

MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY PANEL MONDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2014

Councillors: Berryman, M Blake, Hearn (Chair) and Ibrahim

Co-opted Members: Ms. Y. Denny (Church of England Representative), Mr. C. Ekeowa (Catholic Diocese representative) and Mr. K. Taye (Parent Governor)

CYPS1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hare and Morris and Mr Collier.

CYPS2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

CYPS3. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS

None.

CYPS4. MINUTES

In respect of item CYPS114 (Fostering Service Review and Implementation), it was noted that it had been agreed that an update be provided in six months time on progress with the achievement of targets. In respect of item CYPS115 (Hartsbrook School – E-Act), it was noted that the Lion Academy Trust had now taken over the running of the school. In respect of item CYP116 (Early Help Offer for Children and Young People), it was noted that an opportunity for Members to feed into the development of the initiative was to be arranged in due course. A regional seminar on early help had recently been held by OFSTED as part of their Getting to Good programme and it was agreed that the papers and slides from this would be shared with Panel Members.

AGREED:

1. That an item be added to the agenda for the meeting on 3 November on progress with the achievement of targets for the improvements of the fostering service; and
2. That the minutes of the meeting of 27 February 2014 be approved.

CYPS5. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Panel noted that there was currently overlap between the respective responsibilities of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel and the Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel in respect of issues relating to childhood obesity. Susan Oti, the Assistant Director of Public Health, stated that she would prefer it if the issue were covered by the Children and Young People's Panel as there was a close relationship between the issue and other matters and areas of policy that came within the Panel's terms of reference. The Cabinet Member for Children and Families concurred with this view.

AGREED:

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That Overview and Scrutiny Committee be recommended to provide further clarification regarding the respective responsibilities of the scrutiny panels in relation to children's health issues.

CYPS6. WORK PLAN

It was reported that the Council had been successful with a bid for support from the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) for support in undertaking work relating to service transformation. The Panel had indicated that they were interested in undertaking in-depth pieces of work on the challenges faced by young people within the borough as they became adults as well as childhood obesity. Charlotte Pomery, the Assistant Director for Commissioning, stated that the childhood obesity project might be a better fit for the CfPS support as it was more closely linked to a transformation project.

Panel Members felt that issues relating to young people were a higher priority within Haringey. It was noted that the proposal to undertake work in this area involved universal services rather than specifically social care. Whilst childhood obesity was of importance, Panel Members were of the view that the issues associated with it were not unique to Haringey. Ms. Pomery reported that childhood obesity was a major priority for the Health and Well Being Board. A key part of the plans for the development of a programme was to address the issue of engagement with the public and stakeholders.

Panel Members proposed that the following issues be added to the work programme;

- Children and young people within the criminal justice system; and
- Support for parents and carers of disabled children and reforms to arrangements for Special Education Needs (SEN) to examine their impact on inclusive education.

It was also agreed that the issues of test and exam results and progress of new academies would be taken together. It was noted that additional work would need to be undertaken to scope items further.

AGREED:

That, subject to the above mentioned additions and amendments, the draft work plan be agreed for recommendation to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

CYPS7. OFSTED SINGLE INSPECTION FRAMEWORK REPORT ON SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN NEED OF HELP AND PROTECTION, CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND CARE LEAVERS AND REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

Lisa Redfern, the Director of Children's Services, reported on the recent Single Inspection Framework Inspection by OFSTED from 20th May – 11th June 2014, which had been circulated to panel members prior to the meeting. The inspection had been undertaken on:

- Children in need of help and protection, looked after children and care leavers; and
- The Effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

The services were judged as "Requires Improvement". No widespread or serious failures were identified. Fifty per cent of local authorities across the country inspected so far had also been judged by Ofsted to Require Improvement as the bar has been

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raised by Ofsted. However, Haringey was ambitious in its approach and wanted to progress to being classified as good.

Ms Redfern accepted the classification that had been given and felt that it was a fair appraisal. There had been many areas where good progress had been highlighted, including the timeliness and quality of assessments, the quality of practice and the obtaining of parental consent. Leadership and management had also been found to be clear and effective and thresholds set and applied appropriately. In addition, the inspection had found that the voice of the child was being heard effectively. The inspection had, most importantly, not found services wanting in terms of protecting children.

Panel Members raised the issue of continuity in the provision of social workers. Ms Redfern commented that significant progress had been achieved. This was due in part to good training and supervision. The service was committed to providing greater continuity and wished to retain good social workers so that children could deal with the same person as much as was possible.

In response to a question from the Chair, it was agreed that a list of outcomes that were striven for in social care as well as a dashboard for early help and youth justice support outcomes would be shared with the Panel. It was noted that performance was reported and monitored on a regular basis.

Jon Abbey, the Assistant Director for Schools and Learning, reported that issues with young people frequently started at an early age. There was therefore a need to improve performance in respect of early help. School attendance was crucial and a major indicator of future success.

Panel Members were of the view that improvement in addressing chronic neglect needed to be given particular priority by services.

Ms Redfern reported that there were a number of recommendations for both the Council and the LSCB to address. 75% of these had already been addressed successfully. The governance arrangements had been significantly strengthened and there was an established Getting to Good Board that was focussed currently on plans to implement the recommendations. The OFSTED action plan was being developed but could not be shared with the Panel until such time as OFSTED had approved it.

AGREED:

1. That that a list of that outcomes aimed for by the Children and Young People's Service be shared with Panel Members; and
2. That, when approved by OFSTED, the action plans arising from the recent inspections be circulated to Panel Members.

CYPS8. COUNCIL AND MULTI AGENCY BODIES RELEVANT TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

In respect of governance structures, the Cabinet Member for Children and Families reported that it was important to ensure that there was the right level of Member

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involvement. Although there appeared to be a lot of overlap, particularly in respect of the multi-agency bodies, there were clear differences between the functions of many of the bodies. Considerable efforts had been made to rationalise the number of bodies and it was now felt that there was no further scope for reducing them.

**Cllr Kirsten Hearn
Chair**