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### **Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

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**Time and Date**

3.30 pm on Friday, 12th February, 2016

**Place**

Committee Rooms 2 and 3 - Council House

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**Public Business****1. Apologies****2. Declarations of Interests****3. Minutes** (Pages 3 - 6)

- (a) To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 8 December, 2015
- (b) Matters Arising

**4. Play Centres - Petitions** (Pages 7 - 12)

Report of the Executive Director of People

To consider petitions relating to the proposed closure of play centres. The respective Petition Organisers have been invited to attend the meeting for consideration of this item

**5. Outstanding Issues Report** (Pages 13 - 16)

Report of the Executive Director of Resources

**6. Any Other Business**

To consider any other items of business which the Cabinet Member decides to take as a matter of urgency because of the special circumstances involved.

**Private Business**

Nil

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Chris West, Executive Director, Resources, Council House Coventry

Thursday, 4 February 2016

Note: The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Suzanne Bennett, Governance Services Tel: 024 7683 3072 e mail: [Suzanne.bennett@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:Suzanne.bennett@coventry.gov.uk)

Membership: Councillor: E Ruane Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

By invitation Councillors A Andrews, Shadow Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Please note: a hearing loop is available in the committee rooms

If you require a British Sign Language interpreter for this meeting  
OR if you would like this information in another format or  
language please contact us.

**Suzanne Bennett**

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## Coventry City Council

### Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet Member for Children and Young People held at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 8 December 2015

Present:

Cabinet Member: Councillor E Ruane

Employees (by Directorate):

People: F Doyle, S Giles, J Gregg, J Sembi, R Sugars,  
D Wilson

Resources: S Bennett, J Newman

Apologies: Councillor A Andrews, Shadow Cabinet Member

#### **Public Business**

#### **22. Declarations of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **23. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 September, 2015 were agreed and signed as a true record.

There were no matters arising.

#### **24. Coventry Children's Centres - Quarterly Progress Update**

Further to Minute 19/15, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People considered a report of the Executive Director of People which detailed progress to date and action taken to address issues previously identified in order for the current status of Ofsted outcomes for Children's Centres in Coventry to progress to "Good" or "Outstanding" in future inspections.

The report identified progress in the following areas:-

- Development of systems to closely monitor progress and to offer support and challenge to Children's Centre leadership teams, including refining data provided for children's centres and introducing a target setting tool.
- Introduction of an Early Childhood service model which has had a marked increase in registration rates.

- Investigations into the possibility of providing Apprenticeships (the Cabinet Member noted that this would be across the whole of the Early Years Service)
- Key areas of focus as identified in the Children's Centre Improvement Strategy

The Cabinet Member questioned officers on aspects of the report, including:-

- The provision of nursery care in Children's Centres by Adult Education and how quality of that provision is monitored
- Recruitment and retention issues caused by Children's Centres staff being on short term contracts
- The performance management of Family First Teams

**RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People:-**

- 1) **Notes the progress made against the recommendations from the last meeting on 15 September, 2015 and requests that officers continue to work to develop the Children's Centre Service area in order to move centres to "Good" or "Outstanding" at future Inspections**
- 2) **Requests that the Director of Children's Services be requested to investigate extending temporary contracts for Children's Centre staff for a period of 6 months**
- 3) **Requests that officers submit a report on Performance Management within Family First Teams to a future meeting.**

25. **Comments, Compliments and Complaints 2014-15 - Children's Social Care Services**

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Executive Director of People appended to which was the Annual Report 2014/15 for Children's Social Care Services which provided details of the comments, compliments and complaints received during 2014/15, the themes that arise from them and the learning and service improvements that have resulted from the feedback received.

The Cabinet Member questioned officers on the issues identified in the report, particularly in relation to:-

- Timescales for responses
- Process in place to ensure complaints are responded to

**RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People endorses and approves the publication of the Annual Report 2014/15 for Children's Social Care Services, Comments Compliments and Complaints**

## 26. **Staying Put Policy**

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People considered a report of the Executive Director of People which sought approval to the Staying Put Policy, a copy of which was appended to the report.

When a young person becomes 18 they are no longer in the care of the Local Authority, however the local authority will continue to be involved in providing “leaving care” services and this can include arranging for a young person to continue to live with former foster parents. This is a different arrangement from fostering and is known as “Staying Put”. Under a Staying Put scheme, young people continue to live with their former foster carer(s) after they reach the age of 18 until they are ready to move onto independence, or reach the age of 21. There is the potential for them to remain until 25 if they are continuing in education.

Within Coventry there has been a history of Care Leavers Staying Put, as the benefits of remaining with their former foster carers are clear, particularly where young people are vulnerable, not ready to move to independence or continuing in education. This arrangement started under Coventry’s “Support Carers Scheme” and continued under the “Staying Put Scheme”. However, it has been identified that the scheme and accompanying guidance needed review in order to reflect changes to the legal framework, and to more clearly set out the implications for foster carers of entering into a “staying put” arrangement.

The purpose of the refreshed Staying Put policy is therefore to strengthen the scheme in Coventry by improving the information, advice and guidance to foster carers and providing a clear fee structure linked to an annual review. The Staying Put scheme is part of a wider offer to foster carers under the Council’s recruitment and retention strategy. It seeks to recognise the very valuable role they play in preparing young people for independence.

The Cabinet Member questioned officers on aspects of the report, particularly in relation to extending the Staying Put policy to children in children’s homes.

**RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People:-**

- 1) Approves the Staying Put policy and procedure as set out in the document attached to the report**
- 2) Endorses the application of the scheme to new Staying Put carers from 18 December, 2015**
- 3) Endorses the proposal to produce a children’s and young person’s guide to the scheme**
- 4) Requests the Director of Children’s Services to write to the following on behalf of the Cabinet Member:-**
  - a) To appropriate staff recognising and thanking them for their contribution to work carried out in producing the Policy.**

- b) **To the appropriate Minister regarding extending the duty to provide Staying Put support to young people residing in children's homes, including addressing the financial implications of extending the duty,**

27. **Outstanding Issues Report**

The Cabinet Member noted a report of the Executive Director of Resources that identified those issues on which further reports had been requested and were outstanding so that progress could be monitored.

28. **Any Other Business**

There were no items of urgent public business.

(Meeting closed at 3.30 p.m.)



Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

12 February 2016

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People – Councillor E Ruane

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Executive Director for People

**Ward(s) affected:**

All

**Title:**

**Play Centres - Petitions**

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**Is this a key decision?**

No

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**Executive Summary:**

On 24 November 2015, Cabinet approved a 'Connecting Communities' report which contained a recommendation to hold a period of public consultation from 7 December 2015 to 1 February 2016 on a set of ten proposals for changes to some services. These ten proposals will deliver the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) target of £1 million proposed in the original City Centre First programme (now Connecting Communities) for 2016/17 and exceed this target on a full year effect by an additional £0.2 million. Proposals to achieve a further £3.8 million savings needed for 2017/18 will be developed following engagement and further consultation. This reflects the total saving of £5 million. The ten proposals, which will deliver the saving required for 2016/17, include a proposal for the Council to stop providing play activities at Edgewick and Eagle Street Play Centres and to explore the option for them to be used for nursery provision for two, three and four year olds instead.

One e-petition and four written petitions have been submitted asking for the Council to reconsider this proposal. In accordance with the City Council's procedure for dealing with petitions, these play centre petitions are submitted for consideration by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

Final decisions on all of the proposals detailed in the "Connecting Communities" report will be made by the Cabinet at their meeting on 23 February 2016.

**Recommendations:**

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People is requested to hear and consider the play centre petitions submitted as part of the Connecting Communities consultation and forward any recommendations in relation to those petitions to the Cabinet for them to take into account at their meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2016 when they consider the Connecting Communities report.

**List of Appendices included:**

None

**Other useful background papers:**

Connecting Communities Cabinet Report, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015

**Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

No

**Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?**

No

**Will this report go to Council?**

No



**Report title:**  
Play Centre Petitions

**1. Background**

- 1.1 The Council received a valid e-petition, "To save the closure of Edgewick and Eagle Street Play Centres" on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2016. The e-petition was organised by a Foleshill Ward resident and has 12 signatures as at 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016. The petition states:

*"This petition is to save the closure of Edgewick and Eagle Street Play Centres. These centres are the last of the play centres within Coventry, and provide a safe place for our children to play. They are a place where multi-cultured children play together, and is one only a few things which are still running which bring the community together. The council want to replace these for nurseries for the under 2's, but then there will be nothing for the older children left within Coventry where the children to play together safely. It is also where parents can report any misbehaviour's within and around the park, e.g. drug users, needles being found, which unfortunately is not as uncommon as some may think. Generations of families have used the play centres, and parents whom I have spoken to who used the centres themselves say it is where some of their fondest memories lay, so it would be a real shame to take this opportunity away from this and future generations."*

- 1.2 A written petition was submitted to the Council on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015. This was organised by a Foleshill Ward resident and has 72 signatures as at 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016. The petition states:

*"We the undersigned, request the mayor and Councillors of Coventry City Council to immediately stop and remove any plans to close the usage of Eagle Street Play centre for children's play activities. The Eagle Street Play Centre has been operating for many years and has provided children of all cultures and backgrounds an opportunity to play together in a safe, warm and friendly environment. This has been instrumental in allowing children to have fun and at the same time learn to integrate successfully within a multicultural society. The Play Centre provides activities year round such as arts and crafts, sports and games, organised trips and much more."*

- 1.3 A written petition was submitted to the Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2015. This was organised by a Foleshill Ward resident and has 153 signatures as at 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016. The petition states:

*"We, the undersigned parents have benefited from the play centres. We believe that taking the centre away will have a very negative effect on our communities and ask the Council to consider how they can be saved."*

- 1.4 A written petition was submitted to the Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2015. This was organised by a Foleshill Ward resident and has gathered 145 signatures as at 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016. The petition states:

*"Petition to save our centres Edgewick and Eagle Street."*

- 1.5 A written petition was submitted to the Council on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2016. This has gathered 311 signatures as at 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016. The petition states:

*“Change their stance on public service cuts for free childcare! With new cuts from the council, free after school and holiday centres risk being cut. However, this can cause problems for the children that rely upon these centres. These cuts could see children playing by dangerous roads or getting caught up in gangs. The petition’s aim is to make the council aware of the effect their decisions will have. We will not have them turn a blind eye to our children.”*

- 1.6 The Edgewick and Eagle Street play centres provide play activities for children from 5 to 12 year olds after school and in the school holidays and are open-access and non-regulated. Activities enable children to explore, develop and enjoy their play in a safe, friendly environment and include: arts and crafts, organised trips, sports and games, drama and music, cookery, cultural celebrations, special events, sewing, local and family trips and outdoor play (in adjoining outdoor play space). In addition, the Positive Youth Foundation use Edgewick Play Centre on Saturdays.
- 1.7 There is no charge – the activities are free. The Council fully funds the play centres through core resources.
- 1.8 A total of 173 children aged 5-12 years old are registered at the two play centres as at 31 August 2015. A total of 80 children attend five or more sessions per week.
- 1.9 Conversations with voluntary sector providers have enabled an improved understanding about the potential for the buildings to be used to:
- Increase the number of nursery places in the Foleshill area for two, three and four year olds;
  - Improve the chances of children to be ready for school; and
  - Provide a potential rental income for the Council.

## **2. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 2.1 A report is scheduled to be considered at the Cabinet meeting on 23 February 2016 at which the results of the recent consultation exercise on the proposals contained in the Connecting Communities report will be detailed. Cabinet will be asked to make a decision on the various proposals and the point made by the petitioners and the wider consultation will be taken into account at part of this decision making process.

## **3. Results of consultation undertaken**

- 3.1 A full public consultation has been undertaken from 7 December 2015 to 1 February 2016, the results of which are being carefully considered. They will be considered in full at the Cabinet meeting referred to above.

**4. Comments from Executive Director, Resources**

**4.1 Financial implications**

There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

**4.2 Legal implications**

There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

**5. Timetable for implementing this decision**

Not applicable for this report

**6. Other implications**

**6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?**

Not applicable for this report

**6.2 How is risk being managed?**

Not applicable for this report

**6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?**

Not applicable for this report

**6.4 Equalities / EIA**

Not applicable for this report

**6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment**

Not applicable for this report

**6.6 Implications for partner organisations?**

Not applicable for this report

**Report author:**

Fran Doyle, Head of Early Help and Prevention Service

**Directorate:**

People

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Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

<b>Contributor/approver name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Directorate or organisation</b>	<b>Date doc sent out</b>	<b>Date response received or approved</b>
<b>Contributors:</b> John Gregg	Director of Children's Services	People	2/2/16	4/2/16
Suzanne Bennett	Governance Services Co-ordinator	Resources	2/2/16	2/2/16
Adrian West	Members and Elections Team Manager	Resources	2/2/16	2/2/16
Michelle McGinty	Head of Involvement and Partnerships	People	2/2/16	3/2/16
Adrian Coles	People Programme Delivery Manager	People	2/2/16	2/2/16
<b>Names of approvers for submission:</b> (Officers and Members)				
Sarah Kinsell	Accountant – Business Partner (People)	Resources	2/2/16	3/2/16
Julie Newman	Senior Solicitor	Resources	2/2/16	3/2/16
Councillor E Ruane	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People		2/2/16	3/2/16

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## Public report

12 February, 2016

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People – Councillor Ruane

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Executive Director of Resources

**Ward(s) affected:**

None

**Title:**

Outstanding Issues Report

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**Is this a key decision?**

No

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**Executive Summary:**

The City Council has adopted an Outstanding Minutes System, linked to the Forward Plan, to ensure that follow up reports can be monitored and reported to Members. The attached appendix sets out a table detailing the issues on which further reports have been requested by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People so he is aware of them and can monitor progress.

**Recommendations:**

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People is requested to consider the list of outstanding issues and to ask the Member of the Strategic Management Board or appropriate officer to explain the current position on those which should have been discharged at this meeting or an earlier meeting.

**List of Appendices included:**

Table of Outstanding Issues.

**Other useful background papers:**

None

**Has it or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

No

**Has it, or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?**

No

**Will this report go to Council?**

No

**Report author(s):**

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<b>Contributor/approver name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Directorate or organisation</b>	<b>Date doc sent out</b>	<b>Date response received or approved</b>
<b>Contributors:</b>				
Other members	Not applicable			
<b>Names of approvers:</b> (officers and members)				
Finance: Name	Not applicable			
Legal: Name	Not applicable			

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	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Date for Further Consideration</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Proposed Amendment to Date for Consideration</b>	<b>Reason for Request to Delay Submission of Report</b>
1	<p><b>Performance Management Within Family First Teams</b></p> <p>Report requested as part of the consideration of the report on Coventry Children's Centres Quarterly Report</p> <p>(Minute 24/15 - Cabinet Member for Children and Young People – 8 December, 2015)</p>	9 March, 2016	Executive Director of People		

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