

## **BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

# **LEARNING, CULTURE AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY (O&S)**

## **COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING**

**13:30 hours on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019, Committee Rooms 3 & 4 – Actions**

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### **Present:**

Councillor Mariam Khan (Chair)

Councillors: Alex Aitken (Deputy Chair), Mary Locke, Gary Sambrook, Kath Scott, Mike Sharpe, Ron Storer and Martin Straker Welds.

Other Voting Representatives: Rabia Shami, Parent Governor Representative and Sarah Smith, Church of England Diocese Representative

### **Also Present:**

- Councillor Kate Booth, Cabinet Member for Children's Wellbeing
  - Councillor Mohammed Aikhlaq, Chair of the Children's Social Care O&S Committee
  - Councillor Debbie Clancy, Children's Social Care O&S Committee
  - Councillor Diane Donaldson, Children's Social Care O&S Committee
  - Councillor Alex Yip, Children's Social Care O&S Committee
  - Sarah Finch, Assistant Head, Colmers Secondary School and Sixth Form
  - Rachel O'Connor, Senior Responsible Officer (SRO), SEND Improvement Programme, Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group (BSOL CCG)
  - Dr Tim O'Neill, Director, Education and Skills, Birmingham City Council
  - Anna Robinson, Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP) Mental Health/Emotional Wellbeing Lead
  - Amanda Simcox, Scrutiny Officer
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### **1. NOTICE OF RECORDING**

The Chairman advised that this meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site ([www.civico.net/birmingham](http://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. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Adam Hardy, Roman Catholic Diocese Representative.

The Chair thanked Councillor Alex Aitken for covering for her whilst she has been on sick leave.

The Chair welcomed members of the Children's Social Care O&S Committee to the meeting.

### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Councillor Mohammed Aikhlaq declared he is on the Board of Directors for the Leigh Academy Trust.

### **4. ACTION NOTES**

(See document 1).

#### **RESOLVED:**

The action notes of the meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018 were confirmed.

### **5. YOUNG PEOPLE AND MENTAL HEALTH**

(See documents 2 and 3).

Anna Robinson, BEP Mental Health/Emotional Wellbeing Lead and Sarah Finch, Assistant Head, Colmers Secondary School and Sixth Form presented the item and answered Members' questions.

The following were among the main points raised:

- BEP has a four year contract that is funded by Forward Thinking Birmingham (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) until 2021.
- New Start is BEP's asset-focused approach to:
  - Make schools more emotionally supportive environments.
  - Improving pupil wellbeing and building resilience.
  - Enabling early identification of vulnerable pupils and early intervention of need.
  - Enable schools to take an asset focused approach to intervention.
  - Links to school improvement – closing the gap.
- They work with 48 schools - five of these are primary schools with the rest being secondary schools.
- There is a greater sense of awareness of mental health issues.
- Colmers School & Sixth Form College is one of the schools that is taking part in New Start and initiatives have included:
  - Introducing academic resilience and mental health awareness into the learning for life PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) curriculum and assemblies.
  - Having an integrated counselling service in the school (Place2be).

- Support centres in the school – the Renaissance Centre and outreach.
  - Staff training and awareness – although staff are not therapists, they do see the children the most and are usually consistent in the child's life.
  - Early help and identification of vulnerable students.
  - Equipping prefects so they can signpost students for assistance.
- The 48 schools do not have to pay for New Start as this is already funded and BEP aim to have an offer for all schools.
- Schools opt-in as this is non-statutory.
- They have a community of practice and are building up collaboration with other schools.
- A part of New Start's approach is about joining up what is already available in schools, such as the Educational Psychologist Service and BEP work closely with Forward Thinking Birmingham.
- The Chair is keen for the Committee to hear the voices of young people and asked whether assistance could be provided with this.

**RESOLVED:**

The update was noted and the following was requested:

- Further information on the BPS society survey of providers that found that 89% said there had been an increase in referrals.
- The Involve report BEP had commissioned to be forwarded.
- Assistance with the Committee hearing the voices of young people.

## **6. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND)**

(See documents 4, 5 and 6).

Councillor Mariam Khan, Chair, explained that previously the Children's Social Care O&S Committee has been discussing SEND, with members of the Learning, Culture and Physical Activity O&S Committee being invited to attend their meeting.

Unfortunately, Rachel O'Connor, Senior Responsible Officer, SEND Improvement Programme, could not make the Children's Social Care O&S Committee's 13<sup>th</sup> February meeting. Therefore, the Chair of the Children's Social Care O&S Committee and Deputy Chair of the Learning, Culture and Physical Activity O&S Committee agreed that the item could be discussed at this meeting. Rachel expressed her gratitude for the co-ordination.

Councillor Kate Booth, Cabinet Member for Children's Wellbeing introduced the item and Rachel O'Connor and Dr Tim O'Neill presented the item and answered Members' questions.

The following were among the main points raised:

- This is an 18 months to two year improvement journey.
- They have got strong traction across partnership for change.
- They will be discussing with the Schools Forum the additional funding of £3.2m this year and £3.2m next year.
- The SEND Board will monitor progress against the action plan on a fortnightly basis.

- They are creating a partnership scorecard on SEND performance.
- The Parent/Carer Forum will be formally constituted by the end of March 2019.
- They will re-launch the Local Offer in March 2019.
- Customer first is the commitment.
- There is a very long distance to travel and there is an emphasis on culture change.

At this point, Councillor Alex Aitken took over as Chair, on account of Councillor Mariam Khan having to leave the meeting due to feeling unwell.

Members' queries included:

- It was thought that the sufficiency requirements had not been done this year and Dr Tim O'Neill undertook to check whether this was the case.
- The Committee is still awaiting the risk assessment that was requested at the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018 meeting and it was agreed this would be forwarded.

Members discussed the preferred approach on how they wish to remain briefed on SEND improvements and the following were requested:

- A copy of the information from the SEND Board fortnightly meetings to be circulated to the two O&S Committees.
- A monthly report to be circulated to the two O&S Committees.

Members also discussed options as to whether they should focus on a particular work stream (there are 12 in total) or whether they should go into more depth with the risks identified on the slide: leadership continuity, co-production, insufficient resources, long waiting times and high thresholds for some key therapy services, need as measured by a number of indicators continuing to grow and the challenging environment for agencies across Birmingham, including the City Council.

#### **RESOLVED:**

The update was noted and Members are to be provided with:

- Confirmation as to whether the sufficiency requirements have been done.
- The risk assessment.
- A copy of the information from the SEND Board fortnightly meetings to be circulated to the two O&S Committees.
- A monthly report to be circulated to the two O&S Committees.

## **7. WORK PROGRAMME**

(See document 7).

Members expressed mixed views on whether the SEND item should sit with the Children's Social Care O&S Committee.

Some Members expressed frustration with the former Schools, Children and Families O&S Committee being split into two Committees and are unhappy with the current arrangements.

This is proving problematic, not only with the SEND and Travel Assist items being within both of the Committees' remits, but with other items, such as members of the Children's Social Care O&S Committee missing out on the young people and mental

health inquiry being undertaken by this Committee. In addition, this proved problematic when members wished to discuss the budget 2019/20 consultation as the Committees' remit falls within four Cabinet Member portfolios. Councillor Debbie Clancy undertook to raise this matter at the Co-ordinating O&S Committee meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

The Work Programme was noted and Councillor Debbie Clancy undertook to raise the matter of the two committees' remits to the Co-ordinating O&S Committee.

**8. DATES OF MEETINGS**

The Committee noted the dates of future meetings on the following Wednesdays at 1330 hours in the Council House, Committee Rooms 3 & 4:

6 March 2019 and 17 April 2019.

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

None.

**10. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

Councillor Alex Aitken informed members that there is a vacancy on the Committee for another Parent Governor Representative and letters have been sent to governors in Local Authority Schools. Nominations close on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019 and if members know anyone who may be interested then we would encourage them to contact Governor Support or the Scrutiny Office.

**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.

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The meeting ended at 1600 hours.