

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – Ofsted Subgroup

Minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2016

Present:

Councillor Stone – in the Chair
Councillors Midgley and K Simcock [CYP/OSG/16/12 - CYP/OSG/16/17]
Councillor S Newman, Executive Member for Children’s Services
Councillor Rahman, Executive Member for Culture and Leisure

Apologies:

Councillors Reid, Reeves and Taylor
Ms Eve Holt, Co-opted Member, Parent Governor Representative
Mrs B Kellner, Co-opted Member, Representative of the Diocese of Manchester

CYP/OSG/16/10 Minutes

Decision

To agree the minutes of the Ofsted Subgroup meeting held on 14 June 2016 as a correct record.

CYP/OSG/16/11 School Visits

Members discussed the Subgroup’s recent visits to St John Fisher and Thomas More Catholic Primary School and Wright Robinson College. The Chair reported that St John Fisher and Thomas More Catholic Primary School were aware of the issues which had resulted in their ‘inadequate’ rating and had action plans in place to address these. The Chair reported that the visit to Wright Robinson College had been excellent. The Director of Education and Skills outlined how the school had improved pupils’ behaviour and engendered a sense of belonging and reported that this had now resulted in improved educational outcomes.

Decision

To write to Wright Robinson College and St John Fisher and Thomas More Catholic Primary School to thank them for accommodating the Subgroup’s visit.

CYP/OSG/16/12 A report on Manchester Primary Premium Spend and Emerging Strategic Plan

The Subgroup received a report of the Director of Education and Skills which provided information relating to the provision of Physical Education, School Sport and Physical Activity (PESSPA) in Manchester primary schools. The report provided a full analysis of primary premium funding in Manchester and how schools were prioritising funding.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Strategic Lead for School Sport reported that Ofsted inspections took into account the quality of sports provision in schools.

A member asked how this investment was being monitored. The Strategic Lead acknowledged that monitoring had been an issue, particularly in terms of demonstrating the outcomes of the spending. She reported that new guidance was due to be issued by the Department for Education (DfE), to coincide with an increase in funding. She advised that the Manchester PESSPA Strategy Board would encourage schools to become more accountable and demonstrate measurable outcomes.

The Executive Member for Children's Services reported that it was important that all children were physically active and that activities weren't just for those children who were already physically active and who were good at sport. The Strategic Lead reported that officers were developing a strategy which included an action plan to target less active children.

The Strategic Lead reported that there were a wide range of opportunities which schools could engage in and the challenge was to encourage schools to take up these opportunities. A member advised that members could encourage schools to do this, both as local councillors and as school governors. The Strategic Lead for School Sport reported that officers were working with schools to provide a targeted offer.

The Strategic Lead offered to provide the Subgroup with further information when the new funding was announced and the new framework was in place, to which the Chair agreed.

Decisions

1. To note the report.
2. To receive further information when the new funding is announced and the new framework is in place.

CYP/OSG/16/13 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 Burnage Academy for Boys which had been judged as "requires improvement". Members noted that there were some positive elements within the report. The Head of Schools Quality Assurance and Early Years informed members that the Council had commissioned two former Ofsted inspectors to join her Quality Assurance Team and that the Council had offered the support of one of them to Burnage Academy to support the school's improvement. In response to a question from the Chair, the Head of Schools Quality Assurance and Early Years reported that the school would receive a series of monitoring visits from Ofsted.

The Subgroup considered the recent inspection findings from Chorlton High School

which had retained its “good” rating. The Director of Education and Skills reported that this judgement was particularly significant because Chorlton High School was the lead school in a multi-academy trust (CHS Learning Trust) which was working to increase capacity in the local school system. The Chair recommended that the Subgroup write to the school and that a visit be arranged.

The Subgroup considered the recent inspection findings from Saviour CE Primary School. The Chair welcomed that the school had improved from ‘requires improvement’ to ‘good’ and emphasised the important role of the governing body, which had been praised in the report. The Chair recommended that the Subgroup write to the school and that a visit be arranged.

Decisions

1. To write to Chorlton High School following their recent inspection, and to arrange a visit for members of the Ofsted Subgroup.
2. To write to Saviour Primary School following their recent inspection, and to arrange a visit for members of the Ofsted Subgroup.

CYP/OSG/16/14 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 Lemon Tree Manchester Ltd, which had been judged as ‘inadequate’. The Head of Schools Quality Assurance and Early Years reported that the Council’s Quality Assurance Team was supporting the provider to make improvements but that the high turnover of staff and managers made this difficult. She reported that the Council was no longer funding free childcare places at this provision and was signposting parents entitled to this provision elsewhere. The Chair requested that the Subgroup be provided with further updates on this provider.

The Subgroup considered the recent inspection findings from Barlow Moor Community Association. The Head of Schools Quality Assurance and Early Years reported that the setting had improved from ‘requires improvement’ to ‘good’ and that this was due to the high quality of the leadership and management. A member reported that she was on the board of directors of the Association and confirmed that the new manager was excellent and there was a good team ethos at the setting. The Chair welcomed the improvements made and recommended that the Subgroup write to the provider to congratulate them on this improvement.

Decisions

1. To request that members be provided with an update on Lemon Tree Manchester Ltd.
2. To write to Barlow Moor Community Association, congratulating them on improving from ‘requires improvement’ to ‘good’.

CYP/OSG/16/15 Terms of Reference and Work Programme

Members discussed the future meeting timings and agreed that the next meeting of the Subgroup would take place on Tuesday 13 December at 5.30 pm.

Decisions

1. To approve the terms of reference and work programme.
2. To agree that the next meeting of the Subgroup will take place on Tuesday 13 December at 5.30 pm.

CYP/OSG/16/16 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 involved consideration of exempt information which was likely to reveal the identity of an individual and public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

CYP/OSG/16/17 Ofsted Inspections of Manchester Children's Homes

The Subgroup received a report of the Strategic Director of Children's Services which provided information on the outcomes of the two most recent inspections of Manchester's in-house children's homes.

Members discussed a range of issues relating to children's homes, including the role of visitors carrying out inspections of children's homes under Regulation 44 of the Children's Home (England) Regulations 2015.

The Chair recommended that the Subgroup write to the staff at the two homes named in the report, thanking them for their hard work.

Decisions

To write a letter to both Children's Homes to thank the staff for their hard work.