

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

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

13:30 hours on Wednesday 18 October 2017, Committee Rooms 3 & 4 – Actions

Present:

Councillor Susan Barnett (Chair)

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

Also Present:

David Bishop, Head of Service Children Out Of School

Rob Cotterill, Barnardos

Debbie Currie, AD Child Protection, Performance & Partnership

Superintendent Paul Drover, West Midlands Police

Alastair Gibbons, Executive Director for Children Services

Margaret Gough, CSE Co-ordinator

Natalie Loon, Corporate Parenting Coordinator

Andy Pepper, AD, Children in Care Provider Services

Karen Woodsfield, The Children's Society

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: Shabrana Hussain 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 13th September 2017 were confirmed.

4. TRACKING CHILDREN MISSING FROM HOME AND CARE AND UPDATE ON CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE)

Superintendent Paul Drover, West Midlands Police; Alastair Gibbons, Executive Director for Children Services; Debbie Currie, AD Child Protection, Performance & Partnership; Margaret Gough, CSE Co-ordinator; David Bishop, Head of Service Children Out Of School; Rob Cotterill, Barnardos and Karen Woodsfield, The Children's Society presented the item.

There were 924 committed incidents allocated a CSE Special Interest Marker during the period 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017 (136 crimes and 788 non-crimes). Members were informed that when concern is first raised this is classified as a non-crime and a classification of a crime is when a criminal act has occurred.

Members were informed that information sharing has improved and agencies are joined up and hold daily triage meetings. The creation of the Police Locate Team and the Police having dedicated staff with the Inspector looking at all cases has resulted in improvements to assessing risks for missing persons consistently. The Locate Team has been recognised as the way forward across the West Midlands.

With regards to safeguarding in education Members were informed that officers have been providing morning briefings in schools regarding CSE and screening tools. Also the national Child Sexual Exploitation day is on Sunday 18th March 2018 and there will be an event organised and Members are welcome to attend.

Members noted the progress made with regards to CSE and assessed that responsibilities are clear and understood and risk is better managed than when the Children Missing from Home and Care inquiry was undertaken in 2015/16.

However, although it was acknowledged that Return Home Interviews (RHI) were only one measure, they are a statutory requirement and concern was expressed for those children in care placed out of the city who were not currently being offered a RHI.

RESOLVED:

To note the update and request a briefing note be provided by the end of the municipal year (April 2018) to update Members on progress with return home interviews for children placed out of the city.

5. CORPORATE PARENTING

Andy Pepper, AD, Children in Care Provider Services and Natalie Loon, Corporate Parenting Coordinator presented the item.

Members were pleased with the progress made and the raising of the Corporate Parenting role for Members was worth celebrating. Members assessed the progress with the recommendations as:

Recommendation 1: 3 - not achieved (progress made)

Recommendation 2: 6 - in progress

Recommendation 3: 6 - in progress

Recommendation 4: 3 - not achieved (progress made)

Recommendation 5: 1 – Achieved fully

Recommendation 6: 6 – in progress

Recommendation 7: 1 – Achieved fully

RESOLVED:

That progress is noted and the Corporate Parenting Board report will be presented to the Committee in February 2018. Information from the Member survey to be included.

6. WORK PROGRAMME

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

None.

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 15.25 hours.