

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)
held at 2.00 pm on Thursday, 6 September 2018

Present:

Members: Councillor M Mutton (Chair)
Councillor L Bigham
Councillor L Kelly
Councillor D Kershaw
Councillor A Lucas
Councillor P Male
Councillor C Thomas

Co-Opted Members: Mrs S Hanson

Cabinet Members: Councillor K Maton, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
Councillor P Seaman, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Employees (by Directorate):

People A Brennan, R Eaves, G Lewis N MacDonald, K Nelson,
J Silverton

Place G Holmes, M Rose

Apologies: Councillor B Kaur
Councillor J Lepoidevin
Councillor T Skipper

Public Business

20. Declarations of Interests

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

21. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th July, 2018 were agreed as a true record.

Further to Minute 11/18 'The Virtual School for Looked After Children' the link for access to a glossary of educational terms and acronyms had been circulated to Members.

Further to Minute 13/18 'Supported Internship' Councillor O'Boyle had sent a response which was read at the meeting. The Board requested that the Cabinet Member for Education meet with Councillor O'Boyle to discuss Supported Internship further.

22. **Early Years and Primary Education Performance - 2018 indicative outcomes**

The Scrutiny Board considered a briefing note and a presentation of the Deputy Chief Executive (People) to update members on indicative performance outcomes for Early Years and Primary Education in Coventry.

The Board discussed the 2018 indicative outcomes presentation. The data was made available to local authorities on 10 July, 2018 however, it was important to note that the data was not yet validated and not published on the Department for Education (DfE) website. This information provided indicative information and was likely to change before the finalised results were available in February 2019. The Department for Education publish the validated results in November/December 2018, at which point the Key Stage 2 data was likely to have changed. A detailed Education Performance report based on validated data and including results for all Key Stages would be presented to Scrutiny in February, 2019. The Primary Networks would use indicative data to plan appropriate actions for the academic year 2018-19.

The presentation contained information about:

- The DfE timetable
- Early Years Good Level of Development
- Phonics
- Key Stage 1 Expected Standard
- Key Stage 2 Attainment Measures including Expected Standard and Higher Standard
- Key Stage 2 Progress
- Coasting and Floor Standard

The Board questioned the Cabinet Member and officers on the following:

- The achievements and improvements to be proud of
- Coasting and floor standard definitions and Coventry schools
- Writing decreasing
- Maths remaining the same
- Key Stage 2 expectations
- The importance of the arts, drama and music and sports and encouraging creativity
- The importance of early years as building blocks

The officers reported on changes to measurements and key focus areas for this year. The Cabinet Member agreed that it would be good to demonstrate the value Headteachers place on cultural subjects that are not measured in schools.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Board:

- 1) **Suggests that once the results were validated, the improvements achieved in Coventry through partnership working were worthy of publicity.**

2) Requests that the Education, Sport and Participation Strategy come to a future meeting.

23. Serious Case Review - Baby F

The Scrutiny Board considered a briefing note of the Safeguarding Boards Manager which provided detail on the outcome of the Serious Case Review (SCR) published by the Coventry Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) on 29th August, 2018. Appended to the report were a report on findings and recommendations, the full SCR report and an implementation assurance report.

The primary aim of a SCR was to help agencies learn lessons from these events, and to use this experience to improve practice. Following the referral to the Independent Chair of Coventry Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) it was agreed this case should be the subject of a Serious Case Review in October 2015. Each agency may make recommendations to support improvements in practice within their organisation. The on-going implementation and monitoring of these actions was the responsibility of the individual agency. Evidence of progress was regularly provided for the LSCB. This process enabled the LSCB to fulfil its responsibility for monitoring progress, and to be assured that these recommendations had been delivered in practice. Recommendations that were multi-agency were the responsibility of the LSCB, and an Implementation Assurance Report was included.

The Serious Case Review recommendations were agreed in 24th May 2016. Progress on recommendations since then were appended to the report. The delay in publication between identification of the recommendations and publication was due to the associated criminal proceedings.

The Scrutiny Board questioned the Cabinet Member and officers present on the following:

- An update on recommendation, actions and the children
- Changes to services since 2015
- The vulnerability of the mother and professional curiosity
- Data protection and information sharing
- Partnership working
- Voice of the child

The Cabinet Member and Officers highlighted the differences in Services since 2015 including the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and also the recent training on signs of safety.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Board:

- 1) Notes the report and the progress made on the recommendations.**
- 2) Highlights the importance of professional curiosity and in particular questioning the impact of a new partner into a family with history of domestic violence.**

24. **Work Programme**

The Scrutiny Board noted the Work Programme for 2018/2019.

25. **Any Other Business**

There were no other items of business.

(Meeting closed at 3.25 pm)