

SCRUTINY BOARD (CHILDREN AND FAMILIES)

THURSDAY, 14TH MARCH, 2013

PRESENT: Councillor J Chapman in the Chair

Councillors B Gettings, C Gruen,
A Hussain, A Khan, A Lamb, P Latty,
K Renshaw, A Sobel, B Urry

CO-OPTED MEMBERS (VOTING):

Mr E A Britten – Church Representative (Catholic)

Ms J Ward – Parent Governor Representative (Secondary)

CO-OPTED MEMBERS (NON-VOTING):

Ms C Raftery – Teacher Representative

Mrs S Hutchinson – Early Years Representative

Ms T Kayani – Leeds Youth Work Partnership Representative

Ms J Morris-Boam – Young Lives Leeds

114 Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed all in attendance to the March meeting of Scrutiny Board (Children and Families).

115 Late Items

In accordance with her powers under Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair agreed to accept the following late information:

- 2012/13 Quarter 3 Performance Report – replacement wording for paragraph 3.1 relevant to quarter 3 (Minute No. 120 refers)
- Scrutiny Inquiry into Increasing the Number of Young People in Employment, Education or Training (Minute No. 122 refers)

The above documents were not available at the time of agenda despatch, but were subsequently made available on the Council's website.

116 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Councillor A Lamb declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to agenda item 7, Scrutiny Inquiry – Strategic Partnership Boards, in his capacity as a Member of the Children's Trust Board. (Minute No. 119 refers)

117 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors M Rafique and Co-opted Members, Ms A Craven and Ms C Foote.

118 Minutes - 14th February 2013

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 14th February 2013 be approved as a correct record.

119 Scrutiny Inquiry - Strategic Partnership Boards

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report which outlined the strengths and areas for development in relation to the Children's Trust Board.

The following information was appended to the report:

- Current membership of the Children's Trust Board
- Children's Trust Governance Structure
- Child poverty – an update on progress and national consultation.

The following Executive Member and officers attended the meeting:

- Councillor Blake, Executive Member (Children's Services)
- Nigel Richardson, Director of Children's Services
- Sue Rumbold, Chief Officer (Partnership Development and Business Support)
- Jane Mischenko, NHS Airedale, Bradford and Leeds
- Dr Sharon Yelin, NHS Airedale, Bradford and Leeds
- Keith Gilert, Superintendent, West Yorkshire Police.

The key areas of discussion were:

- The role of the Children's Trust Board (CTB). The main area of development was around the involvement of young people.
- The benefits of partnership working.
- The role of clusters, particularly in relation to increasing the number of young people in employment, education or training.
- Investment in the following key areas:
 - The voice and influence of looked after children
 - Restorative practice
 - Outcome based accountability.
- Development of governance arrangements for clusters.
- Acknowledgement of the work undertaken by the voluntary and 3rd sector, development of commissioning work, young carers and restorative practice.
- The potential implications of welfare reforms on families. Current focus on most vulnerable families and raising awareness.
- The complexity surrounding CTB governance arrangements.
- Concern about the absence of adult social services representation and early years representation on the CTB. Members were advised that representation on the CTB was currently being reviewed. It was agreed to report back any changes to the Scrutiny Board.

- Development of ward based data and information.
- Improvements needed in relation to measuring levels of child poverty.

RESOLVED – That the reports and appendices be noted.

(Councillor A Hussain joined the meeting at 10.02am during the consideration of this item.)

(Councillor A Khan withdrew from the meeting at 10.30am, during the consideration of this item.)

120 2012/13 Quarter 3 Performance Report

The Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Access and Performance) / Director of Children's Services submitted a joint report which presented a summary of the 2012-13 quarter 3 performance data relevant to the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families).

The following information was appended to the report:

- Performance Reports for the 3 City Priority Plan Priorities
- Children's Services Directorate Priorities and Indicators
- Children and Young People's Plan dashboard.

The following officers attended the meeting:

- Nigel Richardson, Director of Children's Services
- Sue Rumbold, Chief Officer (Partnership Development and Business Support)
- Rebacca Hill, Performance Programme Manager.

The main areas of discussion were:

- Members requested a breakdown in relation to the number of young people involved in temporary employment, apprenticeships and other training programmes.
- Confirmation of improvements to children's homes provision.
- Further information requested in relation to Children's Services ofsted inspections/review.

It was agreed to report back the above requests for information to the April Scrutiny Board.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report and appendices be noted.

(Councillor A Khan re-joined the meeting at 11.25am, during the consideration of this item.)

121 Response to Scrutiny Inquiry Report - Private Fostering

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report in response to the Scrutiny Board's inquiry report on private fostering.

The following officers attended the meeting:

- Nigel Richardson, Director of Children's Services
- Steve Walker, Deputy Director, Safeguarding, Specialist and Targeted Services
- Bryan Gocke, Leeds Safeguarding Children's Board Manager.

RESOLVED – That the proposed responses outlined in the report be approved.

122 Scrutiny Inquiry into Increasing the Number of Young People in Employment, Education or Training

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report which requested Members to consider and agree the Scrutiny Board's report following its inquiry into increasing the number of young people in employment, education or training.

The following officers attended the meeting:

- Nigel Richardson, Director of Children's Services
- Gary Milner, Lead – Skills for Learning and Life Service.

RESOLVED – That the Scrutiny Board's inquiry into increasing the number of young people in employment, education or training, be approved.

123 Work Schedule

A report was submitted by the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development which detailed the Scrutiny Board's work schedule for the current municipal year.

Appended to the report for Members' information was the current version of the Board's work programme, together with the minutes of the Executive Board meeting held on 15th February 2013.

RESOLVED – That the work schedule be approved.

124 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday, 25th April 2013 at 9.45am with a Pre Meeting for Board Members at 9.15am.

(The meeting concluded at 11.58am.)