

## **Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2017**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Reid – in the Chair

Councillors Sameem Ali, Alijah [CYP/17/60 - CYP/17/65], Collins [CYP/17/58 - CYP/17/61], Lovecy, K Simcock [CYP/17/58 - CYP/17/62] and Taylor

#### Co-opted Voting Members:

Mr A Arogundade, Parent Governor Representative

Mrs B Kellner, Representative of the Diocese of Manchester

Mrs J Miles, Representative of the Diocese of Salford

Ms Z Stepan, Parent Governor Representative

#### Co-opted Non Voting Members:

Mr L Duffy, Secondary sector teacher representative

Mr R Lammas, Primary sector teacher representative

Councillor S Newman, Executive Member for Children's Services

Councillor Rahman, Executive Member for Schools, Culture and Leisure

Detective Inspector Rebecca Boyce, Greater Manchester Police (GMP)

Solange Timms, Manchester Parent Carer Forum

#### **Apologies:**

Councillors Hewitson, T Judge, Lone and Stone

Ms M Neall, Parent Governor Representative

### **CYP/17/58 Introductions and Welcomes**

The Chair welcomed the new Co-opted Members of the Committee, Parent Governor Representatives Mr Ade Arogundade and Ms Zaneta Stepan and Teacher Representative Mr Russell Lammas.

### **CYP/17/59 Minutes**

#### **Decisions**

1. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2017.
2. To receive the minutes of the Road Safety Around Schools Task and Finish Group meeting held on 22 November 2017.

### **CYP/17/60 Sport and Active Lifestyles for Children and Young People**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Education, Director of Health and Wellbeing and Strategic Lead (Parks, Leisure and Events) which provided details of the current and proposed strategy to engage with partners and parents to promote

sport and active lifestyles to children and young people.

Officers referred to the main points and themes within the report which included:

- The current approach to supporting children and young people through school, including the Physical Education, School Sport and Physical Activity (PESSPA) Strategy, Healthy Schools, Primary Premium Funding and School Based Programmes;
- The current approach to supporting children and young people in the community; and
- Barriers to participation facing children and young people.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were:

- Whether schools recruiting external sports coaches to deliver sports and physical activities in schools could result in a de-skilling of teachers, which could be detrimental if the additional funding was no longer available, and whether it was preferable to use the funding to up-skill teachers;
- The Council's role in monitoring how primary schools were using the Primary Premium Funding to improve provision of physical education (PE) and sport;
- How pupils from poorer backgrounds could be encouraged to connect with sport and the city's great sporting venues and whether Manchester United and Manchester City Football Clubs could be challenged to invest in local children and young people;
- What could be done to make community-based out of school provision more accessible, for example, floodlights to enable young people to play sports after school during the winter months;
- The decrease in young people's physical activity post-16 and whether high schools could do more to promote physical activity; and
- Schools' use of the School Swimming Service contracted to Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL).

The Director of Education reported that, while the Council did not have a specific responsibility for monitoring the spending of the Primary Premium Funding, it did have an influencing role. She advised that, as outlined in the report, a lot of activities and sporting opportunities were being made available to schools and that all primary schools were accessing at least some activities within this offer. The Sport and Leisure Lead reported that the two football clubs did not fund the attached Foundations as they were not allowed to do so under the Premier League rules. He advised that the two Foundations did a lot of good work in the city and the Council always challenged them to do more. The Commissioning Manager (Children and Young People) outlined work with the City in the Community Foundation to promote physical literacy (such as running and catching) in pre-school children. The Sport and Leisure Lead informed Members about work with the City in the Community Foundation to develop a funding application to the Premier League to support the improvement of outdoor recreational spaces. He confirmed that floodlighting of recreational spaces was also being looked at, subject to any planning issues. The Director of Education informed Members that, while PE lessons did not appeal to all young people, some high schools were good at promoting different types of physical activity such as outdoor activities, climbing walls and Zumba and encouraging young

people to access activities outside of school. She advised that further work would take place to promote physical activity through the 'healthy lifestyles' strand of the Curriculum for Life. The Sport and Leisure Lead highlighted that 83% of pupils using the School Swimming Service achieved the national curriculum pass rate – nearly double the national average, despite only 54% of them having ever been in a pool before.

## **Decisions**

1. To note the current strategy and future approach to engage with partners and parents to promote sport and active lifestyle to children and young people.
2. To receive a further report, provisionally scheduled for September 2018, to include a review of the data from the 2017/2018 academic year.

## **CYP/17/61 Multi-systemic Therapy (MST)**

The Committee received a report of the Deputy Director of Children's Services which provided an update on the progress of the evidence based intervention of Multi-systemic Therapy (MST) in Manchester. It provided information on research longitudinal studies outcomes and case studies of MST delivery in Manchester and highlighted the service and impact including school attendance.

Officers referred to the main points and themes within the report which included:

- The international and national context;
- The delivery of MST;
- The interim analysis of MST; and
- The impact of MST on school attendance.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were:

- How MST was funded;
- To what extent evidence of the success of MST from other countries was relevant;
- Why the data showed a peak in arrest rates 12 months after completing MST; and
- How MST compared to other interventions available.

The Strategic Director of Children's Services advised that MST was funded through a Social Impact Bond and that the Council would be reviewing the value for money of MST early in 2018. He highlighted that the report contained data specifically relating to Manchester's experience of MST. The Executive Member for Children's Services advised that the arrests related to a small number of young people and that no intervention had a 100% success rate. The Strategic Director suggested that the Committee consider this again as part of a wider report on the range of interventions used with children and young people on the edge of care.

## Decision

To request a report on the range of approaches used to support children and young people on the edge of care, to include the context, anonymised case studies and information on value for money.

### **CYP/17/62 Manchester City Council's Review of Protect Team; developing a Complex Safeguarding Hub**

The Committee received a presentation of the Strategic Head of Early Help and Detective Inspector Rebecca Boyce which provided an overview of the review of the Protect Team and the development of the Complex Safeguarding Hub.

The main points and themes within the presentation included:

- The work of the Phoenix Protect Team;
- A summary of progress and activity in relation to developing a Complex Safeguarding Hub; and
- Next steps.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were:

- How GMP worked with other police authorities on issues such as 'county lines' (gangs using vulnerable young people from urban areas to carry and sell drugs to other areas);
- How the Council and its partners were engaging with those working in the night-time economy who might witness exploitation; and
- How the referral process, including the Early Help assessment form, could be improved.

Detective Inspector Boyce informed Members that she had recently met with Titan, the North West Regional Organised Crime Unit, which was focusing heavily on 'county lines' and had links with other forces. She advised that Titan and neighbouring police forces had been fully briefed on developments in relation to the complex safeguarding hub and that this relationship and communication would be maintained. The Strategic Head of Early Help advised that safeguarding training was already been delivered to those working in the night-time economy and that this would continue. The Strategic Director of Children's Services acknowledged that the Early Help assessment could be time-consuming for schools and other referrers; however, he advised that the Council was receiving over 1000 referrals a month, very few of which had had an early help assessment, and that, where this had not been provided, social workers were not clear on what actions had already been taken and 37% of these referrals did not actually require social work intervention. He advised that the Council wanted to move away from the process-driven approach where schools filled in a form in order to start a conversation about a safeguarding issue and instead to build a better relationship with schools so that they felt able to have a conversation with the Council about safeguarding outside of the referral process. He informed Members about pilot projects currently taking place with schools.

## **Decision**

To note the presentation.

### **CYP/17/63 Update on National School Absence Half Terms 1-4 2016/17**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Education which provided an update on school absence for Autumn and Spring terms 2016/17 following publication of national absence figures by the Department for Education in November and also provided an update on statutory action used to support schools in addressing absence.

Officers referred to the main points and themes within the report which included:

- An analysis of the absence figures;
- Comparisons to other local authorities; and
- Statutory action.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were:

- Whether the statistics could be broken down by ethnicity;
- What the outcome was for the court cases referred to it in the report; and
- The penalties for taking holidays during term time.

The Strategic Lead (Attendance and Education Other Than at School) informed Members that she would look into whether the absence figures could be broken down by ethnicity. She advised Members that the majority of the court cases resulted in successful prosecutions and that the outcomes included fines, conditional discharges and community service. She reported that most schools had adopted the Manchester model policy on school attendance which included clear warnings on the use of fines and prosecutions for unauthorised absence and that the child could lose their school place if they were out of the country for more than 20 days during term-time.

## **Decision**

To note the report.

### **CYP/17/64 Update on Manchester's implementation of the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) reforms introduced in 2014**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Education which provided information on the numbers of children and young people with SEND in the local area, data on pupil attainment, attendance and exclusions and comparisons with national data. It also provided an update on the progress Manchester was making with implementing the Special Educational Needs and Disability reforms introduced in September 2014.

The main points and themes within the report included:

- Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) processes;
- The SEN Strategic Review;
- Early Years;
- Schools, including attendance and exclusions;
- Post-16 provision and preparing for adulthood;
- High needs funding; and
- Information, advice and support and the Local Offer.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were:

- The exclusion of children with SEND, including whether performance data such as Progress 8 encouraged schools to exclude children who could negatively impact on the school's figures;
- The length of wait for a special school place;
- The challenges facing schools in Manchester including funding issues;
- A request for a breakdown of the ethnicity of children with SEND and of the children with SEND who were excluded from school; and
- Support available for parents of children with SEND, including those who had English as an Additional Language (EAL).

The Director of Education confirmed that pupils with SEND were more likely to be excluded from school than those without SEND; however, she advised that this was partly because Manchester schools identified and put in place SEND support for these pupils and it would be more concerning if pupils were being excluded without first having been identified as having SEND and having support put in place to try to prevent them being excluded. She advised that providing sufficient special school places was a challenge and informed Members about steps being taken to expand this provision. She also outlined the funding challenges for schools including the pressure on the High Needs Block, which had a projected overspend. Solange Timms informed Members about the Manchester Parent Carer Forum, which represented the voice of parents and carers of children and young people with SEND and worked strategically with the Council and health and social care providers to improve outcomes. She advised that the Forum had representatives from different ethnic backgrounds but would welcome the opportunity to make links with different communities, for example, through Members. The SEND Lead outlined the role of parent champions and also advised that the Local Offer website had a translation feature.

## **Decisions**

1. To request a report about school funding at a future meeting, to include the impact on pupils with SEND.
2. To request a breakdown of the ethnicity of children with SEND and of the children with SEND who were excluded from school.

## **CYP/17/65 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 Chair informed Members about recent visits undertaken by the Ofsted Subgroup. She asked new Co-opted Members to inform the Scrutiny Support Officer if they wanted to join the Subgroup.

**Decision**

To note the report and approve the work programme.