



Committee and Date
Young People's Scrutiny
Committee

26 March 2014

10:00am

Item No

3

Public

Minutes of the Young People's Scrutiny Committee meeting held on Tuesday 29 January 2014

10:00am – 11:45am

Responsible Officer Tim Ward
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Present

Councillors J Barrow (Chairman); P Cherrington; R Evans; H Fraser; R Macey; P Mullock (Vice Chairman); K Pardy; D Turner and P Wynn

Co-opted Members

Mr A Atkinson	Roman Catholic Diocese
Eur Ing J Carline	Parent/Governor – Primary/Special Schools
Mr M Hignett	Voluntary and Community Sector Assembly
Dr D Wilson	Parent/Governor - Secondary Schools

Cllr Ann Hartley, Portfolio Holder – Children's Services, Shropshire Council
Cllr Nick Bardsley, Deputy Portfolio Holder – Children's Services, Shropshire Council

25. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

25.1 Apologies were received from Councillors H Kidd and K Turley. Cllr. R Evans substituted for Cllr Kidd and Cllr. P Cherrington substituted for Cllr Turley.

26. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

26.1 None were disclosed.

27. Minutes

27.1 **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the last meeting, held on 17 December 2013, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

28. Public Question Time

28.1 There were no public questions.

29. Members' Question Time

29.1 There were no questions from Members.

30. Monkmoor Project – Family First Prototype

30.1 The meeting received a presentation (copy attached to the signed minutes) from the Operational Lead for Locality Commissioning and Business Design on the Family First prototype project that was being trialled in the Monkmoor area of Shrewsbury. She outlined the key issues of the area and the work that was being done within the Council and with partners to address these issues. In closing the Operational Lead outlined the lessons learned and the next steps arising from the project.

30.2 Mr Carline commented that it would be useful to have some background statistics for the area in order to understand the scale of the problem. The Operational Lead agreed to circulate the statistics to the Committee.

30.3 Cllr Evans asked how the prototype was going to be rolled out. He also commented that the current redesign of Youth Services was a concern and asked how this piece of work would feed into the redesign. The Chair commented that Positive Activities could be considered at a future meeting.

30.4 Mr Hignett welcomed the provision of an integrated team providing a service from age zero to nineteen and the assigning of 1 key worker to a family. He commented that it would be necessary for the key worker to acknowledge that at times it may be necessary to involve other workers with additional expertise.

30.5 The Chairman thanked the Operational Lead for her presentation and for answering the Committee's questions.

31. Quarterly Performance Report

31.1 The Committee received the report from the Director of Children's Services which summarised the latest performance indicators in relation to Social Care for Children and Young People as at Quarter 2.

31.2 She commented that most of the indicators remained strong in relation to statistical and national neighbour figures against a background of increasing levels of demand on the Council especially with regards to the levels of looked after children (LAC) and children subject to a child protection plan (CPP).

31.3 The Head of Safeguarding informed the meeting that the number of LAC had continued to rise although the latest benchmarking figures showed that the number of LAC per 10, 000 population was lower than the national average.

She went on to say that the more children were becoming subject to a CPP and that for the last 13 months the Council had a greater proportion of under 18's subject to a CPP than similar Councils.

- 31.4 The Head of Children's Safeguarding advised that the proportion of LAC with 3 or more placement moves during the year was better than expected. However Members noted that long term placement stability had seen a downward trend and analysis was being carried out to establish the causes; the results of this work would be included in a future performance report to the Committee.
- 31.5 The Head of Children's Safeguarding commented that the Council compared favourably with similar authorities with regard to the end of year results for adoptions. This good performance had been recognised in a letter of congratulations that had been received from the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families. The Chair congratulated the Head of Safeguarding and asked that thanks be passed to all Officers involved.
- 31.6 Cllr Fraser asked for the reasons a child received a second CPP and whether it was for the same or different reasons. She questioned whether if it was for similar reasons as a previous CPP whether the initial CPP was removed too early. The Head of Children's Safeguarding advised her that there a number of reasons for repeat CPPs
- 31.7 Cllr Hartley commented that where there were a lot of referrals which resulted in no further action (NFA) this put a lot of pressure on the service
- 31.8 **Resolved:** That members note the position as set out in the report

32. Rapid Action Group – CYP Redesign

- 32.1 The Director of Children's Services gave a short presentation on reducing the cost of looked after children. She commented that this was a key plank of the Directorate Financial Strategy and to date savings of £4,740,000 had been identified. She then outlined the key principals behind the redesign, and the key strategies that would be implemented.
- 32.2 In response to a question the Director of Children's Services advised the meeting that the savings identified amounted to approximately 35% of the total budget for the directorate.
- 32.3 The Chairman expressed disappointment that this topic had not been included in the original list of RAGS being considered. She went on to say that it was proposed that a group be set up to look at elements of the redesign of services which would report to the Cabinet meeting on 19 February.
- 32.4 Members then put forward topics that the RAG could look at which included: -
- Whether the savings are achievable and the "plan B" if the savings cannot be found

- The effects the implementation of saving will have on the service.

32.5 **Resolved:** That a Rapid Action Group be set up to look at the work being carried out with regard to reducing the cost of Looked After Children.

33. Work Programme and Cabinet Forward Plan

33.1 The meeting received copies of the current Scrutiny Work Programme and the Cabinet Forward Plan.

33.2 The Chairman advised that elements of the redesign of services would be brought to future meetings of the Committee as they were being rolled out.

33.3 Cllr Evans commented that he had received a copy of a letter received by schools regarding the provision of universal free school meals to children in reception and Years one and two. He suggested that scrutiny should look at the associated implications on school budgets.

33.4 The Chairman asked Members to let her know of any other topics they would like to see on the Committee's Work Programme.

34. Date of Next Meeting

34.1 The Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting of the Young People's Scrutiny Committee would be held on Wednesday 26 March 2014 at 10.00am.

Signed.....**Chairman**

Date.....