

Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 11 January 2022

Present:

Councillor Russell (Chair) – in the Chair
Councillors Ahmed Ali, Andrews, Clay, Davies, Hacking Hitchen, Kirkpatrick, Lanchbury, B Priest, Robinson, Simcock, Wheeler and Wright

Also present:

Councillor Craig, Leader

Apologies: Councillor Rowles

RGSS/22/01 Minutes

Decision

The Committee approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2021 as a correct record.

RGSS/22/02 Provisional local government finance settlement 2022/23 and budget assumptions

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer that provided an update on the main announcements from the provisional local government finance settlement 2022/23 announced 16 December 2021, with a focus on the impact on Manchester City Council and its budget for 2022/23. It also outlines the main budget assumptions behind the Medium-Term budget position 2022/23 to 2024/25.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Describing the key elements of the Provisional Finance Settlement and confirmed that the c£7.7m savings and mitigations, as reported to Resources and Governance Committee on 9 November, were sufficient to deliver a balanced budget next year;
- The implications for the Manchester Local Care Organisation budget;
- Describing the implications for the Council's budget, including the Strategy to close the remaining budget gap; and
- Conclusions and next steps, noting that Officers had estimated the future resources available based on the information available with the resulting forecast gap of £37m in 2023/24 increasing to £58m in 2024/25;

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were: -

- The fair funding proposals did not reflect a fair approach to funding for local government;

- The Council's budget position was not one of choice and was something that government had enforced on Manchester through ten years of austerity measures and the people of Manchester deserved better;
- How confident were officers with the integrity of the projected levels of savings that the Council would need to make for 2023/24 and 2024/25;
- In considering the variations amongst Local Authorities in the effective operation of care markets in their areas, how well placed was Manchester in relation to the payment to residential and domiciliary care providers for carrying out the range of activities at appropriate rates and had consideration been given to working with other local Authorities to address this;
- How were the NHS reforms going to be integrated with the Manchester Local Care Organisation (MLCO) and what would be the potential impact of these reforms on the Council's Adult Social Care provision;
- How had the budget mitigation of £2.5m for Adults Homeless demand management been determined;
- Assurance was sought if as part of the savings £2m associated with staff budgeting and vacancy factors would not be as a result of a reduction in the staff;
- What was the underlying figure of actual use of 'classic' reserves, setting aside the additional funding that had been provided to tackle covid, which was inflating the appearance of both the reserves and use of reserves figures; and
- Had previous funding to tackle domestic violence and abuse now been incorporated into mainstream funding.

The Deputy City Treasurer advised that a multi-year model was used to determine the level of savings required. This was refreshed during the course of the year as more information became available and the level of savings proposed for 2023/24 and 2024/25 were best estimates at present. The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer added that as well as the Council's own internal assumptions on demand and the delivery of savings, a number of projections in regards to income needed to be made and the level of future government funding. Given it was only a one year settlement, the future of Business Rates retention and the potential impact of the Fairer Funding Review, it was very difficult to do this with great accuracy.

The Deputy City Treasurer explained that there was a national issue around appropriate payment in the care market. For Manchester, those who required some form of residential and or domiciliary care tended to be fully funded by the Council and closer to the true cost of running a care home and the issue raised by care providers around appropriate levels of funding tended to be in areas where there was a higher percentage of self-funding residents requiring care. The Council was undertaking market sustainability work and £1.8m had been made available from the Social Care levy to help support the sustainability and work with providers. The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer commented that the Council was also committed to being a Real Living Wage employer and had signed up to the Unison Ethical Care Charter with additional investment to ensure all home care providers were paid at the real living wage as a minimum. In terms of working with other Local Authorities there was an active group of Greater Manchester Social Care Directors who collaborated on this type of work.

The Deputy Treasurer advised that the NHS was still awaiting their settlement figure from Government and the commencement of the new Integrated Care Organisations

would now be delayed until July 2022. This, along with the impact of tackling Covid meant it had been difficult to undertake any long-term planning. He added that that both the Council's and the NHS budgets' were aligned, and the Council and MLCO were working through the 'Better Outcomes, Better Lives' workstream to put plans in place to best use available funding streams.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer advised that the savings in Homelessness and Adult Social Care were not savings and resulted from an over estimate of the impact of covid on the the demand for delivering services in 2021/22 and as a result the funding amount had been corrected.

It was explained that the savings projected in relation to staff budgeting and vacancy factors had been determined using two factors. The first being that Council budgeted at top of grade for all staff and as in previous years, the Council often underspent on staffing cost as not all staff were at the top of their grade. Secondly there was often a time lag between someone leaving their post and being able to recruit to the vacancy that occurs, so rather than having to take difficult decisions around budget cuts in other service areas, aligning staffing budgets would be more appropriate.

The Leader commented that the budget papers that would be presented to Scrutiny in February would provide greater clarity around the details of the proposed savings.

The Deputy City Treasurer advised the use of £184m Reserves was as a result of receiving Business Rates funding a year in advance as opposed to a year in arrears. This equated to approximately £145m of the £184m. The other use of Reserves was planned commitment from previous years. The Council did have a Reserves strategy to support the budget over the medium term which would be included in next month's suite of budget reports.

Decision

The Committee note the report.

RGSS/22/03 Revenue Budget Modelling – budget assumptions focussing on inflation and demand growth

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer that provided an update on the latest inflation and demand growth estimates which are included in the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background, noting that the assumptions take into the account the likely resources that will be available to fund the budget, including government grant funding, council tax and business rates income;
- Consideration of inflationary pressures, noting the provisions that had been made within the draft Revenue Budget;
- Consideration to demand and demographic pressures, noting the assumed levels of demographic and demand growth for 2022/23 to 2024/25; and
- Conclusions.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were: -

- How much thought had been given to flexibility in the modelling, insofar as support to asylum seekers and refugees placed within Manchester, free school meals during school holidays and the use of private rented temporary accommodation for those who were homeless;
- Had the trajectory of demand in Adult Social Care and how Manchester could manage the funding deficit been considered;
- What work had been undertaken at a GMCA level to address the rapid increase of residents housed in temporary accommodation within the region compared to the national increase;
- The longer term projections for the growth of the city and demand on services would be helpful;
- What proportion of the Council's Social Care contracts had the requirement to pay staff the Real Living Wage; and
- Did the additional £2.3m for the investment in edge of care and early intervention in 2022/23 reflect the growth in these areas, the 3% demographic growth assumption or both.

The Deputy City Treasurer advised that the Council had received a number of one-off funding packages of support and all options were being considered as part of the 2022/23 budget setting process. Concerns did exist around inflation and over the increasing cost of energy prices which would impact on the modelling of the revenue budget. It was reported that a significant sum of funding had already been put in place this financial year to help address homelessness and improvements had and continue to be made.

The Leader added that there were only certain things that the Council now knew about due to experience which could not have been modelled for in previous years, such as the need and cost of free school meals in school holidays.

The Deputy City Treasurer reported that the Council had employed an organisation Impower to help with the implementation of the Better Outcomes Better Lives workstream and support on the financial modelling for Adult Social Care.

The Leader advised that there would be a report to next month's Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee that would look at the issue of the increase of residents housed in temporary accommodation which could be shared with Members of this committee.

The Deputy City Treasurer advised that the work of the GMCA had been around tackling rough sleeping, whilst the bulk of the pressure faced by the Council centred around homelessness in families and no-fault evictions and the associated cost of finding temporary accommodation. He also advised that in relation to the Council's Adult Social Care contracts, homecare workers received the Real Living Wage as a minimum, which was a higher rate than the national living wage and in terms of care home workers they were in receipt of the national living wage at present. As a Council, its minimum payment level to staff was above the Real Living Wage.

The Committee was advised that the additional £2.3m for the investment in edge of care and early intervention reflected both the growth in these areas and the 3% demographic growth assumption.

Decision

The Committee notes the report.

RGSS/22/04 Funding of the Capital Programme

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer that provided a summary of the Council's proposed capital investment priorities, which will be included in the Capital Strategy report to Executive in February.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background;
- Describing the development of the Capital Strategy
- Describing the approach to borrowing;
- Describing how capital financing costs were funded; and
- Capacity for additional borrowing.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were: -

- Whilst it was reported that the capital financing reserve could support approximately a further £100m of borrowing over the next three to five years to support capital schemes, would Officers not recommend this; and
- Did increasing inflation in construction costs make it more or less attractive to borrow money from the Public Works Loan Board as opposed to using internal reserves.

The Deputy Chief Executive advised that there would be an element of borrowing required over the next three to five years to support the capital strategy but it was not possible to predict the levels of interest and inflation rate rises and as such could not give an exact figure of what this level would be at this stage. It was also reported that the key impact of inflation on the capital programme would be the rising costs for any future schemes and the need to attract more financing, whether that was government grant or borrowing. Whilst interest rates remained at their present rate, it was still appropriate to take a blended approach.

Decision

The Committee notes the report.

RGSS/22/05 Budget Equality and Poverty Impact Assessments

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer that provided details on how the approach to Equality Impact Assessments and Poverty Impact Assessments had developed over recent years and how these

would be further embedded and strengthened in the Budget setting and business planning processes in the future. The report also covered the budget setting process for 2022/23 and the limited impact this would have on equalities and poverty.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background, noting that the Council had a long-standing commitment to promote equality, celebrate diversity and advance inclusion;
- Describing the approach to equality and poverty impact;
- The budget proposals for 2022/23 were minimal and were largely budget adjustments which did not directly impact on service delivery;
- There was no direct impact on any protected characteristic and/or any aim of the general Equality Duty. As such Equality and Poverty impact Assessments would not be required for the 2022/23 budget proposals; and
- The future approach to Equality Relevance Assessments and Equality Impact Assessments as part of the budget setting process for 2023/24 and beyond

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were: -

- Appropriate resources needed to be allocated to address and tackle poverty and deprivation in the city;
- Was the support committed to children centres driven through this methodology;
- Could the Committee be provided with more information on the brief Equality Relevance Assessment tool;
- An example of how the tool was used would help Members understand how it worked; and
- It was good to see Equality and Poverty Impact Assessments becoming more embedded in then budget setting process

The Deputy Chief Executive advise that the Council would need to look more fundamentally as to where it prioritised its resources in tackling poverty and deprivation. This came with the caveat that there was a lot of duties that the Council had to deliver and had committed spend to these, and it was not possible to mitigate all the impacts of poverty in the city. It was confirmed that the support to Children's Centres was in part driven by the importance of this agenda.

It was agreed that the Equality Relevance Assessment tool could be shared with Members of the Committee as long as it was understood that it was a work in progress.

The Strategic Lead Business Change, Reform and Innovation provided an example of how the Equality Relevance Assessment tool worked to the Committee.

Decision

The Committee notes the report.

RGSS/22/06 Overview Report

The Committee considered the report by the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit which provided details of key decisions that fall within the Committee's remit and an update on actions resulting from the Committee's recommendations. The report also includes the Committee's work programme, which the Committee was asked to amend as appropriate and agree.

Decision

The Committee notes the report and agrees the Committee's Work Programme.

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2022

Present:

Councillor Reid – in the Chair
Councillors Abdullatif, Bano, Benham, Foley, Hewitson, Lovecy, McHale, Nunney and Sadler

Co-opted Voting Members:

Dr W Omara, Parent Governor Representative

Co-opted Non-Voting Members:

Miss S Iltaf, Secondary Sector Teacher Representative
Ms L Smith, Primary Sector Teacher Representative

Also present:

Councillor Bridges, Executive Member for Children's Services
Councillor Rawlins, Executive Member for the Environment
Ruth Todhunter, Manchester resident
Lee Ormsby, Our Lady's RC High School
Kristian Cope, Our Lady's RC High School
Elaine Morrison, Education Consultant

Apologies:

Councillors Alijah and Collins
Mrs J Miles, Representative of the Diocese of Salford

CYP/22/01 Minutes

Decision

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2021.

CYP/22/02 Climate Emergency and the Education Sector

The Committee received a report of the Director of Education which outlined the work being undertaken by the Council to support the Education Sector in responding to the Climate Emergency declared by the Council in July 2019, with a focus on decarbonisation. It also outlined the plans to develop this as a theme of Our Year 2022 in response to feedback from children and young people. This would enable children and young people to have their say and contribute to achieving the zero carbon target for the city.

The main points and themes within the report included:

- Planned conference;
- Carbon Literacy Training;

- De-carbonisation;
- Partnership working with the Department for Education (DfE) and Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA);
- Young People's Offer;
- Our Year;
- Green skills;
- Early Years settings; and
- Promoting active travel.

Manchester resident, Ruth Todhunter, addressed the Committee, telling them about her involvement in campaigning for clean air with other local mothers and the British Lung Foundation. She informed Members about the School Streets Initiative, where a road outside a school had a temporary restriction on motorised traffic at school drop-off and pick-up times and the benefits of this for children and young people. She encouraged the Council to work with schools and communities to identify where air quality could be improved to inform interventions and behaviour change. She advised that funding to support School Streets should prioritise those schools most affected by poor air quality. She reported that the British Lung Foundation was offering to meet with the Council to discuss how they could work together to monitor air pollution in the city.

Lee Ormsby and Kristian Cope from Our Lady's RC High School delivered a presentation on their Climate Action Roadmap.

The main points and themes within the presentation included:

- Background information;
- Climate action activities by area;
- Student voice; and
- The steps of the roadmap from emerging to established to being a leading school on combating climate change, which could be a model for others and share its resources and learning.

Some of the key points and themes that arose from the Committee's discussions were:

- To welcome the presentation from Our Lady's RC High School and the work they were doing and to ask whether they would be looking to move to using organic food;
- To what extent were other schools undertaking this kind of work, how would the actions taken by other schools be monitored and could Members be kept updated on this work;
- The need for safe walking and cycling routes to schools;
- Request from a Member for an Ardwick school to be included in the Street Schools initiative;
- How was the retrofitting of schools being addressed;
- To welcome the work that the Director of Education and Executive Member for Children's Services had done in this area and to ask that sufficient officer

capacity be made available to bring together best practice and progress this work in time for the planned conference;

- The importance of the new Climate Change Officers in each district engaging with schools and of ward-level and community engagement;
- The importance of a joined-up approach and sharing good practice between primary schools, secondary schools and colleges;
- The importance of involving children and young people in this work so that they felt they had agency, noting that this could help to reduce anxiety about climate change;
- What support was there from the Government and Council to support schools with carbon reduction; and
- The poverty faced by many families and that, when they were struggling to provide the basics of food and a warm home for their children, it was difficult to engage with issues such as where food was sourced from.

The Executive Member for Children's Services advised Members that this was a very high priority for the Council and that they were looking to increase capacity to support this work. He welcomed how much schools had been doing on this, despite the additional challenges they had faced due to the pandemic. He reported that every ward had a climate action plan and that schools were central to that and he recommended that Ward Councillors ensure that the link with schools was explicit in their own ward action plans. He advised that he would discuss with the Director of Education how schools' work on climate change would be monitored and then discussions would take place with the Chair about the most appropriate way for the Committee to continue to scrutinise this.

In response to the question about organic food, Kristian Cope advised that organic food was procured for use in food technology lessons but that for school meals it was difficult to buy sufficient volumes of organically produced food to feed nearly 1000 pupils, even before the cost was taken into account.

The Director of Education reported that individual schools were addressing climate change in different ways and that many did not have a single plan like Our Lady's had so this did create challenges in monitoring it. She advised that the Council would work with schools to share good practice and knowledge from schools which had done a lot of positive work on this to schools which had not started addressing this issue. In response to a Member's question, she advised that her service did already work with Neighbourhoods on some work relating to air quality but agreed that there was more to be done on this. She reported that a lot of schools had wanted to take part in the School Streets initiative but that it had to be done in line with Highways legislation and that it was important to evaluate the impact from piloting the scheme in a few locations first. She advised that, in terms of encouraging active travel, her service would focus on behaviour change, while also linking with Neighbourhoods on the local infrastructure. She informed Members that a condition survey would be carried out on all school buildings that the local authority maintained and that this would enable the Council to better prioritise spending on buildings maintenance where it was most needed.

The Executive Member for the Environment advised that some of the reports which were going to the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee the

following day were relevant to this discussion so she would ensure that these were shared with Members of this Committee. She advised that the Council was looking at developing an improved criteria for how schools involved in the School Streets initiative were selected. In response to a Member's question, she confirmed that the location of planting of trees and hedges was co-ordinated and that this had massively increased. She informed Members how Biffa was engaging with schools, including an offer of an educational programme on waste and recycling, and about the learning centre at the Longley Lane Household Waste and Recycling Centre and she advised that she would ensure this information was re-circulated to schools.

Elaine Morrison, Education Consultant, advised that the Council was sending regular communications to schools about any funding they became aware of to assist with this work and that addressing funding issues would be a focus of the conference. She advised that working with the DfE on pilot projects was also bringing additional funding into the city. She reported that officers were working with local businesses to see if they would be interested in supporting schools on this work. She informed Members how links were being made with the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE) to support this work. She advised that officers were monitoring the geographical spread of schools involved in climate action work so that they could focus on any particular wards where there was a lower uptake.

Decision

To note the report.

CYP/22/03 COVID-19 Update

The Committee received a verbal update of the Assistant Director of Education which outlined new developments and significant changes to the current situation, particularly in relation to schools.

The main points and themes within the verbal update included:

- Temporary changes to the guidance on face coverings in schools;
- Other measures schools were implementing to reduce the spread of COVID-19;
- Lateral flow testing and requirements for those testing positive;
- Support for schools, including the use of Outbreak Meetings;
- School attendance;
- The impact of staff absence; and
- Vaccination of young people.

Some of the key points and themes that arose from the Committee's discussions were:

- Support for young people's mental health;
- The impact of staff being able to self-certify as sick for 28 days, data on schools and areas which were worst affected by staff absence and whether any schools had had to close;
- To ask for more data on vaccination levels at next month's meeting; and

- That the Committee should look at the number of children being electively home educated.

The Assistant Director of Education outlined the work that had taken place to improve mental health support to children and young people, through Healthy Schools and Manchester Thrive and training for schools on other ways to access mental health support, advising that this support to schools had been increased during the pandemic. She advised that, as term had only just re-started, data was not yet available on staff absences but that four primary schools had been affected by a partial closure, for example, a particular class doing remote learning but with vulnerable pupils still coming on site.

The Executive Member for Children's Services praised the work of schools and the Council's Education Service during the pandemic, including the prioritisation of vulnerable children and young people.

Decisions

1. To ask for data on vaccination levels for young people in Manchester to be included in the next update.
2. That the Committee should look at the number of children being electively home educated.
3. That a letter should be sent to all schools congratulating them for their work during the pandemic.

CYP/22/04 Our Year 2022

The Committee received a report and presentation of the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services which provided an update on Our Year 2022.

The main points and themes within the presentation included:

- The feedback from engagement with children and young people on what was important to them and what Manchester could do better;
- Key themes identified from this;
- Events, activities and campaigns;
- UNICEF Child Friendly City submission; and
- How Members could support this work.

The Executive Member for Children's Services encouraged the Co-opted Members to watch the webcast of the Council meeting on 1 December 2021, at which young people from across Manchester had spoken about the issues that were important to them. He highlighted the last slide of the presentation on how Members could support Our Year and encouraged the Committee Members to get involved. He advised that support was available in doing this and that the Our Year Project Lead could circulate an information pack.

Some of the key points and themes that arose from the Committee's discussions

were:

- To welcome this work;
- The number of children and young people across different settings who had been engaged through this work and whether they were representative of all children and young people across the city;
- The importance of the voice of children of all ages being heard;
- How Our Year would be promoted, including engagement with parents;
- That many teachers would welcome the opportunity to support this work and that it was important to ensure that this was communicated to them; and
- The lack of work experience placements during the pandemic and what could be done to encourage more organisations to take part, noting that Members might be able to offer work experience or shadowing opportunities.

The Strategic Director of Children and Education Services advised that the communication strategy was being refined and developed and the intention had been to start with a soft launch through a series of events with the website being fully up and running by mid-February. He also highlighted the briefing packs which were being produced. The Chair advised that empty billboards across the city should be used to promote Our Year as well as using social media. The Strategic Director of Children and Education Services emphasised the importance of Our Year not just being about the Council but involving the wider community, with a cultural shift and a legacy of children and young people being involved in the big decisions for their city. He advised that the Executive Member for Children's Services and the Director of Education were engaging with schools regarding Our Year. He outlined how children and young people had been engaged with across school settings, advising that pupils, for example, those who were part of the School Council, spoke on behalf of their peers so the views gathered reflected a wider range of pupils than just those who were directly engaged with. He informed Members that engagement with the business sector as part of Our Year was not just about getting a financial contribution from businesses but about time, accessibility and support, including work experience opportunities. The Chair advised that these issues should be considered as part of the social value element of contracts awarded by the Council. The Strategic Director of Children and Education Services assured Members that social value was being built into this work.

In response to a Member's question, the Our Year Project Lead outlined the work involved in the UNICEF Child Friendly City submission and suggested the Committee could be provided with an update at a later date, including information on how Members could support this. In response to a Member's suggestion about engaging with young people again in a year to assess the impact this work had had, the Our Year Project Lead advised that this would be part of the measures of success for the project.

Decision

To note the report and presentation and endorse and support Manchester submitting an expression of interest to become part of UNICEF's Child Friendly City and Communities programme.

CYP/22/05 The Quality of Practice in Children's Social Care

The Committee received a report and presentation of the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services which reflected the development and current position of the quality of practice being delivered to children and their families in Manchester, with a particular focus on Children's Social Care..

The main points and themes within the presentation included:

- Manchester's children and young people population;
- What was quality of practice and what sources did the service use to assess its quality of practice;
- What was known about the current position; and
- How the service planned to drive continuous improvement and learning.

Some of the key points and themes that arose from the Committee's discussions were:

- Whether the better quality of practice and the poorer quality were concentrated in particular service areas;
- How were young people's views and experiences captured and was any negative feedback received;
- The importance of addressing IT issues to enable social workers to work effectively; and
- To note that some issues would be looked at by the Ofsted Subgroup.

The Executive Member for Children's Services informed Members that the IT issues were being addressed, that a lot of progress had been made on this and that Children's Services were receiving top priority within the Council for new devices.

The Strategic Director of Children and Education Services advised that the service did not just rely on the auditing tool to understand where it was at in terms of quality of practice, noting the role that scrutiny played with Members visiting social work teams, asking questions of staff and then using what they had learnt on these visits to effectively question and challenge the service's senior leadership at its meetings. He outlined how areas were identified which would benefit from targeted auditing and observed practice and the work to drive up quality of practice, taking the learning from this into workforce development training. He advised that he would bring a report on Participation and Engagement to a future meeting which would provide additional information on how the views of young people were gathered. The Strategic Lead for Safeguarding and Practice Development outlined some of the ways that young people's feedback was gathered and advised that key issues young people raised were that they did not like being allocated a new social worker, when they had already built a relationship with the existing one, and that they wanted improved transitions to adult social services.

Decision

To note the report.

**CYP/22/06 IRO (Independent Reviewing Officer) Annual Report
2020/2021**

The Committee received the 2020/2021 Annual Report of the Independent Reviewing (IRO) Service for Cared for Children, which was required in accordance with the Children and Young Person's Act 2008 and subsequent statutory guidance published by the Department for Children Schools and Families in 2010 as set out in the IRO Handbook

The main points and themes within the report included:

- Service and legal context;
- Our Children and Young People data 2019/2020;
- Our Children statutory reviews;
- Participation and engagement;
- Quality assurance;
- Outcomes and impact of the service 2020/2021; and
- Key priorities 2020/2021.

In response to a Member's question about children placed outside the local authority area, the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services reported that the vast majority were placed within Greater Manchester. The Strategic Lead for Safeguarding and Practice Development advised that for most of those children they had been placed there because that was the best way to meet their needs and that the service still took the same responsibility for them as for children placed within the city, although she acknowledged that there were additional barriers to overcome.

Decision

To note the report.

CYP/22/07 Overview Report

A report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit was submitted. The overview report contained key decisions within the Committee's remit, responses to previous recommendations and the Committee's work programme, which the Committee was asked to approve.

Decision

To note the report and agree the work programme.