

Young People and Children Scrutiny Committee – Ofsted Subgroup

Minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2015

Present:

Councillor Stone– in the Chair
Councillor Connolly and Reid
Mrs M Gadian, Co-opted Member, Teacher Representative
Mrs E Holt, Co-opted Member, Parent Governor Representative

Apologies:

Councillors Cox and Midgley
Councillor S Newman, Executive Member for Children’s Services

YPC/OSG/15/14

Minutes

Decision

To agree the minutes of the Ofsted Subgroup meeting held on 17 March 2015 as a correct record.

YPC/OSG/15/15

OfSTED Reports for Schools, Children’s Centres and Daycare Providers

The Ofsted Subgroup considered a selection of Ofsted Inspection Reports that had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. The Committee considered each report and made the following comments. With regard to King David High School, the group noted that it was an excellent report that demonstrated consistency across all aspects of the school. The group observed that the difference in the awarding of an Outstanding rating as opposed to a Good rating was dependant upon the school demonstrating this level of consistency.

The group welcomed the improvements achieved by the Manchester Enterprise Academy. The group made particular reference to the section of the report that recorded the improvements achieved in English and Mathematics. Similarly, the report for the Manchester Health Academy demonstrated a significant improvement over the previous eighteen months, the group made particular reference to the comments regarding outstanding safeguarding and provision for SEN pupils.

The group were disappointed to note the Requires Improvement rating given to the Sharston Sure Start Children’s Centre and agreed that this will be monitored. The group commented upon the importance of effective and meaningful intervention for young people and their families and how this influences their future learning and outcomes.

Following consideration of the report published for Chrysalis Manchester which awarded an Inadequate rating the group were advised that parents had been signposted to alternative providers. They were assured that there were enough providers in the locality to accommodate these children. The Subgroup agreed to continue to monitor the situation.

Decision:

1. To write to King David High School congratulating them on their recent 'Outstanding' inspection result.
2. To write to Benchill Primary School congratulating them on their recent 'Good' inspection result.
3. To write to Manchester Enterprise Academy congratulating them on their recent 'Good' inspection result and to reference the improvements achieved in regards to Maths and English.
4. To write to Manchester Health Academy congratulating them on their recent 'Good' inspection result and to reference the improvements achieved that were recognised by Ofsted.
5. To note the report of Sharston Sure Start Children's Centre, which received a 'requires improvement' rating. The Subgroup will continue to monitor the situation
6. To write to Big Life Moss Side Nursery congratulating them on their recent 'Good' inspection result.
7. To note the report of Chrysalis Manchester which received an 'Inadequate' rating. The Subgroup will continue to monitor the situation.
8. That a visit be arranged to Benchill Primary School and the Manchester Health Academy for members of the Ofsted Subgroup.

YPC/OSG/15/18

Post Ofsted Improvement Plan Update

The group considered the report of the Strategic Head of Early Help that provided an update on progress made in relation to Early Help. This included the refresh of the Strategy. The Strategic Director of Children's Services introduced the report across it's broad themes.

The Strategic Director of Children's Services described the development of the revised Manchester Common Assessment Framework (MCAF) that had been refreshed in response to the Ofsted inspection. She explained that this had been designed with input from a range of partners such as GMP. She explained that this model will provide support for lead professionals to enable them to deliver appropriate support and ensure that appropriate interventions are identified and provided for families when required.

The Strategic Director of Children's Services further explained that this will be supported by the co-design and development of three Early Help Hubs in the city. These will be established in the north, central and south localities of the city and will provide holistic support around a family, delivering an effective Early Help offer in communities.

In response to a question from the group she described how this model would be supported by the presence of a Social Worker in each hub. The rationale for this was that this would ensure that risk is assessed appropriately and those cases that required escalating to a higher tier of support are not missed. She described that this will also benefit and support other professionals working in the hubs and increase their confidence when dealing with families.

The Strategic Director of Children's Services stated that the locations for each hub are yet to be determined and work is ongoing to identify appropriate locations in each locality. She explained that she was confident that this model will deliver better services for families and deliver the improvements required by Ofsted. She said that work is ongoing to ensure that the recording of information is standardised and improvements are being made to the MICARE system. She informed the group that there would be a launch event in July 2015. The group requested that information regarding the launch event is shared with the group. The Strategic Director of Children's Services agreed to this request.

A member commented on the data provided within the report which indicated that the majority of MCAFs come from education and health services and enquired about the gaps in relation to secondary schools, midwifery and connexions. The Strategic Director of Children's Services advised that this is to be addressed. The group commented that whilst recognising the improvements required by Ofsted it was important to note that it is difficult to capture data relating to the many non formal interventions that occur that do not require MCAF, however prevent escalation and deliver positive outcomes for families.

Decision

1. The group noted the report and welcomed the progress described.
2. The group requested that the Strategic Director of Children's Services provide the members of the group with information relating to the launch event for the refreshed MCAF and Early Help Hubs.

YPC/OSG/15/19

Membership of the Ofsted Subgroup

Decision

1. To appoint Councillor Connolly as a member of the Subgroup.

YPC/OSG/15/20

Work Programme

The Subgroup considered and approved the Work Programme.

Decision

1. The next meeting of the Subgroup will be held on 8 September 2015.