

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee
16th May 2016, Theatre, Madeley Academy, Castlefields Way,
Madeley, Telford, TF7 5FB

Present: Councillors: K. Guy, S. Barnes, J. Greenaway, J. Pinter, K. Tomlinson and Co-optees C. Healey, S. Hudson, S. Osman, S. Rayner

Also Present: A. Atkinson

In Attendance: J. Bolye: Deputy Head Teacher Madeley Academy,
F. Bottrill: Scrutiny Specialist,

The Chair opened the meeting and explained that following the Committee meeting there would be a performance by Loudmouth Theatre. This performance was open to the public to attend but was not part of the committee meeting and members of the public were asked not to record this performance.

He invited the Deputy Head Teacher at Madeley Academy to welcome everyone to the school. The Deputy Head Teacher welcomed the members of the Committee and members of the public to the school and theatre facilities.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and asked that the Committee record its thanks for the invaluable contribution Mr. A. Atkinson had provided to the Committee as a co-optee over many years.

CYP SC-08 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors J. Jones.

CYP SC- 09 Declarations of Interest

None

CYP SC-10 Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee held on the 21st July 2015 be confirmed and signed by the

Chairman.

CYP SC-11 Co-option of Members to the Scrutiny Committee

The Chair reported that following the decision by Scrutiny Management Board to review the membership of co-optees across all the Scrutiny Committees 5 co-optees had been recommended as co-optees for the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee. In addition to the 4 co-optees identified on the agenda a fifth co-optee been nominated by Wellington Parish Council.

The Chair highlighted the contribution made by the co-optees on the Committee and the knowledge and experience they bring.

Resolved: The following co-optees be appointed to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee:

**Lyn Fowler (Newport Town Council representative)
Carolyn Healy (The Gorge Parish Council representative)
Sue Hudson (Roman Catholic Diocesan Representative)
Sandra Osman, (Primary Heads Forum representative)
Sherrel Fikeis, (Wellington Town Council)**

CYP SC-12 Approval of the Committee's Report: 'Everyone's Business: A Scrutiny Review of Multi-Agency Working Against Child Sexual Exploitation

The Chair presented the report and explained that the review had been an extensive and thorough piece of work. Before he asked to Committee to approve the report he asked if members of the Committee had any comments.

A member said that scrutiny in other authorities had been criticised for not looking at this issue in depth. The review carried out by the Committee in Telford & Wrekin had been comprehensive and members of the Committee had met with front line staff and senior managers. She had been pleased that all the organisations involved in the review had been open to scrutiny. She particularly highlighted the role of the CATE team (Children Abused Through Exploitation) and the difference this team has made and continued to make.

A member said that the Committee had also met with over 50 children and young people. She had been particularly impressed by the involved in Team Safeguarding Voice at Homer Lake school. She stressed the importance of ensuring that children who develop the skills and confidence at primary school are allowed to develop this at secondary school. She also commented on the meeting with the Young People's Disability Forum which demonstrated how successful the use of theatre can be in raising awareness of sexual exploitation. Cllr. K. Tomlinson asked how the recommendations from the review will be taken forward.

The Chair replied that the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and the Council's Cabinet will consider the report and respond to the recommendation in the report.

A member said that the review had highlighted the need to understand the full scale of child sexual exploitation and ensure that all cases are identified. During the review the Committee found that child sexual exploitation (CSE) was still an issue in Telford and Wrekin and that there are high levels of child abuse. Operation Chalice had raised awareness of CSE and brought organisations together but it was recognised that this is a national issue –not specific to Telford and Wrekin.

A member said that perpetrators exploit children because of their innocence but also exploit lack of knowledge or information sharing between organisations. The review had found that organisations in Telford and Wrekin were working well together but that it is important that they are all working with the same understanding of the extent of the problem.

The Scrutiny Specialist clarified that the figures on page 40 of the report showed the number of all child sex offenses and these figures were not specific to CSE.

The Chair concluded that this had been a very intense review and thanked everyone who had contributed. He thanked the members of the Committee for their commitment to this work, the Officers who had supported the review, the organisations that had taken part and particularly the victims and survivors who had given their views.

The Chair summarised the conclusions from the report that organisations in Telford and Wrekin were working well together to respond to known cases of CSE. However there were a number of areas where the Committee had made recommendations and these included the need for better on-going support for victims of CSE and their families and the need to continue to raise awareness that everyone had a role in helping to protect children and young people from being exploited.

The Chair said that if anyone attending the meeting had any concerns about the welfare of a child they should contact the Family Connect Service and details were in the report.

Resolved: The Scrutiny Committee’s Report “Everyone’s Business: A Scrutiny Review of Multi-Agency Working Against Child Sexual Exploitation” be approved.

The Meeting ended at 6.27 pm

Chairman:

Date: