

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee held on Monday, 13th September 2010 at 6.00 pm in the Reception Suite, Civic Offices, Telford

PRESENT: A.Stanton (Chairman), C.P.R.Mollett (Vice-Chairman), E.A.Clare, J.A.Dixon and G.M.Green and Mrs.M.Ward (Primary Parent Governor Representative) and Dr.S.Ali (General Public Representative).

CYPSC-1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Y.C.Hicks and Mr.A.Atkinson (RC Diocese Representative),

CYPSC-2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED – that Councillor C.P.R.Mollett be appointed as the Vice-Chairman of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee.

CYPSC-3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

CYPSC-4 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S FORUM

The Chairman provided a report on the recent chairman's Forum that had been held on 16th August 2010. He confirmed that the Forum had decided on the in-depth reviews that would be undertaken, which included – Budget formulation – suggestions about how to save money; Working with community groups to help improve the local environment and Affordable, available and flexible childcare. This latter in-depth review would be undertaken by the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee.

CYPSC-5 BACKGROUND PAPER ON SERVICE REVIEWS

The report of the Corporate Director for Environment & Rural Area/Housing Regeneration & Prosperity was received which sought to inform the Scrutiny Committee on the ongoing service reviews that were currently being undertaken within the Council.

These reviews were examining how services were managed and operated and to identify how these services could be delivered to the local community more efficiently and effectively. There was a requirement that these reviews needed to produce operational (non-staff) savings of 20% and were likely to lead to restructuring of services.

Members were informed that a Service Review Steering Group had been established to oversee the programme and to monitor the progress of each service delivery unit which included information on changes in activity and savings. The lead Corporate Director for this review was Meredith Evans. The Committee was referred to the table within the report that outlined the current timetable for the service reviews that were being undertaken across the Council.

CYPSC-6 2010/11 WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received the report of the Scrutiny Manager which requested Members to plan the work programme for the Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the 2010/11 Civic Year.

Members were reminded that the current scrutiny arrangements established in June 2010 enabled each Scrutiny Committee to determine its own work programme within the resources available. The Committee were advised on the process that would lead to the development of the work programme for each Scrutiny Committee as outlined within the report. The report also detailed how many meetings of the Scrutiny Committee could be held during the remainder of the Civic Year together with the numbers for each of the Scrutiny Committees. It was also required for the Scrutiny Committee to reserve one of the allocated meetings for consideration and scrutiny of the forthcoming budget proposals.

The Committee were then referred to Appendices A the suggestions for items made by the Scrutiny Assembly Workshop and B set out the outstanding items from the Children & Young People Forward Plan. The Committee agreed that the following action should be taken with regard to the Work Programme suggestions.

Scrutiny Assembly Workshop

| Priority | Suggestion | Decision |
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| A | Youth provision in the borough – distribution of and attendance | Officers to provide an update on the implementation of scrutiny recommendations, and a report about current youth provision for the committee to decide if they want to review this further. |
| A | Bereavement support for children and young people | The Chair to meet with Austin Atkinson (plus others if interested) to agree questions to be sent to schools, then responses reported back to committee, potentially to recommend the development of a T&W bereavement policy. Discuss at November meeting. Possible questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do they have a policy? • How do they deal with bereavement? • Who is responsible i.e. a nominated person? • Do they share good practice? |
| A | Short breaks for young people – disabled children | Report from officers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • definition of disability – who qualifies? • 2011 statutory requirements – what |

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| | | <p>are they?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what do we provide now and how will this meet requirements? • budget implications <p>Discuss at December meeting</p> |
| A | Affordable, available and flexible childcare need | For in-depth review |
| A | The level of support for parents and children with physical disablement regarding aids, physiotherapy, wheelchair problems and adaptations to homes. Much more support is needed. | Refer to Adult Care & Support |
| B | SEN provision within the mainstream secondary schools, looking in particular at whether there is a cohesive policy and whether strategies and examples of good practice are shared among the schools. | Reports reviewed at September meeting - no further action. |
| B | Community involvement in Schools / Learning Communities Engagement with the Community / Community interaction | No further action. |
| | Looked after children – ensuring their needs are met | Part of the work programme |

Outstanding Items from the Forward Plan of the Value For Money Scrutiny Monitoring Group

| From | Topic | Action agreed by committee |
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| Domestic Violence Special Interest Group | Attend partner conference | Scrutiny Officer to find out when conference is and invite committee members and members of original review group to attend if they are interested. |
| BTISLC (Campus Telford) Scrutiny Monitoring Group | Response to recommendations on school transport made on 15.07.10. | Report back to committee Jan 2011 – included in Adult & Children Social Care service review. |
| BTISLC (Campus Telford) Scrutiny Monitoring Group | <p>On-going monitoring of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress against project timetable • Management of risks • Position on costs • Communication with key stakeholders <p>The topics below are in the BTISLC Forward Plan, but these may change depending on the outcome of funding decisions for BSF by the new coalition government.</p> | <p>One meeting about BTISLC:</p> <p>Report from Guy Kershaw on BTISLC programme including standing items</p> <p>Presentation from Kier:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kier's BSF strategy • How are they applying lessons from Ab Dab? • Support for members to deal with issues? • Engagement with staff and children and what's the feedback? • How do they engage the community? |
| BTISLC (Campus Telford) Scrutiny Monitoring Group | The accelerated building programme, how this will be managed, the risks and impact on costs. | As above |
| BTISLC (Campus Telford) Scrutiny Monitoring Group | Issues for schools. Meeting with Secondary Heads and Principals to identify their areas of concern | As above |

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| | around BSF and to scrutinise those areas. | |
| BTISLC (Campus Telford) Scrutiny Monitoring Group | The Abraham Darby experience. Meeting with staff at Abraham Darby to find out what their experience of BSF was and if lessons are being applied for the future. | As above |
| BTISLC (Campus Telford) Scrutiny Monitoring Group | Issues for teachers from schools next in the programme. (Silkin, Phoenix, Wrockwardine Wood, Priorslee) | As above |
| BTISLC (Campus Telford) Scrutiny Monitoring Group | Other suggestions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timetabling (linked to transport) • Links to the health strategy and PCT funding • Visit to Sutherland to see the IT suite in action • Meeting with Kier – engagement strategy, if relevant plans for future schools • Preserving standards of literacy and numeracy in a computer age • Maintenance costs | As above |
| Corporate Parenting Scrutiny Monitoring Group | Meetings with children & young people in care. These are to find out from the young people what their issues are for scrutiny to take up and address, and to give feedback to the young people. Proposed next topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact • Out of borough placements | Meetings with young people October 2010 and April 2011. |
| Corporate Parenting Scrutiny Monitoring Group | Following up issues from meetings with young people. Issues raised and actions in response to these are noted on a spreadsheet. These need to be followed up to ensure that the actions that were identified are being undertaken. | Actions to be agreed immediately after October session with young people. |
| Corporate Parenting Scrutiny Monitoring Group | Out of borough placements (the number of children placed out of county has risen). Report back on guidance flowcharts for education and health care. Views of young people placed out of borough. | Corporate Parenting meeting in January to look at all CP issues. PI information and reports on issues below as requested by members. |
| Corporate Parenting Scrutiny Monitoring Group | On-going monitoring of the Placements Strategy (2010/11 strategy available from July 2010). | As above |
| Corporate Parenting Scrutiny Monitoring Group | Regulation 33 inspections of private care homes | As above |
| Corporate Parenting Scrutiny | Healthcare for children in care | As above |

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| Monitoring Group | | |
| Corporate Parenting Scrutiny Monitoring Group | Children in care in the criminal justice system. | As above |
| Corporate Parenting Scrutiny Monitoring Group | Educational attainment of children in care. | As above |
| Corporate Parenting Scrutiny Monitoring Group | Connexions 4 Youth PA for Children in Care and Care Leavers – the impact of this role, especially on raising aspirations and reducing care leave NEETs. | As above |
| Corporate Parenting Scrutiny Monitoring Group | Children in care with disabilities, and their transition to adult services. | As above |
| Corporate Parenting Scrutiny Monitoring Group | Regular reports circulated for information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance Monitoring • Adoption Annual Report • Annual report on serious case reviews Other people to meet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair of Foster Carers Association • Chair of Local Safeguarding Children’s Board • Links to Children’s Trust | Circulate reports for information when they are published. |
| Child Protection Special Interest Meeting | Information from Cabinet Member on savings made as a result of the investment in child protection services and how these savings will be monitored to ensure the savings targets are met over the 3 years. | Cabinet response report to November meeting |
| Transition of disabled children into adult services | Special Interest meeting showed that the last Self Assessment was rated low, therefore members requested a report back when the Year 3 Self Assessment has been submitted and rated to assure themselves that it reflects the improvements mentioned during the meeting. | Self-assessment report to committee Jan 2011 |
| Scrutiny Leadership Board | School Funding Formula | No further action |

The meeting ended at 7.50 pm.

Chairman:

Date: