

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

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

COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING

10:00 hours on Wednesday 13th March 2019, Committee Room 2 - Actions

Present:

Councillor Diane Donaldson (Acting Chair)

Councillors: Debbie Clancy, Shabrina Hussain, Kerry Jenkins and Alex Yip.

Also Present:

Irfan Alam, AD, Children's Services East, Children's Trust

Andy Couldrick, Chief Executive, Children's Trust

Detective Superintendent Paul Drover, West Midlands Police

Rose Kiely, Group Overview & Scrutiny Manager

Dr Tim O'Neill, Director for Education & Skills

Dawn Roberts, AD Early Help, Children's Trust

Amanda Simcox, Scrutiny Officer

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 (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

None.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mohammed Aikhlaq and Kath Scott.

4. ACTION NOTES

(See document 1).

RESOLVED:

The action notes of the meeting held on the 13th February 2019 were confirmed.

5. CONTEXTUAL SAFEGUARDING

(See documents 2 and 3 (amended document)).

Dr Tim O'Neill, Director for Education & Skills; Andy Couldrick, Chief Executive, Children's Trust, Dawn Roberts, AD Early Help, Children's Trust; Irfan Alam, AD, Children's Services East, Children's Trust and Detective Superintendent Paul Drover, West Midlands Police attended for this item.

In discussion, and in response to Members' questions, the following were among the main points raised:

- They are in a stronger place than they were, however, contextual safeguarding is fast moving and they have further to go, for instance they need to be better and faster at sharing intelligence.
- There is a collective responsibility to manage risks to young people.
- The partnership moved to a new localities based arrangement specifically for CSE last year and there is a partnership forum based in three localities in Birmingham that align to the Children's Trust and Policing areas.
- There is a Police Intelligence Analyst, who is based at the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a hidden crime similar to DV and officers anticipate that the numbers will go up as awareness increases.
- Each area has a CSE Operational Group (COG) that links into wards and the locality.
- The gender gap for CSE is not unique to Birmingham.
- Reasons are multifaceted as to why young people carry knives and the latest information, including the short term funding they have received for youth interventions, can be brought to the committee as part of the Youth Justice Plan report in June 2019.
- They are working on an action plan with regards to having a clear process on how they are going to engage with communities and this can be discussed at a future committee meeting.
- In response to the question regarding there being a disconnect between local politicians and schools, the Director for Education & Skills stated he will look into how the service can work as a broker and an enabler.
- Members were concerned regarding the lack of preventative measures and with funding being short-term or one-offs and they were informed that officers are looking at the whole youth offer.
- Members agreed that the outstanding recommendation from the Children Missing from Home and Care Inquiry (recommendation 2 – Develop an overarching strategy for missing children so responsibilities are clear and understood, risk is managed well, especially for looked after children and persistent runaways, information is shared effectively and appropriate support is in place for children and families) is assessed as being achieved and Members can request further updates if needed.
- A report on FGM to be discussed at the April committee meeting and the Police stated they could contribute to the report.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the update on contextual safeguarding and:

- Recommendation 2 from the Children Missing from Home and Care Inquiry was assessed as being achieved.
- A report on FGM can be discussed at the 17th April 2019 committee meeting.

6. BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN'S TRUST DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2019/20

(See document 4).

Andy Couldrick, Chief Executive, Children's Trust and Dr Tim O'Neill, Director for Education & Skills attended for this item.

- This plan aims to be the single plan containing all the Trust's development intentions going forward.
- It focuses on the six elements identified for areas of improvement from the Ofsted inspection 2018 and also incorporates areas that the Trust know need to be brought forward.
- The development plan has been to the Council's Management Team, is on route to Cabinet and it will be going through the Trust's governance - it was considered yesterday by the Trust Board and it will be an appendix to the Trust's refreshed Business Plan.
- The plan will be iterative and will go monthly to the Operational Commissioning Group, which is the vehicle for the commissioner to hold the Trust to account for progress.
- As for keeping scrutiny informed of progress, the frequency is to be determined and it was suggested that it could be discussed at a committee meeting, on route to either the monthly Operational Commissioning Group meetings or the quarterly Children's Trust Partnership Governance Group meetings.
- Scrutiny can also identify issues that are not already in the plan.
- They are working on bespoke action plans for adoption and fostering and these can be discussed at the April committee meeting.
- Members were keen for this plan to be filtered down and understood by staff. The Chief Executive stated this would include conversations at all team meetings and they will also use various other methods.

RESOLVED:

The update was noted and

- The bespoke action plans for adoption and fostering can be discussed at the April committee meeting.

7. WORK PROGRAMME

(See document 5).

The items for the 17th April 2019 committee meeting were agreed as:

- FGM.
- Corporate Parenting.
- Fostering and Adoption.

8. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The Committee noted the next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 17 April 2019 at 1000 hours in Committee Room 6, The Council House.

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

None.

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 11.45 hours.