

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – Ofsted Subgroup

Minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2018

Present:

Councillor Lovecy – in the Chair

Councillors Hewitson, T Judge [CYP/OSG/18/15 - CYP/OSG/18/18] and Stone

Councillor Bridges, Executive Member for Children’s Services

Councillor Rahman, Executive Member for Schools, Culture and Leisure

Councillor Curley, Ward Councillor for Charlestown

Councillor Y Dar, Ward Councillor for Moston

Councillor Karney, Ward Councillor for Harpurhey

Apologies:

Mr R Lammas, Primary sector teacher representative

Ms M Neall, Parent Governor Representative

CYP/OSG/18/15 Minutes

Decision

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2018.

CYP/OSG/18/16 Exclusion of the Public

A recommendation was made that the public be excluded during consideration of the next item of business because it contained exempt information as provided for in the Local Government Access to Information Act and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

Decision

To exclude the public during consideration of the following item of business.

CYP/OSG/18/17 Action Plan for St Matthew’s High School (Public Excluded)

The Subgroup considered the Ofsted Improvement Action Plan in relation to St Matthew’s High School which had been judged ‘inadequate’ at its last Ofsted inspection.

Officers referred to the main points and themes within the Action Plan.

Members questioned officers on the steps being taken, both in the short-term to assist pupils who would be taking GCSEs within the next year, and to secure longer-term improvements to the school. Members noted the importance of effective communications with parents during this period and also requested better communications with Ward Councillors.

Decision

To recommend that education officers meet with Ward Councillors from the wards that the school primarily serves to discuss education issues in this part of the city.

CYP/OSG/18/18 Ofsted Inspections of Manchester Schools

Following the re-admittance of the public to the room, the Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer provided Members with an overview of the Ofsted inspections of Manchester schools which had taken place during the 2017 – 2018 academic year and offered to circulate a note containing this information to Members.

The Subgroup considered an inspection report for Newall Green High School which had been judged 'inadequate'. The Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer informed Members that the school had become a sponsored academy and had then become part of a bigger trust, the Prospere Trust. He advised that, as it was an academy, it was within the remit of the Regional Schools Commissioner and he outlined the limitations on the actions that the Council could take due to the school's status.

The Head of School Quality Assurance and Strategic Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) informed Members that the Prospere Trust had taken on responsibility for the school in September 2017 and had taken robust action, including replacing the head teacher. She outlined what steps the Council had taken to address the concerns raised by Ofsted but advised that they were working within a tight framework of what they were allowed to do.

The Executive Member for Schools, Culture and Leisure suggested that the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee invite the Regional Schools Commissioner and Damian Hinds, the Minister for Education, to a future meeting, to which Members agreed.

Members expressed concern at the issues raised within the report, highlighting that school leaders and governors did not appear to have a clear understanding of what was going on. A Member asked whether the Subgroup could look at the school's Action Plan at its next meeting, to which the Head of School Quality Assurance and Strategic SEND responded that she would ask the school.

The Subgroup then considered an inspection report for North Ridge High School which had maintained its judgement of 'outstanding'. The Head of School Quality Assurance and Strategic SEND informed Members how North Ridge was providing support to another local school. A Member reported that the Subgroup had visited North Ridge and had been extremely impressed with the school. He commented that it was one of the best reports he had ever seen and welcomed that they were helping another school. He suggested that the Subgroup write to the school to congratulate them on their Ofsted report, to which the Chair agreed.

The Subgroup considered an inspection report for Armitage C of E Primary School which had maintained its judgement of 'good'. The Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer informed Members that the Ofsted inspector had considered that

the school could be 'outstanding' so, under the new Ofsted framework, had recommended that the school receive a section 5 inspection to assess whether it met the criteria for 'outstanding'. The Chair commented that it was a positive report and welcomed that the school was working in partnership with other schools. A Member recommended that the Subgroup visit the school in the new academic year, to which the Chair agreed.

The Subgroup considered an inspection report for Dean Trust Ardwick which had been judged as 'good'. A Member reported that he had visited the school and had been impressed; however, he advised, that, as this was a new school which currently only had pupils up to Year 9, there were no GCSE results from the school as yet. A Member, who was also a Ward Councillor for Ardwick, reported concerns about the behaviour of some pupils outside of the school. The Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer informed Members that he would raise this with the Principal.

Decisions

1. To request that the Regional Schools Commissioner and Damian Hinds, the Minister for Education, be invited to a future meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.
2. To request that, with the school's agreement, the Subgroup consider the Action Plan for Newall Green High School at its next meeting.
3. To write to North Ridge High School to congratulate them on their Ofsted report.
4. To arrange a visit to Armitage C of E Primary School for Members of the Ofsted Subgroup.

CYP/OSG/18/19 Daycare Providers

The Early Years Senior Quality Assurance Officer informed Members that 95% of Early Years settings in Manchester were judged as 'good' or 'outstanding'.

The Subgroup considered inspection reports for Lightbowne Neighbourhood Nursery and Rainbows Day Nursery, which had both improved from 'requires improvement' to 'good' and Superkids Levenshulme, which had improved from 'good' to 'outstanding'. The Early Years Senior Quality Assurance Officer outlined how the Council had worked with the settings to improve their provision.

The Chair welcomed the improvements within the Early Years sector, the positive reports for these three settings and that good practice was being shared across settings. The Executive Member for Children's Services commented that these were excellent reports which reflected the standard of the majority of Early Years settings in Manchester. A Member requested that the Subgroup write to all three settings to congratulate them and that a visit be arranged to one of the settings.

The Subgroup discussed actions being taken to improve school readiness and noted that a report on this would be considered by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 17 July 2018.

Decisions

1. To write to Lightbowne Neighbourhood Nursery, Rainbows Day Nursery and Superkids Levenshulme to congratulate them on their Ofsted reports.
2. To arrange a visit to one of these settings for Members of the Ofsted Subgroup.

CYP/OSG/18/20 Terms of Reference and Work Programme

The Subgroup reviewed the terms of reference for the Subgroup and the work programme.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Head of School Quality Assurance and Strategic SEND informed Members that supplementary schools were not inspected by Ofsted. The Chair requested that the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee receive information on supplementary schools in a future report.

Decisions

1. To agree the terms of reference and work programme.
2. To request that the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee receive information on supplementary schools in a future report.