

## **CHILDREN'S AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2013

Present – Councillors Ashcroft (Chairman), Cox (Vice-Chairman), C. Burrows, L. Byrne, Cuncliffe, Donaghy, Iqbal (as deputy for Councillor Lewis), Kay, Mistry, Rushton, Spencer, Mrs Swarbrick and Watters.

### 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. K. Davies	-	Director of Development and Regeneration
Mr. J. Rowlands	-	Assistant Director Customer Services
Ms. D. Ball	-	Assistant Director Environmental Services and Committee Chief Officer Support
Mr. J. Livesey	-	Assistant Director Children's Services
Mr. J. Daly	-	Assistant Director Children's Services
Mr. D. Smith	-	Policy Accountant
Mr. P. Green	-	Head of Economic Strategy
Mrs. V. Ridge	-	Deputy Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs. Fairclough, Jones, Lewis and Ms Raja.

Councillor Ashcroft in the Chair.

## **1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of the Children's and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 were submitted.

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

## **2. 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.

## **3. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee received presentations from the Director of Children's and Adult Services, the Assistant Director of Customer Services and the Head of Economic Strategy 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 following:-

- The Committee remit;
- The Work Programmes for the last Municipal Year;
- Details of issues to be taken into account when putting forward work programme items; and
- Matters left over from the last Municipal Year.

In terms of possible items for inclusion in the 2013/2014 work programme, members put forward the following suggestions:-

### Children's Services

- Issues in relation to the adoption legislation and the progress being made;

- Issues regarding female genital mutilation;
- Child sexual exploitation;
- Nursery provision for 2 year olds and, in particular, within deprived areas;
- The impact on the loss of preventative services within the department;
- Issues around safeguarding; and
- Schools performance in terms of the new Ofsted framework and in particular in relation to academies and free schools.

### **Culture**

- The future of the library service within Bolton;
- Developments with regard to Egyptology;
- The involvement of Youth MPs and how this could be maximised;
- The cultural disposal strategy; and
- The policy on access to cultural/arts activities

### **Skills**

- Issues around apprenticeships for school leavers and how this could be improved and developed.

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 the Vice-Chairman of this Committee, the Chief Support Officer and the Director of Children's and Adult Services, the Assistant Director of Customer Services and the Head of Economic Strategy and a draft programme be prepared 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:-

- (a) The Executive Cabinet Deputy Leader's Portfolio held

on 20<sup>th</sup> May and 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2013

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

(The meeting commenced at 5.00p.m. and ended at 6.30p.m.)