

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)
held at 2.00 pm on Thursday, 19 July 2018

Present:

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

Co-Opted Members: Mrs S Hanson

Other Members: Councillor G Duggins, Cabinet Member for Policy and Leadership
Councillor K Maton, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
Councillor P Seaman, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
Councillor T Skipper, Deputy Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Employees (by Directorate):

People: R Eaves, J Essex, J Gregg, E Hale, J Horgan, K Nelson G Lewis, S Mills

Place: D Atkinson, S Bennett, G Holmes

Others present: J Mander

Apologies: Councillor J Clifford
K Jones

Public Business

9. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

10. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 June, 2018 were agreed and signed as a true record, subject to the inclusion of Councillors Seaman and Skipper in the list of attendees.

Further to Minute 3/18, the Scrutiny Board noted that information requested in relation to educational outcomes for Looked After Children was included in the Briefing Note relating to “The Virtual School for Looked After Children” (Minute 11 below refers).

11. The Virtual School for Looked After Children

Further to Minute 3/18, the Scrutiny Board considered a Briefing Note which provided information on the work of the Virtual School for Looked After Children (LAC).

The Briefing Note covered:-

- The reporting cycle and parameters
- Explanation of Attainment 8, including changes to GCSE grading, impact on Attainment 8 and an explanation of Progress 8
- Outcomes for Coventry Children including average attainment 8 outcomes and progress 8 score for Coventry Virtual School
- Results for English and Maths
- Action plans in place for young people who are not making adequate progress/achieving
- Examples of schools who are good with LAC
- LAC NEET numbers and what is being done to support NEETs
- Support provided by Prospects Advisers to LAC/Care Leavers
- Areas for further development
- Mental Health
- Training
- Support Services
- Supporting Attachment Projects

The Scrutiny Board questioned officers on aspects of the Briefing Note including:-

- The waiting time for LAC accessing mental health services
- Young carers accessing the same services as LAC
- Extending good practices across the City

The Scrutiny Board commended the officers on the quality of the Briefing Note and thanked them for the informative presentation.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Board:-

- 1) Notes the contents of the Briefing Note.**
- 2) Requests that officers provide all Members of the Scrutiny Board with a link to an appropriate website providing a glossary of educational terms and acronyms.**

12. Improvement Board - 4th July 2018 Update Report

The Scrutiny Board considered a Briefing Note of the Director of Children's Services which detailed progress with the Children's Services Improvement Plan

reported to the Children's Services Improvement Board on 4 July, 2018. The next Improvement Board will be held on 3 October, 2018.

The Scrutiny Board questioned officers on aspects of the Briefing Note, particularly in relation to support that the Scrutiny Board can provide to assist officers in their difficult and demanding roles

The Cabinet Members for Children and Young People and Education and Skills, who were in attendance at the meeting, provided assurances to the Scrutiny Board in relation to political commitment and ownership and responsibility regarding the Improvement Plan.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Board:-

- 1) Notes the progress to date**
- 2) Continues to receive regular updates from the Children's Services Improvement Board, to include further process relating to the Children's Services Improvement Plan**
- 3) Acknowledges the pressures and difficulties faced by the Director of Children's Services and his staff on a daily basis and the need to ensure Children's Services remains high on the political agenda**

13. Supported Internship

The Scrutiny Board considered a Briefing Note of the Deputy Chief Executive (People) which outlined the requirement in the Children and Families Act 2014 to develop supported internships for young people with learning difficulties and or a disability (SEND) as part of an employment pathway. The Briefing Note indicated that it is a fact that the vast majority of young people with SEN are capable of achieving sustainable paid employment with the right preparation and support. In Coventry, young people described this an entitlement to an ordinary life which is encapsulated under the SEND strategy of "Raising the Cloud of Limitation".

Since September 2013, any institution that receives a funding allocation directly from the Education Funding Agency (EFA) has been able to deliver supported internships. This includes Further Education colleges, schools and independent specialist providers.

The Briefing Note provided a summary of progress to-date of the employer led supported internship delivered by University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire (UHCW) in partnership with Hereward College. An evaluation of the outcomes for 2017/18 to date, based on eight interns completing the programme evidences that:-

- Five young people have secured confirmed job offers
- Two young people are being actively supported in securing employment
- One young person has determined that they want to access the Princes' Trust Programme

The Scrutiny Board received an inspirational presentation by Joey Mander who took part in the internship programme at UCWH and who had secured employment at the hospital.

The Scrutiny Board questioned officers and Joey on aspects of the Briefing Note and presentation including:-

- Using Joey as an ambassador for supported internships
- Other examples of supported internships in the City and across the country
- Replicating the success of UCHW

The Scrutiny Board noted that there are currently a limited number of supported internships available within the City. Coventry's post 16 providers are committed to rolling out an extended range of opportunities for young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan to secure employment as part of the FE offer. Currently most programmes begin at the age of 19. Special school FE providers have confirmed their commitment to developing a pathway to employment post 16 curriculum. Whilst the Citywide strategy to secure supported internships is at an early stage of development, the need to secure a strong partnership infrastructure is now a priority. The Council in partnership with schools now have to achieve the critical step of secure the full engagement of a wider range of employers across the City, to secure an appropriate job match for the range of skills and career aspirations of young people with SEND.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Board:-

- 1) Record their sincere thanks for the excellent presentation received at the meeting**
- 2) Note the information presented and welcome the progress made to date and the direction of travel**
- 3) Request that the Cabinet Members for Education and Skills, Jobs and Regeneration and Strategic Finance and Resources investigate the introduction of a similar internship scheme, both for the City Council and also within the wider business community, working with the City's larger employers.**

14. Co-option of Parent Representative to the Board

The Scrutiny Board considered a Briefing Note regarding the co-option of a parent representative to the Board.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Board recommends Kellie Jones as a Non-voting Co-optee to the Scrutiny Board.

15. Work Programme

The Scrutiny Board received the Work Programme for 2018/2019, and noted that it would be updated.

16. **Serious Case Review**

The Scrutiny Board considered and noted a Briefing Note in relation to a Serious Case Review.

A corresponding private report detailing confidential matters was also submitted for consideration (Minute 18 below refers).

17. **Any Other Public Business - Resolution to Exclude Press and Public**

RESOLVED that approval be given to exclude the press and public under Section 100(A) 4 of the Local Government Act 1972 for the consideration of the private matter referred to in Minute 18 below relating to “Serious Case Review” on the grounds that that item involves the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12 A of that Act as it contains information relating to an individual.

Private Business

18. **Serious Case Review**

Further to Minute 16 above, the Scrutiny Board were provided with information in relation to a Serious Case Review.

The Scrutiny Board questioned officers on aspects of the recommendations arising from the Review.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Board notes the progress in implementing the recommendations arising from the Serious Case Review.

19. **Any Other Private Business**

There were no other items of urgent private business.

(Meeting closed at 4.30 pm)