

Children & Young People Select Committee

A meeting of Children & Young People Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 10th October, 2012.

Present: Cllr Barbara Inman (Chair); Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Ben Houchen, Cllr Elliot Kennedy, Cllr Ken Lupton, Cllr Ray McCall and Cllr Tracey Stott.

Officers: Lynda Brown, Jane Wright, Cheryl Azam (CESC); Judy Trainer, Michelle Jones, Peter Bell (LD).

Also in attendance: Mrs Ione Branton, Phil Rigby, Mr R G Lupton (Non Voting Co-opted Representatives).

Apologies: Cllr Ross Patterson and Mr D Campbell.

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

2 Minutes for Signature - 25th July 2012

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th July 2012 were signed by the Chair as a correct record.

3 Draft Minutes - 5th September 2012

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 5th September 2012.

AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 5th September 2012 be approved.

4 Scrutiny Review of Quality & Sufficiency of Childcare

Members were provided with the statutory guidance on the delivery of free childcare to three and four year olds that had been issued by the Department for Education and a briefing note on the free early education for two year olds.

An estimated 1400 extra places for two year olds would be needed by 2014 and it was outlined that a Project Team had been established to manage the process of how the Council were preparing to deliver the offer. The Project Team would be led by the Planning & Partnership Manager, including representatives from SBC departments including finance and School Improvement, Children's Centres, local schools, PVI childcare settings and childminders. Other departments would be co-opted on to the group as necessary.

The Project Team was establishing and implementing an action plan to ensure all targets were achieved.

Officers reported that information had been received to support the Childcare Sufficiency agenda, School Admissions and School Place planning and this data would be used to support the targeting of eligible 2 year olds. Information was also received on Free School Meals which would give an indication of likely hot spots in the Borough which needed to be targeted.

The presentation also covered the following key areas:-

- * The costs / outcomes associated with Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and subsequent annual report assessments that had been required in previous years
- * Funding arrangements for the next 3 years, and the different funding structures between the three/four year old and two year old entitlement
- * The new targets for places for the Borough
- * Future policy intentions
- * Eligibility criteria for free early education for two year olds
- * The following steps that would be taken by the Project Team to implement the statutory guidance:-
 1. The Project Team to meet with private providers within children centres to discuss what could be offered by their facilities to meet the needs of 2 year olds
 2. The Project Team to meet with the rest of the providers to find out what the number of 2 year old places were being provided
 3. The project team to look at childminding places available for 2 year olds

A copy of the predicted number of childcare places needed for children aged 0-4s in each area was distributed for Members information.

Members' were then given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments on the presentation.

Members were presented with the notes from the recent site visits to childcare providers.

AGREED that the presentation and comments be noted.

5 Work Programme

The next meeting of the Committee was 21st November 2012, and a round table discussion with private and school settings and childminders was planned for this meeting.

6 Chair's Update

There was no further information to report.