

Challenging and Vulnerable Children Sub Committee

Tuesday, 4th November, 2008

PRESENT: Mr. Bob Stott in the Chair

Councillor M Coulson, Mr. J. Fryett, Mrs. S. Knight

OFFICERS PRESENT:

- Mrs. D. Leonard, Legal Services
- Mrs. R. Phillips, Education Leeds
- Miss. Laura Pilgrim, Governance Services

9 Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed all parties to the second meeting of a busy year. The Leeds Inclusive Learning Strategy was progressing which would see serious reconfiguration in April 2009 in the 5 behaviour continuum areas

10 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mr. Alun Rees.

11 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on Thursday 25th September 2008 were approved as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved.

12 Matter Arising

In relation to minute 7 the clerk had checked the agenda for the Children's Scrutiny Board for a report on Commissioning however the report was not relevant to the work of the Sub-Committee. The Chair informed the Sub-Committee that he had not received a response from the Director of Planning and Commissions (Children's and Maternity Services) but would advise Members when a response was received.

In relation to minute 6 the response on the consultation for the School Admissions Code of Practice had been sent to the DCSF and the draft Bill would be laid before Parliament sometime in November 2008.

RESOLVED: That the updates be noted.

13 Leeds Inclusive Learning Learning Strategy

Mr. Fryett provided Members of the Forum with an update on the progress of the Leeds Inclusive Learning Strategy (LILS). In the future the behaviour and Education

Support Teams' finance would be delivered locally under Strand 3. In Strand 1 the National Programme for School Leaders in Behaviour and Attendance had been introduced which was a useful training for anyone who worked in a school in the leadership of behaviour and attendance.

In relation to Strand 4 and locality working, officers were working closely with extended schools, especially PRUs, to ensure involvement. The Project Board was meeting in Thursday and would look at draft activity plans for all the strands. The Board would also sign off models for further discussions on Strand 2 - Special Schools and Strand 3 – Behaviour.

The following points were raised during discussions:

- Mr. Fryett was not aware of any further discussions with PRU Head Teachers in relation to Strand 2.
- Mr. Fryett had chaired an interesting meeting on BEST in the wedges where the high level of involvement of leaders in BEST Team was supported and many leaders advised that they felt they were fully engaged in the process.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

14 Fair Access Protocol Update

Members of the Sub-Committee received a verbal update from Mrs. Phillips on the Fair Access Protocol. Members noted that it was still too early in the term to provide data on the Fair Access Protocol but updates would be provided at future meetings. Officers were currently in the process of reviewing how the data was recorded and presented in order to provide an accurate picture of how the policy was working. For example by only recording the child once and not the number of applications made for the child. A mechanism was also being established in conjunction with Alun Rees to monitor the outcomes for unaccompanied asylum seekers and for other children to show the whole picture. The new Admissions Code of Practice which had recently finished its consultation period, would introduce timescales for the admission of children under the Protocol.

The Chair thanked Mrs. Phillips for the update and then went on to ask Members of the Sub-Committee whether or not there were any issues they wished to discuss. Concern was raised for those children in mainstream education not obtaining college spaces etc. especially those who may have not been diagnosed. Mr. Fryett assured Members that this was a concern which was covered under LILS and the 14+ area work. There had been joint meetings with officers involved in the disability strategy and further work would take place with practitioners, parents, carers and other relevant groups.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

15 Date and Time of next meeting

The date and time of the next meetings of the Sub-Committee were confirmed as:

- 8th January 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

- 28th April 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

RESOLVED: that the dates and times of the next meetings of the Sub-Committee be noted.