

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE O&S

COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING

1000 hours on Wednesday, 4 January 2023, Committee Rooms 3 & 4, Council House, Victoria Square, B1 1BB

Action Notes

Present:

Councillor Kerry Jenkins (Chair)

Councillors: Shabina Bano, Jilly Bermingham, Debbie Clancy, Des Hughes, and Morriam Jan

Other Voting Representatives: Justine Lomas, Roman Catholic Diocese, Osamugi Ogbe, Parent Governor, and Sarah Smith, Church of England Diocese

Also Present:

Cllr. Karen McCarthy, Cabinet Member, Children, Young People and Families

Sue Harrison, Strategic Director, Children and Families

Kerry Madden, Strategic Improvement Programme Director

Colin Michel, Interim Strategy & Partnership Lead (on-line)

Kate Reynolds, Director, Lifelong Learning & Employability

Christian Scade, Head of Scrutiny and Committee Services

Amanda Simcox, Scrutiny Officer

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chair advised that this meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's meeting You Tube site (www.youtube.com/channel/UCT2kT7ZRPFCXq6_5dnVnYlw) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Cllr. Simon Morrall and Rabia Shami.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded they must declare all relevant pecuniary and other registerable interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting.

RESOLVED:

None were declared.

4. ACTION NOTES

Members were informed that the action notes will be provided when the 30 November 2022 committee meeting has concluded.

5. ACTION TRACKER

(See document No. 1)

The following outstanding actions were raised:

- Information on how many children were affected by part-time timetables, and figures on children who haven't got a suitable school place, and support that was being provided. The Chair advised this will be covered at the next committee meeting.
- The structure chart for the Children and Families Directorate, to include permanent and temporary members of staff, to be provided.
- The timescale for the review of the home to school transport policy to be e-mailed.

RESOLVED:

That the action tracker was noted, the structure chart for the Children and Families Directorate, and the timescale for the review of the home to school transport policy to be provided.

6. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES DIRECTORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN – PROGRESS UPDATE

(See document No. 2)

Cllr. Karen McCarthy, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families, Sue Harrison, Strategic Director, Children and Families, and Kerry Madden, Strategic Improvement Programme Director were in attendance for this item.

Sue Harrison and Kerry Madden gave the presentation which covered the overview of the improvement plan, what it has been informed by, where they want to be, what they are going to do to get there, update on progress so far, update on their work with the Children's Partnership, and the proposed next steps.

Cllr. Karen McCarthy highlighted this was about steady progress, embedding this and having honest conversations.

During the discussion and in response to queries raised by Members, the main points included:

- Assurances on the Improvement Plan were given, and political and partners support was needed, as was the quality of practice and the budget for a substantive workforce. The full details of the 34 projects and 287 actions could be provided to Members, and the quarterly updates would assist with providing the details to hold them to account.
- This was an opportunity to recognise the staffing structure and associated budget needed. The Directorate's budget was a demand led service, and agency staff reliance was an historical issue because there had not been enough staff and substantive budget, which resulted in high caseloads. The Committee will be updated on the Directorate's budget and a report was scheduled to go to Cabinet in February 2023.
- Meeting some of the children's needs comes from different budgets, such as Health rather than the Directorate's budget.
- The Children's Partnership has been reinvigorated and partners were positive about sustaining this.
- Member engagement with Head Teachers Fora was queried. Sue Harrison will discuss Member involvement with Head Teachers. However, it was highlighted that there needed to be sufficient officers to engage with schools, and the staffing structure for this was currently being developed.
- The Head Teachers Reference Group was embedded and has been helpful in the inclusion work undertaken. Details and the membership of this group will be provided and Justine Lomas will promote this with the Head Teachers of Catholic Schools.
- The school investigated complaints about a teacher, and they should follow their complaints procedure.

- A directory of the Local Offer would be helpful and will be provided.

RESOLVED:

That:

- The update was noted.
- There will be quarterly updates going forward.
- The Committee will be updated on the Directorate's budget.
- The following to be provided:
 - Details and the membership of the Head Teachers Reference Group.
 - A directory of the Local Offer.

7. CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP CHANGE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE 2023-28 PLAN

(See document No. 3)

Cllr. Karen McCarthy, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families, Sue Harrison, Strategic Director, Children and Families, and Colin Michel, Interim Strategy & Partnership Lead (on-line) were in attendance for this item.

Colin Michel gave the presentation which included the partnership's ambition and outcomes, the timeline for the development, and launch of the plan.

During the discussion and in response to queries raised by Members, the main points included:

- This was a five year plan, and the sustainability of the plan will be discussed at the Birmingham Children's Partnership Board.
- The wide representation of young people was imperative.
- Child Poverty and the pressures of the cost of living crisis needed to have a whole Council and partnership response. The Cabinet Member was looking at a wide range of issues and would include the financial pressures schools were facing, and after school clubs no longer providing snacks etc.
- The plan was scheduled to go to Cabinet in March 2023 and City Council in April 2023 and updates on both the plans discussed today will need to include tangible outcomes.

RESOLVED:

That Members noted the report.

8. WORK PROGRAMME

(See document No. 4)

The Chair informed Members that an e-mail had been sent to them requesting their availability for the reconvened committee meeting. The majority of Members were available on Wednesday, 25 January 2023 at 1300 hours, and the Committee agreed this date and time. The reconvened meeting will be in public and the arrangements for the meeting will be confirmed next week.

The Committee discussed the large agenda for the 22 February 2023 committee meeting and agreed to extend the meeting due to the need to discuss all three items (Birmingham Safeguarding Children's Partnership, school attainment, and school exclusions and part-time timetables).

Cllr. Des Hughes requested the Accelerated Progress Plan (APP) was added to the work programme, and the Committee agreed this would be an item at the 5 April 2023 committee meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the work programme was agreed and would be updated accordingly.

9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

Noted the reconvened committee meeting would take place on 25 January 2023 at 1300 hours, and the next meeting was scheduled for 22 February 2023 at 1000 hours in Committee Rooms 3 & 4.

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

None.

11. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

12. AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS

RESOLVED:

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

The meeting ended at 1150 hours.