

Time commenced - 6.05pm
Time finished - 7.39pm

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMISSION TUESDAY 15 JUNE 2010

Present: Councillors Davis, Higgingbottom, Radford, Tuplin,
Whitby and Winter, Nasreen Iqbal and Kirit Mistry

In attendance: Councillor Williams.

1/10 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Berry and Bolton.

2/10 Late Items to be introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

3/10 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Whitby declared a personal interest in Items 6 & 7 as he is a Local Authority Foster Carer.

4/10 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2010 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5/10 Call-in

There were no items. The supporting information to the Call-in process was attached for Members information.

6/10 Children and Young People's Action Plan 2010 - 2011

The Commission received a presentation on the Children and Young People's Action Plan 2010-2011, which had now been completed along with a review of 2009/10. It was reported that this was the third of three annual action plans produced in support of the Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011. The plan sets out key outcomes, actions, targets and performance measures that support the shared priorities from the 2008-2011 plan.

Members noted that the presentation had stated that almost 100% of care leavers were living in suitable accommodation, but requested that actual figures be provided to Commission Members.

The Commission queried whether there was a comparison of achievements across the different qualifications such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards and GCSE or other achievements. It was thought that other authorities may already be celebrating these achievements and this could be looked at by officers.

Rita Sylvester informed the Commission that the current three year CYP plan would come to an end in March 2011 and therefore it needed to be reviewed and updated. The review would consider whether the department still had the same priorities or what the new priorities might be. It was reported that the plan would be developed through extensive consultation, and that work on the plan would start early, around September and a draft would be presented to the Commission at the 2 November meeting.

A Member asked what the authority was doing about new arrival children and the length of time it took before they were placed at schools. Concern was expressed that there may be some young children who could be missing school and on the streets if they were not placed in school. The Officer reported that all new arrivals were given welcome packs and were enrolled with GPs and placed in schools as early as possible.

Resolved to note the presentation.

7/10 Remit and Work Programme of the Commission

The Commission received a report on their terms of reference and were asked to suggest items for their annual work programme.

Members raised concerns about the disparity of school budgets. It was stated that there was huge disparity in the amount of school funding between different schools and it was thought that this may be linked to numbers of children with special needs. The Commission requested that they were provided with the formula for how distributing funding to schools worked in practice. It was suggested that they may wish to review how funding was allocated / distributed to schools.

It was suggested that the Commission may wish to review Out of Hours care, such as how this was provided, does it provide value for money and how does Care Line fit in.

The Commission discussed reviewing Fostering allowances. It was mentioned that some looked after children may be receiving up to £90 per week in allowances. Members could look at how much money was given to children in care and how this compared with children living with normal family settings. It was questioned whether this money could be saved by the authority and given to the children when they leave care as often they will then have to live on much smaller amounts. Councillor Higginbottom

requested that the Commission receive a copy of the report on Fostering and Adoption review that was conducted a few years ago.

It was raised that Members could conduct a review of recruitment and retention of Children's social workers. It was suggested that officers find out what other authorities were doing to address the shortage of qualified social workers.

A Member suggested that the Commission could look at the Equity of Youth provision across the city. It was noted that there were some wards in the city with good youth service provision whilst in other areas there was little or no provision.

The Commission requested that they receive the minutes of the Safeguarding Board and give their comments to the Cabinet Member, it was reported that this works well in Southend on Sea and questioned whether a similar process could be followed in Derby. It was agreed that the Commission should routinely receive information on looked after children. This should include statistical reports presented to the former Corporate Parenting Sub Committee as well as other reports. Members should look at the quality of the provision of children's homes and all Members should be encouraged to make regular visits. Councillor Winter was asked to would write to all Members and encourage them to visit children's homes as part of their corporate parenting responsibilities.

Members requested an update on the school meals issues and contract.

The Commission asked that the relevant Scrutiny Management Commission report on items considered by the Cabinet that were not included on the forward plan which relate to Children and Young People be brought to the Commission.

The Commission agreed that all ideas put forward by Members would be put into a formal work programme and circulated following the meeting.

Resolved to note the report.

8/10 Retrospective Scrutiny

There were no items identified.

9/10 Forward Plan

There were no items identified.

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

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

11/10 Matters referred to the Commission by Council
Cabinet

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

MINUTES END