

**CHILDREN'S AND CULTURE SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 5TH APRIL, 2017

Present – Councillors Dean (Chairman), Kirk-Robinson (Vice-Chairman), Abdullah, Ayub (as deputy for Councillor Iqbal), Gibbon, Harkin, Haworth, Jones, Murray, Spencer, Mrs. Swarbrick, C. Wild and Wilkinson.

Co-opted Members

Mrs A. Martin – Representative of Primary Parent Governors

Also in Attendance

Councillor Mrs Thomas	-	Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader
Councillor Cunliffe	-	Cabinet Member for Education, Schools, Safeguarding and Looked After Children
Councillor J. Byrne	-	Cabinet Member for Culture, Youth and Sport
Mr J. Daly	-	Director of People
Mr T. Birch	-	Assistant Director, Education and Learning
Ms J. Spencer	-	Head of Libraries and Museum
Ms J. Robinson	-	Strategic Lead for Early Year
Mr P. Rankin	-	Performance, Planning and Resources Manager
Ms K. Hopkins	-	Assistant Director, Department of Place
Mrs S. Bailey	-	Principal Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ayub, Darvesh, Gillies and Shaikh and from Mr J. Clare (Co-opted Member)

Councillor Dean in the Chair.

30. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Children's and Culture Scrutiny Committee held on 8th February, 2017 were submitted.

Resolved – That the minutes be received and signed as a correct record.

31. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Borough Solicitor submitted a report which put forward the Work Programme for the Committee for the current Municipal Year, which had been formulated following the workshop session at the first meeting of the Committee in June, 2016 and had guided the work of the Committee over the current Municipal Year.

Resolved – That the 2016/17 work programme, as now submitted, be noted.

32. CULTURE, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND SPORT PARTNERSHIP WORKING IN BOLTON

Mr P. Rankin gave a presentation on partnership working in Bolton and outlined a vision to work together to refresh and reform services in order to provide a vibrant and stronger future by 2030.

The presentation emphasised the key principles of the current partnership arrangements which centred on active, connected and prosperous and reforming services in partnership.

Physical Activity

In this regard, the presentation went on to outline how getting active in Bolton contributed to the overall vision and how physical activities were promoted and delivered throughout the Borough.

The benefits of getting active and participating in culture and physical activity were highlighted and included:

- contributing to community cohesion;
- reducing social exclusion and isolation;
- making communities feel safer and stronger;
- improving health and wellbeing;
- promoting a sense of place; and
- giving enjoyment.

There was a strong existing network of culture and sport organisations within the Borough with good examples of strong leadership. Plans to develop these further included making connections, increasing joint capacity, collecting an evidence base to support growth and grow resource and involve key partners. Governance proposals were also detailed.

The presentation went on to outline the role of the Physical Activity Operational Group which had been established in 2016 with the purpose of:

- developing the Vision 2030 Strategy;
- developing a collaborative approach;
- delivering outcomes for Bolton;
- responding to funding opportunities; and
- responding to the GM Agenda.

The membership included the Council and many external parties including Bolton Wanderers Community Trust/Bolton CVS, Bolton Lads and Girls Club, Bolton Arena, Bolton Leisure Trust, Bolton University and Greater Sport.

Various funding streams were being applied for in order to obtain monies to further the Group's strategic aims of:

- changing behaviours;
- maximising assets; and
- delivering efficiently.

The next steps and action plan were also outlined which included an audit of current provision, a focus on engaging those not in any physical activity, link to population health and Locality Plan outcomes, employers, transport and activity tracking.

Culture

Ms Spencer gave a presentation on cultural developments and outlined the progress to date which included:

- development group;
- stakeholder workshop – December, 2016;
- coordination of a Local Cultural Education Partnership (LCEP) - £5k of development funding received; and
- GM Great Places Programme.

The presentation highlighted Bolton's existing cultural offer which supported:

- Town Centre regeneration;
- Engaged and active neighbourhoods;
- Voluntary and amateur arts communities;
- A range of cultural festivals;
- Dynamic cultural groups; and
- Celebrates and embraces diversity.

By 2030, four areas of impact had been identified in which the following achievements were being aimed at:

- Engagement – increased adult participation in the arts and Bolton would have risen out of the bottom 20% in England;
- Education – every child in the Bolton family would have access to culture as part of growing up;

- Health – to have made a measurable difference towards improving Bolton’s health and wellbeing; and
- Economy – to demonstrate measurable growth in Bolton’s economy through culture, heritable and creative industries.

In order to progress these aims, the next steps had been agreed which involved –

- A key cultural representative being identified to sit on the Strategic Group;
- Development of an operational group to coordinate delivery impacts engagement, health and economy; and
- To develop the LCEP to join up and improve cultural education in Bolton.

Following the presentations, members made the following comments/observations:

- bids had been submitted to Greater Manchester at a regional level for funding in relation to strategy, direction and engagement for Bolton - the outcome was still awaited;
- the success of the Greater Manchester bid for Great Places, a cultural development programme which would result in some support being available for Bolton;
- the use of GPs and surgeries to encourage signposting to other available services; and
- the possibility of grading walks dependent on difficulty and marking them out on the route to encourage walkers.

Resolved – That Mr Rankin and Ms Spencer be thanked for their informative presentations.

33. START WELL SERVICE – OVERVIEW

Mr T. Birch and Ms J. Robinson gave a presentation on transforming early years and childcare, children’s centres and family support.

Members were advised that the Start Well Service had been implemented on 1st April, 2017 and included:

- Start Well Early Years and Quality Outcomes;
- Early Years Special Educational Needs and Disability Support;
- Start Well Communication and Language Development;
- Start Well Hubs;
- Start Well Linked Sites; and
- Start Well Assessment and contact 0 - 19s

The buildings and linked sites used by the Service as hubs together with the School Partnerships were identified in the presentation.

A programme of events for the North Children's Centre was circulated for information.

The presentation went on to focus on the Start Well Locality Offer for September, 2017 and provided details on the following:

- Start Well locality team
- Stay, Play and Learn sessions egg. Busy Babies, Active Minds, parent led groups
- Chatterbox parent/child interaction groups
- Toddler Tales
- Well Baby Clinics, Ante-natal clinic, Paediatric clinics
- Health Visitor assessments 0-2 years (5 stages)
- Oral health drop-ins
- Baby's first foods, New baby group
- Incredible Years Parenting Programmes (Baby and pre-school) and parenting drop-ins
- Outreach/family support, Parenting assessments and Contact
- Free early education and childcare places for 2, 3, 4YOs
- Childminder drop-ins

Start Well link sites were also identified as follows:

- Free early education places for 2, 3, 4 and 5 year olds

- Integrated 2 year old assessments
- 30 hours free childcare for working parents
- EY SEND hubs and bases (3 school sites)
- Stay, Play and Learn sessions
- Communication and Language Groups
- Early Years Intervention Groups
- Family learning groups
- Health room: ante-natal clinics, Paediatric clinics
- Well Baby Clinics
- Toddler tales story sessions
- Childminder drop-ins

The current Early Years and Childcare Policy together with its aims were also detailed as follows:

- to increase the take up of 2YO places for the most disadvantaged children – currently 1748 eligible children and 70% take-up;
- to implement 30 hours free childcare from September 2017 for working parents- there are estimated to be 2,190 children in Bolton who will be eligible from September 2017;
- to implement Early Years National Funding Formula from April 2017;
- to increase number of eligible children receiving EYPP;
- to introduce Inclusion Fund for 3 and 4 year olds with emerging and high needs SEND; and
- to introduce additional targeted Disability Access Funding of one off payments of £615 per to support providers to make initial reasonable adjustments and build the capacity of the setting to work with children receiving Disability Living allowance.

Following the presentation, members commented on the following:

- the effects of the oral health programme – all children in Bolton now had access to a dentist - there were still high levels of decay in the North West and improving this was a priority with a focus on diet, food and family education;

- the effect of the additional free nursery hours provision on places – it was stated that demand had not particularly increased as most children who were entitled to the additional hours were already in a nursery; and
- there was currently a 70% take up of nursery places in Bolton for the most disadvantaged children – reasons for lack of uptake on the remaining 30% included a lack of knowledge on eligibility, preferring their child to stay at home and some had concerns that 2 years old was too young for nursery. Work was ongoing to increase take up and measures included word of mouth, an online checker for eligibility and promotion of the benefits of play and interaction with other children and parents.

Resolved – That Mr Birch and Ms Robinson be thanked for their informative presentations.

34. MEMBERS' BUSINESS

- (a) The Committee was informed that a question had been submitted by Councillor C. Wild, for consideration under Standing Order 36, as follows:-

Question:

Safeguarding - Missing From Education Pupils

Sexual exploitation has been a major problem in other local authorities; I'm concerned that it doesn't become a problem in Bolton.

Bolton is increasingly admitting pupils from a variety of countries, Eastern Europeans predominantly. I'm aware of the fact that some of these pupils, particularly girls, who arrive at school and who consequently within a few days disappear. I know that schools have in place stringent checks and have a duty of care to trace any pupil that is missing from school; however it is becoming increasingly difficult to trace the whereabouts of some of the girls. Is the Council aware of to what extent missing girls is a problem? What are the protocols in dealing with

Missing from Education girls and for girls who arrive at school and move within this country a few days later, only to then reappear and try to regain admittance to a school or the same school a few months later?

Answer:

Sexual exploitation is a problem for Bolton as it is for the majority of towns and cities in the UK. To this end following events in Rochdale, Bolton alongside the nine other authorities of Greater Manchester developed multi-agency teams to address Child Sexual Exploitation.

Bolton has the Phoenix/EXIT team a team of specialist Police Officers and Children's Services staff and a health worker who support victims, provide early intervention to prevent CSE, prosecute and disrupt offenders by a variety of means with the assistance of partner agencies.

We are aware of the growth of the Eastern European community in Bolton. We have identified a number of young people at risk of CSE from these communities. Professionals can face additional challenges attempting to meaningfully engage with them and their families. These may be cultural barriers which in some cases are that Education is not seen as priority for young women. This may be due to bad experiences with agencies in their country of origin, and a general mistrust of public servants. Many families resort to the 'black' economy and see any intervention as likely to expose these activities whether sinister or not.

Work with identified potential victims in the CSE unit takes account of the above factors and any child 'whose whereabouts become unknown', will be robustly followed up by both Children's Services staff and the Police. The following checks are carried out at ACIS for any family arriving from Europe with school aged children who are referred to us –

At their ACIS interview:

- all children should be present at the interview with parents;
- passports/photo card ID of parents seen; and
- passports/photo card ID and full birth certificates of all children seen so that we can match the photo to the child present at interview and cross check parents named on birth certificates with parents passports.

For any child/YP that is on roll at ACIS who fails to attend the Centre – we will telephone parents to check on the child's whereabouts. If no contact is made we carry out home visits. If we are unable to establish the child's whereabouts (e.g. the property may be empty, discussions with neighbours may provide information that suggests that they have moved and possibly returned to their home country without informing us) then staff will complete a CME referral form (attached) and this is then forwarded to CME officer. This will flag up on the ONE system when anyone accesses the child's records. Schools should also carry out the above process if the child is on roll at school.

Once the officer receives a CME referral from a school she will undertake the necessary checks to see if she can locate the child. This could be to Revenues and Benefits, Council Tax, Housing Benefit, NHS, etc. Depending on the results of their enquiry they would take necessary action which could include allocating an Early Intervention Key Worker to visit the last known address or could be further enquiries to the Immigration Service. The CME officer would also check on Liquid Logic to see if they are known to Social Care and notify the allocated Social Worker with information from the referral. If there are concerns that a female is missing but her male siblings are in attendance at a school she would refer to the EXIT Team as well as the Early Intervention Team.

Resolved – That the question submitted and the response provided be noted.

(b) The Committee received the extracts of minutes of other meetings of the Council relevant to the remit of this Committee:-

- the Executive Cabinet Deputy Leader's Portfolio held on 13th February and 13th March, 2017.

Resolved – That the minutes of the various meetings be noted.

(The meeting started at 5.00pm and finished at 6.10pm)

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NOTES