

## **Decisions of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday 30 March 2016**

**These decisions are published for information in advance of the publication of the Minutes**

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### **DECISIONS:**

#### **1. REFERRALS TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Resolved –**

**That recommendations (1 and 2) highlighted below from Council on 22 March 2016 be included on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's work programme.**

Resolved-

This Council notes the comments of the Ofsted Chief Inspector about the "serious and growing threat to the safety and well-being of hundreds of children in several English Regions"

This Council takes seriously its responsibility to protect children from harm regardless of education setting and notes that:

- (1) The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee has already been advised on 8 March 2016 that a "deep dive" review of elective home education should be undertaken which will address issues including the Council's approach to identifying children not registered at school, minimising the risk of children missing education and achieving a better understanding of why some parents or carers choose home education.**
- (2) The Council's current approach to elective home education goes beyond statutory requirements.
- (3) That the Council has no legal powers to obtain access to home educated children where there are no known welfare concerns.
- (4) Of 333 home educated children 94% have been seen by the Council. Access to the remaining 6% has been refused however the Council is actively pursuing ways to ensure that visits to these children can be made.
- (5) The Council is engaged in on-going discussions with Ofsted about its approach.



The Council resolves to:

- (1) Continue to make safeguarding of every child in the District a priority.
- (2) **Ask that the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ensure that a comprehensive and robust review of the Council's approach to elective home education is carried out over the next six months in which the safeguarding of children is central.**
- (3) Request the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Education expressing support for a review of national policy on elective home education which should include support for local authorities and partner agencies in cases where access to children is refused so that they can satisfy themselves that all children's education and welfare needs are being met.

**ACTION:** *Chief Executive/Strategic Director Children's Services/Overview and Scrutiny Lead (referral to Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee)*

**ACTION:** *Scrutiny Lead*

## 2. OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRES

Resolved-

- (1) That the positive progress of Ingleborough Hall and Buckden House following the refurbishment at the centres be welcomed.
- (2) That the progress of building works at Nell Bank be welcomed and the Committee looks forward to its completion.
- (3) That a report be taken to the Schools Forum on the Outdoor Education Centres containing overall details of the capital expenditure programme and that Officers are requested to liaise with the Schools Forum to jointly determine the scope of that document.
- (4) That the Outdoor Project Board be urged to maintain the differentiation between the Outdoor Centre offers to ensure the widest possible educational opportunities be given to the young people of the district.

**Action:** Strategic Director Children's Services

(Graham Hutton – 01274 431266)



### 3 CULTURAL EDUCATION

#### Resolved-

- (1) That the report on the cultural and creative education of Bradford's pupils as part of their broad and balanced curriculum (Document "BG") be received.
- (2) That the continued work of the Music and Arts Service, its partners and Bradford schools to ensure that every child receives a meaningful cultural and creative curriculum offer be supported.
- (3) That the Governors Service writes to all schools explaining the value of cultural education which can lead to improved outcomes for young people.
- (4) That a report be submitted to the Schools Forum which informs the Forum on the value of cultural education and a creative curriculum and its positive impact on improved outcomes for young people.

**Action: Strategic Director, Children's Services**

(Judith Kirk – 01274 439255)

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