

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – Ofsted Subgroup

Minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2017

Present:

Councillor Stone – in the Chair
Councillors Alijah, 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
Councillor Rahman, Executive Member for Schools, Culture and Leisure

Apologies:

Councillor Taylor

CYP/OSG/17/15 Minutes

Decision

To agree the minutes of the Ofsted Subgroup meeting held on 12 September 2017 as a correct record.

CYP/OSG/17/16 Feedback from Visits

A Member provided feedback on the visit to Tiddlywinks Day Nursery in Ancoats. She advised that it was a very impressive setting which had clearly thought about the different age groups and what stimulated them. She welcomed that the setting had a large outdoor area, sensory gardens and large mud kitchens.

The Chair provided feedback on the visit to Moston Fields Primary School. He advised that the school had been judged as 'requires improvement' at its last Ofsted inspection but that a new headteacher had started in January who seemed to be making a big difference to the school. He advised that Members had been shown round the school by some of the pupils, including the large outdoor area, which had allotments and chickens.

The Chair informed Members that he had written to both Tiddlywinks and Moston Fields Primary School to thank them for accommodating the visits.

CYP/OSG/17/17 Ofsted Inspections of Manchester Schools

The Chair welcomed that all the Manchester schools whose Ofsted reports had been published since the Subgroup last looked at schools reports in June 2017 had been judged as 'good'. The Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer reported that 95% of Manchester schools were now judged as 'good' or better and that many were working towards being 'outstanding'. He advised that a former Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI) had been contracted to deliver a conference in Manchester on 'Working Towards Excellence', arranged through the Manchester Schools' Alliance. A Member

requested to be invited to this.

The Subgroup considered an inspection report for Ringway Primary School. The Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer reported that Ofsted had carried out a one-day inspection and had judged that the school continued to be 'good'. A Member welcomed the school's pro-active approach to improvement. Members also discussed the challenges of receiving pupils into Reception from a range of pre-school settings. A Member expressed concern that the inspector had been unable to speak to a representative from the local authority and the Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer reported that he would look into this. The Chair recommended that the Subgroup write to Ringway 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 The Divine Mercy Roman Catholic Primary School, which had maintained its judgement of 'good', with its Early Years provision now judged as 'outstanding'. Members discussed the diversity of the school's catchment area, what could be done to improve the progress of White British and Black Caribbean pupils and how to engage with parents, including those who had English as an Additional Language (EAL). The Executive Member for Children's Services noted the seamless transition between Nursery and Reception Years and advised that this needed to flow across the whole of the school. Members discussed whether the range of extra-curricular activities put additional pressure on staff and also whether the children who were completing their homework at lunchtime should be out playing instead. The Chair recommended that the Subgroup write to The Divine Mercy Roman Catholic Primary School to congratulate them on their Ofsted report.

The Subgroup considered an inspection report for Bowker Vale Primary School, which had maintained its judgement of 'good'. The Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer highlighted the inspirational leadership of the headteacher and senior leadership team, the pupils' excellent behaviour and the strong safeguarding arrangements. A Member expressed concern that Ofsted's report was not written clearly and was not specific enough on what needed to improve. A Member welcomed that the pupils' wider skills, such as communication skills, were being developed. The Chair welcomed the report and recommended that the Subgroup write to Bowker Vale Primary School to congratulate them on their Ofsted report.

The Subgroup considered an inspection report for Alma Park Primary School, which had maintained its judgement of 'good'. The Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer highlighted the senior leadership team's understanding of the school's many strengths and the areas which still required further improvement, the wide range of opportunities offered to pupils and the very effective safeguarding arrangements. A Member who was also Chair of Governors at Alma Park Primary School advised that Key Stage 2 results still needed to improve further. She reported that development and support had been put in place for teachers, following a change in the criteria, but that this work had still to filter through to the results. The Chair highlighted that the school was a specialist resourced provision for hearing impaired children. He recommended that the Subgroup write to the school to congratulate them on their Ofsted report.

Decisions

1. To write to Ringway Primary School 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 The Divine Mercy Roman Catholic Primary School to congratulate them on their Ofsted report.
3. To write to Bowker Vale Primary School to congratulate them on their Ofsted report.
4. To write to Alma Park Primary School to congratulate them on their Ofsted report.

[Ms Neall declared a personal interest as the Chair of Governors at Alma Park Primary School]

CYP/OSG/17/18

Daycare Providers

The Subgroup considered an inspection report for Building Blocks Day Nursery, which had been judged as 'good'. The Executive Member for Children's Services commented that this was a positive report. The Senior Quality Assurance Officer (Early Years) highlighted that managers sought the views of staff, parents and other professionals to support their self-evaluation, noting that some other settings struggled with self-evaluation. The Chair recommended that the Subgroup write to Building Blocks Day Nursery to congratulate them on their Ofsted report.

The Subgroup considered an inspection report for Carisbrook Day Nursery, which had improved its judgement from 'good' to 'outstanding'. The Senior Quality Assurance Officer (Early Years) reported that this was one of the Council's tendered sites and that the provider worked well with the Council, had a very capable manager and was spreading good practice across its organisation. Members welcomed that the nursery encouraged children to solve minor conflicts for themselves. The Chair welcomed the report and recommended that the Subgroup write to Carisbrook Day Nursery to congratulate them on their Ofsted report and that a visit to the nursery be arranged.

The Subgroup considered an inspection report for Kiddi Days (Moss Side). The Chair noted that it had improved from 'inadequate' to 'requires improvement' and now had some strengths. The Senior Quality Assurance Officer (Early Years) informed Members that this was also a tendered site. She reported that the setting could not take new funded children until it was judged to be 'good'. The Executive Member for Children's Services reported that the setting had been engaging with the Council and was working to improve.

The Subgroup considered an inspection report for Precious Kids Day Nursery, which had been judged 'inadequate'. The Senior Quality Assurance Officer (Early Years) reported that the registered person had been a good childminder who had decided to run a nursery but had found this challenging. She advised that, since the Ofsted judgement, the setting had been working closely with the Council's Quality Assurance Team and that all Welfare Requirements listed in the report had now been

met. She reported that the provider had now recruited a manager and that the setting was improving. Members discussed the challenges of moving from being a childminder to running a nursery. In response to a Member's question, the Senior Quality Assurance Officer (Early Years) reported that the setting could not take any new funded children but that those already at the setting could continue to be funded. She advised that the Council wrote to parents to inform them that the setting had been judged 'inadequate' and told them about alternative settings but that many chose to stay. A Member, who was also the Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, expressed concern that Ofsted could register new settings without Council approval and that it could be up to two-and-a-half years before they received their first Ofsted inspection. She advised that this issue would be discussed further at a future meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee. The Chair recommended that the Subgroup visit Precious Kids Day Nursery.

The Subgroup considered an inspection report for Super Camps at William Hulme's Grammar School. The Chair welcomed that the setting had been improved from 'requires improvement' to 'good' and recommended that the Subgroup write to them to congratulate them on their Ofsted report.

The Chair reported that the Subgroup had previously requested to visit Lemon Tree Pre-School on Stockport Road but had not received a response from the setting on whether they could accommodate a visit. The Senior Quality Assurance Officer (Early Years) agreed to follow this up with the setting.

Decisions

1. To write to Building Blocks Day Nursery to congratulate them on their Ofsted report.
2. To write to Carisbrook Day Nursery to congratulate them on their Ofsted report and to arrange a visit for Members of the Ofsted Subgroup.
3. To arrange a visit to Precious Kids Day Nursery for Members of the Ofsted Subgroup.
4. To write to Super Camps at William Hulme's Grammar School to congratulate them on their Ofsted report.

CYP/OSG/17/19

Terms of Reference and Work Programme

Decision

To agree the work programme.