



## **PEOPLE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2018**

**2.00 - 3.36 pm in the Shrewsbury/Oswestry Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND**

**Responsible Officer:** Tim Ward

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### **Present**

Councillors Peggy Mullock (Chairman), Kevin Turley (Vice-Chair), Christian Lea, Elliott Lynch, Cecilia Motley, Kevin Pardy and David Vasmer (Substitute) (substitute for Hannah Fraser)

## **23 Apologies and Substitutions**

23.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hannah Fraser and John Price and from Sian Lines (Diocese of Hereford)

23.2 Councillor David Vasmer substituted for Councillor Hannah Fraser.

## **24 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

24.1 There were no declarations of pecuniary interest

## **25 Minutes**

25.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2018 had been circulated.

25.2 Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the People Overview Committee held on 19 September 2018 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

## **26 Public Question Time**

26.1 There were no questions from members of the public.

## **27 Members' Question Time**

27.1 There were no questions from Members

## **28 Shropshire Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report**

28.1 Members received the Annual Report of the Shropshire Safeguarding Children's Board (SSCB) for 2017 -18.

28.2 The Independent Chair SSCB gave a presentation (copy attached to the signed minutes) which outlined the work of the SSCB, and the priorities for the forthcoming year.

28.3 The Independent Chair reminded Members that the 3 priorities for the Board had been: -

- Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing Children
- Neglect
- Domestic Abuse

He advised the meeting that there had been a slight decrease in the number of referrals of CSE, most of the referrals concerning females being referred by schools, social workers and school nurses. He informed Members that schools had access to E Safety resources which had been recognised nationally as an example of good practice.

The Independent Chair advised the number of children subject to a child protection plan (CPP) as a result of neglect had reduced slightly.

The Independent Chair advised that there had been a slight increase in the number of children exposed to domestic abuse.

28.4 The Independent Chair advised Members that that “Working Together 2018” would lead to a change in that the three key agencies would have joint and equal responsibility for the running of the board and that this should be in place by April 2019

28.5 The Independent Chair advised that areas of focus for the forthcoming year would be

- Improved data analysis and collection
- A consistent approach to hearing the voice of children and young people
- Continued regionalised working
- Addressing Single Agency pressures such as finances and increasing workload

28.6 A Member asked about the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements, especially when one of the agencies changed the way it worked. The Independent Chair assured the meeting that the various agencies worked well together and that where a partner agency was changing its methods a safeguarding impact assessment was always carried out. The Independent Chair informed the meeting that he was meeting with the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Chief Executive of the CCG to examine any issues and seek solutions.

28.7 A Member expressed concern that Shropshire had higher levels of neglect than its statistical neighbours and asked whether they were doing things that Shropshire were not. The Director of Children’s Services comment that the higher levels were probably as a result of how families in Shropshire operated rather than what Councils were or were not doing.

28.8 The Chair thanked the Independent Chair for his presentation

## 29 Education Achievement

29.1 Members received the report of the Principal Education Improvement Adviser which set out the educational performance of pupils in Shropshire.

29.2 The Principal Education Improvement Adviser informed the meeting that in 2018 the proportion of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage who reached a Good Level of Development (GLD) fell below the national average and the gap between the achievements of children eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) increased, and that at Key stage 1 (pupils aged 5 – 7 years) pupils' attainment across 5 of the 6 attainment measures for reading, writing and mathematics showed improvement over the period 2016 – 2018 but that attainment remained just below the national averages in all but 2 of these performance indicators, but the gaps between the achievements of pupils eligible for FSM had increased.

The Principal Education Improvement Adviser reported that overall pupils' progress in reading and mathematics from the end of key stage 1 to the end of key stage 2 had declined. Pupils' progress in writing has remained the same and is just below national expectation. The gaps between the progress of disadvantaged pupils and their peers have narrowed in reading, writing and mathematics.

The Principal Education Improvement Adviser informed Members that Pupils' attainment at the end of key stage 4 was very close to the national average. Their overall progress (across 8 subject areas) had increased marginally from 2017 and was just below the national figure, and that pupils' progress in English and mathematics was also just below the national averages. He advised that the gaps between the attainment and progress of disadvantaged pupils and their peers at the end of key stage 4 had increased.

29.3 The Principal Education Improvement Adviser informed Members that based on data at 31st August 2018:

90% of Shropshire primary schools were rated good or outstanding compared to a national average of 87% and 85% in West Midlands and

89% of Shropshire of secondary schools were rated good or outstanding compared to a national average of 75% and a west midlands average of 75%.

29.4 The Principal Education Improvement Adviser informed the meeting that among priorities for improvement were:-

- To reduce the gap between the performance of disadvantaged pupils and their peers
- Increase performance in mathematics at key stage 1 and 2

He outlined the work that was ongoing around these priorities and it was agreed that details of this work would be circulated to Members.

29.5 The Chair thanked Officers for their report and congratulated them on the work that they did.

### 30 **Work Programme**

30.1 Members received the report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer which set out the proposed work programme for Overview and Scrutiny for the forthcoming year.

30.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Officer took Members through the work programme.

30.3 The Chairman asked Members to advise her or the Scrutiny Officer of any further items that they would like to add to the work programme.

### 31 **Date of Next Meeting**

31.1 Members were reminded that the next meeting of the People Overview Committee would be held on Wednesday 30 January 2019 at 10.00am

Signed ..... (Chairman)

Date: .....