

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – Ofsted Subgroup

Minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2017

Present:

Councillor Stone – in the Chair
Councillors Alijah, Collins, T Judge, Reid and Taylor

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
Councillor Battle, Executive Member for Schools

CYP/OSG/17/06 Minutes

Decision

To agree the minutes of the Ofsted Subgroup meeting held on 14 February 2017 as a correct record.

CYP/OSG/17/07 Exclusion of the Public

A recommendation was made that the public be excluded during consideration of the next item of business.

Decision

To exclude the public during consideration of the following item which contains exempt information as provided for in the Local Government Access to Information Act and where the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information

CYP/OSG/17/08 Ofsted Inspections of Manchester Children's Homes (Public Excluded)

The Subgroup considered an Ofsted inspection report for a Manchester City Council-owned children's home and the Council's action plan in response to the report. The Head of Service (Looked After Children) provided an overview and answered Members' questions.

Decisions

1. To request that the Subgroup receive an update on progress in six months' time.
2. To note that the Corporate Parenting Panel will consider the support, including therapeutic support, received by Looked After Children.

CYP/OSG/17/09

Ofsted Inspections of Manchester Schools

Following the re-admittance of the public to the room, the Subgroup considered an inspection report for Chapel Street Primary School, which had been judged as 'requires improvement'. The Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer reported that the school had previously been judged as 'good' and, as a consequence of this, the school leadership team did not feel that they needed additional support from the local authority. She informed Members that the Council had raised concerns with the school and that they had subsequently agreed to a package of support. She advised that a new Headteacher had started this academic year and there were signs of rapid improvement.

A Member advised that she had previously been a governor at the school and that the new Chair of Governors was good and that she felt the school was now improving. In response to a Member's question, the Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer reported that termly briefings were held for Chairs of Governors to help them in their role and, where governance was identified as an issue in its Ofsted report, the Council offered the school a governance review.

A Member noted that the school had expanded rapidly, in order to accommodate increasing pupil numbers in the city and the Subgroup discussed the impact of this on schools. The Executive Member for Schools reported that some schools had coped well with expansion and there was a need to identify good practice and put support in place for expanding schools. The Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer advised Members that her team offered support to expanding schools but the schools had to be willing to accept this support.

The Subgroup considered an inspection report for Cravenwood Primary Academy, which had been judged as 'good'. The Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer reported that, prior to the school becoming an academy, the local authority had wanted to establish an Interim Executive Board, in place of the governing body, due to concerns but that this had been refused by the Department for Education (DfE). She reported that the school had subsequently been placed in special measures, following which the Council had been able to intervene and replace the governing body. She informed members that the school had then started to improve and, following its conversion to an academy, had continued to improve.

The Chair welcomed a positive report and recommended that the Subgroup write to Cravenwood Primary Academy to congratulate them on their Ofsted report and that a visit to the school be arranged for Members of the Subgroup.

The Subgroup considered an inspection report for Cringle Brook Primary School, which had been judged as 'outstanding' at its first inspection. The Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer informed Members that this was a free school which had opened with local authority support and that it currently had children in reception and years 1 and 2. A Member welcomed the comment in the report that the curriculum was 'unique, stimulating and expertly planned' and advised that this should be used as an example to other schools.

In response to Members' questions, the Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer

outlined the schools which had Executive Head Teachers and how schools worked in partnership to further school improvement. She advised that Manchester had a family of schools, including academies, which worked well together.

The Chair welcomed the report and recommended that the Subgroup write to Cringle Brook Primary School to congratulate them on their Ofsted report and that a visit to the school be arranged for Members of the Subgroup.

The Subgroup considered an inspection report for Manchester Creative Studio, which had been judged as 'inadequate'. The Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer reported that the Council had raised concerns about the school with the DfE through the Regional Schools Commissioner, both before and after the inspection, and had visited the school due to safeguarding concerns. She reported that another Trust had been identified to provide intensive support to the school and that the Council would be commissioning a safeguarding audit in the Autumn term. In response to a Member's question, she advised that the Council had concerns about the governing body but did not have powers of intervention.

Members expressed concerns at the failings highlighted in the report. The Executive Member for Children's Services reported that the Council did not support the establishment of this school and this model of education for 14 to 19 year olds and that the model had not worked.

The Chair recommended that the Subgroup write to the DfE to express concern about the school and this model of education and advised that he would liaise with the Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer regarding this. He noted that the Collective Spirit Academy Trust, which ran the school, also had another school in Oldham with similar problems.

The Subgroup considered an inspection report for Oasis Academy Aspinall, which had been judged as 'good'. The Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer reported that this had been one of the first wave of schools in Manchester to convert to an academy, joining the Oasis Community Learning Multi-Academy Trust. She reported that following the departure of the Headteacher, Oasis had brought in an Executive Headteacher and, since then, the school had been improving year on year. The Chair recommended that the Subgroup write to Oasis Academy Aspinall to congratulate them on their Ofsted report.

The Subgroup considered an inspection report for Rodney House School, which had maintained its judgement of 'outstanding' at its recent inspection. The Chair reported that the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee had visited the school at its new site and that it had been a pleasure to visit. The Executive Member for Children's Services reported that the school did excellent work with children who had challenging issues. A Member welcomed that the pupil voice was embedded into the work of the school and that the school was meeting the needs and interests of individual children. The Chair recommended that the Subgroup write to Rodney House School to congratulate them on their Ofsted report.

Decisions

1. To write to Cravenwood Primary Academy to congratulate them on their Ofsted report and to arrange a visit to the school for Members of the Ofsted Subgroup.
2. To write to Cringle Brook Primary School to congratulate them on their Ofsted report and to arrange a visit to the school for Members of the Ofsted Subgroup.
3. To write to the Department for Education to express the Subgroup's concerns about Manchester Creative Studio and this model of education more broadly.
4. To write to Oasis Academy Aspinall to congratulate them on their Ofsted report.
5. To write to Rodney House School to congratulate them on their Ofsted report.

CYP/OSG/17/10

Daycare Providers

The Subgroup considered an inspection report for Moss Side Nursery, which had recently changed its name to The Beehive Nursery. The Early Years Senior Quality Assurance Officer reported that the provision had been judged as 'inadequate' in January 2016, as 'requires improvement' in June 2016 and, at its most recent inspection, had again been judged as 'inadequate'. She advised Members that most of the places in the provision were funded places. She also informed Members that approximately two weeks before the inspection, the provision had been taken over by a new owner.

In response to a Member's question, the Early Years Senior Quality Assurance Officer informed Members that a new manager and deputy manager had been appointed and that the provision was now taking steps to improve, including engaging with local authority support. The Executive Member for Children's Services reported that, where day care providers continued to be 'inadequate', the local authority removed funding for free early years places.

The Chair expressed disappointment at the report and recommended that the Subgroup continue to monitor progress. He advised Members that the reports selected for the Subgroup to consider were not representative of day care providers across the city and only a small number were 'inadequate'.

The Subgroup considered an inspection report for Didsbury Childminding Services, which had been judged 'inadequate'. The Early Years Senior Quality Assurance Officer informed Members that the owner had been an 'outstanding' childminder who had decided to run a day care setting and that this change had been challenging for her. She reported that the provider was working closely with the Council's Quality Assurance Team to address the issues raised, had visited other settings to learn from them and was making progress. In response to a question from the Chair, she informed Members that the setting was likely to be re-inspected around September time.

The Subgroup considered an inspection report for Tiddlywinks Day Nursery Limited in Ancoats, which had been judged as 'outstanding'. The Early Years Senior Quality Assurance Officer reported that this setting had received a special commendation for its work with children with special educational needs and was a peer supporter for

other settings. The Chair welcomed the excellent report and recommended that the Subgroup write to the setting to congratulate them on their Ofsted report and that a visit be arranged for Members of the Subgroup.

Decisions

1. To monitor the progress of Moss Side Nursery (The Beehive).
2. To write to Tiddlywinks Ancoats to congratulate them on their Ofsted report and to arrange a visit for Members of the Ofsted Subgroup.

CYP/OSG/17/11

Terms of Reference and Work Programme

The Subgroup reviewed the terms of reference and work programme and requested that further meetings be arranged for Tuesday 17 October 2017 and Tuesday 16 January 2018, both at 10.00 am.

Decision

To request that further meetings be arranged for Tuesday 17 October 2017 and Tuesday 16 January 2018, both at 10.00 am.