

Time commenced - 18:00
Time finished – 19:05

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE BOARD 20 NOVEMBER 2012

Present: Councillor Whitby (Chair)
Maurice Lawrence and Councillors Atwal, Bailey, Bolton, Campbell,
Martin, Williams and F Winter

32/12 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received for Alison Brown, Dave Wilkinson and J Khan.

33/12 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

34/12 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

35/12 Minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2012

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

36/12 Call-in

There were no items.

37/12 Performance Surgery Planning

The Board received a report from the Improvement Officer for Children and Young People and the Head of Performance and Improvement, on behalf of the Strategic Director of Resources. It was reported that the Scrutiny Board Chairs took over responsibilities for chairing performance surgeries in May 2012. Members were asked to help determine which performance indicators should be selected for scrutiny at future performance surgeries.

The Board discussed SS PM15 (NI 61) Timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption. It was reported that this was to be discussed at a future Performance Surgery.

The Board also discussed SS PM13 Percentage of looked after children with a current Personal Education Plan (PEP). It was reported that there was an improvement plan in place and this was constantly reviewed.

Resolved to note the quarter two 2012/13 performance results and to request that LPI 52b – Percentage of CYP Complaints responded to within the statutory timescale be brought to a future performance surgery.

38/12 Adoption Statement of Purpose

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People, on Adoption Statement of Purpose. The report was presented by the Director of Specialist Services and the Deputy Head of Service – Children in Care. It was reported that the Statement of Purpose set out the aims and objectives of the Derby City Adoption Service; this was to ensure that Derby City Council met its statutory duties.

The Board discussed the aims and objectives of the Adoption Service. Members noted that one of the main aims and objectives was to recruit, assess and provide suitable families, within the timescales laid down by the National Adoption Standards that meet the needs of every child referred to the adoption service.

The Board expressed interest in the aim to provide a service for those wishing to adopt a child into their family from overseas via Yorkshire Adoption Agency Ltd. It was reported that the numbers of requests received to adopt from overseas was low and that most were received from families wanting to adopt a relative.

Members noted that the Adoption Service provided an adoption support service to enable a child to remain with an adoptive family and ensure that the child reached their full potential and that information, help and support was provided for all those who have been affected by adoption.

Resolved to approve the Adoption Statement of Purpose.

39/12 School Place Planning

The Board received a report from the Director of Commissioning for Children and Young People on School Place Planning. It was reported that the number of applications for primary schools places across the City had increased significantly in comparison with previous years leading to further pressure on primary places.

The Board noted that there was a need for additional school places in the Alvaston area and that there was a proposal for a major expansion to take place by increasing the size of Lakeside Community Primary School by increasing from 350 places to 630 places. It was stated this would be funded from the Council's Schools Capital Programme. In addition to this, it was also discussed that previously approved major expansions to Arboretum Primary School for an additional 210 places and Homefields Primary School for an additional 105 places would also help across the city.

The Board raised concerns that the increase in class sizes could affect performance. It was reported that school governors were concerned about this as there could be an impact on standards. It was further explained that this would be monitored and additional funding could be made available if necessary.

Resolved to note the report.

40/12 Building Schools for the Future Update

The Board received a report from the Director of Commissioning for Children and Young People on Building Schools for the Future Programme. The report detailed an update on the working partnership with Balfour Beatty Education to deliver the two Building Schools for the Future (BSF) sample schemes.

The Board were informed that the Department for Education (DfE) had started a Privately Financed Initiative (PFI) to provide school facilities. It was reported that the programme was intended to address those schools in the worst condition and met the criteria for the funding. Members noted that the DfE had started the procurement process, which was being managed centrally, and would group a number of projects and Local Authorities together. Members further noted that it was likely that Lees Brook Community would be in the first batch and was likely to be built by September 2015. It was also explained that a further seven Derby schools had been identified as part of the initiative and were likely to be built by 2015 or 2016.

The Board raised concerns around funding of the initiative and whether sufficient funding would still be available for those schools due to be built later on. The Board were assured that bidders have been informed that there would be no additional funding from the DfE and that conditions would be in place to ensure that the successful contractor would have to meet any extra costs. The Director of Commissioning highlighted that all the schools would be complete new builds.

It was reported that both Noel-Baker and St Martins School had moved into their new buildings on 10 September 2012 and that positive feedback had been received on the rebuild of both schools. It was further reported that Balfour Beatty had now started work on the demolition of Noel Baker School, which was due to be finished May 2013.

The report also detailed that at Derby Moor Community Sports College, the refurbished sports and arts area had been completed. Members noted that the work to refurbish the Derwent building had suffered a delay as the work had uncovered a significant structural issue with its steel frame. It was reported that a solution was agreed and implemented, costing £439,000 which was funded from the BSF contingency. The Board were informed that construction was due to be completed in January 2013 and work to demolish the old buildings and landscape the site was due to be completed in May 2013.

Resolved to note the report.

41/12 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

Resolved to

- 1. note the Forward Plan; and**
- 2. request that the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Officer investigate the possibility of getting prior notice of items, relating to the Board's terms of reference, due to appear on the Forward Plan.**

MINUTES END