

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

18 OCTOBER 2016

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

: Co-opted Members: Karen Dell'Armi (Parent Governor Representative) and Hayley Smith (Parent Governor Representative)

24 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Patricia Arlotte and Carol Cobert.

25 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairperson reminded Members of their responsibility under Part 3 of the Members Code of Conduct. The following declarations of interests were received:

- Councillor Iona Gordon in respect of Agenda Item 4 on the basis that she is a Ward Councillor for Riverside and a Trustee of South Riverside Community Centre;
- Councillor Lynda Thorne in respect of Agenda Item 4 on the basis that she is the Chair of Governors at Grangetown Nursery School;
- Hayley Smith in respect of Agenda Item 5 on the basis that she is employed by Barnardo's within the Families First Strategy;
- Councillor Joe Boyle in respect of Agenda Item 4 on the basis that he is the Chair of Governors at Springwood Primary School.

26 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 27 September 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

27 : CHILDREN'S PLAY - PROGRESS BRIEFING

The Chair welcomed Councillor Peter Bradbury (Cabinet Member for Community Development, Co-operatives and Social Enterprises, Malcolm Stammers (Operational Manager, Leisure and Play), Jane Clemence (Active Communities Officer, Leisure and Play) and Chris Matthews (Scouts Association) to the meeting.

The Chairperson invited the Cabinet Member to make a statement in which he said that he had been involved in the implementation of the new deliver model for Children's Play for some time now. The 1st Pentwyn Scout Group has provided a Feedback Report outlining their experience of in taking over the management and maintenance of Llanederyn Play Centre from the Council, he believes that it is an accurate assessment of the experience and the information provided must be taken into account going forward.

Chris Matthews, Scouts Association provided Members with his view on the transfer of the centre to the Scout Group indicating that it was a long process with a lack of

clarity initially however, once a point of contact was established with Council things improved. Members were advised that the building was to open on Friday.

Members were provided with a presentation by Malcolm Stammers.

The Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members:

- Members sought clarification as to whom the Scouts Organisation would have recourse should there be a problem with the building and were advised that the building has been transferred with a Full Repairing Lease, but they would be able to make a grant funding application should they wish to undertake other work in the building.
- Members asked whether there had been an change in the usage numbers and were advised that at the present time it is too early to say, however, numbers had diminished; moral was low particularly without premises in which to meet. It is anticipated that numbers will double with the opening of the new premises.
- Members discussed the use of schools/community facilities and that schools should, after 4.00 pm be operated as community facilities and be capable of use by the public.
- Members were provided with a update on the transfers of the other play centres:
 - Ely: Ely Garden Villagers are involved in this transfer, having received help with the Business Plan from ACE. Heads of Terms have now been agreed and the transfer is progressing. Members were advised that this would be a lease rather than a Community Asset Transfer;
 - Riverside: South Riverside Development Association have been involved with this transfer. Heads of Terms have been agreed although further due diligence is currently being undertaken;
 - Adamsdown: Seren in the Community had initially expressed an interest but was not followed through. It is hoped that with wider development in the area taking place there will be other opportunities.
 - Splott: Communities First were approached to assist those involved with this application.
 - Llanrumney: Interest has recently been expressed by The Foxy Club which is currently being explored.
 - Grangetown: A Business Plan was agreed with Grangetown nursery, with some capital investment into the centre. There will be dual usage, nursery school during the day and community use in the evenings. There is also the possibility of an extension being built.
- Members queried the current position in relation to the support being provided whilst the transition is taking place and were advised that there had been funding for 3 Community Development Officers however that ended at the end

of March 2016. Resource has been provided to enable some support to remain in place. Members were concerned that the funding had now ceased prior to the completion of the transfer of all Play Schemes and noted that the transfer process still requires support.]

AGREED – That the Chairperson on behalf of the Committee writes to relevant Cabinet Members, Directors and officers thanking them for attending the meeting on 18 October 2016 and to convey the observations of the Committee when discussing the way forward.

28 : FAMILIES FIRST ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Sue Lent (Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children and Families, and Deputy Leader), Tony Young (Director Social Services), Angela Bourge (Operational Manager, Resources), Ceri George (Improvement Project Manager – Prevention and Partnerships), Lee Richards (Participation Worker) and Chloe Burrage (Lead Young Inspector to the meeting).

Members were shown a video entitled ‘Young Inspectors of Families First’ prepared by the Young Inspectors Group with the help of the Active Involvement Team. Chloe provided Members with an overview of the Group, having initially become involved through Families First. After training she became a Young Inspector and was involved in an inspection at Ely Caerau Children’s Centre where an example of good practice was use of photos being shown to young children to enable them to point at what they wanted to change. She had also sat on a number of Interviews and supported other young people to do the same.

Members were advised that some of the young inspectors have now moved on to University and College because of their age however, two of them have been retained.

Ceri George presented the report and indicated it is believed that the report celebrates the good work that has been done and provides an insight into the differences made, and, information as to what changes can be made to further enhance the services provided.

Members were invited to comment, raise questions or seek clarification on the information received. Those discussions were summarised as follows:

- Members sought clarification as to whether or not it was possible to vire funds from one project to another and were advised that if there was an overlap in programmes funding could be used in others ways. Although as a rule once the budget profile has been set there is no opportunity to vire funds. It was not possible to vire the underspend on staff of £40,000 - it had to be returned to Welsh Government.
- Members queried why it is that Cardiff, unlike most authorities, has not yet set any transitional arrangements for the end of the contract in March 2017 and was advised that the advice received was that they could not be set until such times as guidance was received for the future Families First together with budget information.

Whilst the extension of the contract has to be a Cabinet decision, notice to extend can be given and Officers confirmed that they are committed to moving forward as soon possible without any compromise of integrity.

- Members expressed concern that there may be a risk that Families First will not be in a position to continue to help families in need in light of the underspend on staff and the number of staff leaving. Officers advised that they are satisfied that Families First will continue although the format may be somewhat different.
- Members noted that the use of the Vulnerability Assessment Profile (VAP) in Schools receives additional funding from European Social Fund and queried whether or not its use will continue if the Families First Funding is withdrawn. Officers advised that the VAP is currently being funded by Families First and that a lot of the work being done is support by grants of some sort and they are aware that Families First, parenting and young people are at the core of the new programme.
- Members made reference to the report into the Troubled Families Programme in England and asked whether there are lessons to be learned and in terms of measured outcomes whilst a number of families reported some improvement how is that really assessed. Officers advised there was no certainty, the propositions can be refutable, although Flying Start is a similar programme and has been successful in changing outcomes over the long term.
- Members asked whether officers were satisfied that they were in a position to identify and help those families in need, particularly those hard to reach families. Officers advised that whilst families cannot be compelled to seek or accept help, schools, health visitors and other similar agencies, are all able to make contact to express or register any concerns. A good local community work is vital.
- Officers explained that whilst Members had hoped to be seeing a reduction in the number of children becoming Looked After or access the care system, it is, as described by a Judge 'a system in crisis' and there is still more work to be done.

AGREED – That the Chairperson on behalf of the Committee writes to relevant Cabinet Members, Directors and officers thanking them for attending the meeting.

29 : CORRESPONDENCE UPDATE

The report provided the Committee with the latest update on correspondence and a summary of the response received to the letter sent.

AGREED: To note the content of the report.

30 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee is at 2.30pm on Tuesday 8th November 2016.

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