

## **BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

# **SCHOOLS, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (O&S) COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING**

**13:30 hours on Wednesday 17 January 2018, Committee Rooms 3 & 4 – Actions**

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### **Present:**

Councillor Barry Bowles (Acting Chair)

Councillors: Sue Anderson, Matt Bennett, Kate Booth, Debbie Clancy, Shabrana Hussain, Julie Johnson, Chauhdry Rashid, Mike Sharpe, Martin Straker Welds and Alex Yip.

Other Voting Representatives: Evette Clarke, Parent Governor Representative and Sarah Smith, Church of England Diocese Representative.

### **Also Present:**

Councillor Tristan Chatfield, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Equality

Suwinder Bains, Cohesion and Partnerships Manager

Trevor Brown, Head of Youth Offending Services

Simon Cross, Business Manager

Debbie Currie, AD Child Protection, Performance & Partnerships

Detective Chief Inspector Nick Dale, West Midlands Police

Jacqui Kennedy, Corporate Director Place

Rose Kiely, Overview and Scrutiny Manager

Jon Needham, School Advisor – Safeguarding

Dr Simon Pemberton, Child Poverty Action Forum

Dawn Roberts, AD, Early Help

Superintendent Mat Shaer, West Midlands Police

Amanda Simcox, Scrutiny Office

Dr Dennis Wilkes, AD, Public Health

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## **1. NOTICE OF RECORDING**

The Chairman advised that this meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site ([www.civico.net/birmingham](http://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. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were submitted on behalf of:

Councillor Susan Barnett.

Other Voting Representatives: Samera Ali, Parent Governor Representative and Adam Hardy, Roman Catholic Diocese Representative.

## **3. ACTION NOTES**

(See document 1).

Action notes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017 were confirmed.

## **4. UPDATE ON PROGRESS ON THE CHILD POVERTY COMMISSIONS RECOMMENDATIONS**

(See document 2).

Councillor Tristan Chatfield, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Equality, Dr Simon Pemberton, Child Poverty Action Forum, Dennis Wilkes, Dr Dennis Wilkes, AD, Public Health, Jacqui Kennedy, Corporate Director Place and Suwinder Bains, Cohesion and Partnerships Manager presented the item.

Members were informed that a number of the objectives appear to be met, however, long term projects remain and the Child Poverty Forum will be meeting in February to set the agenda for two pieces of work:

- Living wage
- Roll out of universal credit

In relation to data that is available on child poverty in Birmingham Suwinder Bains agreed to send Members the assessment that was completed.

Members welcomed the work with partners to promote the take up of Free School Meals (FSM) and the introduction of auto registration and agreed to write a letter in support of this to the DWP.

### **RESOLVED:**

To note the update and a further update to be provided to the committee.

## **5. BIRMINGHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT**

(See document 3).

Simon Cross, Business Manager presented the item.

Members were disappointed that the Chair or the Vice Chair did not attend the meeting.

Simon Cross agreed to clarify and amend if necessary the analysis of referral data and an audit of looked after children out of area (page five of the report).

Members were informed that children were now safer and the partnerships were in a better place than they have been previously. In relation to the improvement plan's lack of timescales, Members were informed that the business plan will have target dates.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board Annual report is noted.

**6. GANGS**

(See document 4).

Superintendent Mat Shaer, West Midlands Police, Detective Chief Inspector Nick Dale, West Midlands Police, Dawn Roberts, AD, Early Help and Trevor Brown, Head of Youth Offending Services presented the item.

Serious and organised crime is a national security risk and there has been a recent rise in gangs and organised crime activity in Birmingham. It was recognised that the disbanding of Birmingham Reducing Gang Violence (BRGV) partnership led to the 'break up' of a coherent approach to gangs and violence across the city.

The Birmingham Community Safety Partnership now has a new way of working and enforcement is no longer at the heart of it, as enforcement on its own doesn't work. Rather, it is acknowledged that there is a lot of exploitation associated with young people in gangs and organised crime groups. Taking a more long term public health approach in addition to enforcement is seen as a more effective methodology.

As part of the communication strategy Members would like to see Appendix C – The Tell Tale Signs disseminated.

Dawn informed Members that the Police and Crime Commissioner has agreed that an extra £2 million would be spent tackling gangs and violence over the next two years and the reports would be forwarded to Members.

**RESOLVED:**

That the update is noted and officers would report back in six months.

**7. CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE) BRIEFING / GUIDELINES FOR COUNCILLORS**

(See documents 5 and 6).

Debbie Currie, AD Child Protection, Performance & Partnerships and Jon Needham, School Advisor – Safeguarding presented this item.

The briefing note had been produced for Councillors at the request of the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Schools.

Members were concerned they may be ill-informed and they needed information at ward level. Debbie Currie responded that when the Cabinet Member was briefed he requested that this be more widely circulated amongst the councillors for their information.

**RESOLVED:**

That the briefing is noted.

**8. WORK PROGRAMME**

(See document 7).

Members were reminded to return their Corporate Parenting Survey by the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Also, radicalisation will be discussed at the March meeting and prior to this a visit for Members to meet the teams will be arranged in February.

**RESOLVED:**

The work programme is noted.

**9. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Noted.

**10. REQUEST(S) FOR CALL IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS**

None.

**11. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

Councillor Yip was still awaiting a response from the Cabinet Member regarding the ending of the KIDS short break services for 0-5 years disabled children and their families. Members were unable to comment on this service as there was not enough information provided.

**12. 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.

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The meeting ended at 17.30 hours.