

Birmingham City Council

City Council

14 January 2020



Subject: Executive Business Report
Report of: Cabinet
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Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential :

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 On 10 September 2019, Full Council accepted the recommendations of the Coordinating O&S Committee review in respect of changes to the Full Council agenda.
- 1.2 Recommendation 3 of the review requested that the Executive provide an update to Full Council on its work via the provision of an *Executive Business Report* ('EBR').
- 1.3 EBRs will be provided to Full Council four times per municipal year and will include details of progress made in relation to the delivery of the outcomes set out in the Council Plan [2018 to 2022].
- 1.4 The Council Plan Outcomes [2018 to 2022] are as follows:

- **OUTCOME 1: Birmingham is an entrepreneurial city to learn, work and invest in**
- **OUTCOME 2: Birmingham is an aspirational city to grow up in**
- **OUTCOME 3: Birmingham is a fulfilling city to age well in**
- **OUTCOME 4: Birmingham is a great, clean and green city to live in**

- OUTCOME 5: Birmingham residents gain the maximum benefit from hosting the 2022 Commonwealth Games
 - OUTCOME 6: Birmingham is a city that takes a leading role in tackling climate change
- 1.4 Each EBR will provide an update on two Council Plan outcomes per report. This first EBR will focus on Outcome 2: *Birmingham is an aspirational city to grow up in* and Outcome 3: *Birmingham is a fulfilling city to age well in*.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

3 Outcome: Birmingham is an aspirational city to grow up in

- 3.1 Birmingham's vision for children and young people is that they grow up in a child friendly city where their outcomes take priority. Partners are working to improve outcomes for children and young people and are determined that they are supported earlier and more effectively to ensure all children and young people achieve their potential.
- 3.2 Birmingham continues to be a national leader in Unicef's Rights Respecting Schools programme with over 250 schools now actively participating. Birmingham's successful model where the council funds training for schools has been promoted by Unicef and is now being taken up by local authorities across the country.
- 3.3 Initial discussions have taken place between Unicef, BCC, Birmingham Children's Trust and other partners including West Midlands Police and the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group. Our intention is to apply to Unicef to start the Child Friendly City process early in 2020 with a view to achieving this status in the near future.
- 3.4 Birmingham is taking a lead role nationally in shaping policy around the teaching of relationships and sex education (RSE). The Council's Resilience team is leading work with senior leaders in education to develop an RSE toolkit for schools in the city. Initial feedback on the draft toolkit has been positive from a range of stakeholders including SACRE, the DfE, Ofsted and others. The draft toolkit is currently being piloted at a small number of primary schools with launch due in the Spring of 2020 in advance of the new statutory guidance on RSE coming into force in September 2020. Local authority officers are currently undertaking a DfE funded project to ensure that out of school settings are fit for purpose and keep children safe. The team, in partnership with Unicef, is developing a Rights Respecting pledge that recognises the commitment of settings, including out of school settings and early years settings in promoting and upholding children's rights in Birmingham.
- 3.5 The Director of Education and Skills has a strong working relationship with Birmingham Children's Trust. Performance and contract management

arrangements between BCC and BCT are well embedded. A more focussed and targeted approach to safeguarding has been successfully embedded, with the launch of Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership on 1 April 2019.

- 3.6 Children's social care services for children overall are improving. The most recent Ofsted inspection found that services require improvement to be good. Improvements are driven through [the Trust Development Plan](#), a detailed, high level plan to focus on the priorities for consistently good services for our children. The progress of this plan is tested rigorously to ensure improvement and sustainability.
- 3.7 Birmingham continues to prioritise early years provision. Recent projects include a focus on securing speech and language resources for all early years providers in the city; developing a pilot 'localities based' approach to supporting children with SEND in nursery provision and improving support for childminders in Birmingham so that the city can broaden its range of early educational provision.
- 3.8 Birmingham's performance in relation to take up of two year old early education entitlement is now just above statistical neighbours but we need to further improve. This will remain a key priority focus area for the Early Years team who have been working with the providers of the Early Years Health and Wellbeing model to ensure they are fulfilling their contract and supporting parents of eligible children to access places for their children. Additionally, the Early Years networks have a role in driving up take-up locally; the responsibility for these has been transferred back to the council, which will be working in partnership with nursery school headteachers to lead the Network Steering Groups from 2020.
- 3.9 Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP) continues to support Birmingham's self-improving school system and delivers targeted school improvement work on behalf of the council. The council remains determined to further improve the city's performance in attainment compared to other core cities and there are some encouraging signs in the last academic year.
- 3.10 In one of the key identifiers of children's attainment, Progress 8, Birmingham is improving significantly. In 2019, Birmingham showed a positive improvement in Progress 8 with the Birmingham average at 0.09 compared to the national average of -0.03. This means Birmingham children are making more progress than similar children nationally. Birmingham is also above both statistical neighbours (-0.01) and core cities (-0.05) averages.
- 3.11 More children in Birmingham are achieving a "Good Level of Development" at the Early Years Foundation Stage (68%) and the gap between Birmingham and national has reduced in recent years (3.8% in 2019 compared to 5.6% in 2016). Sustained work is needed to improve this further and close the gap.
- 3.12 At Key Stage 2 in 2019, 61.2% of pupils in Birmingham achieved at least the expected standard in reading, writing and maths, the same as in 2018. Narrowing

the gap between Birmingham and national average will be a focus as the gap widened by 0.4% in 2019.

- 3.13 Further work is required for Birmingham to move towards being the best core city for attainment.
- 3.14 Following the findings of the Ofsted CQC local area inspection of SEND in June 2018, the transformation of SEND services has made significant progress, notably the establishment of four locality panels that have been piloted from November 2019.
- 3.15 Attainment for pupils with SEND in Birmingham is improving. For example, the percentage of children receiving SEN Support that reached the expected standard in reading, writing & mathematics (20.3%) has shown a particularly notable increase since 2015/16 (+10.1 percentage points). By Key Stage 4, children with SEND appear to be attaining expected standards in line with the national and core cities average. A relatively high proportion of young people with learning difficulties or disabilities in Birmingham are in higher education (47%) compared with the lower national figure (37%).
- 3.16 Progress has been made in recent years in reducing the levels of Birmingham young people who are NEET or Not Known. The level of young people who were NEET in 2018/19 was 2.6% compared to 5.2% in 2015/16. The gap between Birmingham's combined NEET and Not Known figure and the national average is closing. The improvements are an outcome of the Council's investment in the 14-19 tracking service and leadership capacity around 14-19, which was established within Education and Skills.
- 3.17 Birmingham City Council aims to provide a local high-quality school place for each of its resident children in order to support pupil attendance and attainment. Our Basic Need programme is an essential strand to the wider school improvement strategy in Birmingham and place planning officers work closely with the school admissions team to predict demand for places.
- 3.18 Birmingham's Fair Access Protocol has been significantly strengthened in the past year. The Protocol is triggered when a pupil has not secured a school place under the normal in-year admissions procedures and has been widely supported by schools across the city. As a result, pupils are now placed at schools far more quickly.
- 3.19 The support and challenge to individual schools with budget deficits has been strengthened with BCC officers working with CIPFA to provide assurance to the approach that is being taken in this area.
- 3.20 The Council set the Education & Skills Directorate a net budget of £255.477m for 2019/20 at its meeting on 26 February 2019. This net budget is after approving a savings programme of £8.837m. Following budget adjustments relating to the Council restructure, the net budget for the Directorate is now £268.759m.

- 3.21 The budget includes a number of services which have been transferred in from the Place and Economy directorates, including Libraries, Adult Education, Careers, Youth Service and Employment Services. The overall budget of transferred services as at period 8 is £24.802m.
- 3.22 At Period 8 the Education & Skills Directorate forecasts that net spend for the year will be £269.139m which represents an overspend of £0.380m reflecting an adverse movement of £0.380m since period 7. However, it also needs to be highlighted that Birmingham Children's Trust (BCT) is reporting an overspend risk of £8.600m at Period 7. Further mitigations are being sought by the Trust though these have yet to be confirmed. At this stage no variance has been factored into the forecast pending clarification from the Trust on the expected impact of mitigations over the remainder of the financial year.
- 3.23 In 2020 a key focus will be ensuring all of the council's services and partnership arrangements are aligned with delivering the council's outcome priorities and local and national education policy.

4 Outcome: Birmingham is a fulfilling city to age well in

- 4.1 The vision for adult social care can be summarised as "The goals that Birmingham Council are seeking to achieve for adults and older people are that they should be resilient, living independently whenever possible and exercise choice and control so that they can live good quality lives and enjoy good health and wellbeing." This vision was approved in 2017 and formed the aspirational basis for the journey of transformation on which the Directorate embarked.
- 4.2 Now midway through the transformational journey the Directorate via its internal Adults Transformation Programme is making continued progress against the delivery of the Vision and Improvement and Business Plan. Alongside the internal transformation programme, the Directorate has also been making progress, working with partners via the Birmingham Older Peoples Programme. Together these programmes are supporting the Directorate to deliver against the outcome of making Birmingham a fulfilling city to age well in.
- 4.3 As part of an asset-based approach, significant progress has been made in building community capacity in localities through the Neighbourhood Networks initiative. The Neighbourhood Networks initiative achieved full coverage across the city at the end of November 2019. This means that each locality in Birmingham now has an active Neighbourhood Network that links citizens with innovative and creative support locally. This is supporting a noticeable reduction in citizens coming directly to Adult Social Care for low level support. A key benefit is better outcomes for citizens as they remain independent and in their own homes for longer.
- 4.4 The continued implementation of the Customer Journey and Three Conversations service model is further strengthening the asset-based approach. It is ensuring that

the Adult Social Care workforce is aligned to localities, embraces a multidisciplinary approach and retains the right skills mix. Further it is ensuring that social work practice values the contribution of local assets and makes use of Neighbourhood Networks to increase independence at home.

- 4.5 The Directorate continues to actively promote choice and control in how the needs of citizens are met. Ambitious targets for direct payments were set in 2017 spanning the period up to 2021/22. The target for the 2019/20 financial year is that 35% of citizens new to adult social care and accessing long term social care services, will do so via a direct payment. The Directorate is on course to meet the target with 34% of citizens new to adult social care and accessing long term social care services, now doing so via a direct payment.
- 4.6 Work on Early Intervention with health partners is progressing with a positive impact on the lives of citizens. The work on Early Intervention is based on a holistic and systemwide approach. This means health and social care systems working in partnerships to improve all aspects of the patients journey through the admission and discharge processes.
- 4.7 The work at the front door of the hospital has focused on ensuring that as many older people as possible entering the hospital receive the support that they need. Ideally this support is delivered back in their own home, thereby reducing the number of people that end up being admitted to a ward. Alongside this, a consistent multi-disciplinary approach to hospital discharge is maximising the independence of patients and minimising the time spent in a hospital bed after being medically fit. Early Intervention Beds provide an inpatient rehabilitation and recovery service for older adults who no longer need the acute medical care of a hospital. System working within the community setting has meant the creation of a brand-new multidisciplinary team. The Early Intervention Community Team provides urgent assessment, treatment and care for people, and a range of integrated services that promote recovery and independence.
- 4.8 Whilst the Directorate has made significant progress in improving outcomes for citizens it has also faced challenges. Three key challenges are highlighted in this report. Two are related to progressing improvement proposals; namely Enablement and Day Opportunities. The third is related to sustaining improvements in delayed transfers of care. The challenges related to day opportunities and enablement has meant that the Directorate is still not able to fully maximise the independence of citizens. Although it is currently managing demand for services, not optimising enablement and day opportunities will pose a risk to future delivery of savings and outcomes for citizens. The Directorate has made real progress in reducing delayed transfers of care since 2017. However, there has been a sustained increase in delays over the summer. It must be acknowledged that there has been significant systemwide improvement changes. Along with improvement changes in individual organisations. These changes have occurred in the period leading up to the

increased delays, whilst some are still ongoing. Work is progressing with partners and internally to understand the causes of the increased delays and implement a plan to stabilise, then continue the reduction of delayed transfers of care.

- 4.9 The Council set the Adult Social Care Directorate a net budget of £325.707m for 2019/20 at its meeting on 26 February 2019. This net budget is after approving a savings programme of £14.620m and requiring a further £1.690m savings to be delivered that were achieved on a one-off basis in 2018/19. Following budget adjustments, the net budget for the Directorate is now £331.516m.
- 4.10 At Period 8 the Adult Social Care Directorate forecasts that net spend for the year will be £321.994m, which would result in an underspend of £9.522m with major underspends identified within Packages of Care and employees. This is an increase of £1.923m against the forecast underspend at period 7. The underspend on packages of care reflects the Directorate's achievements against their challenging savings and transformation programme. Also reflected in the underspend position is early delivery of savings for the 2020/21 financial year.
- 4.11 At Period 8 no new savings have been identified in the forecast. Existing savings now reflect current delivery and the £0.918m of savings shown as not being delivered against Specialist Care Services are now being delivered through demand management within packages of care.

5 Background Papers

- Council Plan 2018 – 2022 [2019 Update] – which can be found [here](#) under item 7.