

Minutes

of the Meeting of the

Children & Young People Services Policy & Scrutiny Panel

Friday, 11th September 2015

held at the Town Hall, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset.

Meeting Commenced: 10.00 am Meeting Concluded: 12.30 pm

Councillors:

P Ann Harley (Chairman)

P Bob Garner (Vice-Chairman)

P Karen Barclay

P Mary Blatchford

P Judith Hadley

A David Hitchins

P Kate Stowey

P Liz Wells

P Roz Willis

P Ericka Blades

P Donald Davies

- David Oyns

- David Shopland

P Richard Tucker

- Martin Williams

P Deborah Yamanaka

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

Also present: Councillor Colin Hall (Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services)

Added Members: Claire Hudson (Diocese of Bath and Wells)

Right to Speak: Fiona Walters (Weston College)

Other apologies: Councillor Lisa Pilgrim (Assistant Executive Member) and Caroline Hostein (Diocese of Clifton)

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

Officers in attendance: Sheila Smith (Director of People and Communities), Eifion Price, Sue Ivermee, Louise Malik (People and Communities Directorate), David Jellings (Corporate Services)

CAY Declarations of Interest by Members (Agenda Item 3)

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None

CAY 9 Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd June 2015 (Agenda Item 4)

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting be approved as a correct record, subject to an amendment to Minute CAY 5 to indicate that a Member had asked questions about improving schools performance.

CAY 10 Report of the Assistant Executive Member (Agenda Item 9)

The Assistant Executive Member had given her apologies for absence.

The Panel asked that for future meetings, the Assistant Executive Member provide a written report for inclusion with the agenda papers so that the Panel would be aware of the areas of work being covered and be able to formulate questions. The Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services undertook to raise the matter with the Assistant Executive Member and the Scrutiny Officer would also send an email.

In addition, the Chairman asked that for the meeting of the CYPS Budget Working Group on 17th September, the Assistant Executive Member provide a written report/paper to be circulated in advance setting out the work she was covering and progress particularly regarding Children Looked After. The Working Group needed this information as they were particularly keen to avoid duplicating work.

The Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services took the opportunity to update the Panel on his thoughts and plans for the coming year, particularly the possibility of securing funding/sponsorship for schools and specific projects from businesses.

Some Panel Members expressed some caution regarding the use of private sector funding for that purpose but, looked forward to being provided with the necessary details.

The Executive Member undertook to circulate information to the Panel as soon as possible.

CAY 11 Update and Presentation – Review of the Senior Management Structure - People and Communities Directorate (Agenda Item 6)

The Panel received a powerpoint presentation on the recent review of the senior management structure of the People and Communities Directorate (copy placed in the signed minute book and circulated to Members).

The key points of the presentation were as follows-

- Why the review was carried out
- What the review was intended to achieve
- The key outcomes

- Progress made to date (further specific areas to review)
- What should Members do?
 - (i) Ask questions/seek clarification
 - (ii) Support the move to People and Communities wide activity where possible.

The representative of the Director of People and Communities responded to Members' queries and comments.

The majority of the Panel welcomed the reallocation particularly with regard to continuing the effective delivery of services and increased People and Communities wide activity.

A Member expressed concerned the amended structures and working arrangements had already been implemented without the opportunity for the Panel to scrutinise in advance.

The Director of People and Communities explained that the changes were directorate operational matters and were not matters that would be subject to scrutiny. The decision to merge Children and Young People's Services, Adult Services and Housing and Public Health was taken in 2012/13. Implementation would have occurred earlier but for delays partly related to transformation.

The officers undertook to provide Panel Members with a copy of the updated senior management structure for the People and Communities Directorate

**CAY
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Report of the CSE Working Group (Agenda Item 7)

The Panel considered a report setting out the detailed work undertaken by the Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group, and which contained a number of recommendations for action and further work.

Panel Members and the Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services welcomed the report.

The representative of the Director of People and Communities outlined the background to and also the context of the Working Group's investigations and responded to questions and queries.

Concluded:

(1) That the Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services be recommended to approve

- (i) that the Police and Crime Commissioner Office be requested in her budget considerations to give high priority to the resourcing of child protection and safeguarding operations;

(ii) that the development of IT systems to improve the sharing of information between partner agencies be welcomed and supported;

(iii) that Licensing Officers make use of the licensing process to raise awareness of CSE among hoteliers and proprietors of bed and breakfast establishments and continue to use that licensing process with regard to taxi drivers;

(iv) that the Clinical Commissioning Group be requested to ensure that the walk-in medical service have the right knowledge and procedures in place to deal and recognise indicators of CSE;

(v) that the appointment of a full-time CSE Co-ordinator post be strongly supported but that that this be a permanent and not a temporary position because of its key ongoing role;

(vi) that the Strategic Schools' Forum consider the role of Healthy Relationships in North Somerset schools as effective measures to prevent later life difficulties for children, one of which may be sexual exploitation;

(vii) that the satisfaction of the Working Group with governance arrangements be endorsed;

(2) that the Panel agree that the Working Group remain extant and meet six monthly to receive and scrutinise a report on progress from the new CSE Co-ordinator and that in accordance with standard practice, agendas will be drafted for those meetings;

(3) that the Panel acknowledges that in the event of a major CSE incident in North Somerset, there was the possibility of significant cost and reputational impact on the Council;

(4) that a report be requested from the Chair of the North Somerset Safeguarding Children Board providing an update on progress on CSE work to date;

(5) that the Panel recognises that North Somerset is part of the Avon and Somerset and Wiltshire Police Forces' initiative to help signpost victims of CSE, which Barnardo's and the new CSE Co-ordinator will be involved with;

(6) that the Executive Member for Children's Services reports back to the Panel in January 2016 on progress in implementing the recommendations on (1) above.

CAY 13 Performance and Finance Monitoring (Agenda Item 8)

The representatives of the Director of People and Communities presented this report covering core information on performance.

The Panel welcomed Sue Ivermee, recently appointed as Assistant Director Learning and Achievement.

(i) Number of Children Looked After

Discussion focused on the total spend. It was acknowledged that the current analysis method was a crude measure. However, in future, it was intended to use a more sophisticated analytical approach regarding not only the numbers of children looked after but also the cost of children who had left our care for whom we still have a financial responsibility. The spend in this latter area exceeded the spend on children in care.

(ii) Number of Children in Need (excluding child protection and children looked after) and rate per 10,000 0-17 year olds with comparators

It was explained that although the numbers appeared to have reduced, a change of classification meant that officers were not working with fewer children.

(iii) NEETs

The representative of the Director of People and Communities undertook to ascertain the number of children and young people who were NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training).

(iv) Schools' Performance

Panel Members referred to concerns regarding the level of achievement at two secondary schools.

The representative of the Director of People and Communities advised that for non-local authority maintained schools, the Council still had an obligation to fulfil its statutory responsibilities. Accordingly, officers would be meeting with the respective Principals to discuss their schools' direction of travel and also to meet with the Regional Commissioner to ascertain what he/she intends to do to address the concerns about achievement and bring about improvement.

CAY The Panel's Work Plan (Agenda Item 10)

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Concluded: that the work plan be updated to reflect work in progress.

Chairman
