

ITEM 4

Time commenced - 18:00

Time finished - 20:25

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMISSION 24 JANUARY 2012

Present: Councillor Bolton (Chair)
Councillors Bailey, Campbell, F Khan, and Whitby and Maurice Lawrence
(minute numbers 44 to 54 inclusive)

In attendance: Ian Jennison (NUT)
Stephen Edgeley (Head of Patient Safety/Deputy Director of Nursing)
Gary Stokes (Primary Care Trust)

44/11 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor F Winter and Alison Brown.

45/11 Late Items to be introduced by the Chair

In accordance with section 100B(4)(b) Local Government Act 1972, the chair agreed to admit minute number 52/11, Children and Young People Performance Report, as a late item on the grounds that it should be considered as a matter of urgency on the basis that the information was not available at the time the meeting was convened.

46/11 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Campbell declared a personal interest as he was a member of the NASUWT. Councillor Whitby declared a personal interest as he was a foster carer for Derby City Council.

47/11 Minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2011

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2011 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

48/11 Call-in

There were no items.

49/11 Response to the Topic Review 2010/11

The commission received a report from the Head of Commissioning on behalf of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People. The report updated the commission on the progress that had been made.

In relation to recommendation number 2.2, the Head of Commissioning confirmed that three briefing dates had been scheduled with CAMHS. The Head of Service informed the commission that, in relation to recommendation number 3.1, head teachers had been briefed in relation to the TAMHs project. The briefing date for the presentation to Chairs of Governors was awaiting confirmation. It was reported that the spot purchasing cited under recommendation number 6.1 was a short-term solution and that a cost effective long-term solution was being sought.

The Director of Specialist Services sought confirmation as to whether the commission wished to visit externally run care homes, in accordance with recommendation number 8.1. The commission delegated consideration of this recommendation to the Corporate Parenting Sub Commission.

The commission noted that, in relation to recommendation number 10, there had been no response from Members of Parliament.

Resolved to:

- 1. note the progress in responding to the recommendations arising from the topic review conducted by the Children and Young People Commission, presented to Cabinet on 6 September 2011; and**
- 2. delegate consideration of visits to externally run care homes for CLA in the city to the Corporate Parenting Sub Commission.**

50/11 Consultation on the proposed changes to Derby City Council Formula for Funding Schools

The commission received a presentation from the Head of Finance, which detailed the operation of the formula and the aims of the consultation. The commission was informed that responsibility for utilising £170, 000 of the ring-fenced funding had been delegated directly to schools. The implementation of the formula was intended to achieve stability through realistic cost analysis, strategic priorities, such as those influenced by the Narrowing the Gap programme and key performance indicators.

The Head of Finance confirmed that the Department for Education proposed to limit current factors for funding to five factors. The formula would have to operate in accordance with the narrowed factors and address local funding needs. It was reported that there would be a minimum funding guarantee. A local funding review had identified the mainstreaming grants proposal, catering factors, premises factors, teachers' pay grant, special school weighting and excluded or alternative provision as relevant items for consideration. Mainstreamed grants included the School Development Grant, School Lunch Grant, Ethnic Minorities Achievement Grant and School Standards Grant. It was envisaged that the minimum funding guarantee would provide protection during the transitional period up to 2013/14. The Department for Education had not confirmed the existence of the minimum funding guarantee beyond 2014/15.

The Head of Finance confirmed that the local authority were responsible for calculating the funding for academies. The academies would be driven by the local funding formula, which was administered by the Department for Education.

The Director of Finance and Procurement acknowledged that the formula would create both benefits and compromises. The director explained that the formula should aspire to create fairness and benefits for children across the city as a whole, rather than for schools on an individual basis. The proposals incorporated a contingency allowance of £2m which provided protection. The Director of Learning and Inclusion informed the commission that the proposals had been examined by a voluntary group of head teachers. Following consultation, the approved proposals would take effect as part of the 2012/13 budget.

The importance of the national funding in relation to the provision of free school meals was highlighted to the commission. It was critical that the local authority encouraged the acceptance of free school meals to those who were entitled to them, as their acceptance generated critical funding that benefitted both children and schools. The commission recognised the need to promote the availability of free school meals and remove the negative perception, which was historically associated with their provision.

The Director of Learning and Inclusion reassured the commission that the effectiveness of the allocation of funding under the formula would be monitored. It was reported that Ofsted reports, which examined value for money, together with pupil achievement levels would be indicative of performance.

Resolved to:

- 1. note the presentation; and**
- 2. recommend that members of the commission submit their responses to the consultation, prior to the 30 January 2012 deadline.**

51/11 Schools Capital Programme 2012/13

The commission received a report from the Head of Finance, on behalf of the Strategic Director for Children and Young People. The Head of Finance reported that the Schools Capital Programme had been allocated an overall capital funding of £7.4m for 2012/13. The capital allocation for condition and basic need projects was £6.8m and included the capital funding brought forward from 2011/12. The allocation of £6.8m had been prioritised in line with priorities set out in the Schools Asset Management Plan.

The commission was informed that the capital funding would mainly be directed at dealing with essential school condition and suitability issues, together with basic need; providing additional school places where necessary.

The Principal Accountant updated the commission on the progression under the Building Schools for the Future initiative. The results of recent inspections were awaited.

Resolved to note the Schools Capital funding for 2012/13.

52/11 Children and Young People Performance Report

The commission received a report from the Head of Performance and Improvement, on behalf of the Director of Children and Young People. The report presented a summary of performance for the period up to 31 December 2011 and covered key performance indicators from the Council Plan and Scorecard, together with the Children and Young People Business Plans.

Resolved to:

- 1. consider the latest performance report, with particular focus on areas of under-performance and actions being taken to address them;**
- 2. consider undertaking a review of the performance measure – ‘SS PM02 – percentage of looked after children who had their statutory health needs met,’ with a particular focus on the impact of partner agencies on current performance levels; and**
- 3. consider a report at the next meeting (20 March) on future performance measures to be monitored by the commission.**

53/11 Derby Children Safeguarding Board Minutes

The minutes were received by the commission.

Resolved to note the minutes.

54/11 Topic Review 2011/12

The commission discussed ideas for the topic review. The following topics were considered for review:

- child poverty and the impact of the Narrowing the Gap programme;
- free schools;
- the number of social workers employed by the council;
- the financial impact of academies and schools opting to purchase services;
- adoption timescales;
- the impact of growing migrant communities on schools; and
- performance measure – ‘SS PM02 – percentage of looked after children who had their statutory health needs met,’ with a particular focus on the impact of partner agencies on current performance levels.

Resolved:

- 1. that the 2011/12 topic review is titled ‘How can the timescale for adoption at Derby City Council be improved?’; and**
- 2. to recommend that a scoping report is presented to the Corporate Parenting Sub Commission on 14 February 2012.**

55/11 Retrospective Scrutiny

There were no items.

56/11 Forward Plan

Resolved to note the Forward Plan.

57/11 Responses to any reports and enquiries of the commission

There were no items.

58/11 Matters referred by the Council Cabinet

There were no items.

MINUTES END