

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 NOVEMBER 2017

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

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

26 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Murphy

27 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Bridgeman declared a Personal Interest in Item 3, the Families First Annual Report on the basis that he is employed by ACF and advised Members that he would vacate the Chair for that item.

28 : FAMILIES FIRST 2016/17 - ANNUAL REPORT

Councillor Joyce took the Chair for this item because of the interest declared by Councillor Bridgeman.

The Chairperson welcomed Tony Young (Director of Social Services), Angela Bourge (Operational Manager Resources), Ceri George (Improvement Project Manager – Prevention and Partnerships), and Simon Morris (Lead Officer for the Child and Youth Engagement project) to the meeting and to present the report. Ceri George provided Members with a presentation which outlined the following:

- The 6 service packages;
- The TAF approach;
- The current challenges – maintaining delivery in face of reduced funding and the uncertainty over the future;
- Interpretation of the data obtained;
- Overall performance in 2016-17 and Key achievements; and
- The next steps

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

- Members queried whether there were any plans, or would it be sensible to merge the Families First (FF) and Family Information Service (FIS) phone lines, but were advised that although some consideration had been given to doing that, it was not something that is planned at the present time.
- Surprise was expressed at the high number of self-referrals to the FF Freephone Service and the low number of referrals from Social Workers. Officers were pleased with the high number of self-referrals as it was hoped

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that this service would result in a reduction in the number of calls to the MASH, particularly those that results in no further action. The FF Freephone Service was equipped to immediately respond to families with information, advice and details of other services.

- Members queried the current position with the recommissioning process. Some elements will be delivered in house, and others will be commissioned from external providers. There may well be staff who will come within the scope of TUPE. Officers advised that it is expected that there will be significant numbers of staff who will come within the scope of TUPE and therefore a significant loss of staff is not expected.

The Officer Decision Report is to be signed off by the end of the week and will then be circulated to providers. At the present time the process is ongoing with Education; to develop the School Model and Parenting Co-Ordinators. Hopefully this will be completed and agreement reached by the end of this calendar year.

Some additional funding has been received from Welsh Government; this will allow the extension of the Vulnerability Assessment Tool to Primary Schools as well as Secondary Schools, which can be refined to identify and help prioritise families.

- Members asked why there had been a drop off in the percentage of both 17 – 21 and 22 – 25 years olds accessing Families First in Cardiff and were advised work is being done on joined up provision for 16 – 25 year olds at the present time. It has been accepted that there has been a gap but they are now looking to identify risky behaviour, such as substance abuse, accommodation and relationship issues.
- Members sought clarification as to where the funding for schools involvement will come from. Officers advised that a model has been developed based on school clusters, first level Early Help workers will be employed in the clusters and then managed by the Education Directorate. The schools will be approached for funding in line with the Pupil Development Grant (PDG), or they could staff match. FF funding would also contribute. It is hoped that schools will buy in to the model for added value.

AGREED: That the Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, writes to the Cabinet Member conveying the observations of the Committee when discussing the Way Forward.

29 : FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION INQUIRY REPORT - CABINET RESPONSE

Councillor Bridgeman returned to the Chair.

The Chairperson welcomed Tony Young (Director, Social Services) to the meeting to present the report.

Members welcomed the report and the opportunity of investigating the issue.

AGREED: To note the report and recommendations.

30 : SCHOOL ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS 2019/20. - DRAFT CABINET REPORT

The Chairperson welcomed Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills), Nick Batchelar (Director, Education and Lifelong Learning), Michelle Dudridge-Hussain (Operational Manager, Planning and Provision), Brett Andrewartha (SOP Team Manager), and Professor Chris Taylor, Wales Institute of Social & Economic Research, Data & Methods (WISERD), Cardiff University to the meeting.

The Chairperson invited the Cabinet Member to make a statement in which she stated that Professor Chris Taylor had been instructed to research the school admission arrangements and any alternative options.

Professor Taylor expressed his view that there was no need to make many changes; the arrangements do not exacerbate school integration and that changes should not be made unless those changes will make things better.

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

- Members asked whether the introduction of a feeder school subscription would aid with oversubscription and were advised that it was considered in the Equality Impact Assessments carried out, and that because of the very mobile population some were more likely to be disadvantaged than others.
- Members were advised that when considering building schools consideration is given to the trends in a certain area, the demographic, current buildings and sites for opportunity.
- Members were advised, on expressing concern that segregation is more pronounced in Welsh Medium Education, that whilst there is improved promotion of Welsh Medium Education there is still more to be done. Schools are becoming more ethnically diverse.
- Members sought clarification of the information provided to parents about the consultation process for admission arrangements; as that was one of the matters raised by parents at Independent School Appeals. Members were advised that parents are not statutory consultees in relation to admission arrangements.
- Members expressed a great deal of concern in relation to the comment about segregation being higher where there are faith schools.
- Members were provided with a copy of a letter from Albany Solicitors, who represent Asylum Seekers, Refugees and members of the BME communities. The letter provided comments and concerns on the arrangements.

AGREED: That the Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, writes to the Cabinet Member conveying the observations of the Committee when discussing the Way Forward.

31 : SCHOOL ORGANISATION PROPOSALS - THE PROVISION OF ENGLISH-MEDIUM PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES IN THE ADAMSDOWN AND SPLOTT. - DRAFT CABINET REPORT.

The Chairperson welcomed Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills), Nick Batchelar (Director, Education and Lifelong Learning), Michelle Dudridge-Hussain (Operational Manager, Planning and Provision), Brett Andrewartha (SOP Team Manager) to the meeting.

The Director presented the report and advised that Ward Councillors for Adamsdown and Spott were being consulted.

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

- Members sought clarification in relation to the old Ysgol Glan Morfa site and were advised that it would be maintained and consideration is to be given to its future use.

AGREED: That the Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, writes to the Cabinet Member conveying the observations of the Committee when discussing the Way Forward.

32 : SCHOOL TERM TIME INQUIRY - CABINET RESPONSE.

The Chairperson welcomed Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills) to the meeting to present the Cabinet Response and outline the recommendations.

AGREED: To note the Cabinet Response and recommendations.

33 : 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.

34 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next scheduled meeting of the Children & Young People Committee is Tuesday 12 December 2017 at 2.30 pm

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