

SCRUTINY BOARD (CHILDREN AND FAMILIES)

THURSDAY, 7TH SEPTEMBER, 2017

PRESENT: Councillor S Bentley in the Chair

Councillors J Akhtar, D Cohen, N Dawson,
C Dobson, J Elliott, P Gruen, P Latty,
K Renshaw and B Selby

CO-OPTED MEMBERS (VOTING)

Mr E A Britten – Church Representative (Catholic)
Mr A Graham – Church Representative (Church of England)
Mrs J Ward – Parent Governor Representative (Secondary)
Ms J Hazelgrave – Parent Governor Representative (Special)

CO-OPTED MEMBERS (NON-VOTING)

Ms C Foote – Teacher Representative
Ms M Owen – Teacher Representative
Mrs S Hutchinson – Early Years Representative
Ms C Hopkins (Young Lives Leeds)

21 Late Items

The following late information was submitted to the Board:

- Agenda item 7 – SILC attendance data 2014/15 to 2015/16.
- Agenda item 9 – School data in relation to the Board's inquiry into the impact of child poverty on attainment, achievement and attendance.

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

22 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests declared to the meeting.

23 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor C Gruen and Co-opted Member, Ms C Bewsher.

Notification had been received that Councillor P Gruen was to substitute for Councillor C Gruen.

24 Minutes - 20 July 2017

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2017 be approved as a correct record.

25 Aspire, Empower, Accomplish - Supporting Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in Leeds - Tracking of scrutiny recommendations/desired outcomes and Progress made following the SEND Ofsted inspection February 2017

The Head of Governance and Scrutiny Support and the Director of Children and Families submitted a joint report which outlined the progress that had been made in response to the recommendations arising from the Board's inquiry into Aspire, Empower and Accomplish – Supporting Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in Leeds.

The following information was appended to the report:

- Recommendation tracking flowchart and classifications
- Details of progress made against each recommendation
- Ofsted / CQC Area SEND Inspection Outcomes.

The following were in attendance:

- Councillor Jonathan Pryor, Deputy Executive Member, Children and Families
- Steve Walker, Director of Children and Families
- Andrew Eastwood, Chief Officer, Learning Improvement
- Barbara Newton, Head of Service, Complex Needs
- Dr Jane Mischenko, NHS Leeds South and East CCG.

The status of recommendations were agreed as follows:

- Recommendation 1 – Not fully implemented (Progress made acceptable. Continue monitoring)
- Recommendation 2 – Not fully implemented (Progress made acceptable. Continue monitoring)
- Recommendation 3 – Not fully implemented (Progress made acceptable. Continue monitoring)
- Recommendation 4 – Achieved
- Recommendation 5 – Not fully implemented (Progress made acceptable. Continue monitoring)
- Recommendation 6 – Achieved
- Recommendation 7 – Achieved
- Recommendation 8 – Achieved
- Recommendation 9 – Not fully implemented (Progress made acceptable. Continue monitoring)
- Recommendation 10 – Not fully implemented (Progress made acceptable. Continue monitoring)
- Recommendation 11 – Not fully implemented (Progress made acceptable. Continue monitoring).

The key areas of discussion were:

- An update on support for young people leaving custody, particularly through development of a personalised action plan.
- The level of specialist special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) provision in Leeds.
- The types of support for children and young people with an Education and Health Care (EHC) plan.
- An update on progress in relation to the supported internship pilot.
- Concern that some young people's needs could only be met outside of Leeds.
- Clarification sought regarding waiting times for children diagnosed with autism. The Board was advised that latest data indicated good progress and that resources were in place to support further improvements.
- Clarification sought regarding longer term care for young people that had been diagnosed with autism. The Board was advised about waiting times and wrap around support provided by the child and adolescent mental health service (CAMHS), the speech and language therapy service and tier 4.
- The low percentage of dyslexia diagnosis locally compared to nationally.
- A suggestion that future reporting included target dates and outcomes.
- The access to training and support for schools in relation to SEND.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the above status of recommendations be approved.
- (b) That future reporting included target dates and outcomes.

26 Ofsted - Areas for Improvement - Inspection March 2015

The Director of Children and Families submitted a report which presented an update on the progress made against the areas of improvement identified by Ofsted.

The following were in attendance:

- Councillor Jonathan Pryor, Deputy Executive Member, Children and Families
- Steve Walker, Director of Children and Families
- Jancis Andrew, Head Teacher, Virtual School
- Andrew Eastwood, Chief Officer, Learning Improvement.

The key areas of discussion were:

- An acknowledgement regarding the significant progress that had been made. Board members expressed concern about the length of time

taken in some areas with recognition that there was still more to be done in terms of improving outcomes for vulnerable young people.

- Confirmation about a reduction in the level of pupil premium funding despite an increase in the number of deprived children, and issues associated with accessing funding.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the Board notes the progress made on the Ofsted areas for improvement.
- (b) That an update report be presented to the Board in 2018/19.

27 Scrutiny Inquiry - The Impact of Child Poverty on Attainment, Achievement and Attendance

The Head of Governance and Scrutiny Support submitted a report which provided information as part of the Board's inquiry into the impact of child poverty on attainment, achievement and attendance.

The following were in attendance:

- Councillor Jonathan Pryor, Deputy Executive Member, Children and Families
- Mariana Pexton, Chief Officer, Strategy and Resources
- Steve Walker, Director of Children and Families
- Andrew Eastwood, Chief Officer, Learning Improvement
- Peter Storrie, Head of Service, Performance Management and Improvement.

The key areas of discussion were:

- Concern that there was a need for clear understanding about the progress and impact of child poverty work strands undertaken by, or in partnership with the council in order to understand effectiveness and if objectives were being achieved. Board members expressed concern that any gaps in service to mitigate the impact of, or prevent child poverty were not currently known.
- Concern that the Child Poverty Sub-Group had not met for some time and a suggestion that more work was needed to consider cross-cutting themes and strategies, how these were integrated and what further action was required.
- The Board felt that the limited data provided did not facilitate the selection of schools and cluster and requested that the Chair made the selection following advice from the scrutiny officer and consultation with representatives from children's services.
- The data that was required to support the November session of the Board's inquiry.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the issues raised as part of the Board’s inquiry into the impact of child poverty on attainment, achievement and attendance, be noted.
- (b) That the Chair selects appropriate schools and school cluster to visit with advice from scrutiny following consultation with representatives from children’s services.

(Councillor K Renshaw left the meeting at 11.55am, Councillor P Latty and Mrs S Hutchinson at 12.15pm, Mr A Graham at 12.20pm and Councillor J Akhtar at 12.35pm, during the consideration of this item.)

28 Work Schedule

The Head of Governance and Scrutiny Support submitted a report which invited Members to consider the Board’s work schedule for the 2017/18 municipal year.

The Board was advised that there had been changes to the schedule for November. A November Board meeting replaced the scrutiny inquiry visits that had been previously scheduled. The visits were now to take place in late November.

RESOLVED – That subject to any on-going discussions and scheduling decisions, the Board’s outline work schedule be approved.

29 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday, 19 October 2017 at 9.45am (pre-meeting for all Board Members at 9.15am)

(The meeting concluded at 12.40pm)