

Time commenced - 18:00
Time finished - 20:24

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE BOARD 11 SEPTEMBER 2012

Present: Councillor Whitby (Chair)
Councillors Atwal, Bailey, Bolton, Campbell, J Khan, Martin and Williams

Councillor Atwal left the room during consideration of 26/12 and was absent for 27/12 to 31/12 inclusive.

19/12 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Alison Brown, David Wilkinson, Nasreen Iqbal and Councillor F Winter.

20/12 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

21/12 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

22/12 Minutes of the meeting held on 1 August 2012

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 August 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

23/12 Call-in

There were no items.

24/12 Voices in Action – Effective Engagement of Children

Members received a presentation on Voices in Action – Children and Young People Engagement Workshop from young people involved in Voices in Action. It was reported that it was recognised nationally that effective scrutiny of Children and Young People departments involves Councillors on Scrutiny Boards engaging effectively with children and young people in their constituencies. Members noted that Voices in Action had previously run the workshop with officers, partners and Councillors over the summer and it was felt that it would be beneficial for them to attend the Children and Young People Board and deliver their presentation.

As part of the workshop, Members put forward different ideas for engaging with, involving, listening and feeding back to children and young people.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the presentation; and**
- 2. to recommend that Board members pass any further ideas on engaging with children and young people onto the Chair or the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Officer.**

25/12 Derby Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report

Members received the annual report of the Derby Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB) and a presentation on the role of the Board from the Independent Chair of the DSCB and the Safeguarding Board Manager. It was reported that the DSCB was made up of senior people from the key agencies that work with children, young people and their families and their aim was to 'work together to keep children and young people in Derby safe from abuse or harm at home and in our communities.'

Members noted the DSCB priorities for 2012-13:

- developing the way agencies work together on early intervention and domestic violence;
- embedding and auditing practice in respect of child sexual exploitation; and
- increasing the rigour of DSCB activity.

It was reported that the Children and Young People Board could support the DSCB in the following ways:

- ensure that safeguarding stays a priority;
- support DSCB training, dissemination and audit activities;
- undertake safeguarding impact assessments where organisational change was proposed; and
- ensure planning supports the DSCB priorities of early help/intervention and domestic violence.

Members agreed that safeguarding impact assessments should be carried out as part of equalities impact assessments where proposed organisational change may affect children and young people. Members also agreed that the annual report of the DSCB should be brought before the Board again next year.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the presentation;**
- 2. to recommend that safeguarding impact assessments be carried out across the Council where proposals are to significantly change services or cut budgets which may affect children and young people, regardless of department;**
- 3. to recommend that a six monthly report be brought before the Board to monitor safeguarding practices; and**

- 4. to recommend that the Derby Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report be brought before the Board again next year.**

26/12 Ofsted Inspection Frameworks 2012/13 and beyond

Members received a report and presentation on Ofsted Inspection Frameworks 2012/13 and Beyond from the Head of Performance and Improvement and the Improvement Officer for Children and Young People. It was reported that an interim framework for the inspection of services for the protection of children was introduced in June 2012 to temporarily replace the inspection framework of services for safeguarding and looked after children. Members noted that the interim framework would run until June 2013, when a new joint inspection framework of multi-agency arrangements would commence. It was further reported that Ofsted were currently consulting on a new framework for the inspection of services for looked after children and care leavers.

The Board asked what assistance it could provide to help prepare the Council for the next Ofsted inspection. The Strategic Director for Children and Young People explained that the Board should ask the questions that would be asked by Ofsted during an inspection. It was further explained that the Board should also probe for evidence to the answers. The Board recognised the importance of individual Members being able to answer the same questions.

Members asked whether there was some way that the Board could get involved in peer reviews. It was reported that a number of peer reviews were imminent and Members agreed that a mock peer review could be carried out.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the presentation and actions required to prepare the Council for the upcoming Ofsted inspections;**
- 2. to recommend that the Chair ensures performance surgeries are regularly carried out;**
- 3. to recommend that the Overview and Scrutiny Officer works with the Performance Team to ensure that the Board members are able to answer the kind of questions that auditors would be likely to ask, and**
- 4. to recommend that a mock peer review with Board members be organised.**

27/12 Child Poverty Unit Audit

Members received a report on Child Poverty Unit – Child Poverty Review from the Head of Policy, Research and Engagement. It was reported that the review was conducted by the Child Poverty Unit, which was part of the Department for Work and Pensions, as part of a wider programme of support for local authorities and key stakeholders.

Members noted that the key messages from the review were:

- timescales and steps required to achieve the target of cutting child poverty to 10% by 2020 were needed; and

- partners should focus more on what Derby City and Neighbourhood Partnerships can influence that would make a big difference to breaking the cycle of poverty in the City.

It was reported that the findings of the review would be considered at workshop later in the year and would inform the development of the Child and Family Poverty Strategy for Derby that would be published in December. Members questioned how often the strategy would be reviewed. It was reported that the strategy would be set for three years and would be reviewed periodically with a target set for 2020.

Members questioned how child poverty fits in with troubled families. The Strategic Director confirmed that the two were linked and that a range of work had already taken place with the National Unit for Troubled Families.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the findings of the Child Poverty Review;**
- 2. to support the implementation of the findings of the Child Poverty Review; and**
- 3. to recommend that the Chair and the Vice Chair be invited to the forthcoming Child Poverty Review workshop for key stakeholders.**

28/12 Youth Consultation Findings: Delivering Services to Young People

Members received a report on Youth Consultation Findings: Delivering Services to Young People. It was reported that the Council had consulted with younger people and their parents about the needs of young people, through an in-depth survey. Members noted that the survey was provided online through the Council website and a postal version that was made available through youth clubs and staff working with young people. It was explained that parents and carers as well as residents in the city were also encouraged to complete the survey.

Members noted some of the key findings:

- young people had strongly implied that they wanted a range of activities broader than the traditional scope of local authority youth clubs, specifically dance, music and sports;
- the activities requested by young people were external to the skill set and expertise of the local authority youth service;
- young people were less positive about the traditional 'unstructured' youth club model;
- young people were more positive about formal structured positive activities which provided specific skills development alongside the opportunity to socialise with each other; and
- young people indicated that communication and advertising of activities on offer was poor. There was evidence that use of social media improved take up of activities.

Members asked what sort of consultation had taken place with young people from emerging communities in Normanton. It was reported that various methods and media had been employed to target as many people as possible.

Some of the recommendations arising from the key findings were reported to the Board:

- a Positive Activity strategy needed to be developed across the youth partnership which would plan, co-ordinate and deliver services and activities to the young in the city;
- there was a clear need to examine the use of social media to market and promote support services and positive activities;
- to continue to consult with young people regarding the delivery of support services and activities in Derby; and
- there was the potential for the Youth Positive Activity partnership to co-ordinate and develop activities (potentially drawing funding through bids) that would enable the Council to move away from direct provision, without having to fund commissioning activity.

In terms of the potential Youth Positive Activity partnership, the board questioned how long it would take to develop a specific Youth Offer for young people in Derby. It was reported that work would commence once the budget had been set and tight timescales would be needed.

Resolved:

- 1. to support the findings of the Youth Consultation;**
- 2. to note the outcome of the consultation exercise focus and findings set out in paragraph 4.1;**
- 3. to approve the recommendations related to the direction of travel for Positive Activities for Youth in Derby set out in paragraph 4.7;**
- 4. to approve the recommendation of developing a specific Youth Offer for young people in Derby across the wider children's partnership including the PVI sector set out in paragraph 4.12;**
- 5. to support the use of social media e.g. Facebook, to promote and market youth activities to young people and their parents;**
- 6. to support the undertaking of a mapping exercise of all Young People provision in the City; and**
- 7. to recommend that an action plan be brought to a future meeting of the Children and Young People Board.**

29/12 Topic Review

Members received a report on Topic Review 2012. It was reported that at its first meeting of the municipal year, the Board agreed to carry out a Topic Review into the Early Intervention Services. The Strategic Director explained that it would be advisable to delay the review until January 2013.

Members received a scoping report for a proposed alternative topic review: Are our children's homes fit for purpose both now and for the future?

Members accepted the deferment and agreed to conduct a topic review into Derby City Children's Homes with immediate effect. Members expressed concern that the proposed two days for witness interviews would not be adequate and requested that potential extra days be organised.

Resolved:

- 1. to accept the deferment of the Topic Review of Early Intervention Services until January 2013;**
- 2. to agree to conduct a Topic Review into Derby City Children's Homes with immediate effect;**
- 3. To request that the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Officer amend the Scoping Report to add in a potential requirement for extra days for witness interviews/evidence gathering over and above the two days identified; and**
- 4. to request the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Officer email around for dates for witness interviews/evidence gathering and visits as soon as is practicable.**

30/12 Background Information Library

Members received a report from the Scrutiny Officer on Children and Young People Board Library. It was explained that in order to support Members, the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Officer and the Improvement Officer, Children and Young People, had been working to produce a Library of information for Members on the Children and Young People Board.

Members were shown a list of the types of information that would be included in the Library and were invited to pass any further suggestion to the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Officer.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the report; and**
- 2. to agree to contact the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Officer with suggestions of further information to be included.**

31/12 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

Resolved to note the Forward Plan.

MINUTES END