

## Minutes

of the Meeting of the

# Children & Young People Services Policy & Scrutiny Panel

**Thursday, 14th July 2016**

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

Meeting Commenced: 10.00 am Meeting Concluded: 12:45 pm

### Councillors:

P Ann Harley (Chairman)

P Bob Garner (Vice-Chairman)

P Karen Barclay

P Ericka Blades

P Donald Davies

P David Hitchins

P Kate Stowey

P Liz Wells

P Deborah Yamanaka

P Michael Bell

P Mary Blatchford

P Judith Hadley

A David Oyns

P Richard Tucker

P Roz Willis

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

**Also in attendance:** Councillors Jan Barber (Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services), Chris Blades, Charles Cave, Ruth Jacobs

**Apologies from added Members:** Caroline Hostein (Diocese of Clifton), Claire Hudson (Diocese of Bath and Wells)

**Other apologies:** Councillor Lisa Pilgrim (Assistant Executive Member)

**Officers in attendance:** Jo Baker, Shauni Brocklesby, Sue Ivermee, Philippa Penney, Eifion Price, Felicity Williamson

### CAY Declarations of Interest by Members (Agenda Item 3)

1

None

### CAY Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 15 January (Agenda Item 4.1)

2

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting be approved as a correct record.

**CAY 3 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and Corporate Parenting Responsibilities (Agenda Item 6)**

The Panel received a presentation from the Assistant Director, Support and Safeguarding.

The Panel noted that following the 56% national rise in numbers of children seeking asylum in 2015, the Government has set up a voluntary scheme to divide the numbers of these children fairly across all local authorities ensuring the number does not exceed 0.07% of the total child population.

For North Somerset Council, who currently have 6 children seeking asylum, this could result in a maximum of 30 children to be looked after.

**Concluded:** That the Leader be recommended that North Somerset Council becomes involved with the volunteer Government scheme.

**CAY 4 Progress with North Somerset Council's Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy (Agenda Item 7)**

The representative of the Director of People and Communities presented the report.

The Panel was updated on the progress since the last report and informed of the areas of particular future focus of the directorate.

Members discussed a number of areas and the representative of the Director of People and Communities responded to questions from members in relation to learning from other local authorities, the reporting to police of missing children and the monitoring of hotels, taxis and clubs.

Particular concern was expressed by members regarding the time it takes to report a missing person as well as the public being uninform of missing children and child exploitation within North Somerset Council area.

**Concluded:**

(1) That the Director of People and Communities look at ways of improving the current system to make it easier and quicker to report a missing child for those who go missing from foster care; and

(2) That reports provide statistics and be harder hitting with the reality of what is going on in North Somerset Council area so that the public are aware of the issues.

**CAY 5 Expansion of Winford School from a 140 to a 210 Place Primary School: Outcome of Consultation (Agenda Item 8)**

The representative of the Director of People and Communities presented the report.

The Panel was informed that planning permission was granted to permanently increase the capacity of Winford School to meet projected growth in demand in school places from September 2017 onwards.

**Concluded:** That the Children and Young People Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel supports recommendations to be submitted to the Executive Member for Children and Young Peoples services to approve publication, if appropriate, of a statutory Notice by the Council to expand the provision at Winford School from a 140 to a 210-place primary school formally with effect from 1 September 2017.

**CAY 6 Expansion of Flax Bourton C of E Primary School (Agenda Item 9)**

The representative of the Director of People and Communities presented the report.

Members was asked to support recommendations to start the consultation to increase the number of places at Flax Bourton C of E Primary School in order to meet the school placement demands.

Concern regarding the traffic safety around the school was raised by members. It was confirmed that highways will be a part of the consultation and will evaluate potential traffic dangers during the planning permission stage.

**Concluded:**

(1) That the Children and Young Peoples Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel supports a recommendation to be submitted to the Executive Member for Children and Young Peoples Services to approve the commencement of the statutory process and the publication, if appropriate, of a Statutory Notice by Council to expand the provision at the Flax Bourton C of E Primary School. If approved, the school would expand from a 105 to a 210-place primary school formally with effect from 1 September 2018.

(2) Due to the school sitting in two wards, it was requested that Councillors Charles Cave and Kate Stowey be included in this process.

**CAY 7 Performance and Finance Monitoring (Agenda Item 10)**

The Panel was updated on the most recent results from OFSTED. This highlighted disappointing results in many North Somerset Council area schools. Whilst concern in these results was raised by members, reassurance was made that it is a good reminder to schools to ensure that they must maintain and improve continuously in order to keep good OFSTED results each year.

**CAY 8 The Panel's Work Plan (Agenda Item 11)**

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

---

Chairman

---