

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 24TH JUNE, 2019

Present – Councillors Cunliffe (Chairman), Brady (Vice-Chairman), Ayub, Bagnall (as deputy for Councillor Hayes), Connor, Dean, Fletcher, Gibbon, Heslop, Khurram, McGeown, Murray, Parkinson, Sherrington and Walsh.

Also in attendance

Councillor C. Wild	- Executive Cabinet Member – Children's Services
Ms B. Brown	- Interim Director of People
Ms S. Alexander	- Interim Assistant Director of People (Staying Safe)
Mr P. Rankin	- Assistant Director of People (Performance, Planning and Resources)
Mrs. S. Bailey	- Principal Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Hayes and Ibrahim

Councillor Cunliffe in the Chair.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Children's Scrutiny Committee held on 10th April, 2019 were submitted.

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

2. FORMULATION OF THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME – WORKSHOP SESSION

The Committee received presentations from the Interim Director of People on the big issues and priorities relevant to the remit of this Scrutiny Committee to aid members in their deliberations on possible work programme items.

In addition to the presentations, members were provided with information on the Committee's remit.

The Committee then split into individual groups to discuss items for possible inclusion in the 2019/20 work programme. The following suggested areas were put forward for consideration:

- Looked after Children – achievements and measuring progress, outcomes, virtual schools, multi-agency approach, responsibilities, thresholds, strategy for reducing numbers and reasons for the increase ;
- fostering and adoption;
- leaving care and the transitional journey;
- young carers – how to engage;
- female genital mutilation, child sexual exploitation and other forms of abuse;
- children missing from education;
- Safeguarding – Local Safeguarding Children's Board, MASA - thresholds;
- Mental Health Services – the role of CAMHS, waiting times, demand, investments;
- Start Well – impact of services and free places;
- school reading progress and outcomes;
- pupil place pressures – new intake and in-year and role of academies and free schools in helping to address this;
- performance of children in schools;
- school extensions and new builds – progress;
- exclusions and pupil referral unit and impact;
- home schooling – change of legislation – monitoring and performance against children in mainstream education;

- Special Educational Needs – issues for children and parents, including finances and addressing any deficits, improvements, inclusion, strategy for future population;
- SEN support in Schools – access to family support and teaching assistants in schools, primary autism hub – implementation and progress;
- work of the Youth Offending Team and young offenders/re-offenders;
- progress of improvements to youth services;
- school meals, breakfast clubs, obesity, health and wellbeing, physical activities, disabilities;
- Ofsted Improvements since last inspection;
- benefits of joining up the Early Help and Healthy Child programmes;
- LGBT Curriculum – how this could be applied in Bolton Schools;
- school place allocations and planning for the future – increasing planned admission numbers, increased pressures on budgets and regular monitoring and reporting of pressures – the School Building Programme;
- allocation of pupil premium and how it is distributed and managed;
- inclusion, attendance, persistent absentees and exclusions;
- review of in-house residential placement provision;
- investment in foster care;
- Greater Manchester commissioning services, what are the benefits for Bolton, what do the CCG commission;
- review of children's services commissioning with partners and the voluntary sector including faith groups
- educational outcomes and early years progress – school readiness;
- prevention – links to youth services and community safety – multi-agency approach and drugs and violence;
- educational outcomes for vulnerable children; and
- vulnerable children and education outcomes.

Resolved – (i) That the various documents and presentations be noted.

(ii) That the suggested work programme items be noted and that discussions be now held with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of this Committee together with the Interim Director of People to prepare a draft programme for submission to the next meeting.

4. MEMBERS BUSINESS

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

- the Executive Cabinet Member – Children's held on 8th April and 30th April, 2019 (extract from joint meeting with Adult Social Care).

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

(The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 7.10pm)

F5

NOTES