

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

COMMONWEALTH GAMES, CULTURE & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

O&S COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING

1330 hours on Wednesday, 15 September 2021, BMI Main Hall

Action Notes

Present:

Councillor Mariam Khan (Chair)

Councillors: Mohammed Azim, Morriam Jan and Ron Storer

Also Present:

Maria Gavin, Assistant Director, Quality and Improvement, Adult Social Care

Alex Hillman, Corporate Parenting and Partnerships Coordinator, Children's Trust

Ceri Saunders, Acting Group Overview & Scrutiny Manager

Jake Shaw, Head of Service, Rights and Participation and Corporate Parenting,
Children's Trust

Amanda Simcox, Scrutiny Officer

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chair advised that this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's meeting You Tube site (www.youtube.com/channel/UCT2kT7ZRPFCXq6_5dnVnYlw) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Gurdial Singh Atwal and Martin Straker Welds.

3. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE – CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR

RESOLVED:

- Noted the resolution of the City Council appointing the Committee, Chair and Members to serve on the Committee for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2022.
- Elected Cllr Gurdial Singh Atwal as Deputy Chair for the purposes of substitution for the Chair, if absent, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2022.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

5. TERMS OF REFERENCE

RESOLVED:

The Commonwealth Games, Culture and Physical Activity Overview & Scrutiny Terms of Reference were noted.

6. ACTION NOTES

(See documents No. 1 & 2)

RESOLVED:

Confirmed the action notes of the formal meeting held on the 7th April 2021 and noted the action notes of the informal meeting held on the 28th July 2021.

7. CWG: ADULT SOCIAL CARE DIRECTORATE

(See document No. 3)

Maria Gavin, Assistant Director for Quality and Improvement, Adult Social Care attended for this item.

The main points during the presentation included:

- The Adult Social Care Engagement Group is raising awareness, enthusiasm and engagement in all aspects of the Games, which is pre, during and post Games, and they will be meeting fortnightly.
- They are keen to support the sharing of information, ideas and opportunities with service users at a local level.
- One of the key aspects is accessibility and Adult Social Care are members of the Organising Committee's Accessibility Forum. Voluntary organisations are also on the Forum and they provide a sense check, so opportunities such as volunteering are accessible. For instance, there may be people with autism or people who may struggle to get to the library for interviews, as the volunteers need to be representative of the city.

- Accessibility also includes accessible venues and there has to be an awareness of the level of facilities that may be needed. In addition, they are working directly with AccessAble, which is a national charity, to enable people with disabilities to attend the Games.
- They are putting together a bid as part of the legacy.
- The Adult Social Care Reach Group has a mailing group of around 400 community based organisations that support people with disabilities, and this includes day centres and community groups.
- An officer has been seconded from Culture to Adult Social Care for one day a week to support the Neighbourhood Networks and they have been in place for some time. They are promoting opportunities for Adult Social Care service users to experience and join in with the cultural festival. They are also supporting organisations to reach individuals and give them a little extra help.
- Critical Mass 2022: dance groups are being brought together for the opening and closing ceremonies.
- Cultural Programme: they are promoting and supporting this as they want local neighbourhood organisations to bid for grants/funding.
- Health and wellbeing: they want the Adult Social Care service users to get the maximum benefit and the Games are being used as a springboard for this. Many carers have noticed that Covid has had a negative impact on service users, as they may have been shielding and day centres have been closed.
- They are also linking directly with venues such as Edgbaston Cricket Ground and are planning a range of activities with the Council's Day Centre and Care Centre users.
- They have had a series of webinars for the Adult Social Care Network to promote opportunities.
- They are linking the Pure Project and Preparation for Adulthood employment organisations into the wider Jobs and Skills Academy.
- They will be using the Queen's Baton Relay as a springboard for more engagement, for example street parties or engaging in wider opportunities.
- They are getting the message out that the Games is accessible to everyone.
- Wider partnerships and getting Games ready: they are working with the Canal and Rivers Trust and Mencap, and there is ongoing activity to identify further opportunities.

During the discussion and in response to queries raised by Members the main points included:

- They are using as many channels as they can to publicise awareness and how people can gain access, as there is not just one way, and this includes the Reach Networks.
- Improving health and wellbeing, particularly for vulnerable adults, is part of Adult Social Care's ongoing work and the Games will be a springboard. They

will work with some of the venues and organisations who are more focused on community engagement.

- Public Health is doing a health and wellbeing campaign.
- As to how much interest Adult Social Care service users have shown so far, an example was given of the webinars for the volunteering opportunities, whereby 20 – 40 organisations were on each webinar so they feel they are getting some good connections.
- Day centres are still working under Covid restrictions so a lot of activity has moved on-line and they are happy to take suggestions on how they can reach more people.
- The Reach Group has a contact list of about 400 and it was queried whether there had been a mapping exercise to see if they had good reach in every ward, or whether there were pockets that are not covered. Maria Gavin commented that they have this for the 10 neighbourhoods and they will send through the ward information.
- Legacy is their focus and they are looking at how to strengthen community organisations and sustainability, as they have got a good network, and a lot of small organisations have sprung up during Covid.
- Accessible buildings, Changing Places toilets, and wayfinder maps etc., will assist with accessibility during the Games and will be a legacy post Games.
- Jobs, skills and volunteering: Adult Social Care are part of the Council's volunteering group, and they want their service users to not only gain skills but they also want the volunteers to continue going forward so their skills are maintained.

RESOLVED:

- Ward information to be provided in relation to the Reach Group coverage for the c. 400 organisations.

8. CWG: CHILDREN'S TRUST

(See document No. 4)

Jake Shaw, Head of Service for Rights and Participation and Corporate Parenting, and Alex Hillman, Corporate Parenting and Partnerships Coordinator for the Children's Trust attended for this item.

The main points during the presentation included:

- Unlocking the Games project is about reaching out to a wider cohort of children who are vulnerable and ensuring inclusive opportunities.
- The Bfriends Games programme: The Cabinet Member for Vulnerable Children and Families is involved and they have been approached by the Organising Committee, who were keen to support and provide some funding. The Children's Trust also provided funding.

- This is wider than children in care and care leavers, it also includes children with disabilities, unaccompanied asylum seeking children, and children that may be at risk from criminal and/or sexual exploitation etc.,
- The Games will be made up of a series of training opportunities, mini sporting events and volunteering opportunities that will take place across the school holidays and weekends from May 2021 to September 2022. There will then be an awards and closing ceremony, both virtually and in person.
- They are keen to hear about programmes that help with training and activities that they may not be aware of; this is wider than sports, and includes culture. These will be inclusive games and there will be lots of opportunities, for instance volunteering can have a massive impact on children's and young people's self esteem and they can get a sense of family from their involvement.
- The programme will reach a minimum of 5,000 children and young people across a range of ages and they are looking at key partners and communities to engage with.
- They are working closely with the legacy CWG team in BCC.
- There was a big push to get care leavers interested in volunteering for the Games, with 27 care leavers applying. They hope that all of them get an interview and an offer; so far half of them have had an interview.
- Birmingham Children's Trust has received 5,000 spectator tickets and they are currently working out how they will distribute these.
- One of the key achievements was the UK's largest summer event, utilising the Holiday Activity and Food Fund which reached 4,000 young people and where there were physical activity and Games themed activities every morning in August 2021 for families in the local community, children in care and foster families etc.
- Awards and Closing Ceremony on 31st August 2021: attendance included the Commonwealth Games Community roadshow and young people tried wrestling, squash and table tennis. Perry the Games Mascot and the Cabinet Member were also there and it was great to see so many young people involved. They are currently doing an impact report.
- Their future plans include: October Sports Hub with Birmingham City Football Club, mini-Games with community partners and West Midlands Virtual Schools, Commonwealth themed music lessons with Service for Education, the Stand Up project and WMCA assisting with support for care leavers who expressed an interest in volunteering, and the Chances Programme with Aston Villa Football Club.
- The Chances Programme: we were one of the 14 local authorities who were successful in getting funding. This is for children who have been excluded from school, or who may become part of the youth justice system.
- They worked with WMCA on the barriers for care leavers volunteering and are grateful that the Organising Committee has taken this on board and that food, refreshments and travel will be free. Also, there has been a lot of work undertaken to support care leavers going through the application process.

- The feedback from the food programme, which was free, has been brilliant for families as it came at a critical time and they could not have afforded to do these activities otherwise, such as the go karting.
- The Trust are looking at a charitable arm and starting a mentoring scheme.
- The legacy includes the Jobs and Skills Academy, with some young people receiving jobs. They have worked with a lot of community groups, and unaccompanied asylum seekers feel happy and safe in the City.
- Also, the work with the WMCA for volunteering, and jobs and skills, will be a legacy, and organisations giving a young person an apprenticeship.

During the discussion and in response to queries raised by Members the main points included:

- There is nothing set in stone and they are keen to move to different areas of the City, having a hub where young people can take part. They are looking at taster events and are keen to branch out across the City. It can be for other activities and it doesn't have to be just about sport and ambition. Members may want to shape this and they would like to use Members' contacts.
- Cllr Ron Storer questioned whether they had approached the Birchfield Harriers.
- The officers are based at the Lighthouse youth centre and they are looking at this as a Hub.
- The Chair was pleased with the opportunities the children and young people have had over the summer, and she is really pleased and keen to get involved as a corporate parent, as a ward councillor and as a Committee, and the Chair is more than happy for officers to invite the Committee to future events.
- The Chair asked whether it would be possible to be invited to their own opening and closing ceremonies, and officers confirmed they will extend an invite as they want to showcase this.
- It was felt that the holiday activity and the focus on nutrition and health and wellbeing was great.
- It can be hard to quantify the benefits of such things as the holiday activity as this isn't always quantifiable. For instance, they can't quantify if someone doesn't join a gang. However, this has made a real difference to children and young people, although there needs to be more sustainable funding.
- The West Midlands virtual school consortium has a charitable arm that links with partner organisations, and they work closely together using the Commonwealth Games funding to put together an event.
- Corporate Parents: this is a start of the conversation and officers will be reaching out to Councillors as to how they can get involved and use their connections. This could include Councillors being advocates for children and care leavers regarding apprenticeships etc.
- The Chair requested further information regarding the mentoring programme being developed and she is keen to apply if elected members are allowed to be part of this.

RESOLVED:

- Cllr Morriam Jan will email the officers as she is planning a community event during half term holidays and they may be able to add value.
- Officers to invite the Chair to their opening and closing ceremonies.
- Further information regarding the mentoring programme to be provided.

9. WORK PROGRAMME

(See document No. 5)

The next meeting is on the 6th October 2021, where the Education and Skills Directorate and the Inclusive Growth Directorate will be in attendance. Cllr Ron Storer questioned whether the date of the meeting could be changed as this clashes with the Conservative Party conference. The Chair requested officers to check whether the committee meeting could be moved.

10. DATE OF MEETINGS 2021/22

RESOLVED:

Noted the date of future meetings:

6 October 2021	12 January 2022
3 November 2021	9 February 2022
8 December 2021	9 March 2022
	6 April 2022

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

None received.

12. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

The meeting ended at 15.13 hours.