

**Children and Young People Scrutiny Review Board
19 June 2023**

Present: Councillor Lonsdale (Chair)
Councillors Trehwella (Vice Chair), Amin, Kozlowski, Pattison
Wright and Fowke
Tracey Churchill, Co-opted Member Caltholic Diocesan Rep
In Attendance: Suanne Lim, Director Early Help and Children’s Social Care
Muhammad Muntasir Youth Mayor
Harman Kaur, Deputy Youth Mayor

01/23 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies from Pauline Anderson Director of Learning, Inclusion and Skills

02/23 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were none.

03/23 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Amin declared an interest in Home to School Transport stating he was a provider of school transport.

04/23 Minutes of the Meetings on 27.03.23

The minutes of the meeting on 27.03.23 were agreed. There were two actions outstanding on the Minutes which the Board discussed.

Item 54/22 Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) Quality and Timeliness

The Board discussed the recommendation to Cabinet made by the previous Board at the meeting *“The Board resolved to note the report and requested that Cabinet ask for review of Tribunals to be undertaken to understand common themes and reasons for going to Tribunal, and the main reasons for children and young people being placed out of area”*

The Board agreed that it should be recommended that Cabinet be asked to undertake a review of Tribunals as detailed in the recommendation.

Item 57/22 Work Programme and Topic Review.

The Board members noted the recommendation from the previous Board and agreed to discuss as part of the Work Programme and Topic Review Report at this meeting.

Item 56/22 DCC and Partners Child Exploitation (CRE) Annual Report

A councillor queried if the Focus on 2022-23, with its detail of activities including recommendations from an Independent Inquiry in relation to Child Sexual Abuse (CSE), would return to this Board with an update on progress, and are those areas a part of the remit of this Board. The officer confirmed that an annual report regarding CSE will come back to the board, it would cover progress made on the actions and it was on the work programme for 16.10.23.

05/23 Work Programme and Topic Review

The Board considered a report which allowed the Board to study its Terms of Reference and Remit for the forthcoming Municipal Year. The report set out key work areas, issues, and potential topic review subjects within the service areas, for discussion or inclusion in the work programme.

The Board discussed the work programme set out in appendix 1 to the report and made suggestions for further items to be included.

A councillor stated that it was important to include education performance on the work programme. An Ofsted Inspection was undertaken a few years ago which had highlighted an area of underperformance in DCC education. An item on education attainment was suggested. Information about how Derby's schools compare to schools in other parts of the country with similar demographics could be provided. The Board discussed whether the item should be specific in comparing to other areas, or general performance. It was felt it would be beneficial to have a report on how and what DCC are doing and the outcomes. It was agreed to include Education Attainment with the other issues already included, School Attendance and Exclusions, at the December meeting 2023 which had education as its theme.

Concern was raised about only measuring attainment by academic statistics, as there are vocational learners such as artists, and carers and examining more than statistics would add value.

An item on "Transition" was requested and Transition from primary to secondary schools was given as an example as this could be a period of deterioration for children and young people.

Interest was expressed on Monitoring Safeguarding Practice item; the focus of the report was queried, and it was asked if the report should come more regularly to the meeting than annually. An explanation of the report's focus was given, and it was explained that it provided updates on the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), child protection, safeguarding practices and issues in social care. The report came to this Board on a regular basis in past years. The Board discussed moving the report to the Safeguarding themed meeting in October but agreed it should remain on the September 2023 meeting.

A Board member asked what age range would be included in the item on Childrens Mental Health issues, primary or secondary. It was explained that it covered all age groups from 0-18 years and was about the whole theme of childrens' mental health during and after the Pandemic.

Another Board member said that previously the Board had looked at the entire mental health provision available for children and young people in City, and how

that provision could be accessed either through communications in school or accessing external agencies.

A Councillor thought it would be interesting to get a teachers view of child mental health, and how much knowledge they have of it. There are lots of charities and organisations who have knowledge about Childrens Mental Health. Perhaps the Board could investigate creating a list of charities or organisations to advise schools of extra training in mental health for children, which teachers could guide them to use. Another Board member explained there had been no focus on teachers before. The Board had focused on what provision is available in the city, with mental health it is communication between parents and children and them accessing services, rather than coming through teachers.

A Board member suggested discussing the “School Champions” role.

Three possible Topic Review Subjects had been suggested for consideration:

- A Topic Review deferred from last year – A focused review on specific groups of SEND children to analyse the reasons for placement breakdowns for children with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP).
- Examining if ways of managing schools was beneficial to children’s mental health and wellbeing. There was a pressure on schools and pupils, for example from exams. How do we, as a council, support schools. A deep dive was proposed into how structures are working and if there was too much focus on exams and higher attainments at the expense of the wellbeing of children. Would it be better to follow a less pressurised route with the same results.
- The impact of stress on children.

A councillor felt it was right to consider infrastructure support. What extra support can be provided for schools to aid and support children through the exam period? A lack of funding in education was one factor recognised by the Board. A Board member explained that in the past when issues were arising in young people, there existed places to signpost them to for additional help, but now teachers must deal with these issues in the classroom. That pressure and stress was top down and unfortunately falls to the young people. Parents expectations was another factor for consideration. Also, pressure does not end at the compulsory stages of education, as seen at universities with suicide risk for young people. It was important to have a holistic approach for the education of young people both formally and informally. However, it was recognised that funding was an issue.

The Board agreed unanimously to undertake a Topic Review on “Examining if ways of managing schools was conducive to children’s mental health and wellbeing. Given the pressure on schools and pupils, for example from exams, how do we, as a council, support schools”

MINUTES END