

# Minutes of a meeting of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday, 14 February 2017 in Committee Room 1 - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 4.30 pm  
Concluded 8.15 pm

## Present – Councillors

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT	INDEPENDENT
M Pollard D Smith	Engel Peart Shaheen Tait	Ward	Sajawal

## VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS:

Joyce Simpson – Church Representative (CE)

## NON VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Kerr Kennedy - Voluntary Sector Representative  
Tom Bright - Teachers Secondary School Representative  
Tina Wildy - Health Representative  
Tom Bright – Teachers Secondary School Representative

Observers: Councillor Dunbar and Councillor Val Slater

Apologies: Councillor Beverley Mullaney, Claire Parr and Gull Hussain

## Councillor D Smith in the Chair



63. **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

**Resolved-**

- (1) **Councillor Sajawal disclosed an interest in Minutes 66 and 67 as he worked for Barnardo's and was an elected Member on the Better Start Bradford Programme Board.**
- (2) **Councillor Dale Smith disclosed an interest in Minute 68 as he was a Trustee of the Canterbury Imagination Library.**
- (3) **Councillor Engel disclosed an interest in Minute 66 as her child was part of Born in Bradford.**
- (4) **All those who were school governors also disclosed an interest.**

**Action: City Solicitor**

64. **MINUTES**

**Resolved-**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2016 be signed as a correct record.**

65. **BETTER START BRADFORD PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Better Start Bradford (BSB) was an opportunity for Bradford to test out and add to the evidence base of 'what works' in improving child health and development outcomes in the early years, improving maternal and child health and school readiness.

Learning from developing the BSB programme had been instrumental in supporting the development of the district's Integrated Early Years Strategy and the plans for transforming early years and early help.

The Strategic Director, Children's Services submitted **Document "AH"** supported by a presentation and short film which outlined the background to the Better Start Bradford Programme, the key principles of the approach and reported on the progress in implementation and key aspects of evaluation and learning across the district.

It was reported that the Better Start Bradford Programme was being delivered in three disadvantaged wards (Bowling and Barkerend, Bradford Moor and Little Horton) but aimed to embed what worked across the district. For example the Baby Buddy phone app was now used across the district to provide information to mums to be and encourage use of mainstream services.

Members were informed that the Better Start Bradford Programme focussed on



improving maternal and child health and school readiness, the programme's primary outcomes were to improve communication and language development, social and emotional development and nutrition in children aged 0-3 years.

Members commented on a number of issues which included:

- Expecting a baby but was not informed of the Baby Buddy phone app and the Family Links Ante-Natal Course (Welcome to the World).
- Were different Children's Centre clusters working differently to others or were midwives not interacting with different Children's Centres; were the programmes being delivered effectively?
- What was the percentage of take up of the various programmes in each ward?
- Did the programmes cater for people with disabilities?
- How did you ensure there was no duplication in services?
- How did you prioritise roll out of the different projects?
- Were the programmes ensuring contact with hard to reach groups?
- What would be different about this programme compared to other programmes that had been delivered in the past and had failed?
- How effective had community involvement been?
- Needed to ensure that when commissioning services, processes were in place so that local organisations had opportunities to apply when commissioning arose.
- Needed further information on implementation and evaluation of the various projects; how did learning happen in other areas? needed further information about take up of the projects.
- There was no mention of partners and fathers in the report; should be a whole family approach.

In response to the questions raised by Members it was reported that:

- The information on Baby Buddy and Ante-Natal classes should be included in the pack that was given to expectant mothers; ante-natal classes were delivered through Children's Centres; Health Visitors were aligned to Children's Centres.
- Midwives, Health Visitors and Children's Centres should all be working together.
- Take up of the projects was different in each ward as eligibility of the programme was different for each programme, some were universal and not happening to target such as "Welcome to the World"; others were achieving more than need but it varied project to project.
- Families with disabilities were catered for and all services were inclusive.
- Services were not duplicated; working alongside health visitors made it easier and enhanced the work undertaken.



- Some programmes started early as partners were ready to roll them out such as midwifery as CCG's had their own timeline which had to be worked with; Baby Steps was no longer being delivered by NSPCC and needed looking at in terms of who would be providing it.
- Without projects such as the Ante-Natal Classes Welcome to the Word, 90% of women had not attended any kind of ante-natal class previously.
- There had been better attendance at ante-natal classes since they were rolled out locally but the programme worked better in some districts than others and officers would be looking at why it had not worked well in some areas.
- Needed to learn what worked for Sure Start and what did not; focus would be on outcomes for children and 0-3 year olds; evaluation from the start was important; needed to look at programmes that had the best chance of succeeding; officers would evaluate lessons learnt from any programme that had not worked; issue of sustainability were a key factor, midwifery was a good example of what worked well; some projects may not work and some would have potential for sustainability; needed to ensure best use of resources were being made; it was crucial that services that were being delivered were making a difference such as perinatal mental health and the importance of that project.
- There was a strong and challenging engagement at Board level but community participation needed strengthening.
- Officers had worked with the voluntary community sector and introduced the programme to them.
- Whole family approach was used in the design process of a project even though the programme focussed on mothers and 0-3 year olds; dedicated engagement work with fathers and partners had just started.

#### **Resolved-**

- (1) That the Committee welcomes the report and the high commitment across and within the District to improving outcomes and reducing inequalities for all young children through the Better Start Programme.**
- (2) That the importance of working with fathers, grand parents and male carers be noted.**
- (3) That a report be presented to the Committee in 12 months time demonstrating outcomes of the package of programmes being delivered by Better Start Bradford.**

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



66. **ARRANGEMENTS BY THE COUNCIL AND ITS PARTNERS TO TACKLE CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

The Strategic Director, Children's Services submitted **Document "AI"** which provided an update to the report presented to this Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016. It contained information on developments in the intervening five months and responded to the specific recommendations made at that meeting.

It was reported that the update since September included the drama production, "Mr Shapeshifter" and plans for this to be presented to primary schools in Bradford.

Members were informed that another significant event was the publication of the Serious Case Review of "Autumn" on 6 December 2016. The key learning issues from the case for professionals was outlined in paragraph 2.5 of **Document "AI"**.

It was reported that the minutes of the September meeting were submitted to Professor Jay who was leading the independent enquiry into CSE.

Members were informed that CSE training had been delivered to over 3,500 new and existing licensed drivers, both private hire and hackney carriage. All drivers were required to have copies of the "know the signs" literature in their vehicles and be able to demonstrate understanding of it.

It was reported that there was now greater co-ordination between Children's and Adult's Safeguarding Boards. The Independent Chairs and business managers of each were now increasing the level of liaison between their areas of interest with vulnerability to sexual abuse and exploitation being a particular focus.

The Police Representative reported that the Historic Case Unit was currently undertaking 13 complex historic investigations. Over 50 suspects had been arrested; 25 were on police bail; several cases were currently being reviewed by the Crown Prosecution Service. All victims had been referred for multi-agency support and were being provided victim support by trained staff; 139 people were identified as potential previous CSE victims following the assessment of police data; all had been visited and referred to supportive agencies; two disclosed offences when visited and these were now active investigations.

The CSE Disruption Officer talked in depth about the Nightwatch Initiative which aimed to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation by offering advice, guidance, support and training to businesses, services and the general public. In particular Nightwatch addressed the interface between CSE locations of risk and the night time economy. Recent activity had focussed on Snooker Halls, Shisha Bars, Hotels and B&B's, parks and open spaces, private residential properties, public transport network, taxi operators and security providers.



Members commented on a number of issues which included:

- The Nightwatch Initiative was funded until March 2017, what would happen to it after that?
- Was there interaction between licensing and the police in terms of potential of risk to children of late night food licences and the naivety of the owners of the licensed premises?
- There was a lot of work being undertaken to tackle CSE; was there any work being undertaken to stop perpetrators from committing this serious crime? what was it that made them perpetrators?
- Was safeguarding of faith organisations and scouts groups etc robustly monitored?

In response to Members' questions it was reported that:

- A bid had been submitted to the Community Safety Partnership for the Nightwatch Initiative to continue to be funded.
- The police did have links with licensing officers but could explore that further.
- Agencies were being pro-active and looking at opportunities and risks of CSE and examining where patterns of CSE could be emerging.
- There was no cure as to why men became perpetrators but needed to look at control and stopping perpetrators from committing such offences; the Lucy Faithful Foundation (Child Protection Charity) worked across the UK to prevent child sexual abuse and worked with offenders; introducing more self control and law enforcement was key.
- Work was happening in terms of CSE with boys in schools.
- The focus of the various agencies was protection, prosecution and prevention.
- Street Angels had been trained and were building partnerships on streets and looking after the community.
- We all had a responsibility to ensure children were safe from harm and acknowledging the impact on children of the internet and exposure to it.
- One of the roles of the Safeguarding Board was to undertake Section 11 Audits; organisations were asked to inform the Board about their safeguarding arrangements; did not have the resources to check all the scouts groups, but organisations had access to the Safeguarding Board and had access to the Nightwatch Training Programme.

Caroline Henry a campaigner for the rights of young people affected by CSE and training awareness reported that:

- In 2006-2009 there was an extensive roll out of the CSE training programme and the signs to look out for alongside the roll out of the common assessment framework.



- There had been a number of failings in “Autumn’s” case, the authority had systems in place but did not take the case of “Autumn” seriously and failed her and her family; if authorities had acted earlier and protected “Autumn”, she could have been saved from all the abuse she had suffered; “Autumn” was not seen and her voice was not heard; CSE was not recognised or responded to appropriately.
- How could parents be confident that procedures had changed?
- It was acceptable to have a joined up approach but how many families were being failed?

In response to the above the Strategic Director, Children’s Services reported that:

- He agreed 100% with what had been said; “Autumn” had been failed; the system did not work effectively.
- Decisions made around “Autumn” were wrong and professionals did not pick up the signs; “Autumn” should have been in the child protection system.
- Could not continue to keep revisiting the past; needed to focus on the future and ensuring that the systems that were in place now were robust.
- Any information on children at risk would be investigated by relevant agencies.

The Chair stressed the importance of huge strides that had been made to improve systems relating to dealing with CSE and the importance of continuing to scrutinise the work relating to CSE.

Angela Sinfield addressed the meeting and stated that:

- CSE was systematic organised crime.
- Vince Firth (the previous superintendent of Bradford Police) agreed it was organised crime; thousands of children had been failed.
- CSE started in schools; young men start grooming children from year 9 onwards; need to understand the power of grooming.
- Needed safe houses for children to go to such as domestic violence refuges; child suffering CSE had an impact on the whole family.
- CSE was not new, it had been on going for decades; the only change was the style of the way it was now being undertaken, such as online grooming, children on sites like face book, snapchat etc.
- Regularly see suspicious incidents and report them to the police but no action was being taken.
- Aware of taxi drivers still involved in CSE and taking vulnerable children to school.
- There was nothing in the report relating to alcohol and drugs as it was a factor to grooming.
- Recommend looking at number of children that had sexually transmitted diseases; find out how many children under 16 have had multiple terminations and which hospitals they were undertaken.





She stated that it had taken 16 years for the authority to admit that it was wrong and it took 16 years to receive an apology from the police.

In response to a Member's question it was reported that dealing with historic cases was necessary; some victims did not want to pursue the crime but that did not stop the police from taking further action; only two victims had come forward but victims could come back to the police anytime; historic investigations did not cloud live cases; if suspects could be identified the police would speak to them; work on historic cases would not stop until all historic cases were dealt with.

The Chair of the Adults Safeguarding Board reported that a lot of work being undertaken by the Police and Social Services showed a number of survivors coming forward and the sophisticated approach used in dealing with them; agreed with Angela's comments about internet grooming.

The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing agreed that it was everyone's responsibility to tackle CSE; issue of vulnerability came in many forms; sometimes victims were not ready to talk about the abuse they had suffered or wanted to move on with their lives; must continue to work hard to tackle CSE; lessons were being learnt from the way "Autumn" was dealt with by professionals.

#### **Resolved-**

**That the Committee note the contents of the report and receive a full update in September 2017 which includes data on the number of children under 16 that have been diagnosed with a sexual transmitted disease and the number of children under 16 that have had multiple pregnancy terminations.**

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

## **67. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE CHILDREN'S CENTRE CLUSTERS**

Children's centres were launched with the aim of giving disadvantaged children the 'best possible start in life,' and were intended to be one of the main vehicles for ensuring there were integrated and good quality accessible family services to support young children and their families.

In summer 2013 a review of children's centres across the Bradford district was carried out followed by a statutory consultation and a proposal for a new model for future delivery in November 2014. As a result of this the Executive agreed to a new seven cluster model of delivery for children's centres managed by a variety of different providers – a 'mixed economy' model. Implementation of phase 1 i.e. the three nursery school clusters and the local authority cluster in Keighley was completed by 1st September 2015 and phase 2 the external clusters managed by the voluntary sector completed on the 1st August 2016.

The Deputy Director, Education, Employment and Skills submitted **Document "AJ"** which provided a progress update to the committee as requested at the meeting of 7 June 2016.





Members commented on a number of issues which included:

- How would you ensure all Children's Centres clusters were working to the new key performance indicators.
- Some people did not know about Children's Centres and what they offered; how were those people being informed?
- Not everyone knew where to go and services were not joined up as could be.

In response to Members' comments it was reported that:

- The key performance indicators were measured by a Good Level of Development (GLD) and tracked children to ascertain what contact they had with children's centres and GLD.
- Needed better relationship between children's centres and midwifery.
- Health visitors should be referring vulnerable women to children's centres.
- There had been an issue with alignment with midwifery and health visitors and making referrals.
- There were historical challenges with Children's Centres which officers were aware of; it was not the same in each area; it was early days as the cluster had only been in operation for a year; some services were working really well in some clusters but not in others.

Members were informed that the government had suspended inspections of children's centres and officers were waiting on the outcome on the future of children's centres and their accountability arrangements.

**Resolved-**

- (1) That the Committee recognises the importance of early years development and the role of Children's Centres in supporting the Council's drive to raise aspirations and close the inequalities gaps.**
- (2) That a progress report be presented to the Committee in 12 months time with clarification of the relationship with health and midwifery.**

**Action: Deputy Director, Education, Employment and Skills**

**68. CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17**

The report of the Chair of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee (**Document "AK"**) presented the Committee's Work Programme 2016-17.



**Resolved –**

**That the Work Programme 2016-17 continues to be regularly reviewed during the year.**

**Action: Overview and Scrutiny Lead**

Chair

**Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a correct record at the next meeting of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

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

