

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

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

**14:00 hours on Wednesday 7 December 2016, Committee Rooms 3 & 4 –
Actions**

Present:

Councillor Susan Barnett [Chair]

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

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

Also Present:

Councillor Brigid Jones, Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Families

Trevor Brown, Head of Youth Offending Services

Kay Child, Assistant Director, Integrated Services East

Colin Diamond, Executive Director for Education

Liz Elgar, Head of Service

Seamus Gaynor, Head of Strategic Management

Alastair Gibbons, Executive Director for Childrens Services

Dawn Roberts, Assistant Director, Early Help

Amanda Simcox, Research & Policy Officer, Scrutiny Office

Benita Wishart, Overview & Scrutiny Manager, Scrutiny Office

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

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 Councillor Barry Bowles [Deputy Chair], Councillor Julie Johnson, Richard Potter, Roman Catholic Representative, Cllr Chauhdry Rashid and Councillor Valerie Seabright.

3. ACTION NOTES

(See document No 1)

RESOLVED:-

The action notes of the meeting held on the 23 November 2016 were confirmed.

4. CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES SIX MONTH UPDATE

(See document No 2)

Cllr Susan Barnett declared an interest as she works in a children centre.

Councillor Brigid Jones, Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Families, Colin Diamond, Executive Director for Education and Alastair Gibbons, Executive Director for Childrens Services provided Members with an update.

- Members were informed that Birmingham no longer had an Education Commissioner and thanks were expressed to Sir Mike Tomlinson for his role.
- The 2017/18 budget consultation is to be released Thursday and it was suggested that the committee looked at all the budget lines as they could affect children.
- There will be a national pot for school improvement that will be divided amongst local authorities. Birmingham's allocation isn't known yet.
- There will be a reduction in early years funding for 2017/18. The funding formula that Birmingham uses for the three sectors is to be reviewed and will go out to consultation. This will be brought to the committee for comment and it was suggested that the committee may wish to investigate how the impact of the funding changes will have on the sectors.

RESOLVED:-

- The report was noted and the following information is to be provided:
 - The current and proposed funding formula for early years to the three different sectors for each child per hour, including the percentage that is passed on.
 - The ongoing funding for school improvement when the figures have been released by Government and the future role of Birmingham Education Partnership.

5. MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING HUB (MASH) AND CHILDREN'S ADVICE AND SUPPORT SERVICE (CASS)

(See document No 3)

Kay Child, Assistant Director, Integrated Services East and Liz Elgar, Head of Service presented the report.

They are working with partners on the improvement plan and this will be sent to Ofsted at the end of the month. This plan will be forwarded to the committee. It is then expected that Ofsted will be returning for a couple of days in February or March.

Concern was expressed on the communication about the changes to MASH and CASS and a briefing note which sets out the communication plan will be circulated.

RESOLVED:-

- The report was noted and the improvement plan to be forwarded to the committee.
- A briefing note which sets out the communication plan will be circulated.
- An update will be provided following Ofsted's return.

6. YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN 2016/17

(See documents 4).

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

Next year when they come back with the 2017/18 plan they should have more information on special educational needs (SEN).

Councillor Susan Barnett, Chair had visited the team and Members were welcome to visit and discuss ways how they can be involved and assist the Youth Offending Service.

Councillor Susan Barnett to raise with Andrew Christie, Children's Trust Chair that it was felt that the Youth Offending Service needs to be part of the proposed children trust arrangements.

RESOLVED:-

- The report was noted and:
 - The 2017/18 plan to be programmed into the Committee's work programme.

- Members who wish to visit the youth offending teams to let the scrutiny office know their availability for the visits.

7. WORK PROGRAMME 2016-17

(See document 5)

The work programme was discussed.

RESOLVED:-

That the work programme was agreed and:

- An additional meeting on the 11th January at 1pm – 2pm to be arranged for the draft budget to be discussed.
- The 25th January 2017 committee meeting will start at 1pm instead of 2pm and finish at 5pm to allow enough time for the evidence gathering for the Corporate Parenting Inquiry.
- The inclusion Commission item will be moved from the 25th January 2017 to the 22nd March 2017 committee meeting and the Child Disability Services to also be discussed at this meeting.

8. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The dates were noted.

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

None.

10. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair wished everyone a merry Christmas and encouraged the Councillors to participate in the children in care events where they can.

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 16.56 hours.