

Children & Young People Select Committee

A meeting of Children & Young People Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 29th June, 2011.

Present: Cllr Miss Barbara Inman (Chairman), Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Mick Eddy, Cllr Ben Houchen, Cllr Elliot Kennedy, Cllr Ray McCall, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Tracey Stott.

Officers: Tony Beckwith, Jane Humphreys (CESC); Beccy Brown(C) ; Michelle Jones, Fiona McKie, Judith Trainer (LD).

Also in attendance: Mr D Campbell (Non Voting Co-opted Representative).

Apologies: were submitted on behalf of Cllr Ken Lupton, Mr George Davies, Mr Richard Cash.

1 Evacuation Procedure

The Evacuation procedure be noted.

2 Declarations of Interest

None

3 Draft Minutes - 9th June 2011

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2011 were agreed as a correct record.

4 Task & Finish Review of the Impact of the Introduction of the Early Intervention Grant - Early Years

The Task and Finish review of the impact of the introduction of the Early Intervention Grant (EIG) was being undertaken in response to the challenge of the 25% cut in annual funding associated with the introduction of the grant. The aim of the review was to re-design and implement changes to Early Years, Early Intervention and Youth Support Services which fully incorporate the learning and evidence of success of an early intervention approach and make the most of the freedoms and flexibilities of the new funding arrangements whilst also addressing the reduction in funding.

The report was concerned with the "Early Years" strand of the review and provided a draft consultation document and plan for Cabinet to consider on 14th July 2011 prior to the start of a public consultation about the future of Early Years Services in the Borough. This report followed the report to Cabinet of 16th June 2011 which set out the principles and approach to the provision of Early Years Services. At that meeting Cabinet approved "The principle of greater targeting of Early Years Services in the Borough to allow for services to be focussed in areas of greatest need and approved the development of a public consultation document on this basis." This approach has also been supported by the Select Committee prior to Cabinet consideration.

The consultation was seeking views on the future of early years services and on plans to re-focus delivery towards those in most need. The Council was also seeking to develop closer working relationships with the third sector.

Discussion was held on the various options and the consultation process. The Committee made the following comments:

- The Committee supported the partnership approach and closer working with the Voluntary and Community Sector as a means of communicating with Hard to Reach Groups and more efficient use of assets.

- Discussion took place on whether consideration should be given to fully outsourcing the service. However, officers recommended a more prudent approach at this stage given the importance of service.

- Other potential delivery models were also discussed and it was stressed that other models were

not being ruled out at this stage and could be put forward as part of the consultation.

- The Committee were satisfied that adequate steps were being taken to target Hard to Reach Groups and non users through the consultation.

- The Committee were keen to identify which area within the Borough the questionnaires were being completed and suggested that the easiest way to achieve this would be to print the questionnaires on different colour paper when issued.

AGREED that the report be noted and consultation proposals be supported.

5 Quarterly Progress Updates on Previously Agreed Recommendations

Consideration was given to progress of the implementation of previously agreed recommendations. There were outstanding recommendations from the reviews of Child Placements, Universal Youth Services, Integrated Youth Support Service, Bullying and Obesity.

Child Placements

- Members requested further detail on the development of a kinship care policy which had recently been considered by Cabinet in June 2011.

- Further detail was requested on the delay in increasing sub regional provision for 'hard to place' children/young people with complex needs due to competing work pressures.

Obesity

Discussion was held on Recommendation 14 regarding the control fast food outlets within the Local Plan which was assessed as not achieved due to changes in planning policy. It was requested that Rosemary Young inform Members if any further changes in policy were made which would affect this issue.

AGREED that the assessments of progress contained in the report be accepted.

6 Chairs Update

No update.

7 Work Programme

The meeting due to be held on 20th July would be cancelled. The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Wednesday 7th September. This meeting would receive an overview of services reporting to the Committee and provide an opportunity for the Committee to question the Cabinet Member and officers. The Committee would also be receiving a scope for the scrutiny EIT review of school improvement in the Autumn.

AGREED that the Work Programme be noted.