

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

27 SEPTEMBER 2016

Present: Councillor Richard Cook (Chairperson), Councillors Boyle, Chaundy, Gordon, Joyce, Murphy and Dianne Rees

: Co-opted Members: Patricia Arlotte (Roman Catholic representative), Carol Cobert (Church in Wales representative) and Karen Dell'Armi (Parent Governor Representative)

### 16 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Thorne and Hayley Smith

### 17 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairperson reminded Members of their responsibility under Part 3 of the Members Code of Conduct.

No declarations of interest were received.

### 18 : MINUTES

The minutes of the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016 (call in meeting), 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2016, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016 and 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016 joint committee meeting were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

### 19 : EDUCATION PERFORMANCE MONITORING - CARDIFF 2020, QUARTER 1 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT AND PROVISION SCHOOL RESULTS

The Chair welcomed Councillor Sarah Merry (Cabinet Member for Education), Nick Batchelar (Director Education & Lifelong Learning) Suzanne Scarlett and Natalie Stork to the meeting.

#### CARDIFF 2020

Members were shown the DVD for the Cardiff 2020 Launch Event and also a slide show of photographs taken at the launch on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

Members were advised that there will be a presentation at the committee meeting in December providing information as to how performance will be managed against that strategy.

The Committee was invited to comment, raise questions or seek clarification on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members were advised that the DVD is accessible on the Council website and on YouTube.
- Members asked for information as to which businesses attended the event and were advised that representatives from Principality, Aldi, Lloyds, Da Vinci,

Wilmot Dixon and Glamorgan Cricket Club were present amongst others. Members would be provided with full details.

## QUARTER 1 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT AND PROVISION SCHOOL RESULTS

Councillor Merry made a statement to the Committee advising that there had been good news with results over the summer. There is a faster improvement in the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 in Cardiff than across the whole of Wales. There are still concerns in relation to the difference in performance of FSM pupils.

The Director also provided Members with the provisional Quarter 2 Academic Year 2015/16 results.

The Committee was invited to comment, raise questions or seek clarification on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members queried what is being done to address the problem of the number of young people not making the transition into employment, education or training. Officers advised that one of the plans objectives is to prevent young people becoming NEET after Year 11. The vast majority of the 3000+ cohort have successfully started in education, employment or training, although the deadline for destination information is 31 October 2016.

Members were also advised that there are now more youth workers as a result of a successfully European Social Fund application; there is better communication; youth engagement workers are more visible and have been performing well.

- Members were advised that a review of provision other than at school has been commissioned and will be reported on later on in the year.
- Members enquired about the nature of a Child Friendly City. Officers provided information about the Child Rights Partners Programme; a partnership approach which aims to improve provision for Children and Young People to improve meaningful engagement. Specific partners will need to be identified, there will need to be political commitment and an application in response to the Prospectus which UNICEF will issue shortly.
- Members queried whether the new Corporate Performance Framework allows for the adequate management of performance. Officers advised that whilst better further modification would be of assistance.

This report format still requires a lot of narrative and does not pinpoint precisely where there is still underperformance.

- Members made to reference to the sickness levels. Officers confirmed that there have been a number of occurrences of long term sickness which can be difficult to address however, it is being monitored regularly. Officers did not believe that the figures provided highlight the fact that workloads were too great.

- Members requested information as to whether the delay in the opening of Howardian Primary School would affect the scheduled opening of the other 2 new primary schools, and if so what the cost implications would be. Members were advised that it was anticipated there will be a delay in the opening however, the delay allows for better value for money and there will be no unique detriment.
- Members queried the what impact the failure of Primary Schools to reach attendance targets would have and were advised that they have yet to see whether the Isle of Wight judgement will have any significant impact.

## RESULTS

- Members noted the information provided in relation to the Key Stage 3 CSI target and enquired about the data upon which they are based. Officers advised that whilst targets are cohort based there are large numbers to deal with. Targets are deliberately aspirational using the Fisher Family Trust tools. Work is ongoing in collating pupil level targets.
- Members noted that in the Foundation Phase the weakest area of learning is Language, Literacy and Communication and were advised that with specific reference to language development Members should be aware of the work undertaken by Flying Start and the roving teachers who train and support staff working in child care setting.
- Members remained concern about the performance of boys remaining lower than the performance of girls and asked whether that gap could be attributed to anything in particular. Members were advised that research is still being carried out however there needs to be fine analysis of the information collated and that it is information believed that the Consortium should be providing.
- Members asked for the views of officers about Headteachers taking responsibility for more than one school. Officers advised that it should be encouraged and believed that there should be Federation Schools, however they have to be handled with care and caution.
- Members discussed the results of levelling in schools and the Numeracy and Literacy tests and whether the rate of improvement should be commensurate and were informed by Officers that they measure different things. Concerns about moderation have been raised with the Consortium.

AGREED: That the Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, writes to the relevant Cabinet Member thanking her and the officers for attending the meeting and conveying the observations of the Committee discussed in the way forward.

20 : CHILDREN'S SERVICES - QUARTER 1 PERFORMANCE 2016/17 AND THE ANNUAL OUTTURN FOR 2015/16 PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Chair welcomed Tony Young, Director Social Services to the meeting to present the report.

Members were advised that the changes in the performance indicators and the introduction of the Social Services & Well-being (Wales) Act will make it difficult to provide a full overview of performance, however, the annual outturn demonstrated that the overall trend is positive and there has been progress in a number of key strategic areas although there has been some slippage in progress in relation to the recruitment and retention of children's social workers. Work has now commenced to consider opportunities for training within the Council.

The Committee was invited to comment, raise questions or seek clarification on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members queried whether the new Corporate Performance Framework allows for the adequate management of performance. The Director advised that there are other ways of monitoring performance - he has reports on a regular basis. There are also Directorate Delivery Reports, there is also the Quality Assurance Framework and the Annual Report Framework.
- Members referred to the low level of performance in relation to timely completion of Personal Education Plans (PEPs). The Director acknowledged the ongoing challenge in improving performance in relation to PEPs but advised that all looked after children have a PEP even if its completion is subject to some level of short term delay.

The Director advised that a target of 100% PEP's being in place within the required time period was not attainable.

- It was confirmed that the relevant list of Children's Services National Performance Indicators are shared with Education.
- Members queried the usefulness of the Budget setting process bearing in mind the Budget was passed on 28 February and by 1 March an overspend had been recorded. Members were informed that the process was not meaningless, there had been an unfound savings legacy of £800,000 – the Authority having been badly let down by a private sector provider. There were also the costs associated with legal advice and support.

Members were advised by the Director that between 1<sup>st</sup> June and 17<sup>th</sup> July 39 children were admitted to local authority care. That figure was unprecedented. Many of those children were not previously known to the authority and that he had considered each individual case. That has resulted in an increase of the overspend by £1m. Within those 39 children there were several sibling groups.

Supporting a child at home is still more cost effective than a child being admitted into residential care, however, in respect of the children referred to above there was no other option but to admit them to local authority care.

- Members were informed that there is a crisis of care in England and Wales and queried whether there is a case to make to Welsh Government that there should be a disproportionate settlement figure for Cardiff because of the growth in population.

AGREED: That the Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, writes to the relevant Cabinet Member to conveying the observations of the Committee discussed in the way forward.

## 21 : WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17 REPORT

The report provided the Committee with a work programme for the full year,

RESOLVED:

- To agree the proposed Work Plan Timetable for 2016/17 as set out in Appendix A of the report.
- To undertake the Task & Finish Group Inquiries as set out in paragraph 11, in accordance with Part 1 of the Scrutiny procedure rules, and to seek nominations for the first inquiry that the Committee agrees to undertake.
- To seek nominations for the membership of the Budget Monitoring Panel as set out in paragraph 7.

## 22 : CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

This report provided the Committee with the latest update on correspondence and a summary of the responses received to letters sent.

RESOLVED: To note the report and responses received to the letters sent by the Committee.

## 23 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee is at 2.30 pm on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

The meeting terminated at 6.50 pm

***This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg.***