

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

LEARNING, CULTURE AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY (O&S)

COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING

13:30 hours on Wednesday 25th July 2018, Committee Rooms 3 & 4 – Actions

Present:

Councillor Mariam Khan (Chair)

Councillors: Alex Aitken, Baber Baz, Mary Locke, Kath Scott, Gary Sambrook, Ron Storer and Martin Straker Welds.

Other Voting Representatives: Rabia Shami, Parent Governor

Also Present:

Councillor Kate Booth, Cabinet Member for Children's Wellbeing

Councillor Liz Clements

Anne Ainsworth, AD, Education Strategy

Colin Diamond, Corporate Director, Children and Young People

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. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE AND CHAIRMAN

- (i) Noted the resolution of City Council appointing the Committee, Chair and Members to serve on the Committee for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the City Council in 2019:

Labour: Councillors Alex Aitken, Mariam Khan (Chairman), Mary Locke, Kath Scott and Martin Straker Welds.

Conservative: Councillors Gary Sambrook and Ron Storer.

Liberal Democrat: Councillor Baber Baz

Other Voting Members:

1 Church of England Diocese representative - Sarah Smith

1 Roman Catholic Diocese representative - Adam Hardy

2 Parent Governor Representatives - Rabia Shami and 1 vacancy

3. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

Elected Cllr Alex Aitken as Deputy Chair for the purposes of substitution for the Chair, if absent, for the period ending with the Annual General Meeting of the City Council in 2019.

4. APOLOGIES

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Sarah Smith, Church of England Diocese Representative.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Gary Sambrook declared that his Mother works for Travel Assist and is a dinner lady.

Councillor Ron Storer declared that his Sister works for Travel Assist and is a dinner lady.

6. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Noted the Terms of Reference: To fulfil the functions of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee as they relate to any policies, services and activities concerning schools and education; arts and culture; libraries and museums; sport; events; parks and allotments. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee dealing with education matters shall include in its membership the following voting representatives:

(a) Church of England diocese representative (one);

(b) Roman Catholic diocese representative (one); and

(c) Parent Governor representatives (two)

7. CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S WELLBEING

The Chair advised Members that Cllr Kate Booth, Cabinet Member for Children's Wellbeing was attending today's committee meeting as she is politically accountable for Education and is also the Lead Member for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Other parts of the Cabinet Member's portfolio, such as the Children's Trust, comes under the remit of Children's Social Care O&S Committee.

The Cabinet Member informed Members that she has put all the committee dates in her diary and depending on the topic being discussed either Cllr Jayne Francis, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Culture, or herself, or both will attend the committee meetings. The discussion included:

- A huge amount of the budget is ring fenced with Travel Assist being the largest controllable part. They are endeavouring to move forward on this.
- The whole portfolio is a challenge. Staffing is an issue, the Corporate Director for Children and Young People is leaving, a number of staff are either temporary or part-time and the AD for SEND is unfortunately on long term sick leave. Anne Ainsworth will be the Acting Corporate Director for Children and Young People. The Cabinet Member has requested the Chief Executive ensures the Council is staffed appropriately.
- The UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award is very important and the City has the best Prevent agenda that is nationally recognised. The Cabinet Member attended the Post 16 Mental Health Conference and Councillor Alex Yip and herself will be working cross party on the mental health and well-being of young people agenda.

Colin Diamond informed Members that there are three strands to SEND that are inflight:

- 1) Identification of SEND (over reliance on the statutory Education, Health and Care Plans).
- 2) Developing more local provision (need more special school provision and facilities and the Council has the capital and knows where there is physical capacity).
- 3) Pressure on the budget and making money work better.

The Schools Forum has the SEND budget information which is publically available and the implementation of the Inclusion Strategy will be happening incrementally. Sarah Sinclair, Interim AD, Children and Young People (Commissioning) will now be leading on SEND. The Ofsted monitoring visit letter is expected in September and Councillor Booth and/or Councillor Francis will endeavour to attend the committee meeting when SEND is being discussed.

In response to the question relating to the email to all Councillors regarding the Daily Mail article on the Madrassa over the weekend, the Cabinet Member stated that West Midlands Police and officers in children's services are engaged and have been liaising with the DfE and the school no longer operates from that house. The Council has used other powers, such as planning regulations and fire safety where there are concerns. The Cabinet Member will confirm who will be the signatories of the letter referenced in the email to the DfE raising concerns with the lack of legislation in this area.

RESOLVED:

Update noted and the Cabinet Member to confirm who will be the signatories of the letter to the DfE.

8. ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE (EBACC)

The Chair provided Members with the background to this item. There had been a motion to City Council from Councillor Liz Clements and Councillor Olly Armstrong and an amendment from Councillor Jon Hunt and Councillor Zaker Choudhry requested the Committee investigate the potential contribution of technical and vocational education at this stage of learning. The four Councillors had been invited to attend and Councillor Liz Clements was present.

Anne Ainsworth, AD, Education Strategy and Colin Diamond, Corporate Director, Children and Young People presented the paper and the analysis contained. This included:

- Progress 8 and EBacc are the two measures used to measure schools.
- Girls are generally performing better than boys for EBacc.
- There is a decline in young people studying languages.
- 15 Technical Level 'routeways' will be delivered in the future within post 16 providers.

They will undertake further analysis and report back. It was suggested this could be provided at the December meeting if it is available when school attainment and improvement is discussed.

Members thanked Colin Diamond for his expertise and knowledge and wished him well.

RESOLVED:

Update noted and the further analysis will be reported back.

9. WORK PROGRAMME

Members requested the following be invited to attend the September meeting to have a broad discussion on young people and mental health, to include, bullying, isolation, referrals from schools to CAMHS, poverty (free school meals and uniform) and addiction (including mobile phones):

- School Psychology Service.
- Birmingham Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).
- Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust.
- Stop Bullying in Brum.
- Members of the Youth Parliament.
- Children's Hospital.

10. DATE OF MEETINGS

The following dates have been proposed for Wednesdays at 13.30 hours.

2018	2019
5 September 2018	9 January 2019
10 October 2018	6 February 2019
14 November 2018	6 March 2019
5 December 2018	17 April 2019

Cllr Sambrook queried whether the December and February Committee dates were correct and it was agreed the committee dates would be confirmed.

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

None.

12. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

13. 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 15.10 hours.