

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee held at 10.00 am on
Wednesday, 10 December 2014

Present:
Committee Members: Councillor Skipper (Chair)
Councillor Blundell
Councillor Clifford (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Duggins
Councillor Sandy
Councillor Singh
Councillor Taylor
Councillor Thomas

Other Members Present: Councillor Ruane, Cabinet Member for
Children and Young People

Education and Children's Services
Scrutiny Board (2) (By invitation) Councillor Bains
Councillor Bigham
Councillor Lakha
Councillor Mrs Lepoidevin
Councillor M Mutton

People: Y. Corden

Resources: S. Bennett, G. Holmes, A. West

West Midlands Police: Chief Superintendent Claire Bell
Detective Chief Inspector Dean Young

Apologies: Councillors Innes and Lucas
Mr R Potter, Mrs S Hanson

Public Business

34. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

35. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th November, 2014 were signed as a true record.

The Committee noted that outstanding actions identified in Minutes 29 and 30 relating to "Air Quality" and "Tourism in Coventry" respectively, would be followed up.

36. Child Sexual Exploitation

The Committee received a comprehensive presentation from Yolanda Corden, Assistant Director, People, Chief Superintendent Claire Bell, West Midlands Police and Detective Chief Inspector Dean Young, West Midlands

Police and Chair of the Child Sexual Exploitation Sub-Group of the Safeguarding Children's Board, together with a Briefing Note which provided information on the local context and approaches to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Coventry. This included:-

- Background, context and definition of CSE
- A description of the proposed CSE Team, including its makeup, role and function
- Local processes and procedure
- How referrals will be identified
- How the Team fits into the existing structure
- What data is available locally, how robust it is and how it is being used

The Committee noted and recognised that CSE is a national issue which requires a multi-agency response. In Coventry, a multi-disciplinary Team comprising of the following staff was being established to respond to and oversee CSE:-

- A Service Manager who will also be responsible for the management of the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
- 2 qualified Social Workers
- 2 Children and Family Workers
- 1 Police rep Sergeant
- 2 Specialist CSE Youth Workers from Integrated Youth Support Service and 1 detached Youth Worker
- Links to Community Safety Team via Child Sexual Violence and DVA Co-ordinator
- 1 Business Service Support Officer

In addition, talks were also taking place with the Clinical Commissioning Group regarding a health representative. The Team will be co-located alongside the MASH and the Referral and Assessment Service on the third floor of Christchurch House. The Committee noted detailed information relating to the role and function of the Team which will provide a central point of contact for all professionals and develop a centre of expertise for CSE in the City.

The Coventry CSE and Missing Delivery/Action Plan were endorsed by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board in October 2014. This will be presented to Councillor Ruane, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, in January, 2015. Councillor Ruane, who was present at the meeting, indicated that he would welcome any input from the Committee in relation to the Action Plan. Delivery of the actions within the Plan will be overseen by the CSE Strategic Working Group and reported to the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

The Committee and Members of the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) questioned officers and the West Midlands Police on a number of issues, including:-

- Progress on the recruitment to the posts in the multi-disciplinary Team

- Intervention work, including identifying patterns in school absences and the role of Education Welfare Officers
- The estimated scale of the issue in Coventry and whether this was comparable to Cities of a similar size
- The links between CSE and human trafficking/modern day slavery
- Steps being taken to educate families and the public in general regarding spotting signs of CSE
- Work being undertaken to identify and work with perpetrators of CSE
- The importance of and work being undertaken to establish trust and confidence with victims of CSE
- Support given to victims of CSE, both during the investigation and prosecution stages of the crime
- The significant amount of Community engagement work being undertaken with local communities and faith groups
- Work being undertaken to change the public perception of victims of CSE and the need for organisations, including the Police and the Crown Prosecution Service to be more victim orientated.
- Assurances that CSE would remain a high priority for the Police in future years.

The Committee requested that their thanks to Yolanda Corden, Chief Superintendent Claire Bell and Detective Chief Inspector Dean Young for their comprehensive presentations be recorded in the Minutes. The Committee also expressed their support for the multi agency approach to CSE as reported at the meeting.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That information regarding the ethnic and gender make up of the Council's and Police's CSE Teams be provided at a future meeting.**
- (2) That the Committee acknowledge and welcome the serious commitment of the Police Force to CSE.**
- (3) That the Committee encourages the continued engagement with faith and community groups in relation to CSE issues.**
- (4) That the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) be requested to ensure that patterns of school absences are investigated to see if these are an indicator of CSE.**
- (5) That the Committee request that an action plan detailing risk and vulnerability factors, and how they are monitored, be submitted to a future meeting.**
- (6) That officers be requested to arrange a meeting of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee and the Chairs of the Scrutiny Boards to consider the Select Committee's report into the operation of Scrutiny in Local Government.**
- (7) That consideration of the provision of services for young people**

in Supported Accommodation be added to the Committee's Work Programme for future consideration.

37. Outstanding Issues

The Committee noted that all outstanding issues had been included in the Work Programme for the current year.

38. Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee Work Programme 2014/2015

39. Work Programme 2014-15

The Committee noted the Work Programme for the remainder of the year.

RESOLVED that the meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee scheduled for 7th January, 2015 be cancelled.

40. Any Other Items of Public Business

There were no other items of public business.

(Meeting closed at 12.00 pm)