

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19 JULY 2017

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

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

73 : APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Council at its meeting held on the 25 May 2017 appointed Lee Bridgeman as Chair and the following Members to this Committee:

Councillors De'Ath, Phillip Hill-John, Joyce, Morgan, Murphy, Phillips, Singh and Rhys Taylor.

Carol Cobert (Church in Wales Representative), Patricia Arlotte (Roman Catholic Representative) and Karen Dell'Armi (Parent Governor Representative).

74 : TERMS OF REFERENCE

To scrutinise, measure and actively promote improvement in the Council's performance in the provision of services and compliance with Council policies, aims and objectives in the area of children and young people, including:

- School Improvement
- Schools Organisation
- School Support Services
- Education Welfare & Inclusion
- Early Years Development
- Special Educational Needs
- Governor Services
- Children's Social Services
- Youth Services & Justice
- Children's Play Services

To assess the impact of partnerships with and resources and services provided by external organisations including the National Assembly for Wales, Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies and quasi-departmental non-governmental bodies on the effectiveness of Council service delivery.

To report to an appropriate Cabinet or Council meeting on its findings and to make recommendations on measures which may enhance Council performance in this area.

75 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Linda Morgan and Mike Phillips.

76 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairperson reminded Members of their responsibility under Part 3 of the Members' Code of Conduct. There were no declarations of interest.

77 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on the 7 March 2017 were presented and noted.

78 : FAMILIES FIRST PROGRAMME - ARRANGEMENTS FOR RECOMMISSIONING

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Graham Hinchey (Cabinet Member for Children & Families), Tony Young (Director Social Services), Irfan Alam (Assistant Director Children's Services) Angela Bourge (OM, Strategy Performance and Resources), and Ceri George (Improvement Project Manager – Prevention and Partnerships) to the meeting. Members were provided with a presentation in respect of the new commissioning arrangements:

- Reasons for the Report;
- Current Position;
- New Guidance;
- Review;
- Lessons Learned;
- Team Around the Family;
- Disability Focus;
- Parenting Services;
- Youth Support Services; and
- Draft Timetable.

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

- Members have queried the commitment from Welsh Government (WG) and were advised that WG have confirmed the funding for 2017-18 and that annual contract runs until March 2018.
- WG are only able to confirm funding levels annually however concern was raised that the Council are entering into 4 year contracts worth £5m each year.
- Members expressed concern about the timetable provided and questioned whether it was realistic. Officers advised that it was ambitious but believe that it is realistic.
- Members queried the procedure for ensuring that the public are made fully aware of Families First services and were advised that a Communication Strategy is currently being planned.
- The whole purpose of Families First is to ensure that services for children and young people are improved. It is important for consideration to be given to what families need; it is about working with them and supporting them.

- Members were advised that there is currently a good central team and a much clearer contract management approach.

AGREED – That the Chairperson writes to the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Committee expressing their comments and observations.

79 : CHILDREN'S SERVICES PART OF SOCIAL SERVICES DELIVERY PLAN 2017-19

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Graham Hinchey (Cabinet Member for Children & Families) and Tony Young (Director Social Services) to the meeting to present the report. The purpose of which is to allow the Committee to review and appraise the Directorate's key achievements during the previous year, their contributions to the Councils Corporate Plan 2017-19 and the future challenges facing Children's Services.

Members were invited to comment, raise questions or seek clarification on the information received.

The Committee reviewed the report and comments received from the Director and AGREED to note this report.

80 : EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING DELIVERY PLAN 2017-19

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member Education, Employment and Skills) and Nick Batchelar (Director of Education and Lifelong Learning) to the meeting.

The Chairperson invited the Cabinet Member to make a statement in which she confirmed that education was a priority for the last administration and it is also a priority in the new Capital Ambition 5 year plan.

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

- Members queried the nature of the provision of schools within the new developments referred to in the LDP and were advised that the Band A proposals for 2019-24 refer to 2 major developments and the Schools Organisational Planning Team, together with the Planning Department are giving consideration to how many schools will be required, and that medium they will be.
- Members expressed concern regarding the sufficiency of school places and queried whether thought it being given to redrawing the current catchment areas. The Director advised that there has to be consultation and publication of the School Admission Arrangements each year. Professor Chris Taylor, Cardiff University is currently undertaken an assessment of whether the current procedure is fit for purpose, catchment areas will be one of those arrangements that will be considered. He is due to report back at the end of September and a report will there after go to Cabinet in October or November.

- Members referred to previous Estyn reports and in particular as to whether there is an adequate teaching pool and queried what is being done to ensure that there is an adequate pool. Officers indicated that there had been changes in the education of teachers in Wales, the existing arrangements having been criticised which resulted in the changes being made.

AGREED – That the Chairperson writes to the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Committee expressing their comments and observations.

81 : WORK PROGRAMME

AGREED – To hold a forum to discuss the Work Programme

82 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 12 September 2017.

The meeting terminated at 7.34 pm

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