

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – Ofsted Subgroup

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2016

Present:

Councillor Stone – in the Chair

Councillors Midgley and Reid [CYP/OSG/16/03 – CYP/OSG/16/06]

Ms Eve Holt, Co-opted Member, Parent Governor Representative

Mrs B Kellner, Co-opted Member, Representative of the Diocese of Manchester

Councillor S Newman, Executive Member for Children’s Services

CYP/OSG/16/01 Minute’s Silence – Orlando

The Subgroup held a minute’s silence for the victims of the terrorist attack in Orlando.

CYP/OSG/16/02 Minutes

Decision

To agree the minutes of the Ofsted Subgroup meeting held on 8 March 2016 as a correct record.

CYP/OSG/16/03 Local Government Association (LGA) Care Practice Diagnostic

The Subgroup received a report of the Strategic Lead for Children’s Social Care, which provided an overview of the Local Government Association’s Care Practice Diagnostic and outlined the resultant action plan.

The Subgroup discussed the importance of raising awareness amongst councillors of their corporate parenting responsibilities. The Chair reported that he, the Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and the Executive Member for Children’s Services would discuss how to take this issue forward outside of the meeting. The Executive Member for Children’s Services informed members that the next Labour Group meeting would focus on safeguarding, including councillors’ corporate parenting role and that safeguarding sessions were being offered to all councillors.

Decision

To note the report.

CYP/OSG/16/04 Outcome of Children’s Homes Inspection Reports

The Subgroup received a report of the Director of Children’s Services which provided an overview of Ofsted’s recent inspections of Manchester City Council-owned children’s homes and resultant action plans.

The Strategic Lead (Children’s Social Care) reported that all the inspected children’s

homes had maintained or improved their rating and the Council would continue to work to improve them further. She praised the hard work of staff to improve the homes and thanked councillors who undertook visits to children's homes under Regulation 44 of the Children's Home (England) Regulations 2015.

The Executive Member of Children's Services advised members that a review of children's homes was being carried out as there were still a number of concerns and that the proposals would be announced soon. The Chair expressed concern about children's homes accommodating six children with challenging behaviour. The Strategic Lead (Children's Social Care) advised members that this was being considered as part of the review.

The Chair requested that the report for Seymour children's home be shared with members when it is available. He also requested that, for future Ofsted inspections, the Subgroup receive a copy of Ofsted's published inspection report, rather than a summary of the report. The Director of Children's Services recommended that the Subgroup also receive the Council's action plan in response to the Ofsted report. The Chair agreed to this.

In response to a member's question, the Strategic Lead (Children's Social Care) reported that Council officers participated in a forum which shared best practice in children's residential services.

Decisions

1. To request that the report for Seymour children's home be shared with members when it is available.
2. That, for future Ofsted inspections of children's homes, the Subgroup will receive the Ofsted inspection report and the Council's action plan.

CYP/OSG/16/05 Children and Young People's Ofsted Preparation and Performance Framework

The Subgroup received a report of the Deputy Director of Children's Services which provided an overview of Ofsted preparation, including progress to date and future actions.

The Chair thanked officers for providing a frank report, including information on the challenges that the Council still faced in improving children's services.

The Subgroup discussed staff turnover and how recruitment and retention could be improved. The Executive Member for Children's Services informed members that staff turnover had reduced from 20% to 12%. The Deputy Director of Children's Services reported that good working conditions, including training and support, mobile working and appropriate caseload levels were key to recruiting and retaining staff. A member advised that the Council's use of the Signs of Safety model would also attract social workers. She also reported that the Human Resources (HR) Subgroup of the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee were looking at the HR-related issues.

Decision

To note the report.

CYP/OSG/16/06 Children's Centres

The Head of Schools Quality Assurance and Early Years provided members with an oral update on the current situation regarding Ofsted inspections of Sure Start Children's Centres. She reported that Ofsted were not currently inspecting Sure Start Children's Centres and there was no current inspection framework in place, although it was anticipated that Ofsted would start consulting on a new framework over the summer. She reported that the Council was continuing to quality assure Manchester's Sure Start Children's Centres and provided members with an overview of this work.

The Subgroup discussed the take-up of the Free Early Education Entitlement for two-year-olds. A member reported that this would be considered as part of a wider report at the next meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

Decision

To thank the Head of Schools Quality Assurance and Early Years for the update.

CYP/OSG/16/07 Ofsted Inspections of Manchester Schools

The Subgroup considered a selection of Ofsted inspection reports for Manchester schools which had been completed since the Subgroup last met. Members also received a list all Manchester schools which had been inspected since September 2015 and the judgements awarded.

The Subgroup considered the recent inspection findings from All Saints Primary School which had retained its "good" rating. The Chair welcomed the report, that pupils at the school felt safe and well cared for and the role that governors played in ensuring the school's effectiveness. The Chair noted that Ofsted had identified a need to secure a stable teaching staff and asked for further information on this. The Head of Schools Quality Assurance and Early Years reported that the school had previously had some absence. Members noted that it was a positive report and the Chair recommended that the Subgroup write to the school.

The Subgroup considered the recent inspection findings from St Dunstan's RC Primary School. The Head of Schools Quality Assurance and Early Years informed members that the school had improved from a "requires improvement" judgement to "good". The Chair noted that the school made good use of sports funding. He welcomed the report and recommended that the Subgroup write to the school.

The Subgroup considered the recent inspection findings from St John Fisher and Thomas More Catholic Primary School, which had been judged as "inadequate". The Head of Schools Quality Assurance and Early Years reported that the school had both positive aspects and areas of weakness. She informed members that, following a quality assurance exercise, the Council has expected that the school would be

judged as “requires improvement.” The Subgroup discussed the possible reasons for the discrepancy between the expected outcome and Ofsted's judgement. The Head of Schools Quality Assurance and Early Years advised members that , during the inspection period, the school had not been able to demonstrate that all pupil groups had made sufficient progress.

The Executive Member for Children's Services requested further information on the training provided for schools on Ofsted inspections. The Head of Schools Quality Assurance and Early Years advised members that this had been done through the termly Headteacher briefings and that schools also sought their own training on this. She advised members that, since the school had been placed in special measures, the Headteacher of Crossacres Primary School had been providing support to the school and that the school was willing to work with the local authority to make improvements. She also advised members that the school now had an interim management board, with local authority support, and that the school would also be supported through the Wythenshawe Catholic Academy Trust. The Chair recommended that a visit to St John Fisher and Thomas More Catholic Primary School be arranged for Ofsted Subgroup members.

The Subgroup considered the recent inspection findings from Wright Robinson College. Members welcomed an excellent report, noting that the school had improved its rating from “requires improvement” at its previous inspection to “outstanding”. The Executive Member reported that the previous judgement had been due to examination results but that both the most able pupils and disadvantaged pupils were now progressing well.

The Chair informed members that the school was very involved in the local community and local events in Gorton. Members discussed the school's “Compass Centre”, inclusive educational provision to support pupils . A member welcomed that this provided support to pupils without excluding them. The Chair reported that the school also worked well with the Pupil Referral Unit. A member praised the values and ethos of the school and asked how this could be shared with governors of other schools. The Head of Schools Quality Assurance and Early Years reported that she would ask the schools' governors if they could participate in training arranged for other governors. The Chair recommended that the Subgroup write to the school and that a visit be arranged.

Decisions

1. To write to All Saints Primary School and St Dunstan's RC Primary School, following their recent inspections.
2. That a visit be arranged to St John Fisher and Thomas More Catholic Primary School for members of the Ofsted Subgroup.
3. To write to Wright Robinson College, following their recent inspection, and to arrange a visit for members of the Ofsted Subgroup.

CYP/OSG/16/08

Daycare Providers

The Subgroup considered a selection of Ofsted inspection reports for Manchester daycare providers which had been completed since the group last met.

The Subgroup considered the recent inspection findings from Banana Moon Newton Heath. The Chair welcomed the report and that the setting had improved from “requires improvement” to “good” and recommended that the Subgroup write to the daycare provider. The Subgroup also considered the recent inspection reports for Bubbly Bear and Clever Clowns Day Nursery which had both been judged as “good”, and recommended that the Subgroup write to these daycare providers.

The Subgroup considered the recent inspection findings from Kiddywinks Day Nursery. The Chair noted that the setting had improved from “inadequate” at its previous inspection to “requires improvement”. The Executive Member for Children's Services advised that it was difficult to make a profit as a daycare provider and that some of the issues in the report, such as the quality of the toys and resources, might be related to that. In response to a member's question, the Head of Schools Quality Assurance and Early Years reported that funding for two-year-olds at the setting would be reinstated now that it was no longer judged as “inadequate”. She advised members that the daycare provider was working with the Council to improve its provision.

Decision

To write to Banana Moon Newton Heath, Bubbly Bear and Clever Clowns Day Nursery, following their recent inspections.

CYP/OSG/16/09

Terms of Reference and Work Programme

The Chair reported that he would be meeting with the Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and the Executive Member for Children's Services to discuss the work programmes for the Ofsted Subgroup, the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and the Corporate Parenting Panel.

The Subgroup discussed whether holding meetings at a different time would enable more members to join the Subgroup. The Chair requested that the Committee Support Officer e-mail all members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to ask whether members would prefer the next meeting of the Ofsted Subgroup to be held at 5pm instead of 10am.

Decisions

1. To note the terms of reference and work programme.
2. To ask the Committee Support Officer to e-mail all members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to ask whether members would prefer the next meeting of the Ofsted Subgroup to be held at 5pm instead of 10am.