

## Schools, Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 12<sup>th</sup> July 2017

### SWOT Analysis – Cllr Brigid Jones, Cabinet Member Children, Families and Schools

<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stable Leadership.</li> <li>• Education improvement plan Years 1 and 2 delivered. We have a much more coherent, improved and robust set of services.</li> <li>• The 17/18 Education Improvement Plan contains robust plans for each of the 21 service areas.</li> <li>• Children’s Social Care we have stable and manageable caseloads, agency use down (although still too high) and staff turnover this year, and is focused on its agreed improvement plan.</li> <li>• Ofsted have acknowledged significant progress and well-motivated staff.</li> <li>• Birmingham Education Partnership demonstrating impact on school improvement and holding all schools together.</li> <li>• Whistleblowing policy in place and working effectively in enabling staff and partners to raise concerns.</li> <li>• Birmingham Curriculum Statement led by the Council and welcomed by schools. UNICEF Rights Respecting Award work recognised nationally.</li> <li>• Corporate parenting more embedded with mentors, business sponsorship for awards, Council tax exemptions.</li> <li>• BCC’s communications with and relations with schools much stronger.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusion in schools is weak in this city. Our population of children out of mainstream provision is unsustainably high.</li> <li>• Whilst practice in individual areas is good, the overall SEN system is weak. Inclusion Commission now consulting on its plans after 9 months work.</li> <li>• Children’s Social Care - still variable quality of practice, delays in care proceedings and in some areas insufficient care planning for young people in residential placements.</li> <li>• Corporate Parents; greater focus needed on securing apprenticeships and other opportunities.</li> <li>• Recruitment and retention of experienced social work practitioners.</li> <li>• Educationally, large gaps remain between the most advantaged and most disadvantaged young people.</li> <li>• Uncertainty in national government policy makes it hard to plan service delivery.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New forms of school improvement funding available and BEP has submitted bid.</li> <li>• The Early Years Health and Wellbeing contract now out for consultation presenting an exciting new way to redesign the multiple services more coherently.</li> <li>• We are moving to a shadow Children’s Trust for children’s social care in September 2017.</li> <li>• Improving partner relationship through BSCB and Early Help &amp; Safeguarding Partnership – new ‘Right Service, Right Time’ partner document.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trust development must not become a distraction from the improvement agenda.</li> <li>• The Early Years Health and Wellbeing offer doesn’t have the budget it once had, and as such services in some places may reduce.</li> <li>• The Early Years Education sector is facing budget pressures and services will need to adapt. Purdah has led to delayed implementation and threats to budget savings required</li> <li>• Schools are under massive budget pressures even though the new national funding formula is not in the government’s legislative programme</li> <li>• Significant savings challenge in children’s social care and related services.</li> </ul>