

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – Ofsted Subgroup

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2017

Present:

Councillor Stone – in the Chair
Councillors Collins and Reid

Mrs B Kellner, Co-opted Member, Representative of the Diocese of Manchester
Ms M Neall, Co-opted Member, Parent Governor Representative

Councillor S Newman, Executive Member for Children's Services

Apologies:

Councillors K Simcock and Taylor

CYP/OSG/17/01 Minutes

Decision

To agree the minutes of the Ofsted Subgroup meeting held on 13 December 2016 as a correct record.

CYP/OSG/17/02 School Visits

A member reported back on the Subgroup's recent visit to Levenshulme High School for Girls, advising that the Executive Headteacher and the Headteacher had informed them of the changes made which had resulted in their Ofsted judgement improving from 'inadequate' to 'outstanding'. She advised that the school had focused on how to make improvements for the benefit of the pupils rather than for Ofsted. She reported that they had been taken on a tour of the school and talked to pupils, both of which had given them a very positive impression of the school. Members discussed how the pupils were provided with strong female role models and encouraged to develop critical thinking and participate in sport. The Chair recommended that the Subgroup write to the school to thank them for accommodating the visit.

Another member reported back on the Subgroup's recent visit to The Birches School. She advised members that they had met with the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and Chair of Governors, had a tour of the school, including the outdoor space, and had watched the school choir which, she reported, had been excellent. She reported that the children were well-behaved and enjoying themselves. She commented that they had been advised of the facilities and services provided for the pupils, including services which the school bought in, such as speech therapy. She reported that the Headteacher had raised concerns that the school was only being informed in July about children who were due to start school in September and that, if they were informed earlier, they could provide a better transition to school for these children and offer places in their Early Years provision. Another member reported that occupational therapy had a positive impact on pupils but that the occupational therapist was only in school one day a week and the school was trying to arrange for other staff to be trained in using the occupational therapy equipment. The Chair

reported that the Headteacher was also concerned about the level of funding in the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant. The Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer reported that a meeting was taking place between special school Headteachers and the Council this week to discuss budgets. The Chair recommended that the Subgroup write to The Birches to thank them for accommodating the visit and report that members had noted their concerns and raised them at today's meeting.

Decisions

1. To write to Levenshulme High School to thank them for accommodating the visit.
2. To write to The Birches School to thank them for accommodating the visit and inform them that members had noted their concerns and raised them at today's meeting.

CYP/OSG/17/03

Ofsted Inspections of Manchester Schools

The Subgroup considered the recent inspection findings from The Barlow RC High School, which had been judged as 'requires improvement'. The Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer reported that staffing issues had impacted on the school's performance, as the school's Deputy Headteacher had left, and the school had struggled with recruitment and retention in some areas. However, she advised that there were now permanent staff in place which should over time result in improvements. She informed members that the school had also started to engage more with the Council's Quality Assurance Team, which the Chair welcomed. Members discussed some of the concerns highlighted in the report, while also noting that there were some positive aspects of the report, such as pupil behaviour. The Chair recommended that a visit be arranged to The Barlow for members of the Ofsted Subgroup and that the Subgroup receive an update on the school in 12 months' time.

The Subgroup considered the recent inspection findings from the Connell Sixth Form College, which had been judged as 'requires improvement'. The Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer informed members that the College was part of the Bright Futures Education Trust. She highlighted some of the areas of concern raised in the report. She informed the Subgroup that a new Headteacher was starting to have an impact on the College's performance and that the College had this year started engaging with the Council's Quality Assurance Team. She advised, however, that these changes were too late to impact on the outcome of the Ofsted inspection.

A member reported that she was a governor at the College and advised members that the new Headteacher and the governing body were working hard to improve the College's performance. She expressed concern at the percentage of the College's budget which was retained by the Trust. The Chair commented that it was a disappointing report, although he acknowledged that there had been some improvements.

The Subgroup considered the recent inspection findings from Moston Fields Primary School, which had been judged as 'requires improvement'. The Senior Schools

Quality Assurance Officer drew members' attention to some of the areas of concern highlighted in the report but advised that the report also recognised improvements in some areas. She advised that the school had always engaged with the local authority and that a new Headteacher had started in January 2017. A member welcomed that a new Headteacher was now in post. Members discussed some of the areas of concern within the report, including aspects of the early years provision and that, while the children were keen to learn, they were not achieving to their full potential. The Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer reported that the new Headteacher was an experienced Headteacher from another Manchester school and had also been an early years specialist in a previous role. The Chair recommended that a visit be arranged to Moston Fields Primary School for members of the Ofsted Subgroup and that the Executive Member for Children's Services be invited to attend.

The Subgroup considered the recent inspection findings from St Chrysostom's C of E Primary School. The Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer reported that in 2011 the school had been judged as 'outstanding' under a previous Ofsted framework. She advised that the school had had a period of leadership instability, with no permanent Headteacher in place, but that a new Executive Headteacher had been appointed who had made a significant contribution to ensuring that the school obtained a 'good' judgement in its recent inspection. The Executive Member for Children's Services advised that this was a good report under the circumstances. The Chair noted that the school was judged as good across all areas. He recommended that the Subgroup write to the school to congratulate them on their Ofsted report and to welcome the new Executive Headteacher to the city.

The Subgroup considered the recent inspection findings from The Willows Primary School. The Chair welcomed a positive report, noting that the school had improved from 'requires improvement' to 'good'. The Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer reported that the school had been disappointed with the previous judgement but had recognised the improvements that were needed and had worked hard to achieve them. Members welcomed that the interesting curriculum encouraged children to learn and that the report stated that the school was continuing to improve. The Chair recommended that the Subgroup write to the school to congratulate them on the report.

Decisions

1. To arrange a visit to The Barlow RC High School for members of the Ofsted Subgroup and to receive an update on the school in 12 months' time.
2. To arrange a visit to Moston Fields Primary School for members of the Ofsted Subgroup and to invite the Executive Member for Children's Services to attend, if she is available.
3. To write to St Chrysostom's Primary School to congratulate them on their Ofsted report and to welcome the new Executive Headteacher to the city.
4. To write to The Willows Primary School to congratulate them on their Ofsted report.

CYP/OSG/17/04

Daycare Providers

The Subgroup considered the recent inspection findings from the Leo Kelly Centre

Nursery, which had been judged as 'outstanding'. A member noted that there were only two children on the roll. The Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer advised members that the nursery was attached to a hospital school so had a high turnover of children but that the inspection would have considered a range of evidence including information on children who had left the setting. The Executive Member for Children's Services informed members that the nursery enabled teenage mothers to continue their education. The Chair recommended that the Subgroup write to the Leo Kelly Centre to congratulate them on being judged 'outstanding'.

The Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer provided members with an overview of the Ofsted judgements for Early Years providers. She reported that, since the beginning of the new inspection cycle on 1 September 2016, there had been 43 inspection reports published for Early Years providers in Manchester. She reported that, of these, 13 had improved their previous grade, 1 had dropped a grade, 10 had maintained their previous grade and 9 were first graded inspections. She also advised that 5 had been graded 'outstanding', 25 had been graded 'good', 2 had been graded 'requires improvement' and 1 had been graded 'inadequate'.

The Chair welcomed this information, reporting that the Subgroup had considered some of the poorer settings at its meetings but he was pleased to see that most providers were 'good' or better. The Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer reported that the Early Years Quality Assurance Team was working effectively with providers to achieve improvements.

Decision

To write to the Leo Kelly Centre to congratulate them on their Ofsted report.

CYP/OSG/17/05

Terms of Reference and Work Programme

Members proposed that the Subgroup be re-established in the 2017/2018 municipal year and that the first meeting be arranged for Tuesday 6 June 2017 at 10.00am.

Decision

To request that Subgroup be re-established in the 2017/2018 municipal year, subject to the approval of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, and that the first meeting be arranged for Tuesday 6 June 2017 at 10.00am.