

## **Challenging and Vulnerable Children Sub Committee**

**Tuesday, 24th May, 2011**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs S Knights in the Chair

Councillors P Gruen, Mr R Hamilton, Ms S Norfolk and Ms A Moorehouse

In Attendance:

Mrs R Phillips- Children's Services  
Miss J Andrew- Children's Services  
Mrs A Oldroyd – Legal Services  
Mrs S Wallace- Governance Services

### **48 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr P Forbes

### **49 CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS**

The Chair welcomed everyone in attendance and extended a special welcome to Sophie Wallace from Governance Services who was the new clerk to the Sub Committee.

### **50 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2011 were submitted for comment and approval.

**RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2011 be accepted as a true and correct record

### **51 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no issues raised under Matters Arising from the Minutes

### **52 UPDATE ON FAIR ACCESS PROTOCOLS**

The Sub Committee considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided an update on the operation of the Fair Access Panels and the admission of children during the academic year 2010 / 11.

Addressing the report, Mrs R Phillips, Fair Access Manager, Children's Services reported that the operation of Fair Access Panels was working well. Secondary Panels continued to sit on a monthly basis to consider parental preferences. There had not been any directions to schools so far this academic year and all young

people who had been discussed at Panel, who did not have a school place, had been offered one.

There was a discussion as to how the Fair Access Panels process worked, and which Head Teachers attend which Fair Access Panels.

Mrs Phillips informed the Sub Committee that the publication of the School Admissions Code was being awaited, and until this happened it was not possible to see how it may impact on the work of the Admissions Team or the work that they currently do.

**RESOLVED** - That the update on the Fair Access Protocols be noted

### **53 REPORT ON THE ADMISSION OF "LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN"**

The Sub Committee considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided a summary of the trends in the admissions of looked after children seeking in-year transfers either between Leeds schools or from out of area placements into Leeds schools.

Addressing the report, Mrs R Phillips, Fair Access Manager, Children's Services informed the Sub Committee of the work that was being done by Children's Services with regard to Challenging and Vulnerable Children.

In passing comment, Cllr Gruen said that it appeared that Children's Services were doing excellent work, but that this was not widely publicised, and asked that Nigel Richardson, Director of Children's Services, be invited to attend a future meeting of the Leeds Admissions Forum with a view to explaining the challenges and achievements of Children's Services in Leeds.

**RESOLVED-**

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted
- (ii) That this report be presented at the next meeting of the Leeds Admissions Forum
- (iii) That Mr Nigel Richardson, Director of Children's Services, be invited to attend a future meeting of the Leeds Admissions Forum with a view to explaining the challenges and achievements of Children's Services in Leeds.

### **54 CHILDREN MISSING EDUCATION**

The Sub Committee considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided an update on Children Missing From Education during the period September 2010 and March 2011.

Addressing the report, Miss J Andrew, Head of Service, Attendance Strategy Team, Children's Services informed the Sub Committee that between September 2010 and

March 2011, the Children Missing Education Team received 578 new referrals. This compared to 621 new referrals for the same period in the previous year. 229 of the referrals received in 2010/11 were referred by the Attendance Strategy Team, and 106 were referred directly by schools. During this period, the Attendance Strategy Team were able to close 415 of these new cases, with 26.3% of these closed cases being successfully placed on the roll of a school.

There was a discussion about the methods used and information available to the Attendance Strategy Team to use in locating Children Missing Education. Miss Andrews informed the Sub Committee of the information given to schools with regard to Children Missing Education, including when it is permissible to remove a child from the school roll. There was a discussion around the outcomes for particular groups of Children Missing Education, including Traveller Children.

**RESOLVED** - That the update on Children Missing Education be noted.

## **55 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

**RESOLVED** –

- (i) To note the scheduled Work Programme for 2011 / 12
- (ii) To update the Work Programme to reflect the decisions made at today's meeting

## **56 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED** – That the next meeting of the Sub Committee be arranged for Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2011 at 4.00 p.m. in the Civic Hall, Leeds