

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

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

13:30 hours on Wednesday 13 December 2017, Committee Room 2 – Actions

Present:

Councillor Susan Barnett (Chair)

Councillors: Sue Anderson, Matt Bennett, Kate Booth, Barry Bowles, Debbie Clancy, Shabrana Hussain, Chauhdry Rashid, Martin Straker Welds and Alex Yip.

Also Present:

Councillor Carl Rice, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Schools

Trevor Brown, Head Of Youth Offending Services

Tim Boyes, Chief Executive, Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP)

Colin Diamond, Corporate Director for Children & Young People

Dawn Roberts, AD, Early Help

Tracy Ruddle, Director of Continuous School Improvement, BEP

Amanda Simcox, Scrutiny Office

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING

The Chairman advised that this meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (which could be accessed at "www.birminghamnewsroom.com") and members of the press/public may record and take photographs.

The whole of the meeting would be filmed except where there were confidential or exempt items.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were submitted on behalf of:

Councillors: Julie Johnson and Mike Sharpe.

Other Voting Representatives: Samera Ali, Parent Governor Representative; Evette Clarke, Parent Governor Representative; Adam Hardy, Roman Catholic Diocese Representative and Sarah Smith, Church of England Diocese Representative.

3. ACTION NOTES

Action notes of the meeting held on 18th October 2017 were confirmed.

4. CITYWIDE SCHOOL ATTAINMENT STATISTICS – HEADLINE DATA

Colin Diamond, Corporate Director for Children & Young People, Tim Boyes, Chief Executive and Tracy Ruddle, Director of Continuous School Improvement, Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP) presented the item.

The Corporate Director for Children & Young People concluded that they were starting to see genuine deep seated improvements in schools with much more engagement with head teachers and school leaders.

It was suggested that a seminar for Members on the curriculum and assessment be provided. This could possibly be provided before City Council when most Members would be in the Council House.

The BEP had been successful on their £500,000 bid from the strategic school improvement fund.

Members were requested to e-mail questions they had not had a chance to ask to the Chair and these would be circulated with the responses.

RESOLVED:

To note the update and Members to confirm what they would like for their March 2018 committee meeting as part of the update on the validated attainment statistics.

5. YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN 2016 - 17

Dawn Roberts, AD, Early Help and Trevor Brown, Head of Youth Offending Services presented the item.

The Chair stated that when the report was presented at Cabinet it was agreed that the committee would look into the issue of gangs and this could be discussed at the 17th January 2018 committee meeting. Dawn Roberts suggested that it may be useful if representatives from West Midlands Police were in attendance. In relation to the County Lines article in the Times about gangs using young people as drug mules, Trevor Brown responded that it is an issue in Birmingham and the West Midlands.

Dawn Roberts, AD, Early Help informed the committee that there was some stability in funding and they worked with the 1,601 young people on court ordered and preventive programmes. There has been a rise in first time entrants. Also, they will be working with the head teacher for the virtual school for children in care.

The Chair informed the committee that she had previously had a worthwhile visit to one of the youth offending teams and recommended to Members that they may also wish to arrange a visit to one of the area teams with Trevor Brown.

RESOLVED:

That the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2016-17 is noted and the committee discuss gangs at the 17th January 2018 committee meeting.

6. WORK PROGRAMME

An extra meeting has been organised for an informal budget meeting on the 10th January 2018 and Members have been e-mailed the details.

The Chair gave her apologies for non-attendance at the January meetings and the Committee gave their congratulations on Councillor Barnett's forthcoming wedding.

Councillor Debbie Clancy raised a concern regarding reading and how this is applied in the early years setting. This may therefore be a priority for the Committee's 2018/19 Work Programme.

Colin Diamond, Corporate Director for Children & Young People informed the Committee that the attainment statistics will be validated for the March 2018 committee meeting, however, it is not anticipated that they will have changed. Members may therefore wish to drill down to ethnicity, gender and/or constituency level. Also, Members may wish to invite a head teacher(s) to the meeting etc. Members were requested to confirm what they wish to cover at their March meeting

Councillor Carl Rice, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Schools would like to see ward Councillors taking an active interest in schools in their wards and thought there may be a pattern of exclusions with certain schools and he would like to see the committee involved in this.

RESOLVED:

The work programme is noted.

7. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Noted.

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

None.

9. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair informed Councillor Yip that the matter he had raised by e-mail regarding short breaks funding was being investigated and there should be a response for the next meeting.

The Chair wished the committee a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

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.

The meeting ended at 15.55 hours.