



Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)

Time and Date

3.00 pm on Thursday, 8th December, 2022

Place

Committee Room 3 - Council House

1. **Apologies and Substitutions**
2. **Declarations of Interests**
3. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 8)
 - a) To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2022
 - b) Matters Arising
4. **Outstanding Issues**
5. **Cost of the School Day Project and Support to and from Schools for Financial Hardship** (Pages 9 - 14)

Briefing Note of the Strategic Partnerships Officer
6. **Support to Care Leavers and The House Project** (Pages 15 - 18)

Briefing Note of the Director of Children's Services
7. **Work Programme and Outstanding Issues** (Pages 19 - 24)

Briefing Note of the Scrutiny Co-ordinator
8. **Any Other Business**

Any other items of business which the Chair decides to take as matters of urgency because of the special circumstances involved.

Julie Newman, Chief Legal Officer, Council House, Coventry

Wednesday, 30 November 2022

Note: The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Usha Patel Email: usha.patel@coventry.gov.uk

Membership: Councillors F Abbott, P Akhtar, J Blundell, S Hanson (Co-opted Member), J Innes (Chair), S Keough, A Masih, R Thay, CE Thomas, A Tucker and G Vohra (Co-opted Member)

By invitation: Councillor B Gittins (Deputy Cabinet Member for Children & Young People)

Councillor K Sandhu (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)

Councillor P Seaman (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People)

Public Access

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Usha Patel

Email: usha.patel@coventry.gov.uk

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)
held at 2.30 pm on Thursday, 20 October 2022

Present:

Members: Councillor J Innes (Chair)
Councillor P Akhtar
Councillor J Blundell
Councillor S Keough
Councillor R Thay
Councillor CE Thomas
Councillor A Tucker

Co-Opted Members: Mrs S Hanson

Invited: Mr G Vohra

Other Members: Councillor P Seaman (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People)

Employees (by Directorate):

Children's Services S Bhambra, M Clayton, J Gregg (Director), C Heeley, N
Education and Skills Macdonald, A Whitrick

Law and Governance G Holmes, C Taylor

Apologies: Councillor F Abbott
Councillor Gittins (Deputy Cabinet Member for Children and Young People)
Councillor A Masih
Cllr Sandhu (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)

Public Business

1. Declarations of Interests

There were no disclosable interests.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2022 were agreed.

3. Co-option of Other Faiths Representatives to the Scrutiny Board

The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) received a Briefing Note of the Scrutiny Co-ordinator regarding the Co-option of Other Faiths Representative to the Board.

At the Council meeting held on 19 May 2022, it was agreed to delegate the approval of the outstanding co-opted Members for Education matters

appointments for the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee and the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) to that Committee and Scrutiny Board.

Part 2D, Section 6 of the Council Constitution, Education Representatives states:

"6.1 The Scrutiny Board responsible for Education matters will include the following

- (a) One person nominated by the Church of England
- (b) One person nominated by the Roman Catholic Church.
- (c) A maximum of two parent governors elected by the parent governors in the City in respect of either the Primary or Secondary phase of education.
- (e) One representative from other faith groups in the City.

6.2 Such appointees, with the exception for the time being of the representative appointed under 6.1(e) above, may speak and vote on education issues only, but may speak on other issues.

6.3 They will also be invited to attend the meetings of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee (if it is considering a call-in on an educational matter) and of other Scrutiny Boards (if education matters are to be considered at those meetings) and may speak, but not vote upon those matters.

6.4 Such appointees shall serve a minimum term of two years and a maximum term of four years."

The Board noted that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee had approved the co-option at their meeting held on 28 September 2022.

RESOLVED unanimously that:

- **The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) approves the co-option of Mr Ghulam Vohra as a non-voting co-optee to the Board under Part 2D, Section 6.1 (e) of the constitution.**

The Chair welcomed Mr Ghulam Vohra to the Committee.

4. **Children's Services Ofsted Outcome**

The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) received a Briefing Note of the Director of Children's Services regarding the re-inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers and Self-Assessment.

Children's Services were re-inspected by Ofsted from on 13 June – 1 July 2022 with a shift in focus from the last inspection to a strength-based approach. The inspection focused on social workers and social work practice. The outcome of Children's Services in Coventry had been rated by Ofsted as 'Good'.

The full inspection report, a copy of which had been appended, could also be found at: www.reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/44/80456.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Councillor P Seaman introduced the report, commending officers on the fantastic achievement and the years of effort which had gone into changing the culture of Children's Services and which would continue into the future.

The Chair echoed the Cabinet Members comments, adding that the transformation was making a real difference to children's lives in the city.

The inspection report identified four areas that required further improvement:

- The focus on children's views and carers capacity to meet children's needs in private fostering arrangements.
- The response to children aged 16 and 17 who are homeless.
- The mental and emotional wellbeing provision for care leavers.
- The quality of team managers supervision provided to social workers.

The report also advised that the next steps would be:

- A Children's Services Development Plan would be developed in response to the Ofsted recommendations and areas for development.
- The Development Plan would be presented to a future Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) and submitted to Ofsted by November 2022.
- The Development Plan would be shared with staff and partners and progress against the plan reported on a regular basis.

Members asked questions and were given responses in the following areas:

- Progress was being made in the four areas identified by Ofsted as follows:
 - An Action Plan to meet children's needs in private fostering arrangements had been compiled and was making good progress.
 - More funding from Council and the Integrated Care Board had been put in place. Re-commissioning LAC CAMHS services was under way and these new services would be available in May 2023 with tier 2 services operational from December 2022 which would include anyone up to the age of 25 and would include care leavers. The Integrated Health Care Board would be monitored and challenged to ensure services identified were being delivered. Training in mental health for personal providers would be rolled out.
 - There was a more integrated and considered approach to young people presenting as homeless. Training social workers on consistency of responsibilities and assessments was being rolled out. Joining up with youth work to ensure the right young people are provided with accommodation if needed or they stay with their families.
 - A robust quality assurance framework was in place to feed back on supervision provided to social workers. Development was taking place regarding recording discussions. New manager

recognition/growing our own and investing in managers to undertake training was happening.

- Mental health services for care leavers aged 18-25 was very good and performance data for these care leavers was very high.
- The service was fragile due to the ability to train, retrain and build an experienced workforce, the shortage of social workers, the high demand for services and lack of funding.
- £12m of the £80m children's services budget was made up of short and medium term grants which were essential to keeping the service going.
- There were a significant number of social worker vacancies which agency staff were covering and challenges in attracting good social workers.
- Social worker case loads ranged from between 4 – 8 for an employee in the academy to 18-24 for an experienced social worker. Case loads were monitored on a regular basis. There were currently 3,500 open cases.
- Retention of social workers was challenging due to higher pay available through agencies.
- Many newly qualified social workers were finding employment through agencies however, in Coventry, employees were provided with training and development through the Academy and the retention rate was approximately 3 years.
- Council operated a separate relocation package for employees. There were challenges around using cars and the cost of fuel however, recent discussions had taken place regarding improving retention of social workers.
- There were strong links with the Migration Service and other bodies in relation to unaccompanied young asylum seekers and the voluntary sector also assisted. The pace of Home Office decisions often left young people in a state of legal limbo although the speed of decision making was improving. Officers liaised with the State Migration Partnership on a regular basis.
- Interpreters were in good supply for the range of languages spoken.
- Should unaccompanied young asylum seekers obtain the Right to Remain, they tended to go on to higher education.
- Since the pandemic, there had been a significant increase in the number of children home educated which in some cases posed safeguarding risks.

The Board also requested information on the following:

- The process/consequences of bidding for short term funding.
- Up to date Census figures.
- Services to support care leavers at risk of becoming homeless.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Board:

- 1. Consider the recommendations highlighted in the Inspection report and requested a further report on progress implementation.**
- 2. Receives the Development Plan at a future meeting in response to the Inspection report.**
- 3. It was unanimously agreed to write to the Children's Services team to congratulate them on the recent Ofsted result.**

5. **Work Programme and Outstanding Issues**

The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) noted the work programme 2022-2023 and asked for the inclusion of the following items:

- The impact of the Child Sexual Abuse Inquiry on Council's work to protect children.
- Social Worker recruitment and retention – financial incentives.

RESOLVED that the work programme be updated.

6. **Any Other Business**

There were no other items of business.

(Meeting closed at 4:30pm)

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Coventry City Council

Briefing note

To: The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)

Date: 8 December 2022

Subject: Cost of the School Day Project and Support to and from Schools for Financial Hardship

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 The purpose of this note is to provide further information on the Cost of the School Day Project in Coventry, and on support available to / provided by schools for pupils in financial hardship.
- 1.2 The Cost of Living crisis is a national issue, and the scale of the challenges provide limited ability for schools to respond in isolation. Schools alongside the Local Authority, and in partnership with community, voluntary and statutory sector organisations and businesses contribute to the One Coventry response to the rising costs of living.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board is recommended to note the information in this report and identify any areas the Board may want to consider in more detail at a future meeting.

3 Cost of the School Day

- 3.1 The Cost of the School Day project is run by Child Poverty Action Group and has run in Coventry between December 2020 and July 2022. It is a child's voice and whole school community project that focuses on tackling financial barriers to learning and poverty stigma in schools.
- 3.2 It can help schools and local authorities to take action which will support children and young people's participation and wellbeing and support families on low incomes. The approach was adapted to enable the project to continue during the pandemic.
- 3.3 The work has included direct work with schools (albeit some of it virtually), advice, support and training, resources for schools, practice gathering and sharing best practice with other schools and a collaborative approach.
- 3.4 The reach for the project in Coventry was 4,042 pupils, 840 parents, 297 staff and 41 governors in 17 schools (13 primary and 4 secondary schools). The feedback from schools directly involved has been extremely positive, and feedback has

highlighted how it has brought new ideas and challenge to some of the most poverty-proofed schools. It has also helped schools to link their approach to whole school ethos and demonstrate high levels of respect and empathy. Throughout the child / young person's voice has been impactful, sometimes surprising, and greatly reinforced understanding of the challenges faced.

- 3.5 The work of the project, expertise of the practitioner, and interaction with Child Poverty Action Group, has led to input into a number of other school related projects including pre-loved school uniform, support and input into the Holiday Food and Activities steering group, the Remote Education Working Group, provision of FSM holiday vouchers and fleeces through COVID and post COVID DWP support grants, Cost of living work and support including linking with partners. Officers have also been invited to input into national discussions through the Child Poverty and Education Action group including raising awareness about the project, but also other areas such as FSM entitlement.
- 3.6 The Coventry evaluation is not yet published, but further information on the programme is available at <https://cpag.org.uk/cost-of-the-school-day>.

4 Free School Meals (FSMs) and entitlement

- 4.1 The following table shows the number of children and young people claiming free school meals (FSM) over the last 3 years

	January 20	January 21	January 22	Current (Oct 2022)
FSM numbers	11,683	12,683	13,839	15,180
% school age population	21.6%	23.4%	25.2%	26.7%

- 4.2 This compares with 22.5% of pupils nationally. FSMs is not the only measure of deprivation but is a good pupil level indicator. Recent media has indicated that FSM entitlement has not remained in line with inflation, meaning 110,000 children are missing out on FSMs in England.
- 4.3 FSM registration is not automatic. Where a customer applies for housing benefit / council tax support Coventry City Council will assess eligibility for FSM and award as part of the application. Ongoing work through the LIFT project has identified a further 1,000 households with potential eligibility (this is up to 3,000 children). CCC are using a targeted communications programme to reach households, as well as a more general campaign through schools.
- 4.4 Further work has been taking place in relation to no recourse to public funds (NRPF) to ensure schools are aware of the process they must follow for pupils who qualify through this criteria. CCC are also exploring further the opportunity to put an auto-award in place for housing benefit / council tax support customers.

5 Financial Support for FSMs during holiday periods

- 5.1 Funding to support pupils on FSMs during the holidays has mainly been in place since Easter 2020. This was originally through the DfE Scheme, and then the DWP Covid winter grant and DWP Covid local support grant schemes. More recently these have been funded from the DWP Household Support grant. All of the DWP grants funds a wider offer of support.

- 5.2 This has largely been in the form of vouchers of £15 per child per week during holiday periods, although may have been scaled at times based on the level of the grant.
- 5.3 This grant has also been used to make a food/support offer to non-statutory school age children in the early years sector.
- 5.4 The total funding received to date for these schemes is £12.9M of which £6.2M was used for FSM schemes.

6 Holiday Activities and Food Programme

- 6.1 The Government's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme has continued (started in Easter 2021). Coventry takes a partnership approach to use HAF funding to address holiday inequalities and holiday hunger in the context of the cost of living crisis. The initiative is funded by the Department of Education through to March 2025 for Christmas, Easter and Summer school holidays. Coventry receives approximately £1.5m annual funding. If all eligible children took up their full entitlement this would only cover about 25% of finances required.
- 6.2 HAF activities/clubs include positive activities, a nutritional meal/food (normally hot), nutritional education for pupils and families and signposting/information for families to wider services and support. Where face-to-face nutritional education or signposting is not possible, information is provided through leaflets and/or on-line information.
- 6.3 In the 2022 school summer holiday, Coventry directly grant-funded 54 organisations (and over 50 other organisations were involved in delivery) to provide 142 different club/activities, ensuring provision across the City proportionally reflected the spread of eligible children in different parts of the City. The clubs/activities benefitted approximately 4,000 eligible children and young people. The reach of the programme has increased from 2,000 eligible children and young people in Summer 2021. Approximately 17,000 meals were provided and 93% of participants who provided feedback would recommend HAF activities to others. (For attendance figures, other family members benefiting are in addition to these numbers). Of those who attended HAF activities, approximately 30% of children had an Education Health and Care Plan or received SEN support at school. The numbers attending represented approximately 27% of our eligible cohort.
- 6.4 As of 24th November 2022 (only 3 days since bookings opening), approximately 1,700 children have booked to attend Festive Fun 2022 (Christmas Holiday HAF) starting on 16th December 2022. This offer includes over 70 different activities/clubs delivered by 33 directly funded organisations. For further information visit <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/haf> (or google "Coventry HAF" and contact Adrian.Coles@coventry.gov.uk

7 Pre-loved Uniform

- 7.1 School uniform can be a significant area of cost for parents. Coventry has a school uniform bank in Canley, and also a number of schools operate schemes to distribute pre-loved uniform to children and young people. Conversations with Clothing Coventry earlier in the year have led to them delivering a pilot to roll out a city-wide school uniform offer funded by a number of partners and CCC in the short-term.

7.2 Early feedback shows that there has been wide usage of this and since July 439 pupils have received pre-loved uniform covering 47 schools. For a number of schools this will be direct referrals, but the project is also starting to work with and alongside schools. Some examples include:

- Weekly Swap shop
- Working with school pastoral teams to fulfil referrals
- Number of schools hosting rails
- Pop-up events
- Set up of uniform collection points
- Post 16 pupils volunteering at the warehouse

8 Coventry Building Society (CBS)

8.1 Coventry Building Society already work with schools across the city in a variety of ways. More recently, as part of a fund of £1M to help the residents of Coventry living in hardship, CBS have pledged £250K to be paid to schools for them to use to support children and young people in financial hardship. This will be distributed to schools on the basis of FSM and pupil numbers and there will be light touch reporting in place to enable schools to share with CBS the number of pupils supported and the types of support.

8.2 CBS have also pledged £100K to support the HAF programme in recognition that there is not enough resource to support all children and young people in receipt of FSMs through this programme.

9 Schools Offer

9.1 Schools have a unique opportunity to provide early support to families and signpost where appropriate. There is not a one-size fits all offer and it will vary from school to school dependent on funding, capacity and need. Below are some examples of what some schools in Coventry have in place:

- Breakfast and break time food clubs
- Uniform support (new and pre-loved)
- Bursary support for school equipment
- Free lunchtime and after school activities
- Utilising fund raising to support
- Empathetic approach to fund raising and charity days
- Ensuring no differentiation between FSM and non FSM pupils when purchasing food
- Appointment of poverty co-ordinator (support and awareness raising)
- Free / low cost leaver options
- Alternatives to dressing up on World Book day
- Reviewing uniform policy
- Food bank for the wider community (including staff and parents)
- Work with partners to support families (including housing)
- Subsidised / free trips
- Low cost before and after school club – free places

10 Integrated Services Community Prototypes and Locality Approaches

- 10.1 Working in a One Coventry way, integrated services community prototypes and other locality approaches are helping to ensure that we are well placed to make the best use of our collective capacity and resource across the city. Working with and in the heart of the community, cross-sector partners are working together to understand and collectively address priorities and to develop preventative and integrated approaches to improving resident outcomes.
- 10.2 The first community prototype has focused on the Bell Green, Wood End, Henley Green and Manor Farm area, with a second prototype underway in the Canley and Tile Hill locality. Other place-based partnership approaches have also started in St Michael's and in Spon End, both in collaboration with Citizen Housing.
- 10.3 Schools have been part of this work focusing on children and young people and their families. There is partnering with school leaders to better support them to help families and young people in need, developing the role of schools in supporting the wider community, and piloting a place-based approach to increasing attendance and improving support for vulnerable pupils. Some examples of work that is underway (impacting directly on schools) are:
- Supporting specialist advice services and mental health outreach into community and school settings
 - Support to access affordable food and essentials (including HAF)
 - Supporting access to early help and family hub services within the community
 - Working with schools to raise aspirations through assemblies and work experience
 - Violence reduction programmes

11 Coventry Food Network

- 11.1 Coventry Food Network CIC(CFN) is a network of 15 community supermarkets which were set-up at speed during the COVID-19 pandemic and is now an established provider of support to those residents most in need across the city.
- 11.2 CFN is currently working with Groundwork West Midlands on a Health Meals Healthy Choices project, which will be delivered in a few schools and Food Hubs across the city, aimed at parents who do not have the skills and knowledge to provide healthy, low-cost meals for their families. The aim is also to offer Community Food Champion training for interested volunteers, to give them the skills, knowledge and confidence to be able to deliver their own cooking clubs.

Rachael Sugars
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Briefing note

To: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)

Date: 8th December 2022

Subject: Support to Care Leavers and the House Project

1 Purpose of the note

- 1.1 This paper sets out the main changes in support offered to care leavers as a result of *The Children and Social Work Act 2017*. The paper focuses on one area of the Coventry Local Offer to care leavers which is the housing support for children in care and care leavers through the Coventry House Project.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) is recommended to:
- 1) Consider the content of the briefing note
 - 2) Identify any recommendations for the appropriate Cabinet Member

3 Changes brought about by The Children and Social Work Act 2017

- 3.1 *The Children and Social Work Act 2017* introduced a requirement for Councils to publish a Local Offer for care leavers. The Local Offer is a document that outlines the services and support that will be available to care leavers in the local area where they live when they leave care. It includes information about legal entitlements (rights) as well as any extra support that the Council might choose to give.
- 3.2 Section one of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 lists the corporate parenting responsibilities that local authorities must follow in supporting looked after children and care leavers. These are:
- To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of those children and young people
 - To encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings
 - To take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people
 - To help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners
 - To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people
 - For those children and young people to be safe, and to experience stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work
 - To prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.
- 3.3 These principles underpin Sections two and three of the Act. Section two of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 requires local authorities to consult on and publish a Local Offer

for their care leavers. The Coventry Local Offer was agreed by members in November 2018 https://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/file/29100/through_care_local_offer.pdf.

- 3.4 Section three of the Children & Social Work Act 2017 also introduced a new duty on local authorities, which requires it to offer Personal Adviser support to all care leavers up to the age of 25.
- 3.5 Both the local offer and extension of Personal Adviser support are now embedded in Children's Services. This is helping to ensure that care leavers get support required which was endorsed during recent Ofsted inspection.

4 Background and Information to the House Project

- 4.1 At a national level, the National House Project which started in 2018 has been working with 15 Local Authorities and this number is increasing. The project prides itself on a ground-breaking approach of support and its commitment to young people's ownership to enable young people leaving care to achieve successful independence.
- 4.2 The House Project programme enables children in care and care leavers to move into independence in a planned and supported way. The young people on the project work alongside adults in their life to refurbish their homes and they can take over the tenancy when aged 18. The aim of the project is to support young people with the feelings of loneliness and exclusion and create a peer network of support that is lifelong.
- 4.3 The House Project uses a trauma informed approach of support and follows a co designed 'ORCHIDS' framework/portfolio. The programme supports young people to work through the following domains: taking ownership of their home and local house project, safety and looking after others, building a community, managing their own home, emotional and financial support, sense of wellbeing, positive directions in life. The portfolio is then AQA accredited, and the young people receive a qualification upon completion.
- 4.4 The House Project in Coventry was launched on 16.07.2021 following a successful pitch by Coventry care leavers to the National House Project. The Coventry House Project was launched with key partners including, Independent Reviewing Officers, Social Work teams, Placements team, Health, Education providers, the Virtual School, and the Police. A steering group oversees the project, and this is well attended by members of the above organisations including Citizen housing association and Valpak who are partnered with the project.
- 4.5 The partnership with Citizen Housing Association is critical to the Coventry House Project. Citizen have so far pledged to provide properties to the young people on the project and they are also a steering group partner. Citizen and Coventry Childrens Services have a signed equitable tenancy agreement which is then transitioned into a starter tenancy when the young person turns 18 years of age. There is a process in place whereby the young person chooses 3 areas where they would like to reside and the House Project team work closely with Citizen to match the young person to a property of choice. There is also consideration during this matching process of the area and any safety concerns in relation to communities or buildings where young people will be residing.
- 4.6 There is also a close partnership with the organisation, Valpak. Valpak is a recycling and waste management company. The company became linked to Coventry via the National House Project. The Valpak organisation has made the decision to work in partnership with Coventry House Project. They have allocated a budget of £10,000 over the course of 2022 and have pledged to support with wellbeing seminars, careers days, recycling talks and support around waste as well as donating to activities the groups of young people are involved with.
- 4.7 The first cohort of the Coventry House Project consisted of 11 young people who were residing in either external residential homes, internal residential homes or fostering homes.

All these young people are now in their own one bedroomed home provided by Citizen Housing Association.

- 4.8 The Coventry House Project are now working with a second group of young people which consists of 11 young people, and they are working on the completion of their portfolio. To date, 3 young people from cohort 2 have been provided with properties. The remainder of the cohort plan to move between January 2023 and March 2023.
- 4.9 The third group of the Coventry House Project is currently being identified to begin in March 2023.
- 4.10 The Coventry House Project has helped create an intensive, supportive, and creative offer for children in care and care leavers of Coventry. The feedback from partners and the children and young people involved with the project has been positive. There is a great energy and creativity from the young people and practitioners and a real sense of community. The young people have created a peer network and have helped one another to refurbish their homes. There was recognition in the Ofsted Inspection for the sense of community and support/participation that the House Project has within Coventry.

5 Financial Impact

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
HP cost	152,000	298,730	298,730
Cohort 1 costs avoided (actual)	-	(195,002)	(38,080)
Cohort 2 costs avoided (expected)	-	(95,634)	(364,699)
Additional cost/(saving)	152,000	8,094	(104,048)

- 5.1 The financial model assesses the annual impact of the Coventry House Project.
- 5.2 In year one of the project, it was predicted that there would be no cost avoidance. The net position at the end of year one was £152k additional costs.
- 5.3 In year two the anticipated cost avoidance is £195k in relation to cohort 1 of the House Project and £96k in relation to cohort 2. This would result in £291k in total with a net position of £8k additional costs.
- 5.4 In year three with cohort 1 costs avoided, these total to £38k and a full year effect of cohort 2 is £364k. The net position is £104k saving.

6 Staying Close

- 6.1 Coventry Childrens Services have been successful in securing a grant of £1,009,647 from the Department for Education over 3 years. Year one total - £323,127, year two £336,403 and year three total £350,117.
- 6.2 The Department for Education aims for the funding were to improve access to education, training, and employment (EET), increase suitable and sustainable accommodation, decrease risk of homelessness, increase consistency of workers, decreased levels of offending and risk, improve emotional and mental wellbeing by building lifelong support networks.
- 6.3 The funding will be used to implement a Staying Close offer in Coventry to children in care and care leavers. The funding has allowed for the recruitment of a Team Manager/Project

Leader, Senior Residential Childrens Workers and an additional House Project Facilitator. The aims of the project are to meet the outcomes as set out by the DFE and to provide a Staying Close and House Project offer to all children in residential care residing in Coventry.

- 6.4 The Staying Close offer has created additional capacity of a Senior Residential Childrens Worker in each of the 4 residential children's homes in Coventry. The additional staff members will enable carers to engage in the House Project, Lifelong Links, and the Training Flat, but also ongoing support young people post 18.

7 Other considerations

- 7.1 The Coventry House Project model makes a difference to children's lives, and this is largely due to the partnership with Citizen housing association. If there was to be a change in their partnership or they withdrew from providing properties, then this would have a significant impact upon the success of the project. To mitigate this there have been discussions with the Strategic Lead for Housing and a plan to reapproach all housing providers in Coventry given the success from cohort 1 and 2 of the Coventry Project.

Natasha Stirling

Operational Lead Through Care

Matt Clayton

Strategic Lead – Looked After Children (Practice)

Agenda Item 7

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) Work Programme 2022-23

Last updated 22/11/22

Please see page 2 onwards for background to items

21st July 2022
Overview of Education and Children's Services Work Programme 2022-23
22nd September 2022 (cancelled) 20th October 2022
Children's Service Ofsted outcome Co-option of Other Faiths Representative to the Board
8th December 2022
The House Project Cost of the School Day Project – include FSM
9th February 2023 (moved from 2nd)
School Readiness Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual Report
16th March 2023
Report and Recommendations - Task and Finish Group – Autism in Schools Children's Services Development Plan (Ofsted actions)
20th April 2023
Library provision Summer Reading Scheme
Items for 2022-23
Family Valued Programme Family Health and Lifestyles Service – health inequalities (March 2023)
Items for 2023-24
Social Worker recruitment and retention Post-16 provision in the city Youth Provision in Coventry SEND, employment and post-16 opportunities School Performance Information – validated data and school places
Items taken for information
Adoption and Fostering Service Annual Reports Holiday Activity Fund

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) Work Programme 2022-23

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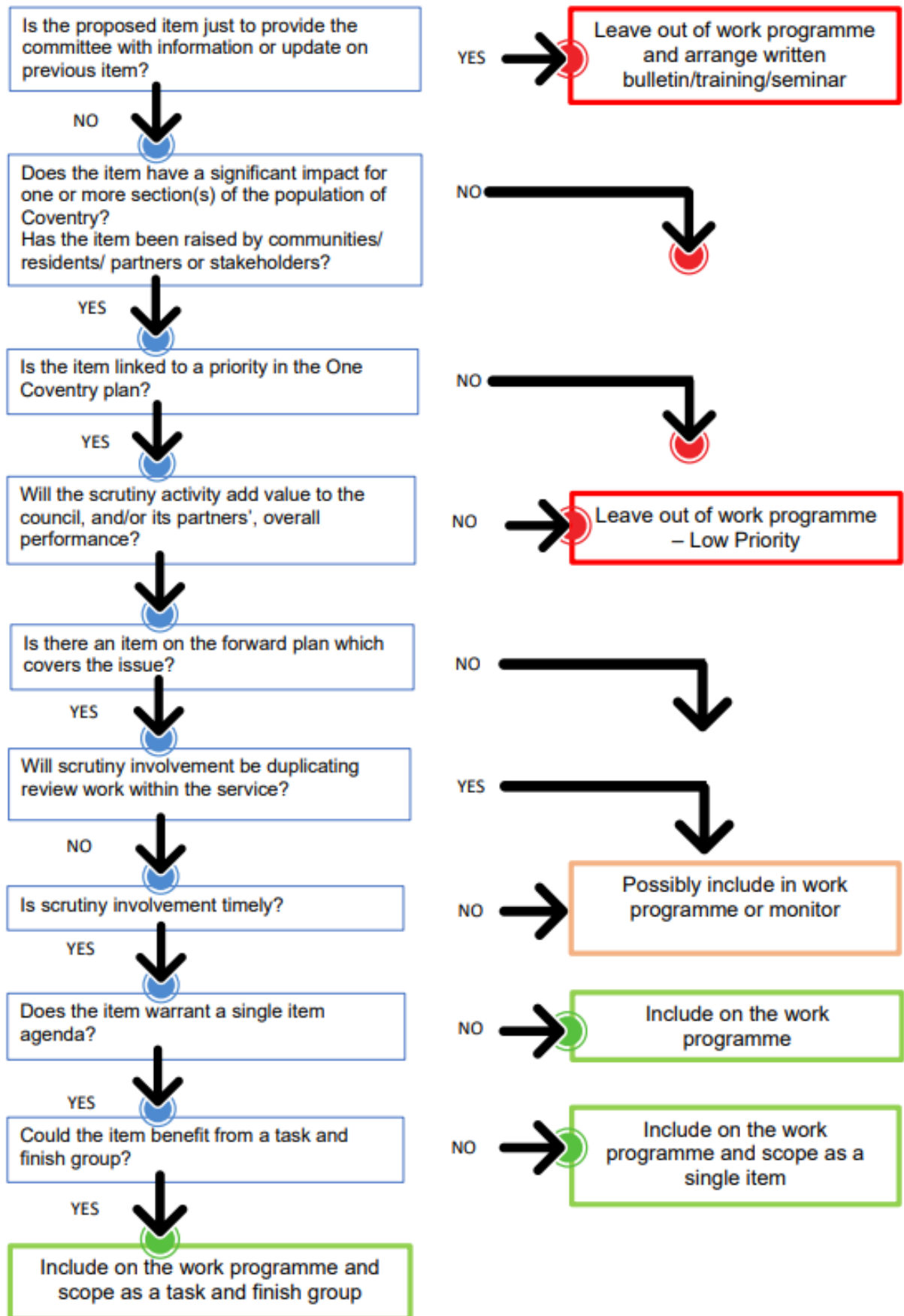
Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
21st July 2022	Overview of Education and Children's Services	An opportunity to consider and identify items for the work programme for the year	John Gregg/Kirston Nelson Cllr Sandhu and Seaman
	Work Programme 2022-23		
22nd September 2022 (cancelled)			
20th October 2022	Children's Service Ofsted outcome	To consider the outcome of the recent Ofsted inspection, the self-assessment framework and associated action plan	Cllr Seaman John Gregg
	Co-option of Other Faiths Representative to the Board	To appoint a representative of "other faiths" as laid out in section 2D paragraph 6.1(e) of the constitution	Gennie Holmes
8th December 2022	The House Project	To look in more detail at the House Project to look at how it is improving outcomes for looked after young people – wider discussion on support for care leavers.	Cllr Seaman John Gregg
	Cost of the School Day Project – include FSM	Research done by the Child Poverty Action group which Coventry has participated in. Recommendations in the report are aimed at central government but the Board could consider to what extent this is an issue in the city and whether there are any steps that could be taken locally to address the issues	Cllr Sandhu Kirston Nelson Rachael Sugars
9th February 2023 (moved from 2nd)	School Readiness	A follow up item to the item from December 2021 – to include the potential increase in Reception numbers in September 2022 who aren't "school ready"	Rachael Sugars Cllr Sandhu
	Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual Report	To consider the Children's Safeguarding Board annual report, including progress on recommendations following serious case reviews and safeguarding practice reviews	

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Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
16th March 2023	Report and Recommendations - Task and Finish Group – Autism in Schools	Following a T&F group led by SB5, it was agreed that SB2 would undertake a T&F on the in-depth challenges facing schools in providing support to children, young people and their families who are on the autism assessment pathway.	Jeannette Essex Cllr Sandhu
	Children's Services Development Plan (Ofsted actions)	To monitor progress on the actions to address the 4 areas of improvement highlighted in the Ofsted Report – Private fostering, LAC CAMHS, Care leavers at risk of homelessness and supervision of social workers.	John Gregg Cllr Seaman
20th April 2023	Library provision	With particular reference to those now being delivered with/by volunteers e.g. Earlsdon	Peter Barnett Cllr Sandhu
	Summer Reading Scheme	To consider the impact of the summer reading scheme, particularly in areas of disadvantage	Peter Barnett Cllr Sandhu
Items for 2022-23	Family Valued Programme	To consider progress and impact on families of the programme	John Gregg Cllr Seaman
	Family Health and Lifestyles Service – health inequalities (March 2023)	To looking in more detail at how the service is tackling health inequalities and targeting services at those in need on a localised basis.	Harbir Nagra Cllr Caan
Items for 2023-24	Social Worker recruitment and retention	To consider potential financial incentives as a T&F with SB1	John Gregg Cllr Seaman
	Post-16 provision in the city	An item referred from Scrucro to consider the range and quality of FE provision across the city but to also include work based learning in schools.	Kirston Nelson Cllr Sandhu
	Youth Provision in Coventry	How and where we work with outside partners (and specifically the third sector) to deliver it	John Gregg Cllr Seaman
	SEND, employment and post-16 opportunities	To consider how children with SEND are supported to access employment and training opportunities post 16, including information about the supported internship programme	Kirston Nelson Cllr Sandhu
	School Performance Information – validated data and school places	A report on school performance data using validated data, including LAC and vulnerable groups, as well as gender analysis. To include support to schools which are RI or	Kirston Nelson/Rachael Sugars Cllr Sandhu

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
		Inadequate. School places where are over-subscribed and vacant, including new developments. One Strategic Plan for school places.	
Items taken for information	Adoption and Fostering Service Annual Reports	Annual report – including information about the diversity of the adoption panel and adopters as well as support to birth mothers after their children have been adopted	Cllr Seaman
	Holiday Activity Fund	A delivery progress report	Adrian Coles Cllr Sandhu

Work Programme Decision Flow Chart



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