed the Committee that that the Council was awaiting the outcome of the next reform of school funding. She reported that the Council had lobbied the Department for Education (DfE) and the Education Funding Agency for the High Needs Block to be linked to pupil numbers and had been informed that it would be linked to growth in pupil numbers in future. The Chair emphasised the importance of ensuring that the High Needs Block was linked to growth in future and requested that the Committee receive confirmation of the revised funding arrangements within a future report.

In response to a member's question, the Head of Education Strategy, Access and Inclusion outlined the progress in expanding Rodney House Special School and offered to arrange a visit to the school's new site, to which the Chair agreed. She reported that the school's new site would enable the school to develop improved links with Melland High School. A member suggested that Rodney House also develop improved links with the Grange Special School.

In response to a member's question, the Head of Education Strategy, Access and Inclusion and the Lead for SEN outlined the steps being taken to meet the timescales for completing Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) and how children and their

families were being involved in contributing to both their own EHCP and wider strategic work.

Decisions:

1. To arrange a visit for members to Rodney House Special School.
2. To request that the Committee receive confirmation of the revised funding arrangements for the High Needs Blocks of the Dedicated Schools Grant within a future report.

CYP/16/39 Attainment and Attendance – Headline Outcomes 2016

The Committee received a report of the Director of Education and Skills which provided a summary of the 2016 provisional outcomes of statutory assessment at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5. The report also provided an update on the provisional school attendance figures for 2015/16. The Director of Education and Skills introduced the report across its main themes.

A member expressed concern that, while many schools were good or outstanding, there was a lack of consistency across the schools system, with a minority of schools not achieving good outcomes for their pupils. The Head of Schools Quality Assurance and Early Years outlined the action the Council was taking to address this issue including raising its concerns with the Regional Schools Commissioner, the DfE and the school as well as working with partners, such as the teaching schools, to provide support. The Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer reported that the Council's Quality Assurance Team offered support to all Manchester schools, including academies and free schools. She informed members that two former Ofsted inspectors had joined the Quality Assurance Team and these highly qualified staff were being allocated to schools which were facing the greatest challenges. A member recommended that members receive information on these struggling schools and what actions were taking place to improve their performance. The Chair recommended that the Ofsted Subgroup consider this issue in more detail, to which the Chair of the Ofsted Subgroup agreed.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Director of Education and Skills reported that the Council would receive the finalised Key Stage 4 data on 19 January 2017 but the Early Years and Key Stage 2 data would be available sooner. He reported that he would be able to provide a full report on the outcomes for the Committee's February meeting. Members discussed whether to receive the Early Years and Key Stage 2 data earlier and the Chair advised that she would discuss this with the Director of Education and Skills outside of the meeting.

Decisions:

1. To request that the Ofsted Subgroup consider in more detail information on schools which are not achieving good outcomes and the action being taken to address this.
2. To receive more detailed information on the Early Years, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 data at a future meeting.

CYP/16/40 Overview Report

A report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit was submitted. The overview report contained key decisions within the Committee's remit, responses to previous recommendations and the Committee's work programme, which the Committee was asked to approve.

The report on the Council's approach to Budget Setting 2017/18-2019/20 was received late and published in a supplementary agenda as the budget reports were published simultaneously.

Decision

To approve the work programme.