

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7 MARCH 2017

Present: Councillor Richard Cook (Chairperson), Councillors Boyle, Gordon, 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)

61 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Chaundy, Joyce, Thorne and Karen Dell'Armi.

62 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairperson reminded Members that they had a responsibility under Article 16 of the Members' Code of Conduct to declare any interests and complete Personal Interest forms and declare the specific interest at the commencement of the agenda item in question.

63 : MINUTES

The Minutes of the 10 January 2017 and 13 February 2017 were approved as a correct record.

64 : WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGY

The report provided the Committee with the opportunity to review and appraise the draft cabinet report on the Welsh in Education Strategy 2017-2020, which included a summary of the consultation responses. Further minor amendments had been made to the Strategy which would be highlighted during the meeting. The Strategy together with any comments provided by this Committee would be considered at Cabinet on 16 March 2017.

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Merry, Cabinet Member for Education to make a statement.

Councillor Merry explained that Cardiff's new WESP would cover the period 2017-2020. The plan was underpinned and informed by Welsh Government's current Welsh-medium Education Strategy and policy statement and the Welsh Governments draft strategy. A Million Welsh Speakers 2050.

Nick Batchelor advised this was a strategy to strengthen the Welsh Teaching Forum and promotion of the Welsh Language. The Welsh Government Framework had the same set of priorities as the Council. This was a city wide commitment which included key school place planning. This Council ambition would develop and train future leadership in Welsh-medium education.

The Chairperson invited the Committee to ask questions.

Members of the Committee showed some concern that in some areas of Cardiff there were high volumes of ethnic minorities attending primary schools and enforcing the Welsh Language would be slightly difficult to implement.

The Officers advised that in Primary School's the Welsh Language was being promoted, but it was recognised as a challenge. Multilingual Cardiff was recognised for its range of linguistics in schools and how this was being taken forward to support all languages.

The Committee recognised the progress Cardiff had made and asked if a Welsh Emersion Unit was being established. English Emersion Units were currently supporting children learning English in schools and the inclusion of a Welsh Emersion Unit would support and improve Welsh-medium.

The Committee was informed of the effective use of the Emersion setting and how this supported a child's development. It was also recognised that a significant percentage of children chose to speak English at home as supposed to Welsh. There was a high demand for Emersion Units and these were seen as cost effective.

Members of the Committee felt that children who learnt Welsh in primary school seemed to use very little of the language in secondary school or later life. The use of Welsh after school was vital to support this agenda and improve the figures for Welsh speakers.

The Committee discussed the approach to learning Welsh. After school clubs and external provisions supporting the language added value to the progress. There was also concern at the numbers of pupils attending Welsh-medium as some schools, Bro Edyn for example were not full to capacity.

The Officers explained that pupil attendance at Welsh-medium was consistent with other state schools. Higher year groups were becoming fuller and the Council was confident the schools would be full.

The Committee was directed towards "Outcome 7 – Workforce planning & continuing professional development:

- Leadership Roles
- Teaching Practitioners
- Student Involvement

This Outcome was developed to attract teaching into Welsh-medium.

Members were informed that elements of enhanced funding into Welsh-medium support had been addressed. However, it was noted that support in Maths related teaching was also seen as a priority.

AGREED – that the Chairperson writes on the Committee's behalf to the Cabinet Member to convey their comments and observations.

The Committee was advised the report provided an opportunity to review and appraise the draft cabinet report seeking to approve the Schools Admission Policy together with details of the pilot coordinated admissions with faith schools. Further minor amendments had been made to the Policy, which would be considered at Cabinet on 16 March 2017.

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Merry, Cabinet Member for Education to make a statement.

Councillor Merry explained there were two elements to the report. The annual review of the Council's School Admission Arrangements 2018/19 and the proposed implementation of Co-ordinated Secondary School Admission Arrangements for the period 2018-2020.

Nick Batchelar drew attention to the Annual Review and of the Admissions Policy. As part of the consultation specific views and suggestions were received from local ward councillors, in particular that Admissions Criteria include the longevity of residents in an area. Analysis also included no evidence of abuse of the system. Unique situations may develop through the Band B proposals and the 21st Century School Cap funding and report would be produced in early autumn.

The Chairperson invited the Committee to ask questions.

The Committee asked that since the Local Development Plan was now in place could a further examination of the catchment area be considered, as part of Recommendation 2. Officers in response agreed that the suggestion could be part of Recommendation 2.

Members of the Committee asked if the Admissions Policy was subject to change following the consultation and if so could change be incorporated. This was in relation to the suggested length of residency in an area as supposed to closest proximity to a school.

The Officers explained the consultation process in detail and the significant changes that could be applied, which could result in alternative outcomes. The introduction of a "length of catchment area residence" criterion would not be recognised as best practice and was outlined in Welsh Government's School Admissions Code.

The Schools Admissions Criteria was addressed. It was recognised there were larger numbers of pupils coming into secondary education than before and there were less places to offer even to catchment area pupils.

Members of the Committee continued to explore the possibility of the Criteria being based on the length of residency as supposed to proximity, as outlined in the Cabinet Report Recommendation 2.

Officers referred to Welsh Government Code. Clear objectives had been set for the Criteria. The suggestion of longevity as supposed to proximity was reasonable and would need to be analysed in depth.

The Committee was advised that Cardiff High School was expanding to an 8 form entry. The Marlborough intake would support the 8 form entry and as a result of this demand additional provision had been provided and consolidated.

AGREED – That the Chairperson writes on the Committee's behalf to the Cabinet Member to convey their comments and observations.

66 : EDUCATION QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE & CARDIFF 2020 - 'AIMING FOR EXCELLENCE'

The report provided the Committee with the corporate performance information for the first quarter of 2015/16 and an update on the Cardiff 2020 – Aiming for Excellence. The item would be taken in two parts first the Corporate Performance Section and then Cardiff 2020.

The Committee was referred to the Scorecard Quarter 3 2016/17. Significant improvement was evident but there was some concern in relation to the sickness absence figures.

Officers advised that sickness absence figures were higher in catering teams. All managers in that area were applying the Sickness Absence Policy when the triggers were reached.

The Cardiff 2020 strategy was launched with partners on 29 June 2016. The Education Development Board was chaired by Rod Alcott, this was a partnership board that sat beneath the Cardiff Public Services Board and had specific focus on the education and well-being of children and young people in Cardiff.

Developing Leadership programmes and pathways were essential and supported by Welsh Government. The Cardiff 2020 desired outcomes were referred to along with the key measures in place.

The position of the Consortium was addressed, with continued investment being built into education to support the resource.

The Committee was invited to ask questions.

The Committee was referred to the Cardiff 2020 desired outcomes and key measures with the support for additional learning needs being looked at on a wider regional base.

Members of the Committee discussed the position with sickness levels and the amount of time a child should stay away from school when the sickness was contagious.

The Officers advised the Committee that sickness absence data was reporting an increase. The Cardiff Wellbeing School's Policy was in place to support this along with the Council's Sickness Absence Policy.

The Committee was keen to see the Performance Indicator data in relation to Looked After Children. In response the Officer assured the Committee that information on

Looked After Children would be provided. Evidence would be available to support this as part of Cardiff strengthening its Corporate Parent function.

Members of the Committee referred to page 246 of the report and asked why the data on the baseline for the new Foundation Phase profile, which assessed the abilities of children on entry to school, was not yet available, considering its collection for the first time in the Summer.

Nick Batchelar confirmed the information would be checked and passed to the Committee.

The Committee was provided with updated information on NEET's for 2014/15:

- 3.1% indicative data
- 4.5% last year.
- Un-validated data reduced by a 3rd.

AGREED – That the Chairperson writes on the Committee's behalf to the Cabinet Member to convey their comments and observations.

67 : CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION - PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee was advised the report provided an update on the progress being made to implement this Committee's recommendations following its Task & Finish Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation.

The Chairperson welcomed Tony Young, Director Social Services and Jan Coles to the meeting.

The Committee was advised of the strands of work in place to support the process. The CSE Prevention Strategy and implementation plan not only addressed all 13 of the Committee's recommendations but also identified actions and timescales under five clear aims, namely:

- Understand
- Raise Awareness
- Identify
- Support
- Disrupt and prosecute

The Committee heard how the Council worked alongside partners to support the CSE Prevention Strategy along with the CSE interest Group. Work was on-going in schools across the city to raise awareness and provide advice and support if required. The night time economy was also a critical part of this process and work alongside taxi drivers were taking place to communicate information on CSE.

Members of the Committee were concerned with children using taxi's and fare's not being accepted, a current issues taking place in the city. In response Officers' explained that messages were being communicated to all organisations working in the night time economy along with alert issues. Work was also on-going with Youth Services and NHS staff to flag and identify areas of concern. Further work was

required with all hotels in the city to raise awareness and how reporting mechanisms were supported.

The Home Office had visited Cardiff as part of the National Working Group (NWG) and positive feedback had been provided.

The Committee was advised that all communities and groups were being encouraged to engage in the process. This was about building and developing trust in order to embrace safeguarding and protect the vulnerable.

AGREED – That the Chairperson writes on the Committee’s behalf to the Cabinet Member to convey their comments and observations.

68 : CHILDREN'S SERVICES QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE REPORT

Tony Young Director of Social Services remained present for this item.

The report provided the Committee with the performance information for the third quarter of 2016/17. Members may wish to question the Officer on the performance as well as the management actions to tackle areas of poor performance.

The Committee was advised that Performance during Quarter 3 was mixed with improvements in some key areas. Major changes had taken place with the introduction of the MASH (Multi Agency Support Hub) and the introduction of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act. Good progress being recorded and the workforce was beginning to stabilise.

Members of the Committee were advised there were no significant issues in relation to recruitment and retention. Some slight issues with the recruitment of experienced staff had been an issue but this was reflected nationally.

The Committee received information on Young Adults and Looked After Children. The cost issue of “out of county placements” was discussed and the current locations being used.

It was recognised there were issues in relation to “out if county” placements and the challenge to bring children closer to their families. One of the main drivers was to ensure that a child was appropriately placed and maintained an appropriate level of contact with their families.

The Committee discussed the process in place for dealing with the transition once a child reached the age of 18. Provision was available to support this, however it was recognised that fewer children required this facility.

AGREED – That the Chairperson writes on the Committee’s behalf to the Cabinet Member to convey their comments and observations.

69 : FGM TASK GROUP REPORT

The Committee received the Task & Finish Inquiry into Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

The Chairperson of the Inquiry Councillor Dianne Rees outlined the findings of the report.

Cardiff was not performing well in identifying FGM, reasons being that there was a lack of data, a problem nationally that was being addressed. Funding was also an issue and it was hope that funding would continue.

The Committee discussed the complicated medical issues relating to FGM and the psychological effects. The education of women in communities was essential to address this issue and highlighting the concerns to all communities. Data sharing was vital to support progression and to communicate message that the practice would not be tolerated.

RESOLVED: The Committee AGREED the report for presentation to Cabinet.

70 : SCHOOL TERM TIME TASK GROUP REPORT

The Committee received a report of the Task & Finish Inquiry to School Term times. The Inquiry was to look into amending school term times with a view to shortening the summer break in order to create an additional week's holiday elsewhere during the school calendar.

The Committee discussed the findings of the report and the respective recommendations to Cabinet.

RESOLVED: AGREED – The Committee AGREED the report.

71 : ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee received its Annual Report for 2016/17.

The Committee welcomed their Annual Report and noted the items to be considered for inclusion in its work programme.

Members of the Committee suggested that the Impact of Children of Domestic Violence be included in the work programme.

RESOLVED: The Committee AGREED the report for presentation to Council.

72 : CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

The Committee received and noted its Correspondence Information.

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