
CHILDRENS SERVICES, YOUNG PEOPLE, AND SPORT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

31 JANUARY 2008

Present – Councillors Ashcroft (Chairman), A. Wilkinson (Vice-Chairman), Barrow, Clare (as substitute for Councillor Murray), Connell, Dennis, Higson (as substitute for Councillor Rushton), Hornby, Rock, Mrs. Rothwell, Mrs. Swarbrick and Williamson.

Also in attendance:

Councillor Mrs. Thomas - Executive Member for Children's Services

Mr. A. Donaldson - Head of Policy and Improvement

Mrs. M. Asquith - Director of Children's Services

Mr. S. Fazal - Assistant Director, Children's Services

Mrs. C. Davies - Head of Finance, Children's Services

Mr. P. Round - Head of Sports Services, Health, Sport and Inclusion, Adults Services

Mrs. A. Gorton - Extended Schools Remodelling Advisor, Children's Services

Mr. P. Jones - Divisional Manager, Children and Families

Mr. I.D. Mulholland - Scrutiny Team Leader

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors J. Byrne (Executive Member for Young People and Sport), Murray, Rushton and Scowcroft.

Councillor Ashcroft in the Chair

41 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee held on 4th December were submitted.

Resolved - That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

Attached Reports:

[Minutes of the Last Meeting](#)

42 MONITORING OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND

SCRUTINY PANEL DECISIONS

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report that informed members of the progress of decisions taken and issues raised by the Committee.

The Committee was informed that the Educational Attainment of Looked After Children Scrutiny Panel had held its third meeting on 14th January 2008.

With reference to the Committee's request for further details on the Early Years provision in Bolton over the past ten years and comparative Foundation Stage Profile data for Greater Manchester authorities the Committee was advised that the information would be reported in due course.

Resolved – That the action and progress outlined in the report be noted.

Attached Reports:

[Monitoring of Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Panel Decisions](#)

43 IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES FOR SCRUTINY / ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report which provided members with suitable criteria to aid in the selection of topics for scrutiny and outlined the Committee's work programme.

Members' views and comments were sought in relation to any further items and issues that they wanted including on the Committee's work programme, but members indicated their satisfaction with the current timetabled work schedule.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

Attached Reports:

[Identification of Issues for Scrutiny / Annual Work Programme](#)

44 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES HELD ON 11 DECEMBER 2007 AND 22 JANUARY 2008

The minutes of the meetings of the Executive Member for

Children's Services held on 11th December 2007 and 22nd January 2008 were submitted.

Resolved – That the decisions of the Executive Member for Children's Services be noted.

Attached Reports:

[Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Member for Children's Services held on 11 December 2007 and 22 January](#)

[Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Member for Children's Services held on 11 December 2007 and 22 January 2008](#)

45 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND SPORT HELD ON 11 DECEMBER 2007 AND 22 JANUARY 2008

The minutes of the meetings of the Executive Member for Young People and Sport held on 11th December 2007 and 22nd January 2008 were submitted.

Resolved – That the decisions of the Executive Member for Young People and Sport be noted.

Attached Reports:

[Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Member for Young People and Sport held on 11 December 2007 and 22 January 2008](#)

[Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Member for Young People and Sport held on 11 December 2007 and 22 January 2008](#)

46 MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND THE YOUNG PEOPLE AND SPORT POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUPS HELD ON 4 DECEMBER 2007

The minutes of the joint meeting of the Children's Services and the Young People and Sport Policy Development Groups held on 4th December 2007 were submitted.

Resolved – That the minutes be noted.

Attached Reports:

[Minutes of the joint meeting of the Children's Services and the Young People and Sport Policy Development Groups](#)

[held on 4 December 2007](#)

47 UPDATE ON CHILDREN LEAVING CARE SCRUTINY PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report providing information and action in relation to the Children Leaving Care Scrutiny Panel.

A specific concern highlighted by Members related to the availability of emergency accommodation. Members were informed that a potential provider had withdrawn and other options were being considered. It was possible that an alternative could be in place within a three month timescale.

Resolved – (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That an update report be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee in the next Municipal Year.

Attached Reports:

[Update on Children Leaving Care Scrutiny Panel
Recommendations](#)

48 JOINT AREA REVIEW

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report outlining the Joint Area Review (JAR) of Bolton's Children's Services. The report provided the judgments for Children's Services: safeguarding – good; Looked After Children – adequate; learning disabilities/disabilities – good; 14-19 strategy – adequate; community cohesion – good; and sexual health outcomes – good. The report indicated that the JAR contributed to the council's corporate assessment process. The report stated that the Director of Children's Services was required by the Department for Children, Schools and Families to produce an action plan for the areas highlighted by the review.

In their deliberations, Members referred to the comments made in the report in relation to looked after children. Also noted by Members were the favourable comments in the report in relation to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) provision. Members further queried as to how the recommendations of the JAR would be addressed.

The Committee was advised that an action plan was being prepared and would be available in about three weeks time. It was also explained that the said action plan would also be submitted to a future meeting of this Scrutiny Committee.

Resolved – (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That the Joint Area Review response action plan be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.

Attached Reports:

[Joint Area Review](#)

[Joint Area Review](#)

49 2007 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report informing the Committee of the findings of the 2007 Annual Performance Assessment of Services in Bolton for Children and Young People. The report indicated the judgments for Children's Services, grade 4 being the highest: overall effectiveness of Children's Services – grade 3; being healthy – grade 3; staying safe – grade 3; enjoying and achieving – grade 2; making a positive contribution – grade 3; achieving economic well-being – grade 3; and capacity to improve – grade 3.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

Attached Reports:

[2007 Annual Performance Assessment of Services for Children and Young People](#)

[2007 Annual Performance Assessment of Services for Children and Young People](#)

50 BARNARDO'S ACTION WITH YOUNG CARERS SERVICE

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report describing how the Barnardo's Action with Young Carers (AWYC) service in Bolton could become more embedded within the strategic objectives and plans of the Council. The report included information relating to the security of funding streams for the project.

Members, in their deliberations, referred to the fact that work was ongoing with 60 young carers out a total of 1,190 and the need to encourage others to become involved with the service. It was indicated that the service was currently being promoted by various avenues.

Members also queried the funding provision for assisting up to 120 individuals which seemed a large amount. It was explained to the Committee that this amount included monies for promotion and other ancillary matters.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

(ii) That an update be provided to the Committee in twelve months time.

Attached Reports:

[Barnardo's Action with Young Carers Service](#)

51 EXTENDED SERVICES SMALL CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDING

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report updating the Committee on the decision of the Executive Member for Children's Services regarding the distribution of Extended Services Capital Funding. The report provided the Committee with the criteria developed to enable schools and their partners to bid for the capital element of extended schools. The appendix of the report summarised the twenty-one bids approved by the Executive Member for Children's Services, which totalled £815,000.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

(ii) That Members of this Committee be circulated with details of which cluster groups the identified projects were in.

Attached Reports:

[Extended Services Small Capital Project Funding](#)

52 FREE SWIMMING FOR 16 YEARS OLD AND UNDER

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report advising the Committee of the uptake and impact of the

free swimming initiative for 16 year olds and under. The Committee was informed that the total number of free swims in Bolton Community Leisure Trust sites from July to December 2007 was up almost thirty per cent compared with the same period in 2006. The report indicated that the total number of free swims in the remaining Council managed swimming facility had increased almost sixty per cent over the same period.

The report suggested that a number of lessons had been learned from the introduction of the free swimming initiative and indicated that changes had been made or would be made, especially during future holiday periods.

Members, in their deliberations, enquired as to whether all was being done to get children active. Members were advised that there were now various sports schools and numerous schemes and partnerships operating in the Borough. Furthermore, the coaching programme had been introduced to schools. The Committee was further informed that the Department was becoming data rich in this regard, which would in future help to address health inequalities.

Members also enquired as to whether there had been an increase in adults accompanying children during the period of the free swim option. It was explained that there had been an increase in this regard.

Also mentioned was the noticeable reduction in anti-social behaviour during the period of the free swim.

Members were informed that the cost of the provision, including for adults, was £182,000.

Resolved – (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That Committee be appraised of an update in this regard in twelve months time.

Attached Reports:

[Free Swimming for 16 years old and under](#)

53 UPDATE ON DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC APPROACH TO EMBEDDING GIFTED AND TALENTED APPROACHES IN THE CLASSROOM

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report updating members of the work done in relation to the

strategic approach to the provision for Gifted and Talented pupils. The report indicated that Bolton was continuing to develop provision for Gifted and Talented pupils. The report stated that forty per cent of schools had appointed leading teachers and the remainder were moving towards having staff appointed and protocols agreed by September 2008.

Members, in their deliberations, referred to the issue of a talented child who did not want to join a Gifted and Talented class. Also mentioned was the fact that the recent Joint Area Review (JAR) had referred to the need to undertake more developmental work in this field.

Resolved – (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That Members be advised of how performance in this area compared nationally.

Attached Reports:

[Update on developing a strategic approach to embedding Gifted and Talented approaches in the classroom](#)

[Update on developing a strategic approach to embedding Gifted and Talented approaches in the classroom](#)

54 SPIRIT OF SPORT UPDATE

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report informing members of the proposal to update the Spirit of Sport sculpture through the addition of new portrait images of local sporting people.

Following questions, Members were advised that it would take many years for the sculpture to be full of plaques. The recent issue of the poor illumination of the sculpture had now been resolved.

In conclusion, the issue of encouraging young people in the sporting field was mentioned.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

(The meeting started at 4.00 p.m. and finished at 4.57 p.m.)

Attached Reports:

[Spirit of Sport Update](#)