

**CHILDREN'S AND CULTURE SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 9TH OCTOBER, 2013

Present – Councillors Cox (Vice-Chairman), C. Burrows, L. Byrne, Cunliffe, Kay, Lewis, Mistry, Rushton, Spencer, Mrs. Swarbrick and Watters.

Representing Secondary School Parent Governors

Ms M. Raja – Co-opted Member

Representing Primary School Parent Governors

Ms H. Turner – Co-opted Member

Also in Attendance

Councillor Mrs Thomas	-	Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader
Councillor McKeon	-	Cabinet Member for Schools and Skills
Councillor Murray	-	Cabinet Member for Looked After Children, Safeguarding and Early Years
Councillor A. Connell	-	Sport, Libraries, Youth and Culture
Ms M. Asquith	-	Director of Children's Services
Mr J. Rowlands	-	Assistant Director, Customer Services
Ms D. Ball	-	Assistant Director Environmental Services and Committee Chief Officer Support
Mr T. Birch	-	Assistant Director Children's Services
Mr J. Daly	-	Assistant Director, Children's Services

Ms S. Morse	-	Principal School Improvement Officer
Mrs S. Bailey	-	Principal Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ashcroft (Chairman), Mrs Fairclough and Jones

Councillor Cox in the Chair.

11. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Children's and Culture Scrutiny Committee held on 21st August, 2013 were submitted.

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

12. MONITORING OF DECISIONS

The Director of Chief Executive's Department submitted a report which detailed the progress of decisions taken at previous meetings of this Committee

Resolved - That the position be noted.

13. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report which set out details of the updated work programme for the Committee for the current Municipal Year, which had been formulated following the workshop session at the previous meeting.

Resolved – That the updated work programme be approved.

14. SAFEGUARDING REPORT

Mr J. Daly gave a presentation which outlined the role of the Safeguarding Board in Bolton which aimed to keep children safe and support them to achieve their full potential.

The presentation summarised the main responsibilities of the Board which included:

- the development of policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children;
- raising awareness within communities and organisations of their responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and support them to do this;
- coordination and evaluation of inter-agency training and the evaluation of single agency training to safeguard and promote the welfare of children;
- the monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the Board and its partners in carrying out these legal duties;
- contributing to local planning for children and their families; and
- undertaking Serious Case Reviews and advising the Board and its partners on lessons to be learned.

The presentation went on to outline the key projects currently being undertaken by the Board and provided detailed information in relation to each; as follows:

- Sleep Safe;
- Early Help Review;
- Child Sexual Exploitation;
- Private Fostering;
- Serious Case Review;
- Child Death Overview Panel;
- Policy and Guidance and Training; and
- Sports Instructor Register.

Following the presentation, members of the Committee commented on the dangers of on-line and internet abuse and the risks it posed to youngsters. Mr Daly assured members that schools within Bolton took the matter very seriously and measures had been put in place to minimise the risks.

Resolved – That Mr Daly be thanked for his informative presentation.

15. VISITS TO SOCIAL WORK TEAMS

The Vice - Chairman referred to previous visits by members of the Committee to the Council's Safeguarding Teams and felt that it would be useful to arrange similar visits this year as they had been valuable in gaining a better understanding of the work undertaken.

Mr Daly explained that the Safeguarding Teams were based at three locations within the Borough and that arrangements could be made for members to visit both the area office that served the community and the adoption and fostering teams.

The Committee felt that the visits were valuable and arrangements should be made to facilitate this.

Resolved – That members interested in undertaking visits to the Safeguarding Teams should contact John Daly in the first instance to make the arrangements.

16. OFSTED FRAMEWORK FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT INSPECTION

Mr T. Birch and Ms S. Morse gave a joint presentation in relation to the new Ofsted Framework for School Improvement Inspection.

By way of background information, the report advised that in January, 2013, HMI Inspection Service had announced proposals to implement a new inspection remit of local authority arrangements to support school improvement.

In this regard, the presentation outlined details of the new inspection framework which would involve measuring performance against key indicators and other local performance measures. Inspections would not be of all local authorities on a universal basis, rather it would be through a targeted approach based on an analysis of data. Local authorities would be expected to publish an action plan in response to any such inspection.

Details of pre – inspection data analysis was also provided.

Ms Morse went on to provide detailed statistical information in relation to the primary school outcomes and performance together with Key Stage 2 analysis 2013. Mr Birch gave an analysis of the results trend in Key Stage 4.

Ms Morse highlighted the improvements in the number of schools graded 'good' and performance in Mathematics and Writing at Key Stage 2. She also highlighted the positive figures for children making two levels of progress in Bolton which was better than the national average. Ms Morse highlighted reading as a priority for the primary sector. Mr Birch illustrated the improvement made over time in the secondary sector and continued progress in Mathematics. He highlighted English and increasing the number of 'good' secondary schools as priorities.

Following the presentation, members enquired whether the figures included academies and what recourse the Local Authority had if an academy was underachieving. Mr Birch advised that some academies bought into the Local Authority services and were actively part of the Bolton family of schools. If an academy was underachieving, the Authority could challenge them about their performance and whilst there was no direct power to take any action, there were routes by which an Authority could and should raise concerns.

Resolved – That Mr Birch and Ms Morse be thanked for their informative presentation.

17. UPDATE ON EGYPTOLOGY STRATEGY AND GRANTS

Mr J. Rowlands gave a presentation on proposals to transform the ancient Egypt gallery in Le Mans Crescent by way of a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Members were advised that the Museums and Library Service had been successful in securing a development grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to create an exciting new cultural

attraction. An initial grant of £115,300 had been awarded to support the planning of a radically redesigned ancient Egypt Gallery and this would now form the basis of an application for a further £1.8m to support implementation.

If successful, the monies would be used to create a modern display highlighting Bolton's ancient Egypt collection, exciting new programmes and enhanced digital and physical access to the collections.

The presentation reminded members of the scale and importance of the Egyptian collection in Bolton which included 12,000 objects spanning approximately 7,000 years of history. A selection of objects from the collection had been included in the award winning Quest for Immortality exhibition which was currently touring Asia and had attracted over 1.4 million visitors.

The presentation went on to outline the vision for the new attraction, details of the planned development, the design and other proposals to renovate part of Le Mans Crescent to host the new attraction. Any changes would be made in consultation with conservation specialists.

Associated timescales included:

- February, 2014 – submission of bid for implementation grant;
- June, 2014 – notification of successful grant bid;
- October, 2014 – opening of temporary Egypt gallery; and
- August/September, 2015 – opening of new gallery.

It was hoped that if successful, the new attraction would encourage more visitors to Bolton and provide an excellent resource in the Town Centre.

Resolved – That Mr Rowlands be thanked for his informative presentation.

18. MEMBERS BUSINESS

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

- (a) The Executive Cabinet Deputy Leader's Portfolio held on 16th September, 2013; and
- (b) The Cabinet held on 16th September, 2013.

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

(The meeting commenced at 5.00pm and ended at 6.20pm)

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