

Time commenced – 6.02pm
Time finished – 7.21pm

Children and Young People Board

24 March 2015

Present Councillor Whitby (Chair)
Councillors Care, Hezelgrave, Nawaz and Williams and S Grundy and
B Stewart

In Attendance Councillor Hussain and Voices in Action representatives

57/14 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Eldret and Keith and Eleanor Berry.

58/14 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were none.

59/14 Declarations of Interest

The Chair wished it to be noted, in relation to 63/14, that he was employed by the Department for Work and Pensions.

60/14 Call-in

There were no items.

61/14 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair, subject to the following amendment:

That at 45/14, Eleanor Berry had submitted her apologies.

62/14 Forward Plan

The Board considered the Forward Plan published on 17 February 2015. Members wanted an opportunity to consider and comment upon the following item:

Item 23/14 – Integration of Commissioning Capacity.

Resolved:

- 1. to request that a report on the Forward Plan Item 23/14 - Integration of**

- Commissioning Capacity be added to the work programme for the forthcoming municipal year; and**
- 2. to note the Forward Plan.**

63/14 Tackling Growing Child Poverty: Child Poverty, family welfare and financial inclusion.

The Board received a report of the Acting Chief Executive on Tackling Growing Child Poverty, family welfare and financial inclusion. The report and a presentation were presented by the Head of Performance and Improvement.

It was reported that there had been a recent review of the plans to tackle Child Poverty.

The Board were informed that there was a strict definition of child poverty and that there had been a fall in the figures for children living in poverty in Derby. The Board expressed concerns regarding the lack of data for levels of in-work poverty and for those families who fall just outside the threshold for being defined as living in poverty.

The Board expressed frustration that the data was out of date by two years but it was explained that the Council was reliant on Government departments releasing the data and that this led to the delay.

Voices in Action (VIA) had been consulted on their thoughts on how young people could be helped if they lived in a family affected by poverty and how young people could be made aware of the issues facing children living in poverty. They suggested that the Council should focus its attention on those in receipt of free school meals. They raised the wider issues of housing, health and safety that these children may be affected by, because of the poverty their families faced. They suggested that education for families living in poverty regarding budgeting and cooking was essential. They suggested the wider school community could be made aware of poverty in Derby through developing food collection points in schools to go to food banks and an idea of 'filling a shoe box' for those less well off in the city along the lines of those sent to children in poverty in the Third World. They expressed a strong view that uniforms should be worn at all schools as it was felt they ensured children looked all the same regardless of background. Additionally, they suggested that breakfast clubs should be made available in all schools for children on free school meals.

The Board welcomed VIA's thought provoking presentation and based some of the following recommendations on their suggestions.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the report;**
- 2. to suggest that schools use the Pupil Premium to provide breakfast for children in schools who needed it;**
- 3. to work harder to ascertain the views/consult with those living in poverty;**

4. to understand in greater detail the work that has been done in Wards which has resulted in a reduction in child poverty;
5. to explore the creation of 'intergenerational skill swap clubs' in poorer areas to enable older people to share the benefit of their experience of baking/budgeting/living frugally with a younger generation and for the younger generation to assist with the use of the internet/computers/mobile phones, etc;
6. to establish whether every school in the city has a school uniform and encourage the introduction of uniforms where there are none;
7. to encourage all schools to hold 'uniform banks' for poorer students and to target school leavers to encourage them to donate their uniforms for this purpose; and
8. to request that the refreshed strategy be returned to the Board in September

64/14 Core Strategies and School Place Planning

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Core Strategy - School Place Planning Update. The report was presented by the Head of School Organisation and Provision.

The Board noted the plans for the Housing Market Area which crossed the boundaries of Derby City Council, Amber Valley Borough Council and South Derbyshire District Council and the impact this would have upon the need for school places across the city and beyond.

Members asked for further information regarding the Homezone scheme, which was announced in the Chancellor's recent budget speech.

Members discussed the need to minimise travel to any new schools and to school's across the city and for this to be taken into consideration during the planning processes.

Resolved:

1. to note the report and thank officers for their work in this complex area; and
2. to request that further information regarding the Homezone scheme be circulated to Board Members.

65/14 Outcomes of Serious Case Reviews and Lessons Learnt

Resolved to defer the report until the first meeting of the next Municipal year.

66/14 Topic Review

The Board received a report from the Acting Chief Executive on Topic Review Update. The report was presented by the Overview and Scrutiny Support Officer.

The report outlined the work the Board had done on their chosen topic review into Mental Health Services for Children in the City.

The Board discussed the draft recommendations and the future actions required for the completion of the Review.

Resolved:

- 1. to approve the draft recommendations included in the report;**
- 2. to request an opportunity to explore the views of service users prior to the report being finalised; and**
- 3. to approve that the Members of the Board who attended the evidence gathering, can sign off the final version of the report and that the final report will be circulated to the full Board for comment prior to going to Cabinet.**

MINUTES END