

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)
held at 3.30 pm on Thursday, 16 June 2016

Present:

Members: Councillor M Mutton (Chair)
 Councillor N Akhtar
 Councillor S Bains
 Councillor D Gannon
 Councillor D Kershaw
 Councillor R Lancaster
 Councillor M Lapsa
 Councillor P Male
 Councillor C Miks

Co-Opted Members: Mrs S Hanson, Mrs K Jones and Mr R Potter

Cabinet Members and Councillor Maton
Deputy Cabinet Members: Councillor Seaman

Employees (by Directorate):

J Gregg, People Directorate
G Holmes, Resources Directorate
M Rose, Resources Directorate

Apologies: Councillor E Ruane

Public Business

1. Declarations of Interests

There were no Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th April, 2016 were approved.

Further to minute 72/15 'Children's Social Care Performance Report' members had received information about Barnados return home interviews and children who had had 3 or more placements but were awaiting other information they had requested.

3. Improvement Board Progress Review from 11th May, 2016

Further to Minute 74/15 the Scrutiny Board noted a joint briefing note which detailed progress on the Children's Services Improvement Plan, reported to the Children's Services Improvement Board on 11th May, 2016 based on data from March, 2016.

The progress report included an update on the six themes aligned to the Department for Education (DfE) Improvement Notice including an update on the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

The Scrutiny Board questioned officers on the following:

- Government Initiative to increase the number of student placements in social work
- Whether the current successes in recruitment were in the areas where we most needed them
- Support to retain staff and creative thinking
- Task and finish group support
- Inspiring middle leaders
- Celebrating what we are good at and championing children's services
- Comparisons with other local authorities
- National and regional concerns about lack of social workers
- Alternative models of delivery
- Ofsted
- Social workers working with schools

4. **Establish a Task and Finish Group to Consider the Recruitment and Retention of Social Work Staff**

Further to Minute 74/15 the Scrutiny Board considered a report of the Scrutiny Co-ordinator which sought to establish a task and finish group of the Education and Children's Scrutiny Board to consider recruitment and retention of social work staff.

Members discussed with officers whether there could be useful recommendations resulting from focussing on these issues. Officers were supportive of a member investigation into improvements that could be made to stabilise the workforce.

RESOLVED that the task and finish group be established and membership be sought from Scrutiny Members

5. **Draft Work Programme**

The Scrutiny Board considered the draft work programme and requested that the following areas of interest be considered during the year:

- Educational performance including vulnerable groups and especially those home schooled and excluded
- Connecting Communities
- Special Educational Needs and short breaks
- Prevent
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
- Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
- Young People and Anti-Social Behaviour/Police school panels

RESOLVED that the work programme be updated

6. **Any Other Business**

There were no other items of business.

(Meeting closed at 4.35 pm)