

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

LEARNING, CULTURE AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY (O&S)

COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING

13:30 hours on Wednesday 14th November 2018, Committee Room 6 – Actions

Present:

Councillor Alex Aitken (Acting Chair)

Councillors: Mary Locke, Kath Scott, Mike Sharpe, Gary Sambrook, Ron Storer and Martin Straker Welds.

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

Also Present:

Amanda Daniels, Principal Educational Psychologist

Rose Kiely, Group Overview & Scrutiny Manager

Amanda Simcox, Scrutiny Officer

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) 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:

Councillor Mariam Khan and Adam Hardy, Roman Catholic Diocese Representative

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

4. ACTION NOTES

(See document 1).

RESOLVED:

The action notes of the meeting held on the 10th October 2018 were confirmed.

5. EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE

(See document 2).

Amanda Daniels, Principal Educational Psychologist presented the item.

The following were among the main points raised:

- This discussion is timely as this week there has been a publication from the DfE, Mental health and Behaviour in Schools. This talks about the need for a whole school approach to mental health and makes reference to the role of Educational Psychologists.
- There was also an article on the BBC news regarding early intervention and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE). <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-46181542>
- Our most basic needs need to be met if we are to achieve our full potential – Maslow’s Hierarchy. Therefore, children’s emotional as well as physical needs need to be met so they can achieve academically.
- The workforce also needs support and they use the analogy of “putting your oxygen mask on first” so staff are in a good place to support the children they are looking after.
- The Educational Psychologists work with people up to the age of 25 and those young people usually have multiple needs rather than a single need.
- Complex issues can be given one label and children can be passed within and between systems with no one taking responsibility.
- The service also works with the Children’s Trust and helps adoptive and foster parents with issues such as children with attachment needs.
- They are hoping to develop a trauma informed model behaviour policy for Birmingham schools. This has come out of work that has been going on nationally, for instance school exclusions can be damaging to a child who has experienced rejection in the past. They would like the backing of Councillors to promote this.
- There is a role for all people involved in public services to promote the work to overcome ACE.
- Most schools are very good at using the service and other services, such as the Communication Autism Team and the Pupil and Schools Support Service.
- Educational Psychologists visit the schools regularly and they try and ensure that the schools have the same Educational Psychologist for 3 – 4 years.
- They do not have a complicated referral form or process and there are no waiting lists as the service is about early intervention.
- The Educational Psychology Service is part funded through the general fund so they have savings pressures, as with other council services. They also have to meet their income targets.
- Most of the schools take out a subscription and schools can purchase a top up subscription. Alternatively, some schools can pool their money to commission training or interventions for the group. The service tries to be flexible in meeting the needs of schools.

- With regards to the equality of access for children, it is the schools decision as to whether they subscribe. Some schools do not subscribe and make their own arrangements with private psychologists. There is a worry regarding schools that do not access anything.
- Some schools are much better about prioritising high level of needs.
- All schools have notional SEN budgets, however, this is not ring fenced so there is no requirement for schools to use this for SEN or to report on it.
- Birmingham is in a better position than many other neighbouring local authorities with regards to support services. Schools can also access the Communication and Autism Team and the Pupil and Schools Support Service. The opportunity to be involved in cross agency, early intervention work is one of the reasons Birmingham does not struggle to recruit Educational Psychologists.
- The response to the SEND Ofsted inspection gives a fairly powerful lever for other services to be working together to provide early intervention.
- They would like to find more creative solutions for children who need a little more than mainstream provision but who are not high need. Short term additional funding to take the pressure off services with the additional resources should help with this.
- Requests for Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) have doubled and also being a diverse city brings additional pressures.
- They have started to employ Assistant Psychologists so we are “growing our own”.

RESOLVED:

The update was noted and Members are to be provided with the Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools publication.

6. WORK PROGRAMME

(See document 3).

The Acting Chair stated he would leave the majority of the work programme discussion to when the Chair returns. However, there is an option to move the 9th January 2019 meeting forward as there are no items programmed for the meeting. This would then allow for the Committee to discuss the budget proposals, before the consultation closes at the end of December 2018.

Members were agreeable for the relevant Cabinet Members to be invited to an additional meeting in December and proposed dates for the meeting can be e-mailed to Members, following a discussion with the Chair. Members requested that the previous budget reductions are included within the discussion.

7. DATE OF MEETINGS

The dates of future meetings on the following Wednesdays at 1330 hours in the Council House were noted. However, as per the discussion under the work programme the 9th January 2019 meeting may be brought forward to allow for a focus on the budget before the end of the consultation period in December 2018.

2018	2019
5 December 2018	9 January 2019
	6 February 2019
	6 March 2019
	17 April 2019

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

None.

9. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

10. 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 14.30 hours.