

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (O&S)
COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING**

10:00 hours on Tuesday 16th January 2019, Committee Room 2 - Actions

Present:

Councillor Mohammed Aikhlaq (Chair)

Councillors: Diane Donaldson, Shabrana Hussain, Kerry Jenkins, Kath Scott and Alex Yip

Also Present:

Trevor Brown, Head Of Youth Offending Service

Rose Kiely, Group Overview & Scrutiny Manager

Dawn Roberts, AD, Early Help

Amanda Simcox, Scrutiny Officer

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chairman advised that this meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (www.civico.net/birmingham) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

The Chair declared that he is on the Board of Directors for the Leigh Academy Trust and Councillor Yip declared he is a magistrate.

3. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair brought the item forward on the agenda and welcomed Councillor Debbie Clancy in place of Councillor Charlotte Hodivala and Councillor Kath Scott in place of Councillor Lucy Seymour-Smith as Members on the Committee.

RESOLVED:

Councillor Debbie Clancy and Councillor Kath Scott noted as Members on the Committee.

4. APOLOGIES

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillor Debbie Clancy.

5. ACTION NOTES

(See documents 1 and 2).

RESOLVED:

- The action notes of the meeting held on the 12th December 2018 were confirmed.
- The action notes of the meeting held on the 17th December 2018 were confirmed with the following amendments added to the notes:
 - The Cabinet Member has just been made aware that there are documents that sit behind the WSoA that provide much more detail and clarity – these include an action plan and risk register.
 - The Chair stated that there had been a lack of openness and transparency, a breakdown in communication and lessons needed to be learned.

6. YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN

(See documents 1, 2 and 3).

Dawn Roberts, AD, Early Help and Trevor Brown, Head Of Youth Offending Services attended for this item.

In discussion, and in response to Members' questions, the following were among the main points raised:

- They are preparing to bring the next Youth Justice Strategic Plan earlier – July 2019. The plan will include how many short term custodial sentences there were.
- They are measured on three national indicators:
 - First time entrants into the criminal justice system – they worked with 968 young people on court ordered and preventative programmes representing a decrease of 14.9% from 2016/17.
 - Reducing re-offending – first time entrant rate fell and they do not count community resolution.
 - Reducing the use of custody – Birmingham has a higher rate of custodial sentences than the national average, although this is within the range of other core cities (94 custodial sentences).
- Offending remains a predominantly male activity and black young men are over-represented in the criminal justice system.
- The budget is a constant challenge and they have a budget of £7.9m for the basic service. However, the total cost of remands is not met by the Youth Justice Board Remand Grant and, therefore, they have a projected overspend of £900,000 / £1m. They are working on a system wide approach, to reducing

the budget pressures, by holding back some staffing posts and working on prevention that will hopefully reduce violent and persistent crime.

- The Service continues to seek additional funding and they have been successful with a number of bids. They are also working closely with the Gangs Commission's bid writer and working collaboratively with partners.
- They are working on reducing the inappropriate use of custody and improving the custody experience.
- Offender management is a key duty for the Service.
- There is a lot more complexity with the young people having a lot more needs and therefore the assessments are more robust.
- They use a trauma based approach and work with a Psychologist, Assistant Psychologist and seven Psychology students from Birmingham University and partners, including Forward Thinking Birmingham who support this work. They also work with the Council's Educational Psychologist Service.
- A Contextual Safeguarding Board has been set-up in the Trust, as it is often the pull of peers etc. and not the family that is of concern. Therefore, they need look at extra-familial risks.
- They have to work collaboratively to reduce crime and vulnerability and they have very good relationships. Partners, such as Forward Thinking Birmingham are in the Trust and the Youth Service sits around the table.
- Criminal exploitation – 50% of young people who are being exploited are not known to the Youth Offending Service. They are raising awareness and have launched new practice guidance and a screening tool for criminal exploitation.
- They have a Sustaining Inclusion Agenda to reduce exclusions and exclusions are falling in Secondary Schools, but they have particular concerns regarding primary school exclusions. There is an Education Triage Panel who are accountable for getting excluded pupils back into school.
- Knife crime nationally is rising.
- With regards to pupils carrying knives into schools – there is a protocol in place and schools should call the Police if a pupil is carrying a knife. Some schools have purchased their own knife arches and knife wands and the Police have deployed them in four places on an ad-hoc basis.
- The Government has released guidance regarding supporting children in care and they continuously look at how the services are working together to support children in care. For instance, they work with the Virtual Head Teacher and they are increasing apprenticeships.
- Young people can be victims and perpetrators and they assess both vulnerability and risk and both are in the plans.
- In relation to setting targets, they have gone in the main for an increase of 5%.

RESOLVED:

The Committee discussed the Youth Justice Strategic Plan and requested:

- Breakdown of ethnicity (including Gypsy Roma Traveller).
- Latest re-offending data broken down to include type of offences etc.

7. WORK PROGRAMME

(See documents 4).

The Committee noted the agenda.

8. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The Committee noted the next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 13 February 2019 at 1000 hours in Committee Room 2, The Council House.

9. REQUEST(S) FOR CALL IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS RECEIVED (IF ANY)

None.

10. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

RESOLVED:

That in an urgent situation between meetings the Chair, jointly with the relevant Chief Officer, has authority to act on behalf of the Committee.

11. EXCLUSIONS OF THE PUBLIC

That in view of the nature of the business to be transacted which includes exempt information of the category indicated the public be now excluded from the meeting:-

Exempt Paragraph 3

The Committee agreed the resolution.

PRIVATE AGENDA

12. ACTION NOTES

(See document 5).

Councillor Alex Yip queried whether the request for call in regarding the Written Statement of Action (WSOA) discussion should have been in public (the Executive had stated that the report was private due to 'embargoed/subject to an obligation of confidentiality').

The action notes for the private part of the meeting held on the 17th December 2018 were agreed.

13. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS (EXEMPT INFORMATION)

None.

The meeting ended at 11.25 hours.