

ITEM 4

Time commenced – 6.00pm
Time finished – 7.28pm

Inspiring Young People Board 21 September 2015

Present Councillor Whitby (Chair)
Councillors Hezelgrave, Nawaz, Roulstone and Williams and Steve Grundy

In Attendance Councillor Bolton

01/15 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Care and Winter and Eleanor Berry and Bev Stewart.

02/15 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were none.

03/15 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Whitby and Steve Grundy wished it to be noted that they were both registered foster carers with Derby City Council.

04/15 Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers – self-assessment and improvement plan

The Board received a report of the Acting Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers – update. The report was presented by the Acting Director and the Policy and Improvement Manager.

It was reported that the single social care inspection framework (SIF) was first introduced in November 2013 and at the end of June 2015 59 reports had been published for authorities inspected under the framework, with the largest proportion being judged as 'requires improvement'. It was further reported that the results were as follows:

- Inadequate – 14 out of 59 authorities (24%).
- Requires improvement – 31 out of 59 (52%).
- Good – 14 out of 59 (24%).

Members noted that no authority had yet been judged as outstanding.

It was reported that the supporting guidance against which Ofsted carried out

these inspections, 'The Inspector's Handbook', was first published in December 2013 and presented local authorities with a guide on what to expect during the inspection period, alongside a list of requirements. It was further reported that Ofsted had published a fourth edition of the guidance in September 2015.

The Policy and Improvement Manager wished it to be noted that, due to an error in the report, Ofsted inspectors would arrive on a Tuesday instead of a Wednesday.

Members noted that 'children in need' was a key area of risk identified by Ofsted.

Members discussed training for relevant Councillors, including mock interviews, to prepare them for speaking to Ofsted inspectors.

Resolved to note the report and presentation.

05/15 Work Programme and Terms of Reference

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Resources on Work Programme and Terms of Reference.

The report provided Members of the Board with an opportunity to study its Terms of Reference and remit for the forthcoming municipal year and the relevant rules of the constitution.

Members also had an opportunity to consider and agree the draft Inspiring Young People work programme.

Members noted the new scrutiny structure and that it included a Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board. Members also noted that statutory items would now go to the Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board.

It was reported that the Senior Democratic Services Officer had met with The Acting Director for Children and Young People to identify some key areas for scrutiny and that this had formed the basis of the draft work programme.

Members noted that the work programme was not restrictive, and that Members could identify and introduce items for scrutiny throughout the year.

Members also noted that scrutiny items would be discussed at pre-meetings with the Chair and Vice Chair, and would be added to the Scrutiny Board Agenda at the Chair's discretion.

Resolved:

- 1. to agree the Board's Terms of Reference, at 4.1 of the report; and**
- 2. to agree the draft work programme for the 2015/16 municipal year, at Appendix 3 of the report.**

06/15 Topic Review: Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers

The Board received a report of the Chair of the Inspiring Young People Board on Topic Review: Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers.

It was reported that on 4 August 2015, the Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board referred the recruitment of in-house foster carers to the Inspiring Young People Board for a detailed Topic Review.

It was further reported that on 11 August 2015, the Chair of the Board met with the Acting Director for Children and Young People to discuss the possible scope of a Topic Review into the recruitment and retention of foster carers.

Members noted that on 10 September 2015, the Chair and the Vice Chair of the Board met with the Director of Specialist Services and the Head of Fostering to further discuss the possible scope of the Topic Review.

It was reported that at the meeting on 10 September, the Chair and Vice Chair agreed a number of possible lines of enquiry:

- Why had foster carers left the service and was there a theme?
- Review the results of the iMPower foster carer consultation?
- In terms of recruitment, why did initial enquires not proceed to conversion?
- Review of the process of the setting of fees.
- Carry out a visit to an Independent Fostering Agency (IFA).

Members agreed the above scope of the Topic Review and also agreed to add the following:

- Review corporate buy-in to fostering across the authority.

Resolved

- 1. to note the Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board decision that the Inspiring Young People Board complete a topic review into the recruitment of in-house foster carers; and**
- 2. to agree the scope of the Topic Review into the recruitment and retention of foster carers, as outlined in the report.**

MINUTES END