

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13 NOVEMBER 2018

Present: Councillor Bridgeman (Chairperson),
Councillors De'Ath, Philippa Hill-John, Phillips, Taylor and Singh

Co-opted Members: Patricia Arlotte (Roman Catholic representative),
Carol Cobert (Church in Wales representative) and Rebecca Crump
(Parent Governor Representative)

Chloe Burrage (Cardiff Youth Council representative)

38 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Heather Joyce and Karen Dell'Armi (Parent Governor Representative)

39 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of Interest were received.

40 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 October were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

41 : CARDIFF CHILD FRIENDLY CITY - DRAFT STRATEGY

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Employment and Skills, Nick Batchelar (Direction, Education and Lifelong Learning), Lee Patterson (Community Education Officer) and Marianne Mannelo (Policy Director, Play Wales) to the meeting.

The Chairperson invited Councillor Merry to make a statement in which she stated that the reason that such a strategy is being considered is due largely to the austerity measures and cuts in funding and that it is vital that the needs of the most vulnerable children are considered and protected and that services are shaped around them. Children must also be consulted about what is being proposed.

The Director outlined the importance of the programme and the importance of strong partnership working. Cabinet committed to the Child Friendly City programme in March 2017. Whilst there has been real progress in participation and partnerships, there has been limited focus as to what this programme will do; it is important to demonstrate that we have made a difference to a young person being in Cardiff. That focus has now been distilled into a strategy. The presentation [Working towards a Child Friendly City](#) outlined the programme development; programme delivery to date; the vision (Cardiff is 'a great place to grow up') for a Child Friendly Cardiff and the 5 goals and 17 commitments to action, namely:

Goal 1 – Every child and young person is valued, respected and treated fairly;

Goal 2 – Every child and young person has their voice, needs and priorities heard and taken into account;

Goal 3 – All children and young people grow up in a safe and supportive home;

Goal 4 – All children and young people access high quality education that promotes their rights and helps them develop their skills and talents to the full; and

Goal 5 – Children have good physical, mental and emotional health and know how to stay healthy.

Marianne Mannelo (Policy Director, Play Wales) provided Members with information about the Street Play Road Closure Pilot which is still ongoing, advising that they had been contacted by an organisation which supports Street play – called Playing Out. As a consequence a pilot scheme was set up in a number of communities August 2017 which initially continued for 5 months. They took place in neighbourhoods where none tertiary roads and roads without bus traffic could be used. The roads were closed for a few hours each month. The results were positive with children playing out and feeling safer and parents getting to know their neighbours. The idea is not to move the children away from danger but to support parents to manage the risk assessment. The model can be a cost neutral intervention in the city, although some funding was drawn down to provide HiVis jackets for stewards.

Members noted that the Child Friendly City Strategy Launch is to take place at City Hall on Tuesday 20 November 2018.

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

- Members noted that in the Whitchurch & Tongwynlais ward an unofficial monthly road closure was taking place; it was hoped that this could become an official arrangement. Members suggested that sport and music are other avenues which could be used to encourage children, particularly bearing in mind the large number of sporting groups. Members were advised that a music strategy for the city is being considered.

Members were advised of the difficulties in obtaining the relevant authority to close streets for play; requests to extend the pilot periods have been refused, particularly due to the legislative process which needs to be undertaken. It is the same process to close a road for 2 hours or to close roads for a week for Dr Who to be filmed. The costs are not proportionate.

- Members noted that children have stated that Cardiff feels like a safe city. Alcohol abuse and antisocial behaviour were not highlighted as being one of the more serious concerns that children and young people had. Unicef take the view that it is not possible to solve all of the city's problems; however young people must be listened to.
- Members sought clarification as to why the words diet and obesity did not appear; the strategy uses the words well-being and mental health. The Director advised that the Council works closely with the Health Board to help shape policies. They were keen that

obesity was not used as a key priority. Well-being covers food, healthy eating and diet, they are of course aspirations but have not been spelt out in the actions; Members have access to the early draft action plan. Members noted that the Director is the Chair of the strategy group; there is also a wider operational group; and a Young Peoples Advisory Board.

Members noted that whilst schools are clearly leading in relation to healthy school food, there should be a city wide commitment to minimising the exposure of junk food.

- Members asked whether the annual report should be presented to Council and not just to the Public Service Board. The Cabinet Member advised that there is an issue in terms of format and that it is a partnership initiative rather than Council, however, in principle it would be a good idea to share it. Members asked that it be shared with this Committee if it is no possible for it to be shared with Council.
- Members noted that the second goal is for every child and young person to have a their voice, needs and priorities heard and taken into account, but queried how that sits with the governance arrangements. Members were advised that consideration has to be given to changing the governance and, although the advisory board are helping, more children and young people need to hold the Council to account. Consideration has to be given to how the private section can be engaged.

There also needs to be focus on vulnerable young people and what young people in care say, for example they do not have Dad or Mum's taxi, that can be a hindrance to moving around Cardiff therefore negotiation is taking place with Cardiff Bus.

- Members noted that the event on 20 November is a celebration on Children's rights and not a consultation exercise, although they believed that it was important that children and young people needed to know the point of it.
- Members discussed the necessity of engaging the private sector noting that it was necessary to actively advocate the programme beyond the Public Service Board.
- Members queried the tie in with front line staff, or charities who currently have programmes working day to day listening to the needs of children, and were advised that consideration is being given to providing a platform and forum for sharing ideas. It forms part of the delivery plan.
- Members discussed, bearing in mind the number of UK Councils on this journey, that the sharing of best practise would be helpful. It was noted that the co-ordinators are brought together by Unicef on a regular basis; Cardiff is the first city to put together a piece of

work. Information can also be shared through a portal, it being a repository for information.

- Members queried the funding of the strategy and were advised that the figure was £80k total including all costs staff, running costs etc which includes £25k to Unicef.
- Members discussed the need to ensure that the Committee and other Members attend all the training that Unicef have to offer. It is importance that there is a real understanding of what Children's rights mean.

The Committee wished to thank Lee Patterson for his hard work and requested regular updates on the implementation of the strategy.

RESOLVED:

The Chairperson writes to the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Committee expressing their comments and observations discussed during the way forward.

42 : 'SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY' SHAPING A NEW CURRICULUM FOR WALES - VERBAL BRIEFING

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Employment and Skills, Nick Batchelar (Direction, Education and Lifelong Learning), Suzanne Scarlet (Performance Manager) and Natalie Stork (Performance and Information Officer) to the meeting.

The Director was invited to make a statement. Members were provided with a presentation, ['Shaping a new curriculum for Wales'](#), and shown a clip of one of the speakers, Victor Ciunca, from the Youth Council addressing the audience at the Cardiff Education Convention on 23 October 2018.

Members were invited to comment, seek clarification or raise questions on the presentation. Those discussions were summarised as follows;

- Members asked whether, even with the four key purposes of the new curriculum, grades will continue to drive both children at school and employers. Members were advised that in primary schools, the practice is very close to the successful futures ideal, the biggest challenge is rethinking secondary education. Members noted that the WJEC are hoping to start a conversation with schools and local authorities to develop a new testing system.
- Members queried what happens to those left behind if employers and schools are not moving forward at the same rate. Officers advised that they are involved with the Regional Skills Partnership and Cardiff City Deal in looking at upskilling the existing work force. Close attention needs to be paid to the post 16 age group. It is hoped that the City Deal will bring

forward a programme to incentivise learners. It is important to share identify and share opportunities.

- Members discussed the assessment arrangements, it is important to ensure that an innovative curriculum is designed only to be followed by a neanderthal assessment process. Some work is being doing on competency based assessments rather than assessment taking place at the high stakes threshold points in a school career. It is noted however that there is still an obsession with exams; perhaps Qualification Wales should be questioned about it. They do not what to repeat what happened within the Scottish education system.
- Members discussed the education and reform journey in Wales but noted that the Pisa results which will not be published until next year. Members noted that it is important to that there is confidence in the education system from all sectors, if not it will not last.
- Members discussed the importance of learning through interaction and the fact that that needs to be weaved into the curriculum. In life almost anything we do is done collaboratively – social relationships in education need to be change, and then it will be necessary to work out how it is assessed.

The Youth Council produced the Curriculum for Life Report 4 years ago, it now needs to be embedded in schools. There is a contrast between what schools thought they were doing for pupils and what pupils through schools were doing for them.

RESOLVED:

The Chairperson writes to the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Committee expressing their comments and observations discussed during the way forward.

43 : WAY FORWARD

Members discussed the information received and identified a number of issues which the Chairman agreed would be included in the letters that would be sent, on behalf of the Committee, to the relevant Cabinet Members and Officers.

44 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

There were no urgent items considered.

45 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee is on Tuesday 11 December 2018 at 4.30 pm

The meeting terminated at 6.50 pm

