

Time commenced – 6.03pm  
Time finished – 8.36pm

**Children and Young People Board  
9 December 2014**

Present Councillor Whitby (Chair)  
Councillors Care, Eldret, Hezelgrave, Keith and S Grundy and B Stewart

In Attendance Councillor Hussain

**32/14 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Nawaz and Williams.

**33/14 Late items introduced by the Chair**

There were none.

**34/14 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**35/14 Call-in**

There were no items.

**36/14 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 October 2014 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Members noted that an incorrect set of draft minutes were circulated with the papers in error and that the correct set would be uploaded to CMIS for this meeting.

**37/14 Forward Plan**

The Board considered the Forward Plan published on 11 November 2014.

**Resolved to note the Forward Plan.**

**38/14 Access to Education – ensuring all children receive an appropriate education**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Access to education – ensuring all children receive an appropriate education.

Members noted that the purpose of the report was to provide an overview of which groups of children were currently missing education in Derby and to identify the roles and responsibilities of schools and LA teams in recording and following this up.

It was reported that ensuring that all children received a suitable education was essential if they were to make great progress. It was further reported that regular and sustained attendance at school helped children to learn effectively, in addition to providing access to a range of enrichment activities.

Members noted that there could be a variety of reasons why a child's education may become disrupted for both shorter and longer periods of time. It was reported that the most common reasons were for illness, however other factors could also impact on attendance.

Members discussed home schooling and noted the process for taking a child out of school.

Members of Voices in Action provided feedback on the Access to Education presentation that they had recently received and recommended that mentoring by more mature students be encouraged across schools for children who weren't coping. Members supported the recommendation.

**Resolved:**

- 1. to note and support the work of schools and LA Services in trying to ensure children are not missing from education; and**
- 2. to agree that mentoring by more mature students should be encouraged across schools for children who aren't coping.**

## 39/14 Derby Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2013-2014

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Derby Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2013 – 2014. The report was presented by the Independent Chair of the Derby Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB).

It was reported that the Children Act 2004 (Section 14a) required LSCBs to produce and publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area. It was further reported that the annual report was published in relation to the preceding financial year and within local agencies' planning, commissioning and budget cycles.

Members noted that the DSCB Annual Report 2013 – 2014 provided a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services and included lessons from reviews published during the year. Members also noted that the report demonstrated how effectively the Derby Safeguarding Children Board had carried out the functions of an LSCB as set out in Working

Together 2013.

It was reported that this was a public report that was formally presented to the City Leadership Board and to the Children, Families and Learners Board, the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local police and crime commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Members discussed child sexual exploitation (CSE) and the numbers of referrals from Eastern Europeans and the Roma population. Members asked whether work was being done with faith groups. It was reported that a number of visits had been made to individual faith groups and some direct training had been carried out. The Independent Chair agreed that this could be pursued further to make as many contacts as possible.

Members agreed that safeguarding should be maintained as a priority for the Board and that consideration should be given to challenging all decisions from a safeguarding perspective.

**Resolved to note the content of the DSCB Annual Report and take action to support the ongoing work of the Derby Safeguarding Children Board and the priorities for the coming year that are to focus on early help for families, domestic violence and child sexual exploitation.**

## 40/14 School Place Planning and Admissions

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on School Place Planning and Admissions. The report was presented by the Director of Commissioning and the Head of School Place Planning and Organisation.

It was reported that there had been an unprecedented national increase in pupil numbers which was being experienced by most Local Authorities, including Derby. It was further reported that the Department for Education (DfE) estimated that, nationally, 417,000 additional school places would be needed over the lifetime of the current Parliament (2010 – 2015). Members noted that local authorities had a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places for those pupils residing within their boundaries.

It was reported that the number of applications for primary school places in Derby schools had increased significantly over recent years. It was further reported that according to January School Census figures, in 2010 there were 2,837 pupils within the Reception Year Group in Derby schools and in 2011 the number of Reception pupils increased to 2,952, an increase of 115 pupils (4%) in the space of one year. Members noted that in 2012, the number of Reception pupils grew by 121 pupils (4%) to 3,073 and in 2013 the number of Reception pupils increased again by 220 pupils (7%) to 3,293. It was reported that in 2014, the number of Reception pupils dropped in comparison to the previous year to 3,121 but was still higher than it has been historically. It was further reported that it was important to note that the increases related to Reception Year Groups only and that these higher numbers would move through the school system.

Members noted that in order to ensure sufficient school places for Derby, work had been carried out on developing and delivering strategic school place planning projects based on detailed projections and pupil data. It was reported that in addition to a range of school expansions, an exciting project had been delivered creating an all-through school at Bemrose School by increasing the age range to include primary school provision. It was further reported that the Council had worked closely with the schools that had increased in size and had negotiated and agreed proposals with them, and governing bodies. Members noted that successful bids were submitted for Targeted Capital Funding, with £5,108,624 secured in relation to seven of the school expansions.

Members discussed the admissions criteria, the levels of parental preferences and the reasons why some children were unplaced. Members agreed that the admissions form should be checked for clarity in terms of expressing three preferences and its importance.

**Resolved:**

- 1. to note that, due to the school expansion projects that were implemented from September 2014, the Council is able to continue to meet its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for those pupils residing in its boundary;**
- 2. to note the level of parental preferences that have been met with increasing pressure on school places and rising pupil numbers; and**
- 3. to note that Derby City Council and Derbyshire County Council are working together closely to shape and develop proposals on school place planning, aligned to the Housing Core Strategies.**

## 41/14 Derby Winners Education Improvement Report

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Derby Winners Education Improvement Programme.

It was reported that education improvement was judged in terms of pupil outcomes (progress and attainment) and in terms of Ofsted judgements. It was further reported that in addition, Senior School Improvement Officers categorised all schools on a termly basis based on the criteria and triggers outlined in the Derby Winners Strategy. Members noted that this provided a clear overview of the performance of all Derby schools and academies and enabled early intervention where schools were at risk of failure. Members also noted that it was adapted on a regular basis to take into account any changes in the Ofsted framework.

It was reported that trends in terms of pupil outcomes showed a steadily improving picture in Derby primary schools since 2011 (Appendix 2). It was further reported that overall school performance as judged by Ofsted inspection findings demonstrated rapid improvement across the city, particularly in terms of the percentage of schools now judged as good and the increase in the percentage of schools judged as outstanding.

Members noted that there had been a change in the way GCSE results were reported nationally this year which meant that outcomes could not be meaningfully compared with previous years. Members also noted that the national performance tables only included results for each student's first attempt at the exam and did not take into account resits.

It was reported that a further change for 2014 had been the removal of the speaking and listening contribution to the overall English grade and the change in the weightings of some vocational subjects in the performance table calculations. It was further reported that this had impacted negatively on the outcomes at a number of Derby schools.

**Resolved:**

- 1. to support the continued implementation of the Derby Winners policy;**
- 2. to note Ofsted inspection outcomes;**
- 3. to note pupil outcomes for 2014 and agree the increased emphasis on improving performance in phonics and GCSEs in terms of the future work of the school improvement team; and**
- 4. to note the factors affecting the reporting and interpretation of 2014 GCSE data.**

## **42/14 Consultation on the Future Viability of Castle Nursery School**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Consultation on the Future Viability of Castle Nursery School. The report was presented by the Director of Commissioning and the Head of School Place Planning and Organisation.

It was reported that Castle Nursery School was one of eight maintained nursery schools within the city, located on the outskirts of the Arboretum ward. It was further reported that it had an 'outstanding' Ofsted judgement and delivered funded places for three and four year olds. Members noted that the future viability of Castle Nursery was a concern due to static low numbers on roll over the last eight years, with only 17 children currently accessing a place at the nursery. Members also noted that Castle Nursery could accommodate 80 children and was, therefore, only 21% full.

Members requested more information about school provision and timescales within the Castleward development, when it became available.

**Resolved:**

- 1. to note the Consultation Document attached as Appendix 3 to consider the future viability of Castle Nursery School;**
- 2. to note that, subject to approval, the initial consultation period will run from 26 November 2014 to 12 January 2015, with the outcome to be reported to Council Cabinet on 18 February 2015; and**
- 3. to note that following this initial consultation, the next stage, subject to approval, will be the required statutory consultation for a further**

**four week period, with the outcome to be reported to Cabinet on 15 April 2015.**

## 43/14 Home to School Transport

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Home to School/College Transport Consultation. The report was presented by the Director of Commissioning and the Access to Resources Team Manager.

It was reported that the Council currently spends a total of circa £3.5 million per year on home to school/college transport and that the majority of spend was for students with statements of Special Educational Need (SEN) who were placed at schools across the city.

It was further reported that in order to manage increased demand whilst balancing the budget, the proposals were to reduce discretionary home to school/college travel provision and move to lower cost modes of travel.

Members noted that the following areas had been identified for consultation:

Proposal 1: Reduction in discretionary Post 16 special educational needs transport arrangements.

- It was proposed in future to provide transport assistance only to those students who had severely restricted mobility up to the end of the term in which they reach the age of 19. Where transport assistance was provided, it may be in the form of a personal travel budget.

Proposal 2: Changes to types of transport assistance offered to eligible special educational needs pupils.

- It was proposed transport assistance to eligible SEN pupils would include:
  - Travel pass or season ticket for a school bus service or local bus service,
  - Independent Travel Training to support students to become independent travellers,
  - Fuel allowance, or
  - Personal travel budget.
- Where the parent/carer has a Motability vehicle for the benefit of the child, there was a reasonable expectation that this would be used to transport the child to school and fuel would be reimbursed.

Members agreed that officers should give more thought to any unintentional consequences or transitional effects of changing the policy.

**Resolved to approve the consultation as noted.**

## 44/14 Work Programme and Topic Reviews

It was reported that Members had an opportunity to discuss potential work plans and topic reviews for the forthcoming municipal year, and develop the basis for a work programme. It was further reported that reviews may cover anything within their remit and could include internal as well as external facing services.

**Resolved to agree the current work programmes for both the Children and Young People Board and Corporate Parenting Sub Board.**

MINUTES END