

**CHILDREN'S AND CULTURE SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 25TH NOVEMBER, 2015

Present – Councillors Dean (Chairman), Wild (Vice-Chairman), Hall, Harkin (as deputy for Councillor Gillies), Hornby, Iqbal, Jones, Kirk-Robinson, Martin, Murray, Shaikh, Sherrington, Spencer and Watters.

Also in attendance

Councillor J. Byrne	-	Cabinet Member for Culture, Youth and Sport
Councillor Cunliffe	-	Cabinet Member for Education, Schools, Safeguarding and Looked After Children
Mr. J. Livesey	-	Acting Director of Children's and Adult Services
Mr. T. Birch	-	Assistant Director of Children's and Adult Services
Mr. J. Daly	-	Acting Statutory Director of Children's Services
Mr. S. Young	-	Assistant Director Development and Regeneration
Ms. M. Keane	-	Manager (Collection Access)
Ms. S. Morse	-	Principal Educational Improvement Professional
Mrs. V. Ridge	-	Deputy Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Gillies, Graham, Haworth, Mrs. Thomas and Ms. Raja and Mr. Firth.

Councillor Dean in the Chair.

18. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Children's and Culture Scrutiny Committee held on 7th October, 2015 were submitted.

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

19. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Borough Solicitor submitted a report which set out details of the proposed work programme for the Committee for the current Municipal Year, which had been formulated following the workshop session at the first meeting.

Resolved – That the work programme be approved.

20. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND ACADEMY PERFORMANCE AND ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. T. Birch and Ms. S. Morse, Children's and Adult Services, gave a presentation which summarised the findings of the Educational Attainment Annual Report.

The presentation featured a number of graphs and statistics which demonstrated Bolton's performance in terms of:

- The percentage of children under 16 in poverty;
- The percentage of primary pupils eligible for free school meals;
- The percentage of pupils eligible for Deprivation Pupil Premium;
- The percentage of primary pupils speaking English as a second language;
- The percentage of primary schools good or better at 30th September, 2015;
- The percentage of Key Stage 1 outcomes at Level 2+ and 3;
- The percentage of Key Stage 2 outcomes at Level 4+ in respect of reading, writing and maths at both a Bolton and national level;

- Current development activities within primary schools;
- Attainment at Key Stage 4;
- The percentage of pupils making expected progress in English between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4;
- Percentage of pupils making expected growth in English Baccalaureate;
- The percentage of the achievement gap between Free School Meals (Ever 6) and their Peers achieving 5A* - C in English and Maths at Key Stage 4;
- Ofsted judgements of Bolton Secondary Schools;
- Support and priorities for Secondary Schools; and
- The changes which were taking place with regard to the National Curriculum.

Following the presentation, members asked a range of questions and made observations in the following areas:

- Could information be provided in relation to how Bolton compared with other Greater Manchester Authorities;
- The reasons, if any, for the drop in Key Stage 2 outcomes at Level 4 between 2013-2014 and 2014-2015;
- The impact and implications of the New Curriculum;
- The importance of leadership within secondary schools and what was being done with leadership to improve failing schools; and
- The impact of the changes to Ofsted Inspections.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

21. DELIVERING DIGITAL INCLUSION

Ms. M. Keane, Manager (Collection Access), gave a presentation which outlined the key elements of delivering digital inclusion as a Council.

Information was provided in relation to the following areas, viz:-

- Who was digitally excluded;
- The reasons why digital inclusion was a priority in the UK;
- The reasons why digital inclusion was a priority in Bolton;

- The work undertaken by the Bolton Digital Inclusion Partnership Group;
- The work being undertaken by key partners;
- The reason why libraries were promoting this programme;
- Digital champions;
- Scenarios from members of the public who have become computer volunteers;
- The reasons why an upgrade to the people's network was required;
- The installation of Wi-fi by March, 2016; and
- Support for people who were digitally excluded.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

22. 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 Deputy Leader's Portfolio held on 12th October and 9th November, 2015

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

(The meeting started at 5.30pm and finished at 6.30pm)