

**CHILDREN AND HEALTH  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
Wednesday 19th November 2012**

**PRESENT** – Councillors O’Keeffe (Chair), Riley, Entwistle, Patel, D. Smith, Groves, Walsh, S Hussain, Pearson, D. Foster.

***Also Present –***

Cllr M Bateson	Executive Member for Children’s Services
Cllr M Khan	Executive Member for Adult’s Services
Cllr D Talbot	Executive Member for Leisure and Culture
Cllr T Humphrys	Executive Member for Education
Linda Clegg	Director of Children’s Services
Steve Tingle	Director of Adult Commissioning and Personalisation
Claire Ramwell	Head of Service Health and Wellbeing
Mike Zammit	Link Chief Officer
Ben Aspinall	Scrutiny Manager
Michelle Arthur	Democratic Services Officer

**RESOLUTIONS**

**26. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were received from Councillors Julie Slater, Brookfield, Gee, Taylor, Evans, John Slater, P Harrison (Co-optee) and Janie Berry (Senior Support Officer.)

**27. Minutes of Meeting held on 17th October 2012**

**RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th October 2012 were agreed as a correct record.

**28. Declarations of Interest in items on this Agenda**

No Declarations of Interest were received.

## **29. Executive Member response to recommendations from the Committees Work Programme 2011/2012**

**29.1** The Executive Member for Children's Services provided the Committee with an update on the progress of the recommendations made by Children and Health Committee Work Programme 2011/2012.

The key areas discussed were:

- Budget pressures and impact of cuts on the service
- Portfolio and structural changes
- Key legislative changes

Members were also provided with an update on:

- Youth Offending Team Service and increase in YOT numbers
- Increase in NEET and changes to the Connexions Service
- Case Management
- Early Help Strategy

The Executive Member stated that the figures in the presentation regarding budget pressures were incorrect and that she would provide a full breakdown at a future meeting of the Children and Health Committee.

In response to queries raised from Members, the Executive Member informed the Committee that the service has reduced the numbers of Looked After Children in the system, however, budget cuts had impacted upon the Early Intervention Service and the increased number of staff hours that were currently being undertaken.

Members were also informed that four staff from Children's Services are leaving the authority which included the Director of Children's Services, Strategic Head of Service, Social Care and Early Years, Head of Service, Policy Planning and Performance and Head of Legal Services (Court Services).

The Director of Children's Services stated that the staff leaving the authority were four key members of the senior management team in Children's Services and that this would pose significant risks to the level of strategic capacity of the service and the good management of high risk cases. Members were also informed that work was still ongoing in relation to bring together the joint services of Adult's and Children's as was the Commissioning of Services and how partners work together.

In response to additional queries from Members, the Executive Member stated that a number of responses had been received as a result of Adoption Week but the Adoption Service figures were still falling below the required Government's Scorecard Performance. Members were also informed that due to budget cuts there was less preventative work being undertaken in schools by the authority as this required additional funding. The Committee were informed that this work

was now being undertaken by other organisations, however, in contrast the services now being provided by the department were smarter; by removing children from the system quicker, which helped to reduce the budget. The Executive Member for Children's Services informed the Committee that all schools have signed up to Connexions and the list of services they offer. Cllr Humphrys confirmed that he was working alongside Cllr Bateson in this area of work and that this was ongoing.

**29.2** The Executive Member for Adult's Services tabled a report which provided the Committee with an update on the progress on the recommendations made by the Children and Health Committee Work Programme 2011/2012.

Members were provided with a brief update on:

- The development of the Centre for Independent Living
- The establishment of task and finish groups
- The position with regard to accommodation
- The inability to recruit a Chair to the Board

Members expressed their disappointment at not receiving the report on Adult's Services in advance of the meeting, which would have enabled Members to read the information thoroughly and debate appropriately.

Following a brief discussion the Chair requested the Executive Member for Adult's Services to attend the meeting of the Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012, in order for the Committee to discuss the report in depth, and advised the report would be formally published as part of the agenda.

**29.3** The Executive Member for Leisure and Culture Services provided the Committee with an update on the progress of the recommendations made by the Children and Health Committee Work Programme 2011/2012.

The key areas discussed were:

- The impact of the budget cuts on the service
- Local Performance Information
- Increased Levels of Activity and increasing activity in target groups
- The development of the strong Healthy Community Partnership
- The importance of Sports Club and Volunteer Development and linkages
- Pioneering re:refresh, re-branding, website, engagement and access issues
- Health budgets and contingency plans
- Community Consultations
- Community usage of Building Schools for the Future and Academies

The Executive Member stated that they are continuing to encourage young people who live and work in the Borough to participate in a wide range of leisure and sporting activities, as well as trying to access additional funding to encourage the next generation of potential Olympians.

In response to queries, the Head of Service for Health and Wellbeing informed Members that a study had been undertaken by Active Birmingham which showed that the return on £1 investment spent on sport and leisure, saves £8 that would otherwise have been spent on health related services.

The Link Chief Officer also informed Members that the issues regarding the trial of integrated computing in the Building Schools for the Future are ongoing with the Local Education Partnership and required the contractual issues being resolved. The Vice Chair requested that management re-establish relationships and provide support to help resolve any ongoing issues as soon as possible.

The Chair informed Members that information from Leisure and Culture Services are now being dealt with by Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## **RESOLVED**

- 1) The Chair thanked the Executive Members and Officers for Children's Services, Adults Services, Leisure and Culture and Education for their presentations.
- 2) That the Executive Member for Adult's Services attend the next meeting of the Children and Health Overview and Scrutiny meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012 to answer Member's queries on the information presented at the meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2012.
- 3) That any future information relating to Leisure and Culture will be now be transferred to the Regeneration and Neighbourhood's Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Although it was agreed that, from a health perspective, the Children and Health Committee had an ongoing interest in the development of improved leisure activities.
- 4) That the Link Chief Officer provides the Vice Chair with an update on the issues relating to the trial on integrated computing in the Building Schools for the Future Programme.

**30 The Committees Work Programme for the remainder of the year 2012/2013**

The Chair reminded the Committee of the Work Programme topics selected at the beginning of the Municipal year and stated that both the Adult's and Children's Task Groups are shortly to commence work on the second topic of the year.

The Chair proposed that if Members were happy to continue to work in the same Task Groups, then the second set of reviews would be undertaken with the same group memberships.

The Scrutiny Manager informed Members that whilst undertaking the first review topic on Adult's Safeguarding the Committee received information that showed that the Care Quality Commission considered the commissioning arrangements for Blackburn with Darwen to be a leader in its field and was the highest when it was benchmarked against other neighbouring authorities. Therefore, Members may wish to consider the benefit that would be received by the Adult's Task Group in scrutinising this topic.

The Scrutiny Manager also asked the Chair to consider, that in light of information received at today's meeting, whether the Committee should revise the second Children's review topic, stating information from the Executive Member for Children's Services presented an opportunity for the second review topic; specifically to consider reviewing the plans that Children's Services had in place to maintain continuity of the service in light of staff departures.

Following a brief discussion by the Committee, the Chair agreed that an appropriate way forward would be to hold a separate briefing with the Chair, Vice Chair and the Scrutiny Manager, to undertake a scoping exercise on the options proposed.

The Scrutiny Manager informed Members that the conclusions of the Children's and Adult's Task Groups first reviews would be presented to the next full Committee on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012.

**RESOLVED –**

That a meeting be arranged between the Chair and Vice Chair and the Scrutiny Manager to undertake a scoping exercise to determine the second set of topics for the Adult's and Children's Task Groups to review.

Signed.....

Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were signed

Date.....