

**CHILDREN'S AND CULTURE SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 7TH OCTOBER, 2015

Present – Councillors Dean (Chairman), Wild (Vice-Chairman), Graham, Hall, Haworth, Hornby, Jones, Kirk-Robinson, Murray, Shaikh, Sherrington and Spencer.

Also in attendance

Ms. M. Raja	-	Co-opted Member
Councillor Mrs. Thomas	-	Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader's Portfolio
Councillor J. Byrne	-	Cabinet Member for Culture, Youth and Sport
Councillor Cunliffe	-	Cabinet Member for Public Health and Safeguarding Children
Councillor McKeon	-	Cabinet Member for Education and Schools
Mr. J. Livesey	-	Acting Director of Children's and Adult Services
Mr. T. Birch	-	Assistant Director of Children's and Adult Services
Mr. S. Young	-	Assistant Director Development and Regeneration
Ms. J. Spencer	-	Head of Service
Ms. S. Cornwell	-	Head of SEN Services
Mr. M. Traver	-	Independent Chair of Bolton Safeguarding Children Board
Ms. S. Green	-	Safeguarding Officer
Mrs. V. Ridge	-	Deputy Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Gillies, A. Ibrahim, Iqbal and Watters.

Councillor Dean in the Chair.

12. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Children's and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee held on 19th August, 2015 were submitted.

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

13. 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.

14. BOLTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. M. Traver, Independent Chair of the Bolton Safeguarding Children Board and Ms. S. Green, Safeguarding Officer, submitted a copy of the Bolton Safeguarding Children Annual Report for the year ending March, 2015.

The report covered a wide range of activity, however, it was stated that it could still only provide an overview of the Boards overall activity in 2014-2015.

In terms of the safeguarding arrangements in key areas it was explained that the Board had focussed on the following:-

- Priorities for 2014-2015
 - Impact of Early Help;
 - Children Missing from Home/Care; and

- Child Sexual Exploitation.
- Core Business for 2014-2015
 - Child Protection System;
 - Looked After Children;
 - Private Fostering Arrangements;
 - Learning Reviews;
 - Child Death Overview Panel; and
 - A Safe Workforce.

Information in relation to each of the three priority areas and the progress made was detailed in the report.

In conclusion, members were advised that whilst the necessity to produce this report was a formal government requirement, it also provided a welcome opportunity for partner agencies to reflect upon the Boards achievements over the preceding twelve months as well as recognising the on-going challenges which it faced. Furthermore, it was also stated that a performance management framework was currently being developed across Greater Manchester to produce evidence on achievements/challenges.

Following the presentation, members made the following observations/comments:

- The increase in the number of young people with emotional health and wellbeing issues;
- The positive work undertaken to ensure the infant mortality rate was decreasing; and
- The risks associated with social media.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

15. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY REFORMS

Ms. S. Cornwell, Head of SEN Services and Principal Educational Psychologist, gave a presentation which outlined the key elements/changes which had been made to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice.

The key changes were detailed as follows:-

- The age range had changed and was now 0-25;
- The requirement to ensure that parents, children and young people were fully involved in decision making and reviewing provision;
- The requirement to jointly plan and commission services to ensure close co-operation between education, health and social care;
- Further Education sector required to have regard to the Code when carrying out their duties in relation to young people with SEN;
- For those with more complex needs Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) would replace statements of Special Educational Need and Learning Difficulty Assessments;
- The offer to families of the option of a personal budget;
- A much greater focus on preparing young people who have SEN for adulthood; and
- The need to publish a Local Offer outlining what provision was available for children and young people who have SEN.

It was also explained that until April, 2018 the new system and the current system would be running in parallel.

The presentation then went on to outline the progress and significant challenges in relation to the following areas, viz:-

- Education, Health and Care Plans;
- The Local Offer;
- Personal Budgets;
- Post 16/Preparing for Adulthood; and
- Joint Commissioning.

Members were also informed of the feedback received from the Department for Education visit which took place in October, 2014; a parent survey; and a school survey. It was also

explained that a National Accountability Framework was currently being developed.

In conclusion, it was stated that the priorities for 2015-2016 were as follows:-

- Preparation for local area inspection;
- Joint parent/professional conference;
- Strategy for involving young people in the implementation of the reforms;
- Ensuring that EHCPs were issued within the 20 week timescale; and
- The establishment of a Social Care Task and Finish Group.

Following the presentation, members made the following comments/observations:

- The implications of operating with two different pieces of legislation;
- Recruitment issues; and
- Issues around personal budgets.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

16. ETERNAL EGYPT – BOLTON COUNCIL'S HERITAGE LOTTERY PROJECT

Ms. J. Spencer, Head of Service, gave a presentation which outlined the current situation with regard to Bolton Council's Heritage Lottery Project.

Members were advised that Bolton Council had plans to radically transform the ancient Egypt gallery in Le Mans Crescent to create an exciting cultural attraction in Bolton. To achieve this, the service had been successful in securing both development and delivery grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund to work on making plans for the new gallery and to implement them.

The presentation then went on to provide information in relation to the following:-

- The Heritage Lottery Fund Development and Delivery Grants;
- The current position;
- The timescales for the development;
- Alternative delivery plans during closure;
- Various images/concepts of the new gallery; and
- Permission had been requested to close museum galleries and relocate the history centre from January, 2016-January, 2017.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

17. 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 17th August and 14th September, 2015

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

(The meeting started at 5.00pm and finished at 6.20pm)