



PEOPLE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2017

10.00 am - 12.15 pm in the Shrewsbury Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

Responsible Officer: Tim Ward

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Present

Shropshire Councillors

Councillor Peggy Mullock (Chairman)

Councillors Ed Potter (Vice-Chair), Nigel Hartin, Christian Lea, Cecilia Motley, Kevin Pardy, Price and Kevin Turley

11 Apologies and Substitutions

11.1 Apologies for absence were received from Sian Lines (Diocese of Hereford)

12 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

12.1 There were no declarations of pecuniary interest

13 Minutes

13.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2017 had been circulated

13.2 RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the People Overview Committee held on 29 September 2017 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman

14 Public Question Time

14.1 There were no questions from members of the public.

15 Members' Question Time

15.1 There were no questions from Members

16 Early Help Working Group

16.1 Member's received the report of the Director of Children's Services which set out proposal for the development of Early Help Family hubs and updated the Committee of the work of the working group which had helped develop the proposals.

16.2 Councillor Potter, the Chair of the Working Group outlined the proposals which included the creation of Early Family Help Hubs which would bring multiagency multidisciplinary teams together to provide a joined up service, which would result in a saving of £875,000

16.3 A Member congratulated Officer and the Working Group on a detailed and through piece of work but expressed concern regarding the large area the Ludlow Hub would cover as it was difficult to deliver services in the more rural areas and there would be a need to ensure sufficient resources going forward to take account of this.

16.4 Members expressed concern that some Children's Centres would close. The Head of Early Help, Partnerships and Commissioning explained that it was proposed that the number of family hubs would reduce from 11 to 6 which would enable the delivery of a more joined up service. Members asked to be kept updated on the situation by way of regular briefings.

16.5 RESOLVED

That the People Overview Committee

- a) Approve the proposals for Early Help Hubs and the associated savings projected.
- b) Note the timescale for delivery
- c) Note the proposed consultation programme
- d) Approve the closure of some Children's Centres

17 Placements for Looked After Children (LAC)

17.1 Members received a presentation from the Service Manager - Fostering and Adoption which gave an overview of Children's Placement Services on which she updated the Committee on the number of Looked after Children (LAC) and the processes around the placing of LAC, the current pressures on the service and the key service priorities.

17.2 The Service Manager requested that the Committee establish a Task and Finish Group to look at the current challenges to the service and to look at solutions to enable the service to meet its key service priorities.

17.3 Members agreed that a time limited task and finish group be set up with a view to a report being brought to the March meeting of the Committee.

17.3 RESOLVED

That a Task and Finish Group be established to look at finding solutions to the current challenges to the services and in meeting the key service priorities.

18 Task and Finish Group - Corporate Parenting

18.1 Member's received a report which set out proposed terms of reference for a task and finish group on Corporate Parenting.

18.2 The Scrutiny Officer advised Members that the objectives of the group were: -

- To examine how the Corporate Parenting Panel ensures that it understands the profile of looked-after children in the county, and the outcomes for looked-after children compared to their peers
- To understand how the Council ensures that its officers and elected members understand their responsibilities as corporate parents.
- To scrutinise the structures in place to support looked-after children in Shropshire, in particular the Children in Care Council, Children's Charter and Corporate Parenting Panel.
- To look at the effectiveness of Regulation 44 visits by corporate parents.
- To learn how looked after children and care leavers understand the support available from corporate parents.

18.3 RESOLVED

That the Corporate Parenting Task and Finish group be establish and the terms of reference be agreed.

19 **Child Sexual Exploitation**

19.1 Member's received the report of the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Co-Ordinator and the Manager – COMPASS which gave an update on the current situation regarding child sexual exploitation (CSE) and missing in Shropshire.

19.2 Members were advised that currently there were 72 children in Shropshire identified as being at risk of CSE, with only 6% being male, although it was felt that the number of males at risk of CSE was under reported, and that all children at risk of CSE were tracked to ensure that the level of risk was being managed appropriately.

19.3 In response to a query it was confirmed that training was provided for Bed and Breakfast and hotel owners and for taxi drivers a part of their licencing process. A Member asked if feedback was provided to the licencing department where there were concerns about a particular driver or company. The CSE Co-Ordinator confirmed that a member of the licencing team sat on the CSE sub group and that where there were specific concerns these were raised directly with the licencing team.

19.4 A Member asked how the situation in Shropshire compared with neighbouring councils. The Director of Children's Services commented that it was difficult to compare as the context in each county was different.

19.5 A Member asked whether it would be possible to have regular updates. This was agreed.

19.6 The Chairman thanked Officers for the report

20 Ofsted

20.1 Members received the report of the Director of Children’s Services which reported on the result of the recent Ofsted Inspection.

20.2 The Director of Children’s Services reminded Members that a team of 9 inspectors from Ofsted had spent four weeks in the Children’s Services directorate inspecting services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers and that they had also undertaken a review of the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board. She advised the meeting that the report of the Inspectors had been received and that the overall judgement for Shropshire’s services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers was “Good”.

20.3 The Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People congratulated the Director of Children’s Services and her team for the excellent results of the inspection which was a testament to all the work put in by officers. The Chairman echoed these sentiments which were endorsed by all Members.

20.4 The Director of Children’s Services advised Members that the Council was required to draw up an action plan for the recommendations contained in the report and that this would be brought to the next meeting of the Committee.

20.5 RESOLVED:

- That Members note the contents to the report and congratulate the Director of Children’s Services and her team on the excellent results of the inspection.
- That Members agree that the action plan be brought to the next meeting of the Committee

21 Date of Next Meeting

21.1 Members were advised that the next meeting if the People Overview Committee would be held on Wednesday 31 January 2018 at 10.00am

Signed (Chairman)

Date: