

Minutes of a meeting of the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday 12 April 2016 at City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 1630
 Adjourned 1810
 Reconvened 1815
 Concluded 1825

PRESENT – Councillors

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	BRADFORD INDEPENDENT GROUP
M Pollard	Peart	Collector
Sykes	Shaheen	
	Tait	
	Thirkill	

Voting Co-opted Member:

Claire Parr (Church Representative) RC

Non Voting Co-opted Members:

Kerr Kennedy (Voluntary Sector Representative)
 Stephen Pickles (Teachers Primary Schools Representative)
 Tom Bright (Teachers Secondary School Representative)

Observers: Councillors Hinchcliffe and Mohammed

Apologies: Councillor Sunderland, Sidiq Ali, Joyce Simpson, Gull Hussain, Tina Wildy

Councillor Sykes in the Chair

119 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

In the interest of transparency all those who were school governors disclosed an interest.

ACTION: *Interim City Solicitor*



120 INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no appeals submitted by the public to review decisions to restrict documents.

121 SCRUTINY OF HOME SCHOOLING - DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Council at its meeting held on 22 March 2016 resolved to:

“Ask 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”.

In accordance with the above the Chair presented the proposed Terms of Reference for Scrutiny of Home Educated Children.

Resolved -

That the draft Terms of Reference for the Scrutiny of Home Schooling be agreed.

ACTION: Overview and Scrutiny Lead

122 SCHOOL CAPITAL FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT AND SCHOOL EXPANSION PROGRAMME 2016/17

The report of the Director of Children’s Services (**Document “BI”**) detailed the recent school funding announcements from the Education Funding Agency (EFA) and also detailed the school expansion projects the Authority was currently undertaking.

Members commented on a number of issues which included:

- Pleased with the efforts made by officers and the Education, Skills and Culture Portfolio in securing the Basic Need Funding.
- The 2016/17 Annual Percentage Change outlined at table 2 of the report should read 0.4%.
- Was Capital Maintenance Grant spent fully every year or was it carried over?
- Due to the issues in Scotland with PFI schools were schools in the district safe?

In response to Members’ questions it was reported that:

- There was some slippage in Capital Maintenance Grants as certain projects were carried forward but the money was not lost as these were allocated programmes.
- Schools in the district were safe and the problems in Scotland would not be replicated in the District.
- Quarterly meetings were held with the DFE where funding needs of Bradford schools was discussed which ensured that the dialogue with the DFE was open and that they fully understood the needs of the District.



Resolved -

- (1) That officers and the Education, Skills and Culture Portfolio Holder be thanked for their efforts in securing the Basic Need Funding.
- (2) That the positive debate with government to pursue capital funding needs for Bradford be encouraged.

ACTION: *Strategic Director, Children's Services*

123 DELIVERING A NEW YOUTH OFFER FOR BRADFORD DISTRICT

The report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Sport (**Document "BH"**) proposed a way forward for establishing a new Youth Offer for the Bradford District in response to the recommendations made in the Youth Offer Review report produced in November 2014.

Appendix A to the report outlined the summary of discussions in relation to what was considered to be key elements of the Bradford Youth Offer, what this looked like now and where the opportunities were to make changes. It had used the findings of the review to formulate the recommendations in light of a changing environment in which youth work operated and the pressures on public sector funding.

It was reported that the support that the Council's Youth Service gave to young people to support their learning potential included:

- Accreditation – youth workers worked with over 600 young people each year to help them achieve a number of accredited outcomes at various levels.
- Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE); a national award that gave young people an opportunity to accredit the activities they did in their leisure time.
- Targeted support – youth workers worked with young people in the school setting and provided one to one support to students who needed social or emotional support, workers commonly addressed issues such as bullying, mental health and family breakdown.
- Informal learning in schools – youth workers delivered workshops to groups of young people to support the Youth Service curriculum.
- Formalised Partnerships with education providers – youth workers deliver targeted work with schools and the District PRU.
- Communities of Interest – support given to young people in schools and youth provisions that was linked with their support in the community.
- Family Support Panels – youth workers worked with other agencies to provide information and understanding of a young person's barriers to participation.
- Voluntary relationships – Youth Service worked with young people where relationships with other statutory services had broken down, and where young people chose voluntarily to engage.



A number of Youth/Support Workers attended the meeting and spoke about the support they provided to young people in areas such as working in schools, such as family breakdown, alcohol and drugs, keeping young people in attendance, etc.

A number of young people attended the meeting and spoke about their positive experiences since being involved with the Youth Service and its partners which included:

- Being involved with the All Star Initiative gave young people confidence; young people learnt about financing and budgeting and not wasting time out on the streets.
- Learning about making music and DJ technology was valuable; events were lined up at Bradford Festival following on from this initiative; already had a number of followers on You Tube from the music produced.
- The DofE (Duke of Edinburgh) awards provided valuable experience and skills which also helped young people to develop and grow in confidence and inspire other young people.
- Young people did not feel respected enough by different organisations/services and felt that they did not know enough about them; young people were not taken seriously.
- Teachers and doctors were not taking mental health suffered by young people seriously; more support was needed by various organisations.
- Schools did not provide sufficient support for young people suffering mental health.
- The WRAP initiative helped young people gain confidence and provided support in areas such as bullying.
- There were not enough career advisors in schools; needed more time with careers advisors.
- Schools did not promote apprenticeships; some young people prefer to do an apprenticeship rather than study which should be supported by schools
- Schools did not teach you how to budget or search for jobs and other lifeskills that were vital but Youth Services did.
- Youth clubs held communities together and taught young people valuable skills.
- Work experience should be provided at every school.

A representative from Barnardo's attended the meeting and spoke about the WRAP programme (Wellness Recovery Action Planning) which involved various partnerships working with Youth Services; it promoted health and wellbeing by helping young people in their recovery with mental health difficulties; it would be valuable if all services provided this initiative.

Members commented on the following:

- The Youth Offer Document was difficult to understand.
- Commended the work being undertaken by the Youth Service; how would the Youth Service sustain itself?
- Welcomed the emphasis on strategic collaboration and working in partnership with various organisations.
- Recommendations in the Youth Offer were not clear?



- Further support needed to be provided in schools on mental health issues and lifeskills.
- What was the timescale for the Youth Offer; when would it be delivered?
- How do you inform schools on the issues young people had highlighted at the meeting?

In response to Members' questions it was reported that:

- The Youth Service continued to work with young people to influence the provision to be provided, and gave opportunity for young people to be active participants.
- Elements of the Youth Offer included "voice and influence"; across the Youth Sector there was a commitment to working together in partnership to increase join up and create opportunities for developing youth voice; the Youth Sector had run in partnership three youth voice events with a fourth event planned for the May school holiday.
- Bradford should be proud of what it achieved through the DofE and the number of people that complete their awards.
- An event was held with young people to look at Children Trust priorities and district priorities.
- Work with Barnardo's and the voluntary sector was working extremely well.
- The law had changed in terms of organisations taking on young people for work and due to that schools were finding it difficult getting organisations to commit.
- Youth Offer Working Group recognised the importance of voluntary organisations and the increase in partnership working.
- The recommendations in the Youth Offer would continue to be looked at and responded to.
- The largest part of the Youth Service was being provided by the voluntary sector; youth cuts were managed sensitively; the Council was reconfiguring its services and was doing services with less resources; more work was being undertaken with partners.
- Youth Offer was a continuing piece of work; a progress report could be provided to Members.
- Youth Services did undertake some work in schools including work with Schools Council's but further work was needed in this area.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be welcomed and the young people and volunteers be thanked for their significant contribution to the meeting.**
- (2) That a joint meeting be held with this Committee and the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider young people's mental health issues and that young people be invited to attend that meeting.**
- (3) That a progress report on the new Youth Offer be submitted to the Committee in 12 months time.**



- (4) That the Service encourages young peoples voices to continue to be heard in influencing the provision of Youth Services.

ACTION: *Strategic Director, Environment and Sport*

124 EQUALITY ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The report of the Deputy Director of Education, Employment and Skills (**Document “BJ”**) provided an annual progress update on the Council’s Equality Action Plan (published in 2013), as the Council’s means of meeting its statutory duties.

A Member highlighted that there was a lack of equality to access to careers advisors and support in applying for apprenticeships.

The Portfolio for Education, Skills and Culture reported that there was a lot of opportunities in apprenticeships now and apprenticeships were recognised as an important career path; Industrial Centres of Excellence were getting employers engaged in schools.

Resolved -

That the report be noted.

Chair’s Closing Remarks

The Chair thanked the Committee Members and officers for their continued support towards scrutinising Children’s Services.

Chair

Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a correct record at the next meeting of the Committee.

THESE MINUTES HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON RECYCLED PAPER

