

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (O&S)

COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING

10:00 hours on Wednesday 12th December 2018, Committee Rooms 3 & 4 – Actions

Present:

Councillor Mohammed Aikhlaq (Chair)

Councillors: Shabrana Hussain, Kerry Jenkins and Alex Yip.

Also Present:

Councillor Kate Booth, Cabinet Member for Children's Wellbeing

Anne Ainsworth, Acting Corporate Director for Children and Young People

Andrew Christie, Chair, Children's Trust

Andy Couldrick, Chief Executive, Children's Trust

Professor Jon Glasby, Non-Executive Director, Children's Trust

Rose Kiely, Group Overview & Scrutiny Manager

Amanda Simcox, Scrutiny Officer

Paul Stevenson, Interim Finance Business Partner, Children & Young People

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) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Alex Yip declared he is a school governor at Wilson Stuart School.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors: Diane Donaldson, Charlotte Hodivala, Morriam Jan and Lucy Seymour-Smith.

4. ACTION NOTES

(See document 1).

Cllr Alex Yip informed the Committee that in relation to a letter of no confidence from Special Head Teachers, it states in the notes that 'the Acting AD stated that they had addressed the concerns in writing and this has been sent to all the Head Teachers of

the 27 special schools and there was also a discussion at the Special Heads Forum'. The letter Cllr Yip has from the Head Teachers contradicts everything that the AD has said and he is requesting that scrutiny take this matter back to the AD for a proper answer.

RESOLVED:

The action notes of the meeting held on the 14th November 2018 were confirmed and the Committee will take the matter of the contradictions back to the AD.

5. CHILDREN'S TRUST

(See documents 2, 3, 4, and 5).

Andrew Christie, Chair; Andy Couldrick, Chief Executive and Professor Jon Glasby presented the item and answered Members' questions.

Members congratulated the Trust on the ice rink event for children in care and they would like to thank the owners of the ice rink and Cadburys for their support. Also, the children's take over on twitter and the recent foster carer event were also to be congratulated.

The Chair of the Trust informed Members that the relationship with the Trust and the City Council is collaborative and very positive.

Between January and February both the KPI's and tolerances will be discussed and this may involve agreeing the narrative and exploring different ways the Trust's performance can be measured.

The Chair of the Children's Trust requested the Committee hold them to account and has a careful look at the commissioning side.

RESOLVED:

Update noted and updates on CSE, missing children, youth offending, FGM and results of the Ofsted inspection to be discussed at future meetings.

6. CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S WELLBEING

(See documents 6, 7 and 8).

Councillor Kate Booth, Cabinet Member for Children's Wellbeing; Anne Ainsworth, Acting Corporate Director for Children and Young People and Paul Stevenson, Interim Finance Business Partner, Children & Young People presented the item and answered Members' questions.

Members requested clarity regarding where responsibilities start and end between the two Cabinet Members, especially in relation to scrutiny. For instance, this committee is inviting the Learning, Culture and Physical Activity O&S Committee to

attend its meetings where there are duplications. Cllr Booth responded that there has been a degree of overlap and duplication with the two Cabinet Members in some instances and so their plan is to revisit their portfolios, so there is clarity, especially in relation to scrutiny.

With regards to the budget discussion and CY110 19+ Travel Assist:

- The Acting Corporate Director for Young People informed Members that they have been able to reduce the proposed overspend.
- The Interim Finance Business Partner, Children & Young People stated that the budget had a previously non-delivered saving of £3.5m and they are putting in an extra £2.2m which means the budget has increased from £19m to £20m - £21.2m approximately and the £1.7m is to bridge the gap. However, Members were confused as this is not reflected in the factsheet (extract below):

The amount currently spent on the service and the proposed reduction is shown below

Total Spend 18/19	Income 18/19	Net Spend 18/19	Saving in 19/20	Saving in 20/21	Saving in 21/22	Saving in 22/23
£18.798m	(£0.403m)	£18.395m	(£1.718m)	(£2.488m)	(£2.488m)	(£2.488m)

- Members were concerned that demand is increasing and therefore there are concerns regarding deliverability. The Acting Corporate Director stated that they needed to look at the family of SEND services, including those of the partners and they will also be consulting with families etc. to help shape the service.

RESOLVED:

Update noted.

7. WORK PROGRAMME

(See document 9).

RESOLVED:

The work programme was noted and the following were agreed:

- The Ofsted inspection report for Children's Services to be discussed at the 13th February 2019 meeting.
- The Corporate Parenting item to be moved to the 13th March 2019 meeting.
- The updates on CSE, missing children, youth offending and FGM to be discussed at the 13th March 2019 meeting.
- The visit to the Children's Trust to be on the 17th April 2019 instead of 13th March 2019.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

Noted the next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 16th January 2019 at 1000 hours in Committee Rooms 3 & 4. However, the request for call in will need to be discussed before this date.

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

The request for Call in for the Written Statement of Action (WSOA) – Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) decision is to be considered on Monday 17th December 2018 at 3.30pm.

10. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

11. 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.

The meeting ended at 12.00 hours.