

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

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

**10:00 hours on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018, Committee Rooms 3 & 4 – Actions**

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**Present:**

Councillor Mohammed Aikhlaq (Chair)

Councillors: Diane Donaldson, Charlotte Hodivala, Shabrana Hussain and Alex Yip.

**Also Present:**

Councillor Kate Booth, Cabinet Member for Children's Wellbeing

Anne Ainsworth, Corporate Director for Children and Young People

Simon Cross, Partnership Manager

Rachel O'Connor, Director of Planning & Performance, Birmingham and Solihull CCG

Penny Thompson, Independent Chair of BSCB

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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. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

No declarations of interest were made at this stage of the meeting.

**3. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillor Safia Akhtar.

**4. BIRMINGHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S BOARD (BSCB) ANNUAL REPORT**

Penny Thompson, Independent Chair of BSCB and Simon Cross, Partnership Manager were in attendance. The discussion included:

- The Chair sees herself as the convenor of all the partners in Birmingham who comprise the safeguarding system.
- Her role is one of support and challenge to the organisations and leaders with the purpose of learning and improving practice.
- Birmingham has a fair way to go and is on a significant improvement journey.
- There are signs of improvement, however, there is a need not to be complacent.
- They are becoming a learning system and learn both from reports where things have not gone well and reports about outstanding practice throughout the country.
- They are actively working on the successor arrangements and by September 2019 there should be multi agency safeguarding, jointly led by the local authority, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) and the police that will seamlessly take on the safeguarding arrangements.
- There has been a lot of churn within the organisations and therefore in 2017/18 some time was lost. However, people are now in place and the leadership is stepping up.
- Members can help the safeguarding agenda by remaining interested and calling partners to account is really important.
- Concerns regarding school exclusions and homelessness were picked up as part of the quality impact and outcomes work. There has been some progress with homelessness. The issue with school exclusions is a national issue and is something colleagues, both in the local authority and the Schools Forum, are actively addressing.
- The Board scrutinises the findings from all inspections relevant to safeguarding, holding all agencies to account for improving practice.
- With regards to the overview of progress for 2017-18, the Board continues to publish Learning Lessons Bulletins and launched 'Right Help, Right Time' guidance in January 2018, on the effective delivery of support for children and families in Birmingham.
- The Committee wanted to thank officers working at the Children's Advice and Support Service (CASS) and Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). Seeing how this was set-up at the visit was very valuable for the work of the Committee. Especially, how the partners work together and deal with the large number of enquiries they have on a daily basis. The service is a credit to the City.

**RESOLVED:**

Update noted.

## 5. SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS AND/OR DISABILITY (SEND)

The Chair informed the Committee that Members of the Learning, Culture and Physical Activity O&S Committee had been invited to attend for this item, as it was also within their remit. The Chair welcomed Councillor Kath Scott and Councillor Martin Straker Welds to the meeting.

Declarations of interest for this item were:

- Councillor Alex Yip is a school governor at Wilson Stuart School.
- Councillor Martin Straker Welds is a trustee for Centre for Movement Disorders in Birmingham.
- Councillor Kath Scott is a treasurer for a group of girls with autism called Somewhere over the Spectrum and a trustee for Sutton Coldfield Disability Access Group.

Councillor Kate Booth, Cabinet Member for Children's Wellbeing, Anne Ainsworth, Corporate Director for Children and Young People and Rachel O'Connor, Director of Planning & Performance, Birmingham and Solihull CCG were in attendance.

The Chair stated he was disappointed that the presentation was not shared with Members beforehand.

The Corporate Director and Director of Planning and Performance gave the presentation. The discussion included:

- They fully accept the findings of the joint local area SEND inspection.
- There needs to be a fundamental change and they would welcome scrutiny going forward.
- Birmingham's Strategy for SEND and Inclusion 2017 – 2020 didn't go far enough and was not signed up to by anyone other than the City Council.
- The Written Statement of Action (WSOA) will be co-produced and needs to be published and sent to Ofsted by 7<sup>th</sup> December 2018.
- The draft WSOA and action plan will be shared with Members.
- They have engaged BVSC to undertake a survey of anyone who has experience of using Birmingham's Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) services, in order to review and understand its users' experiences.  
([www.bvsc.org/news/have-your-say-send-services-birmingham](http://www.bvsc.org/news/have-your-say-send-services-birmingham))
- They are beginning to create the new Local Offer.
- They are looking at additional areas they want to improve not just those mentioned in the WSOA.
- The Children and Young People Partnership is not just focusing on SEND but on support for all children.
- The Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP) has an engagement role with schools.
- There was a presentation from Forward Thinking Birmingham at the Health and Social Care O&S Committee and this can be shared with Members.
- Members can be provided with further information regarding the Parents Carers Forum.

- A further update on SEND to be programmed for the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019 committee meeting and Members from the Health and Social Care O&S Committee and the Learning, Culture and Physical Activity O&S Committee to be invited.

Due to the confusion as to whether Travel Assist was due to be discussed as an item, it was agreed that this will be discussed at the November committee meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

Update noted and:

- The draft WSoA to be shared with Members.
- The Forward Thinking Birmingham presentation given at the Health and Social Care O&S Committee to be shared with Members.
- A further update on SEND to be programmed for the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019 committee meeting and Members from the Health and Social Care O&S Committee and the Learning, Culture and Physical Activity O&S Committee to be invited.
- Travel Assist to be discussed at the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018 committee meeting.

**6. WORK PROGRAMME**

Noted and the work programme was discussed further under Other Urgent Business.

**7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED:**

Noted the next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 1000 hours in Committee Rooms 3 & 4.

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

None.

**9. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

Councillor Alex Yip proposed a formal review of Travel Assist, Councillor Diane Donaldson seconded this proposal and the Committee agreed.

**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.

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The meeting ended at 12.20 hours.