

## Minutes

of the Meeting of the

## Children and Young People Services Policy & Scrutiny Panel

**Friday, 17th November 2017**

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 David Oyns (Vice-Chairman)

- Karen Barclay

- Ericka Blades

P Donald Davies

P Judith Hadley

P Denise Hunt

- Liz Wells

A Roz Willis

P Reyna Knight

(substituting for Roz Willis)

P Michael Bell

P Mary Blatchford

P Bob Garner

P David Hitchins

- Kate Stowey

P Martin Williams

A Deborah Yamanaka

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

**Other Councillors present:** Jan Barber

**Officers in attendance:** Jo Baker, Amanda Braund, Alun Davies, Terri Knowlton, Louise Malik, Philippa Penney, Eifion Price, Sheila Smith, Gail Webb.

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

**9**

None

**CAY Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st July 2017 (Agenda Item 4.1)**

**10**

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

## **CAY 11 Local Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report (Agenda Item 6)**

11

The Service Leader for Strategic Safeguarding and Quality Assurance presented the report which set out the achievements and progress made during 2016/17 and identified the challenges facing the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) in 2017/18. Members received detail of each of the Board's sub-groups, and also on progress of each of the key priorities.

Members discussed issues raised by the recent Ofsted inspection report including: partnership funding arrangements to support the work of the Board; inconsistencies in partnership data reporting; and the recognition of the need for an annual report to focus smartly on the inputs and outcomes, evaluation for which was already underway.

As this annual report covered a time period prior to the Ofsted inspection, consideration was to be given to the inclusion of additional relevant matters, such as home schooling, in future reporting.

**Concluded:** that the Panel

- (1) noted the publication of the North Somerset Safeguarding Children Board (NSSCB) Annual Report 2016 – 2017;
- (2) agreed to further develop understanding of the role of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) and how the North Somerset LSCB operates locally;
- (3) noted the developments, achievements, challenges and areas for improvement in this critical area of work;
- (4) noted the 'Next Steps' of the NSSCB.
- (5) agreed to promote the importance of safeguarding of children and young people across all the partners and in the services they commission, ensuring that safeguarding is at the heart of all that is delivered.

## **CAY 12 Education Transformation (Agenda Item 7)**

12

The Head of Education Transformation presented the report which outlined the local authority responsibilities and arrangements with regards to the future delivery of educational services.

A consultation was currently being conducted on the implementation of the national funding formula in North Somerset and other changes to school funding arrangements. Members were encouraged to respond to the consultation before its deadline on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

Further discussion took place regarding the role and composition of the newly formed Education Excellence Partnership Board. Panel Members requested sight of the terms of reference for the Board, and also welcomed further deliberation of the Executive Membership board representation.

The local impact of the national funding formula was still to be fully understood, and the aim of the consultation was to produce a model according to submitted responses. There remained concern regarding recognition of local accountability, and consideration should be given to providing feedback to the Regional Schools Commissioner.

**Concluded:** that the panel

1. received and commented on the updates presented in this report; and
2. were encouraged to consider and respond to the consultation of schools funding arrangements for the 2018-19 financial year.

**CAY 13**      **Young People in North Somerset Democracy Project (Agenda Item 8)**

The Policy and Strategy Development Officer, People and Communities presented the report and outlined the early stages of this project, which had been initiated by a former student of a local secondary school. The project recognised a genuine interest in democracy held by young people but also often a lack of understanding in how to effectively engage.

National Democracy Week was taking place in July 2018, and the North Somerset project included a number of aligned activities to highlight the democratic purpose, and how young people could engage and participate. The focus was on political process and not of party views, and activity would draw on existing rather than additional resources.

Members fully endorsed this activity as a 'brilliant initiative' and offered support and assistance in aiding the success of the project.

**Concluded:** that the panel endorsed, supported and agreed to participate in the work of this excellent project.

**CAY 14**      **Home to School Travel Assistance Policy (Agenda Item 9)**

The Transport Operations Manager presented the report which detailed the Home to School Travel Assistance Policy as aligned with the work of the CYPs Scrutiny Working Group. The reviewed policy had taken account of the recommendations of the working group, and had now been approved by the Executive Member.

Members had supported the development of the new Integrated Transport Unit (ITU), which was now sited in Development and Environment, and were reassured to hear that further consideration was being given to the inclusion of Adult Social Care service provision.

Members requested further detail of the transport supply budget and the achievement against savings identified Medium Term Financial Plan, and also of the related Equalities Impact Assessments.

**Concluded:** that the Panel received the new Home to School Travel Assistance Policy, taking into account the recommendations of the steering group in March, and the ongoing work of the Integrated Transport Unit.

**CAY Adoption West (Agenda Item 10)**

15

The Service Leader Resource Service, People and Communities, presented the report outlining the future arrangements as agreed by the foundation of Adoption West. This was the Company and Adoption Agency title of the regionalised adoption agency comprising North Somerset, Bath and North East Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Bristol, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Local Authority Adoption Services.

Adoption West was the umbrella for eight sub-groups. There was discussion of the Board and governance arrangements, balancing accountability for each of the local authorities against the interests of the company. It was confirmed to Members that legal care proceedings arrangements would remain locally in North Somerset, but that Adoption West was to prioritise broader issues including the national shortage of adopters.

**Concluded:** that the Panel considered the report with comment as provided in the preamble above, and also agreed to add Adoption West to the work plan for review approximately six months after its commencement.

**CAY Performance and Financial Monitoring (Agenda Item 11)**

16

The Assistant Director, Children's Support & Safeguarding and Head of Educational Transformation presented the report providing additional information on Children in Need, children on a Child Protection Plan and Children Looked After, along with an overview of educational achievement in North Somerset for the 2016/17 academic year.

In response to questions raised by Members, there was agreement for a further update on numbers of Children Looked After in Coastal Communities. It was also confirmed that 168 families had now been claimed for under the High Impact Families scheme.

It was also noted that future statistical reporting would include percentages as well as figures.

**Concluded:** that the Panel noted the financial and performance information presented in the report and commented on both areas for improvement and areas of good performance as above.

**CAY Report of the Assistant Executive Member (Agenda Item 12)**

17

The Assistant Executive Member had provided a written report highlighting current areas of progress. Members discussed the value of the current reporting regime and the Chairman agreed to discuss this further with the Assistant Executive Member.

**CAY 18     The Panel's Work Plan (Agenda Item 13)**

The Scrutiny Specialist Practitioner presented the Work Plan and updated Members as to progress to date.

**Concluded:** that the Work Plan be updated as agreed by the Panel.

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Chairman

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