

Time commenced – 18.00pm

Time finished – 19.55pm

Children and Young People Scrutiny Review Board 13 February 2023

Present: Councillor Whitby (Vice Chair)
Councillors Bonser and Kus
Nicky Fenton, Church of England Co-opted member

In Attendance: Bernard Fenton, Head of Customer Service
Gurmail Nizzer, Director of Children's Integrated Commissioning
Jo Ward, Head of Education and Skills

43/22 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies from Councillors Lind (Chair) and Pandey, Tracey Churchill, Catholic Diocesan Board, Gloria, Osei-Bonsu, Deputy Youth Mayor, Pauline Anderson, Director of Learning Inclusion and Skills, Andy Smith Strategic Director of Peoples Services.

44/22 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were none.

45/22 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Whitby confirmed that he was a Foster Carer for Derby City.

46/22 Household Support Fund 3 (HSF3)

The Board considered a report and presentation from the Head of Customer Service. The report provided an update on the Household Support Fund 3 (HSF3).

The officer explained this was the third allocation of Household Support Fund (HSF3) for the period 1st October 2022 to 31st March 2023. Derby City Council (DCC) had been allocated £2.24million, which was the same amount as for the first two periods (HSF 1 and 2).

The requirements identified for HSF3 were:

- Free School Meals (FSM)
- Online Claim Form
- Community Networks (this was new to the HSF and enabled better reach into the community)

The officer explained the administration costs to run the scheme, the Fraud Team, Housing Benefits Team, buying in of contracted resource and a small amount of money to Community Action Derby. He explained that the allocated

funding must spent or returned if it was not used. The funding for this period would have been spent by 31st March 2023.

The officer explained to the Board how the three elements of the scheme were managed and highlighted that both the FSM and Online Claim Form element were for food.

FSMs - Voucher codes are issued direct to 100 schools in Derby for FSMs. These are distributed to pupils and families by schools. A Voucher codes value was £20.00 per pupil per week. In October 2022 voucher codes were issued to 13,900 pupils, the total value was £278K, 69,500 meals 11,714 of the vouchers were redeemed, a value of £234K (84.3%) the voucher codes expired on 6th January 2023. It was expected to receive a credit of £144k in January 2023 for the expired vouchers which will be re-invested in the scheme.

Online Claim Forms – HSF3 funding was £588K, he highlighted that extra funding from an Energy Rebate Grant had been factored in of £44.4k making a total of £632.4k, 90.4% of this had been paid out of which 91.2% had been used. The eligibility criteria were explained. Households with children under the age of 19 will receive £720.00, couples with no children will get £100.00, and a single person would get £80.00 in voucher codes which could be spent at any supermarket chain.

The key points to note with the online claim forms were the average number of days from application to award was 3.4 days, 3,056 families with children have been paid, covering 6,486 children, 2,326 households are single parent families, 854 claims had failed residency checks (13.3%). Applicants also need to be in receipt of benefits this was also checked. The scheme would be closed at the end of February 2023. Any money which was not redeemed would be put back into the current scheme.

A councillor was concerned that with the upcoming half term the vouchers may not be spent and would have to be returned to the scheme, and with the schemes imminent closure the funding would not be used. The officer explained there was a significant increase in demand for discretionary housing payments, such as rent, moving house costs. £150k would be put into Derby Housing Benefit to recommence processing rent support.

The councillor also asked whether the online element was only online or if people could apply manually. The officer explained there was a Trusted Referrer Network of 32 organisations across the city and 21 council services who could apply on another person's behalf, appointments were available at the Council House. Each of the community networks also have access to the HSF scheme.

Community Networks – this element extended the role of partnership working across the city, 48 organisations have been signed up and. Funding of £300k had been split across these organisations. The public can access a warm space, hot drinks, a meal, and mediated access for financial support. It also provided an opportunity to meet other people. Funding of £200k has been allocated for Energy Support Referrals. It was explained that 369 people would not have been seen if they had not come to the Hub, 1043 people had been

paid and 657 children had benefitted from households who had received funding.

Councillors were interested in a breakdown of where in the city the vouchers were going. They would like to have information, if available, about where the vouchers are being targeted and spent. They were concerned that none of the funding was lost and if not redeemed it should be directed to appropriate causes. The officer confirmed the information could be provided for the Online Form and the Community network element but not the FSM element as the school allocated the vouchers independently.

A councillor asked if there's an element of concentration of vouchers that are issued but not redeemed could areas be identified? They asked if each of the 100 schools involved could indicate how many vouchers were issued and how many had been redeemed and could these be identified by constituency area.

The officer explained that voucher codes sent to the schools formed majority of those issued, due to Information Governance the service don't know who the schools are issuing the voucher codes to. However, the service does know for each of 100 schools the number of vouchers issued and how many redeemed, so provided pupils are in the catchment area for the school they can identify the constituency area.

The Board resolved to:

- 1. note the report**
- 2. asked for a breakdown by wards of where in the city the vouchers were going and if they had been redeemed**

47/22 Annual Report of Education Outcomes 2022

The Board considered a report and presentation from the Strategic Director of Peoples Services which was presented by the Head of Education and Skills. The report provided an update on the academic outcomes of Derby pupils for the academic school year 2021-22 and outlined the key performance measures for pupils in each key stage. The successes and positive trends were highlighted and areas for improvement were identified.

The officer explained that test results for 11-year-olds in Derby were behind their counterparts across the country and that the city was close to the bottom of the national tables for local authorities. Recently published figures showed the city was 135th out of 152 local authorities in maths, 136th in writing and 147th in reading which was a fall of seven places from 2019.

Across the board in most of the assessments, tests and exams, the city features in the bottom half of the performance tables, despite small gains in some of the age groups.

The officer explained that were had been no published education outcomes since 2019 because of the Covid impact and changes in the way pupils of all

ages were assessed. The most recent figures were based on the latest 2022 tests and exams taken in May and June 2022.

There were disappointing results for 11-year-old SATs, and the officer stated, "there was some work to do on them", but there was positive news for children in infant classes who were just behind the national average in reading and phonics at age five and equalled the national average at the end of the next year.

Seven-year-olds at the end of key stage one in Derby showed progress in maths and were two places higher in the national tables at 98th than they were in 2019. However, it was a mixed picture for key stage one (KS1). Reading, writing, and maths outcomes were lower than in 2019 and the biggest fall was in writing. However, the officer highlighted there was a drop in the three areas nationally. Derby fell 1% more in reading, 2% more in writing and the same in maths.

It was suggested that the decline in standards of writing nationally was because children were spending more time on computers at home during lockdown rather than practising their handwriting skills. Among infant children in Derby, 53% gained the accepted standard of writing against a national average of 59%, the city was 12 places lower than in 2019 at 131st.

Pupils taking GCSEs in Derby, had improved their attainment and progress scores and overall English and maths passes were at grade five or above, up 3.6% to 41.7% from 2019, however, the national average had also improved by 6.6% to 49.8%. The Derby figure puts the city 138th in the table which was a fall of 24 places. The Board noted that the figures still need final validation by the Department for Education (DfE).

A level results were a better picture with the average points score per A level entry up by 7.13 since 2019 taking the city up 47 places in the table to 77th.

The officer advised the Board that the impact of Covid should not be underestimated and that it had caused significant absence among both pupils and teachers between autumn 2021 and spring 2022, However, the effect was uneven at schools across the city depending on how badly they had been affected by illness.

The officer highlighted that there were 35 council-run schools in the city and of those currently 33 had been graded 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted, and two were graded as "requires improvement".

The results showed that some schools did better in 2022 than in 2019 despite everything that happened in between, it will be interesting to see the results from 2023.

The officer explained it generally in Derby the standards of attainment in Derby had risen in line with changes seen nationally during 2016-19 and they saw similar falls as a result of disruption to pupils and their learning since March 2020."

The results included:

| Early Years - assessed at the end of the year pupils are aged five | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2022 - 62.9% of pupils gained the expected level in Derby good level of development in Derby against a national average of 65.2%. This left Derby 113th out of 152 local authorities. | Phonics | |
| | Year one aged five - 74% of pupils gained the expected level in Derby against a national average of 75%. This led to the city being 99th in the country | Year two aged six - 87% of pupils gained the expected level in Derby, the same as nationally. This led to the city being 72nd in the country. |
| Key stage one - teacher assessed at the end of year two when pupils are aged seven | | |
| Reading | Writing | Maths |
| 63% of pupils in Derby gained the accepted level against 67% nationally, leaving the city ten places lower than in 2019 in 127th place. | 53% of pupils in Derby gained the accepted level against 59% nationally, leaving the city 12 places lower at 131st. | 66% of pupils in Derby gained the accepted level against 68% nationally, leaving the city two places higher than in 2019 in 98th place. |
| Key stage two - SATs taken at age 11 | | |
| In 2022 the percentage of Derby pupils achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics was 53% (national 59%). This was lower than in 2019, Derby is now ranked 140 th nationally down 11 places since 2019. | | |
| Reading | Maths | Writing |
| 69% of Derby pupils gained level four or above against 75% nationally, which was a fall of seven places for Derby to 147th. | 67% of Derby pupils gained level four or above against 71% nationally, leaving the city down five places from 2019 to 135th. Maths is stronger relative to the national | 65% of Derby pupils gained level four or above against 69% nationally which left Derby 136th in the tables. Derby has fallen in terms of progress |
| Key Stage 4 (KS4) GCSEs | | |
| Progress 8 | | Attainment 8 |
| Derby schools average has improved by 0.10 to -0.14 nationally the result has remained at -0.03. Derby Schools are rated 99 th from 152 LAs nationally up 30 places since 2019 and 9 th against comparator authorities (up 2 places since 2019) | | Derby's average has improved by 1.4 to 44.76 nationally the result has improved by 2.1 to 48.8. Derby schools have dropped by 7 places in the national ranking to 137 th and by 1 place to 11 th against our comparator authorities |
| A total of 41.7% of pupils in Derby gained English and maths at grade five or above (a strong pass) (up 3.6% from 2019) compared to nationally 49.8%, up 6.6% from 2019. This left a fall of 24 places for Derby to 138th place nationally. | | |
| Key Stage 5 (KS5) A Levels | | |
| Derby average points score per exam entry - 39.92 equivalent to B- grade, against a national figure of 38.77, equivalent to a B grade. This was 7.13 points higher in Derby than in 2019 and pushed the city up to 77th - a rise of 47 places. | | |

The officer explained there was a wave of improvement for younger pupils, but it had not reached Key Stage 2 so there was still some work to do. The officer felt that most of the work needed for improvement was in the KS2 area.

The officer highlighted that in reading, of those schools that accessed the PSG programmes, schools that had done 1 years' worth of reading, declined at a lesser rate, and the schools that did 2 years' worth of programmes saw an improvement in their attainment. A councillor asked who runs the programmes? The officer explained the PSG programmes are finished now but were run by one of the Multi-Academy Trusts and were commissioned using Opportunity Areas (OA) funding to run, the OA attempted to identify schools that would benefit from the programmes. The councillor asked if the new incarnation of OA would come with a similar amount of funding, and was told the new programme had about 100k in total, whereas previously OA funding had been in the millions.

If schools, choose to use the learning programmes available there was every indication that good benefits would ensue. A councillor asked who was going to run the programmes as the local authority did not have the capacity to provide the training. The officer confirmed they do provide training but did not have the capacity run programmes of that kind of reach, the team had been reduced yearly and will continue to reduce.

The officer explained that the DfE was surprised at the level of analysis undertaken by Derby, you can tell from the Income deprivation affecting children (IDACI) index the level of socio-economic deprivation inherent in the pupils in each school, it would be expected that schools with least deprivation would tend to have the highest level of attainment and those with the most deprivation would have the weakest. However, the service created a league table and a league table of IDACI some schools are ridiculously high compared to where they should be and others that are low compared to where they would be expected to be. A councillor asked if you could identify if it was leadership at the school or the programmes that were achieving these results. The officer explained they had not analysed to that level, but it was probably both.

Councillors considered the results and commented. A councillor was pleased with the Phonic results and the improvement at KS4 and KS5 and noted that COVID had affected all schools in the country but asked if the recovery from COVID was harder in Derby than any other areas. The officer explained there were no figures available, but some schools had less COVID infections than others. Regular meetings with the Director of Public Health had taken place which enabled tracking of cases around the city.

The Board noted the outstanding work to achieve 33 schools out of 35 rated "Good" by Ofsted. The work done was commended by the Board. The role of the school improvement team was extremely important in its support to local authority schools.

Councillors asked if the percentage of non-local authority schools of "Good" and above was known and could be provided to the Board. The officer confirmed this information was known and could be provided to the Board.

The Board resolved to:

- 1. Note the 2022 academic outcomes and to recognise those key stages and academic measures where improvement had taken place despite the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic**
- 2. Support the areas for improvement as highlighted in the report**
- 3. Note that Opportunity Area Project funding has now ended. Although the Opportunity Area will be replaced a new DfE funded intervention. Priority Education Investment Area, the amounts of money available are considerably smaller. Nevertheless, the likely focus on reading has the potential to be very helpful.**

- 4. Commend the progress achieved in Phonics, KS1, KS4 and KS5, the results were achieved by the partnership work of the School Improvement Team and Schools. The outstanding result of 33 out of 35 Derby Schools being rated “Good” by Ofsted was also noted.**

48/22 Proposal to consider changes to the way the Council provides discretionary travel assistance for eligible students aged 16-19 with SEND

The Board considered a report from the Director of Children’s Integrated Commissioning to provide the Board with proposals to Council Cabinet (Appendix 1) to consider changes to the way the Council provides discretionary travel assistance for eligible students aged 16-19 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The recommendations in the report were for Council Cabinet’s consideration and approval.

The officer explained that the report would be going to Council Cabinet on 15th February 2023, and that public consultation had taken place on the proposal, that instead of the Council arranging taxis and minibuses or paying fuel reimbursements it would be replaced with Personal Travel Budget (PTB) payments for all eligible sixth form learners. The proposal would be supported with a new and enriched Independent Travel Training (ITT) service to help and support more young people become independent travellers.

The consultation was undertaken over an 11-week period, from 30th September 2022 to 12 December 2022 and the consultation document was circulated widely to all key stakeholders and interested parties. A detailed summary of responses was attached at Appendix 2 of the report to Council Cabinet.

The officer highlighted that the council remains totally committed to providing discretionary travel assistance for eligible sixth form learners. This also links to the Council’s Medium Term Financial Plan and the Council’s financial challenges.

The Board heard that over recent years there had been a 27% increase in the number of pupils eligible for travel assistance. The overall home to school travel expenditure for 2021 to 22 financial year was £5.5m and was forecast to increase to £8.0m by March 2023. The Council currently supports 236 Post 16 Learners by providing discretionary travel assistance, 194 learners travel in a taxi or minibus at a cost of £1.48m per year.

The officer stated that 210 responses had been received, most responses were not supportive of the change and focused on concerns that young people may experience challenges around travelling independently to school or college and that PTBs would not suit all. He also stated that the Council recognises there may be exceptional cases where a PTB or ITT would not be appropriate, for example young people who have significant medical needs where they must travel with specialist professional support and/or medical equipment.

The consultation involved listening to the voice of young people and understanding their views which was very important. There was feedback from 11 engagement and participation events attended by 72 young people attending educational settings within and outside of Derby City, including learners currently travelling by taxi or minibus.

In summary, the responses from parents raised concerns and indicated they did not support the proposed changes. However, the young people felt that independent travel training and the introduction of PTBs would offer some advantages and support them and promote increased independence for young people in the future.

A councillor had concerns about young people who were part way through Post 16. Their travel had been arranged for them the first year, but they would then receive a budget for the second year. Why was the scheme not being phased in a with notice or transition time planned in, has this option been costed? It was concerning that no other options were considered. Also, another option to consider was it looked at in terms of whether some young people would have been getting more or less funding than they needed, this was a blanket approach. Another councillor explained it was about two thirds of the average cost, and it was a blanket approach, and some young people would be going further than other young people. Perhaps all the options have not been looked at.

The officer stated that there was not a multitude of options available. The statutory guidance requires the local authority to provide, some form of discretionary contribution and assistance to families of post-16 students to facilitate attendance.

The service has been working on providing a much more enriched travel training offer. The offer was enriched to provide independent travel training, this can be offered to young people in years 9,10, and 11. In certain cases this was not possible based on distance a young person travel, there was higher rate for 16 miles and beyond. He highlighted that the discretionary element around contribution to transport was in the 16-19 cohort.

A councillor liked the idea of not forcing someone in their second year to take up a PTB. It would be interesting to know what the cost of that would be if all the young people in their 2nd year were removed from the equation. That would mean that all students at the beginning of their courses would be accessing PTB for 2 years.

The officer explained that currently 194 learners in years 12 and 13 travel in taxis or minibus at a cost of £1.48m. As a guide, if there were approximately one hundred pupils in Y12 and one hundred Y13 you would be looking at around £700K per year group

Another Board member asked if there were contingency plans in place if the change was made and the number of post-16 young people attending education dropped out, what options are there for example if existing pupils stop attending because they struggle to reach their course to find out what was happening and

if they could be supported. A councillor asked if the council are going to monitor to see whether the figures on attendance had dropped or not.

The officer highlighted that parents were responsible for ensuring a young person attended sixth form education. Pre-16 young people are required to attend education. The officer explained the focus on statutory services and the Council looking at discretionary areas to see where savings could be made, it was a predicament that many local authorities have found themselves in.

A councillor suggested that the Board recommend that the figures on attendance be brought to a further meeting perhaps early in 2024 to see whether people were still accessing post-16 education in the same way as they were under the previous scheme. If everything was going along fine and if the budget was stretching further so that pupils can travel safely then it would be good to know if it has any evidence of figures. The officer stated that by Spring 2024, a benchmark should start to appear. The recommendation was seconded and agreed by the Board.

A councillor stated they were in the regrettable position of looking at worst case scenario. However, there was an option to come back as a Board and take any remedial actions next year. It was a difficult position that the council finds itself in, but there were some small positives from a young person's perspective.

The Board resolved to

- 1. note the information provided within the report**
- 2. request that an update on figures be brought back to the Board in early 2024 to see whether young people are still accessing post-16 education as they were under the previous scheme and perhaps to consider a way forward if they were not.**

49/22 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 agreed the work programme set out in appendix 1 to the report.

The Board noted that a meeting with officers for the Topic Review "Off-Rolling" had been set up for 24 February 2023.

The Board resolved to note the information provided within the report.

MINUTES END