

Time finished – 8.45pm

19 June 2017

Sarah Walker – Policy and Improvement Manager

Apologies were received from Councillor Russell.

There were none.

Councillor Willoughby declared a non pecuniary interest in item 05/17 as one of his children attended Brackensdale Infant School and that he would participate in any discussion about the item.

That Councillor Sara Bolton – Cabinet Member for Safeguarding Children and Young People did submit her apologies.

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of People Services on Proposal to Merge Brackensdale Infant and Junior Schools to Create a Primary School.

It was reported that Derby City Council was proposing to consult on a merger of Brackensdale Infant and Brackensdale Junior Schools. It was also reported that this was in line with the Council's policy of promoting infant and junior school mergers whenever possible and appropriate, as agreed by Council Cabinet at its meeting on 2 June 2009.

It was noted that a report on the proposed merger was presented to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills on 24 May 2017, seeking approval to begin consultation on the proposal to merge Brackensdale Infant and Junior schools. It was also noted that consultation was approved.

Members discussed a number of issues, including the appointment and training of the Headteacher, the possible impact upon children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and ensuring that the views of children with SEN and their parents be captured in the consultation.

Members sought clarification on the Junior Schools predicted deficit for the end of 2016/17 and it was agreed that this information be forwarded to them after the meeting.

**Resolved:**

- 1. to note the consultation on a proposal to merge Brackensdale Infant and Brackensdale Junior Schools; and**
- 2. to agree that the views of children with Special Educational Needs and their parents should be captured in the consultation.**

## **06/17 Safeguarding Pressures – Association of Directors of Children's Services (Phase 5)**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of People Services on Safeguarding Pressures – Association of Directors of Children's Services (Phase 5).

It was reported that in December 2016, the Association of Directors for Children's Services Ltd. (ADCS) published a report on Phase 5 of their research into local authority safeguarding pressures.

It was also reported that the research completed by ADCS spanned from 2007/08 to 2015/16; tracking trends in relation to safeguarding activity, alongside the provision of services for children and young people and their families/carers.

It was noted that participation in the research was voluntary and that 132 authorities had participated in the latest phase (87% of all authorities).

Members received a presentation on the outcomes of the latest research, alongside specific information relating to Derby City's position relative to the national findings.

Members discussed the Children and Social Work Act, the increase in referrals

and numbers of children living in poverty.

**Resolved:**

- 1. to note the report on the findings from the latest research project by ADCS into safeguarding pressures; and**
- 2. to agree that an update be brought to a future meeting of the Children and Young People Board.**

## **07/17 Inspection of Services for Children in Need of Help and Protection, Looked After Children and Care Leavers**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of People Services on Inspection of Services for Children in Need of Help and Protection, Looked After Children and Care Leavers.

Members received a presentation on Derby's inspection outcomes, paying particular attention to the recommendations for improvement.

It was reported that in November 2013 Ofsted commenced inspections against a new inspection framework on local authority services for children in need of help and protection; children looked after and care leavers (the 'SIF' inspection).

It was also reported that Derby City was inspected, by Ofsted, under this Framework in April 2017.

It was noted that the largest percentage of authorities inspected were judged as 'requires improvement' but that Derby's overall effectiveness was judged as 'good'.

It was also noted that the framework assessed authorities against three key judgements areas with two sub-judgements under one element of the framework, all of which contributed to an overall effectiveness judgement:

1. The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection.
2. The experiences and progress of children looked after and achieving permanence (sub-judgements - adoption performance and the experiences and progress of care leavers).
3. Leadership, management and governance.

Members wished the thanks of the Board for all the hard work of the department be noted.

**Resolved:**

- 1. to note the current position with regards to the SIF inspection programme, as set out in paragraph 1.2. of the report; and**

- 2. to agree that the thanks of the Children and Young People Board for the hard work of the department be noted.**

## **08/17 Terms of Reference, Work Programme and Topic Review**

The Board received a report of the Chief Executive on Terms of Reference, Work Programme and Topic Review.

Members of the Board were given the opportunity to study its Terms of Reference and Remit (see 4.1 and 4.2 of the report) for the forthcoming municipal year and the relevant rules of the constitution (see Appendix 2).

Members agreed the Children and Young People Board work programme for the 2017/18 municipal year that was circulated at the meeting.

Members agreed to carry out a topic review into the recruitment and retention of social workers.

It was noted that at the meeting of the Inspiring Young People Overview and Scrutiny Board on 24 April 2017, it was agreed that the leaving care topic review be carried over to the 2017/18 municipal year. Members agreed the following process for completing the topic review:

That the scope of the review (see minutes of the meeting held on 24 April) be used as the basis for the formulation of a number of questions to be sent to relevant officers for responses and that the Board then consider those responses with a view to making final recommendations.

### **Resolved:**

- 1. to agree the Board's Terms of Reference, reproduced at section 4.1 of the report;**
- 2. to agree the work programme for the 2017/18 municipal year;**
- 3. to agree a topic review be carried out into the recruitment and retention of social workers; and**
- 4. to agree the process for completing the leaving care topic review as outlined at 1.4 of the report.**

MINUTES END