

Time commenced - 6.00pm  
Time finished - 7.38pm

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMISSION TUESDAY 20 JULY 2010

Present: Councillors Bolton, Davis, Radford, Whitby and Winter

### 12/10 Appointment of the Vice Chair of the Commission

**Resolved to appoint Councillor Higginbottom as Vice Chair of the  
Children and Young People Commission.**

### 13/10 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Berry, Higginbottom  
and Tuplin.

### 14/10 Late Items to be introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

### 15/10 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

### 16/10 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2010 were agreed as a correct  
record and signed by the Chair.

### 17/10 Call-in

There were no items.

## Items for Discussion

### 18/10 Statistical update on Children Looked After

The Commission considered a report from the Strategic Director for Children  
and Young People on Statistical update on Children Looked After. It was  
reported that there were 441 Looked after children and that the trend was

upward, in line with the national situation. The main cause for children going into the care of the Council was due to chronic neglect and abuse, coupled with drugs and alcohol.

Members raised concern as to how the authority could safely reduce the numbers of children going into care. It was noted that the authority needed to work more with partners such as health, schools and youth service to identify families most at risk and offer support.

The Commission were informed that officers were already investing in locality services and strengthening families to prevent children getting into care. It was mentioned that the strategy for looked after Children needed to be revised and the Commission could be involved developing this.

**Resolved to note the report and to request that the strategy for Children Looked After be brought to the Commission at an appropriate time.**

## 19/10 Work Programme

The Commission considered a report from the Strategic Director for Resources on the Work Programme.

The Commission were provided with details of initial suggestions for the work programme and requested that the following items be included in their work programme for 2010/11:

Review of Children Looked After – agreed to receive a briefing on issues affecting Looked After Children at a special meeting rather than at the next scheduled meeting. This will enable members to understand the issues before selecting a more detailed work programme.

School Funding – agreed to receive a briefing at the next scheduled meeting.

BSF – Members requested a report on the full cost of the reduced programme at a future meeting of the Commission.

Equity of Youth Service – Members asked to receive a presentation about the role of the Youth Service and the work they do with young people especially in preventing teenage pregnancies. An explanation about the differences in provision across wards was requested.

The Commission also requested that an update be provided on the Gangs Review and the World Class Primary Schools Programme during the municipal year.

**Resolved to agree the Commission's work programme for 2010-11.**

## 20/10 Briefings on:

## Recruitment and retention of Social Care Workers

Jacqui Jenson, Assistant Director – Locality Services, informed the Commission that at its highest there was a 45% vacancy rate of Social Care Workers and that the department had been forced to recruit up to twelve agency staff some months ago. The Commission were informed that a strategy had now been put together bettering order to recruit workers and noted that the vacancy rate was now 10.85% with the target being 10%.

Jacqui reported that the recruitment process was about 8 weeks long from the point of offer and that currently there were nine people following this process.

It was reported that there had been a career grade put in place for the Social Care Workers and that the starting salary had been raised in the line with other local authorities.

Members noted that the marketing for the positions was much sharper and sold Derby better. It had also helped that officers had attended recruitment fairs.

Concerns were raised by the Commission as to the long hours that Social Care Workers were expected to cover due to their heavy caseload. It was reported that during last year workers had been paid for any extra hours they had worked but since the staffing levels had increased they were now keeping Work Life Balance sheets which would be evaluated periodically.

**Resolved to note the update.**

## Out of Hours Care

Jacqui Jenson, Assistant Director – Locality Services, reported that from April 2011 the Careline Service would be changing the way it worked. Rather than a joint service as is currently, the Adult and Children services would be provided separately. This would provide an opportunity to address any issues with the service and discuss with Members what service they required for the available budget.

The Commission were informed that the role of the service was child protection emergencies and queries during out of hours times.

**Resolved to note the update.**

## 21/10      Voices in Action – Response to Pledges

The Commission considered a report from the Strategic Director for Resources on Voices in Action – Response to Pledges. The pledges were brought to the Commission at the January meeting and Members agreed to follow up the progress against the pledges on behalf of young people. The table showed the responses received so far against those pledges.

**Resolved to note the progress on pledges made by people attending  
Voices in action event in November 2009.**

**22/10      Retrospective Scrutiny**

There were no items identified.

**23/10      Forward Plan**

There were no items identified.

**24/10      Responses to any reports and enquiries of the  
Commission**

There were no responses to any reports and enquiries of the Commission.

**25/10      Matters referred to the Commission by Council  
Cabinet**

There were no items referred to the Commission by the Council Cabinet.

MINUTES END