



YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2017

2.00 - 4.30 pm in the Shrewsbury/Oswestry Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

Responsible Officer: Tim Ward

Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257713

Present

Shropshire Councillors

Councillor Peggy Mullock (Chairman)

Councillors Ed Potter (Vice-Chair), Clare Aspinall, Nigel Hartin, Christian Lea, Matt Lee, Elliott Lynch, Kevin Pardy, Price and Kevin Turley

Co-Opted Members (Voting)

Sian Lines

4 Apologies and Substitutions

4.1 There were no apologies for absence

5 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

5.1 Mr Lee declared an interest in the Youth Funding item as he was employed by TNS whose charity received youth funding

6 Minutes

6.1 The minutes of the meetings held on 29 March 2017 and 18 May 2017 had been circulated

6.2 RESOLVED:

The minutes of the meetings held on 29 March 2017 and 18 May 2017 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman

7 Public Question Time

7.1 There were no questions from members of the public

8 Members' Question Time

8.1 There were no questions from Members.

9 An Introduction to Scrutiny

- 9.1 Members received a presentation from the Statutory Scrutiny Officer (copy attached to signed minutes) which gave an overview of the work of a scrutiny committee, in which he set out the roles and responsibilities of the Committee.
- 9.2 A Member asked when Members would receive the report from the recent LGA peer review. The Statutory Scrutiny Officer informed the meeting that a report had been taken to a meeting of the Political Structures Monitoring which had incorporated the majority of the recommendations of the Peer Review and that following this a report would be taken to Council.

10 An introduction to Children's Services

- 10.1 Members received a presentation from the Commissioner for Education Improvement and Efficiency (copy attached to the signed minutes) which set out the statutory roles and responsibilities of the Learning and Skills department and the key areas of focus and the priorities for the department for the forthcoming year.
- 10.2 In response to a question regarding small schools, the Commissioner for Education Improvement and Efficiency confirmed that he was working with Governors and Head Teachers to ensure the sustainability of all schools in Shropshire.
- 10.3 A Member asked whether the faith and church schools would be included in the Multi Academy Trust. The Commissioner for Education Improvement and Efficiency advised that the diocese was developing its own trust and that it was thought that the majority of Church Schools would join this. He informed Members that officers had regular meetings with Officers from the Dioceses.
- 10.4 Members received a presentation from the head of Early Help, Partnerships and Commissioning (copy attached to the signed minutes) which outlined the work of the Early Help Team and the services offered.
- 10.5 Members received a presentation from the Head of Children's Social Care and Safeguarding which set out the work done by the Social care and Safeguarding Team. She explained that the Council had a statutory function to assess, investigate and meet the needs of Children In Need, Children subject to a Child Protection Plan and Children who need to be Looked After by the Local Authority and explained the functions of the various teams which carried this out.
- 10.6 In response to a query the Head of Children's Social Care and Safeguarding confirmed that a number of social workers had recently been recruited and that amongst these were some experienced social workers but that the majority were newly qualified. She added that the successful recruitment campaign had led to a reduction in the number of agency staff being used which had led to a budgetary saving.
- 10.7 A Member asked did the Council have sufficient residential placements. The Head of Children's Social Care and Safeguarding advised that the number of placements was kept under constant review but that placements were only used where essential as better outcomes were achieved by placing children in foster care.

10.8 The Chairman thanked Officers for their presentations

11 Local Commissioning of Youth Activities Task and Finish Group

11.1 Members received the report of the Locality Commissioning Manager which set out the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group on the Future Commissioning of Youth Activities.

11.2 The Locality Commissioning Manager informed Members that subsequent to the work of the Task & Finish Group a review of the allocation of funding had taken place using a simplified funding formula based on 2 criteria rather than the 8 used previously and that this had resulted in funding of £167,000.00 being required going forward which was a reduction of £67,950 on the current budget.

11.3 The Locality Commissioning Manager advised the meeting that the contract with SYA for infrastructure support had recently been extended for 2 years and that currently SYA were working with 139 groups across the County.

11.4 In response to a query the Locality Commissioning Manager confirmed that the proposal regarding funding was that it remain at the current level for the 2017/18 financial year and then reduce to £167,000 for the financial year 2018/19

11.5 RESOLVED: -

- A. That the recommendations made by the Task & Finish Group at its meeting of the 26th April 2017 as detailed in paragraph 3.4 of the report be approved.
- B. That a budget of £167,000 be required the financial year 2018/19 in support of youth activity provision that respond to local need
- C. That the Committee note work underway on the development of opportunities and approaches for the input and review by young people in strategic and local commissioning decisions.

12 Date of Next Meeting

12.1 Members were reminded that the next meeting of the Young Peoples Scrutiny Committee would be held on Wednesday 19 July at 10.00am

Signed (Chairman)

Date: