

Time commenced – 6.00pm
Time finished – 7.33pm

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE BOARD 30 APRIL 2013

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

74/12 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received for Councillor J Khan and Alison Brown.

75/12 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

76/12 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

77/12 Minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to the following amendment.

That at 66/12 the Board resolved:

1. to recommend that the two year old entitlement be made available to two year old looked after children;
2. to recommend that the Joint Strategy Needs Assessment includes a section on the health of our looked after children placed outside of the city;
3. to recommend that a tier 3 substance misuse support strategy be brought to a future meeting of the Board;
4. to recommend a review of Independent Reviewing Officers and looked after children placed outside of the city be brought to a future meeting of the Board;
5. to recommend that looked after children be consulted to see how technology can be used to engage with them;
6. to recommend that a report on the timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption be brought to a future meeting to look at the 30% Derby Outturn figure for 2011/12; and
7. to recommend a full review of housing stock options be brought to a future meeting of the Board.

78/12 Call-in

There were no items.

79/12 Options Appraisal for Children's Homes Redevelopment

The Board received an Options Appraisal for Residential Children's Homes Redevelopment from the Service Director for Specialist Services and the Head of Service, Children in Care and Regulated Services. It was reported that the presentation would provide Members with outcomes from the internal commissioning review and also provide an overview of the Looked After Children profile and trends.

It was reported that the options, as outlined by the commissioning review, were:

- to maintain the existing children's homes portfolio and respond to capital and maintenance as ongoing capital pressures;
- to maintain the current capacity of 39 residential beds across the city;
- to redevelop the Moorfield Children's Centre, reducing the capacity from 15 beds to 10 beds; and
- to develop a second phase of delivery to progress the betterment of the services and review ongoing capacity needs.

Members asked whether Derby City Council had committed to building on the Moorfield's site. It was confirmed that the council had committed and that selling the site and building elsewhere had been considered as part of the review.

It was reported that the number of looked after children had peaked in June 2011 but had fallen since then. Members asked whether numbers would continue to decline. It was reported that the numbers should continue to go down and that such factors as the numbers of children being adopted and a decrease in the older cohort would contribute to this. Members noted that a lot of work was being done to find ways of reducing the figures safely, such as developing early intervention and supporting care leavers to live well in communities.

Members asked whether looked after children were being consulted regarding the redevelopment of the Moorfields site. It was reported that a Children in Care Council sub group had been involved in the commissioning review and a reference group of that Council was also due to be set up.

Members asked whether there were plans to do anything different regarding the recruitment of foster carers and whether more staff would be recruited for this purpose. It was reported that a new marketing and recruitment strategy was being planned and that a report on this would be brought to a future meeting of the Board.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the presentation;**
- 2. to request an opportunity for the Board to look at the Moorfields plans/designs as soon as possible;**

- 3. to ask officers to ensure that the contracts with builders to be clear about maintenance and tie the contractor into maintaining the new build homes for as long as possible;**
- 4. to ask officers to request that the contractors (appointed to build the new children's homes at Moorfields) take on a looked after child as an apprentice;**
- 5. to request that the Board be involved in the future plans for phase 2 development of Children's Homes at an early stage; and**
- 6. to request that officers seek to gain as much as possible from contractors to ensure the best value can be achieved for the homes and that every opportunity be taken to enhance the contractors offer.**

80/12 Children's Centres

The Board received a presentation on Children's Centres from the Service Director, Early Intervention and Integrated Safeguarding and the Head of Locality 2.

It was reported that there were 18 Children's Centres in the city, managed by three Locality Teams and there were 17,375 children aged under five to reach. Members noted that locality working was introduced in February 2012, reducing 18 individual centre teams to three locality teams.

It was reported that 11 Ofsted inspections of Children's Centres had been carried out by March 2013 and the following judgements were received:

- 1 outstanding;
- 4 good; and
- 6 satisfactory.

Members asked about plans to improve the six satisfactory Children's Centres. It was reported that the 'satisfactory' grade would soon be replaced by 'requires improvement' and that in future all the Children's Centres within a locality would be inspected together. Members noted that part of the current work programme was to refine data capture to inform planning and that the data would be crucial to improve the six satisfactory Children's Centres.

It was reported that there was still a statutory duty to provide sufficient Children's Centres. Members asked what the definition of sufficient was and noted that it was the provision of enough Children's Centres for the most vulnerable.

Members asked what was being done to target the most vulnerable. It was reported that as well as having child protection plans, outreach work was also being undertaken with Family Visitors working with families referred by Health and through Vulnerable Children's Panels. It was further reported that work was being carried out on a protocol for pre-birth assessments.

Members asked whether there were plans to open Children's Centres 'out of hours' for community usage. It was reported that this was being looked at and that some were already being used in that way.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the presentation;**
- 2. to request that officers return to the Board in Autumn with further details on the work programme and reach figures; and**
- 3. to request that the Overview and Scrutiny Officer sets up a programme of visits to Children's Centres across the City for the forthcoming municipal year.**

81/12 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

Resolved to note the Forward Plan.

MINUTES END