

**Minutes of a meeting of the Children's Services  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday,  
11 October 2017 in Committee Room 1 - City Hall,  
Bradford**

Commenced 4.35 pm  
Concluded 6.50 pm

**Present – Councillors**

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

VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS:

Claire Parr  
Joyce Simpson

Church Representative (RC)  
Church Representative (CE)

NON VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Kerr Kennedy  
Tom Bright

Voluntary Sector Representative  
Teachers Secondary School Representative

Observers: Councillor Val Slater

Apologies: Sidiq Ali, Gull Hussain and Irene Docherty

**Councillor D Smith in the Chair**

**17. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

(1) In the interest of transparency Councillor Engel disclosed an interest in Minute 20 as she had children in key Stages 1 and 2.

(2) Councillor Mullaney disclosed an interest in Minute 20 as she worked in a

2 year old setting.

**Action: City Solicitor**

**18. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

**19. REFERRALS TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

There were no referrals that had been made to the Committee.

**20. EDUCATIONAL STANDARD 2017 - EARLY YEARS TO KEY STAGE 5 - INTERIM REPORT**

The report of the Strategic Director of Children's Services (**Document "I"**) provided an interim summary of performance for children and young people attending Bradford schools at the following key stages:

- Early Years Foundation Stage – 5 year olds (Provisional results)
- Key Stage 1 – 7 year olds (Provisional results)
- Key Stage 2 – 11 year olds (Unvalidated results based on the Statistical First Release (SFR))

It was reported that:

- The interim report outlined some of the key outcomes for Bradford from the 2017 national tests and teacher assessments. The results relating to these national tests were published throughout the autumn term and consequently the complete confirmed results could not be reported to the Committee until January 2018.
- Much of the report was based upon unvalidated results. A few 2017 national averages had been published and where they existed they had been used. Information relating to specific groups including gender, disadvantage, Looked After Children and those eligible for free school meals, would be included in the final report in January 2018.
- Results for 2017 generally indicated that the proportion of pupils who achieved the expected standard across the range of subjects and age groups within the Primary Phase continued to rise. The rate of improvement in some measures were slightly better than the national. However, these improvements were often not sufficient enough to substantially reduce the gaps that existed with national averages, improvements in the proportion of pupils achieving the higher standard at the end of Key Stage 2, however, were particularly notable.



- When compared to all other Local Authorities, Bradford results at the end of Key Stage 2 had been ranked higher this year in all subjects with the exception of writing. In reading, writing and maths results, Bradford ranked 126<sup>th</sup> position of the 152 Local Authority nationally which was 13 places higher than 2016.
- Changes to the GCSE examination system in 2016, and again this year, meant that it was too early in the term to summarise performance at Key Stage 4 accurately. Further information would be available later this term and in the New Year. This also applied to Key Stage 5 outcomes.
- In 2017 80% of Bradford's Year 1 children (6 year olds) were successful in the phonics screening checks. This was one percentage point higher than in 2016. Nationally 81% met the expected standard in 2017 which was the same as 2016.
- 72% of Bradford pupils achieved the expected standard in reading at the end of Key Stage 1 which was an increase of two percentage points compared to 2016. Nationally 76% of pupils achieved the expected standard in reading at the end of Key Stage 1.
- 66% of Bradford pupils achieved the expected standard in writing at the end of Key Stage 1 which was an increase of two percentage points compared to 64% in 2016. Nationally 68% of pupils achieved the expected standard in writing at the end of Key Stage 1.
- 73% of Bradford pupils achieved the expected standard in maths at the end of Key Stage 1 which was an increase of three percentage points compared to 2016. Nationally 75% of pupils achieved the expected standard in maths at the end of Key Stage 1.
- 56% of Bradford pupils achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined at the end of Key Stage 2 which was an increase of nine percentage points compared to 2016. Nationally 61% pupils achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths at the end of Key Stage 2.
- 75% of Bradford pupils achieved the expected standard in grammar, punctuation and spelling at the end of Key Stage 2 which was an increase of six percentage points compared to 2016. Nationally 77% achieved the expected standard in this area.

It was reported the next steps of continuing to improve performance included:

- Early Years Learning Team was working with settings and schools to reduce the gender gap.
- Literacy Hub Early Years Projects focussing on parental engagement.
- Continue with existing language focussed projects.
- Continue with monitoring of phonics.
- Calderdale writing programme for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.
- Reading campaign.
- Local Literacy Champions.
- Exploring Hackney Learning Trust Reading Programme for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

Members commented on a number of issues which included:



- Congratulated officers on the progress being made; did the gender data show ethnicity; groups that were under achieving could be targeted.
- Phonics at the end of Year 2 was close to the national average yet the reading figures were further apart.
- Bradford still had a high number of children not school ready, how were child minders, health services etc helping to make improvements in this area?

In response to Members' questions it was reported that:

- Tackling literacy for boys would be an area that would be looked at.
- Reading and phonics should not be compared as they were different skills.
- Bradford had above national average of take up of free two year old places compared to nationally; needed to ensure that there was high quality early years provision in place; the latest data showed that Bradford was above national average on its quality of child care providers; a lot of work was being undertaken on quality of provision and the links with the work of health visitors; key programmes some linked to Better Start Bradford would ensure children were school ready; work was on going with partners which would look at programmes that needed to be put in place earlier on.

#### **Resolved-**

- (1) **That the Committee welcomes the improvement in educational standards results and looks forward to receiving a full report in January 2018.**
- (2) **That all Members of Council be asked to continue to encourage families in their wards to become more actively engaged with their children's learning, attendance, health and well being in order to further improve their children's learning capacity and resilience.**

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

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

The report of the Strategic Director of Children's Services (**Document "J"**) provided an update to the report previously presented regarding the issue of child sexual exploitation (CSE). It particularly focused on the 9 Point Strategic Response to CSE and how it was used by Bradford Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) and partners in working to drive improvements across the District's safeguarding partnership and to hold agencies to account for their work in their area.

The Strategic Director, Children's Services highlighted the progress that had been



made since the last report:

- Review of the BSCB in light of the Wood Review and the Children and Social Work Act.
- Further review of the CSE Hub around operational functionality.
- Refresh of the 9 Point Strategic Response to CSE.
- Introduction of a monthly CSE Operational meeting to compliment daily activity and the strategic CSE Sub-Group.
- Completion and publication of two serious case reviews around CSE.
- Co-location of Local Authority and Police resources to oversee Missing Children.
- Establishment of Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) Sub-Group which allowed continual quality assurance.
- Recent JTAI inspection recognised effective arrangements around child protection.
- Innovative methods of raising awareness through Safeguarding Stories, Mr Shapeshifter, Someone's Sister and Someone's Daughter and Police Cyber Teams.
- Barnardo's Nightwatch and Police Problem Solving Teams continued to work effectively with the industry sector and night time economy.
- Increased communication and awareness through the BSCB and CSE campaigns.
- Internet Safety Conference to share good practice and increase awareness with 80 delegates involved.

It was reported that at a previous meeting a request was made to include data on the number of children under 16 that had been diagnosed with a STD (sexually transmitted disease), the number of children under 16 that had multiple pregnancy terminations and numbers and what action had been taken in relation to historical cases. Enquiries with Children's Services and the Health agencies had indicated that it would not be possible to collate and obtain this data due to the complexity of arrangements that provided services for these matters.

A representative of the Police highlighted the key points of the report and emphasised that there had been a year on year increase in referrals to the CSE Hub which was seen as a sign of success as it raised awareness.

It was reported that an extra sergeant had been appointed to support the work of the CSE Hub.

Members were informed that ongoing actions relating to the Autumn Serious Case Review Action Plan and Jack Serious Case Review Action Plan was outlined in Appendix 2 of the report.

A representative of Barnardo's attended the meeting and reported that Bradford



had been innovative in its parenting support programmes on CSE as well as producing a CSE “Parenting Education Pack”. This was a resource that addressed the gap in current provision to help parents participate and contribute to the safety and protection of their children from CSE.

Examples of positive work undertaken by the CSE Hub was tabled at the meeting.

The Chair of the Safeguarding Children’s Board congratulated all agencies and partnerships on the work being undertaken on CSE and the way that they operated in a transparent and honest way.

The Portfolio for Health and Wellbeing emphasised the strong partnerships Bradford had with various agencies; safeguarding was a key priority for this Council and would continue to be taken seriously even with limited resources; support for services dealing with child sex exploitation would not be reduced even in the climate of budget cuts.

Members commented on a number of issues which included:

- Had bus drivers had any training on CSE?
- Congratulated all agencies in the work being undertaken on CSE; how successful was the parenting programme and did parents complete the full six week programme?
- How were people referred to the parenting programme?
- Why had there been no further action on 14 incidents where a suspect had been named?
- Page 36 of the report showed 23 children were out of area and at risk of CSE; why was the figure so high? how was support provided if the children were out of area? was there an under reporting of CSE from BME communities?
- What was the position on the requirement to have a Safeguarding Board?
- How successful had the Nightwatch programme been? Was one to one support available at parenting programmes as some families were reluctant to share feelings with a group? did fathers attend the parenting programme?
- Congratulated partners on the quality of the theatre production “Mr Shapeshifter”; response from children who had seen it was very positive; Year 6 pupils were going into secondary school better prepared; what steps had been taken to make the play into a DVD?
- CSE training for schools, GP’s etc needed to be mandatory; training and support for schools in identifying the signs of being groomed for CSE was essential.
- Needed to learn lessons from the Serious Case Review and ensure measures were in place to do things differently to protect children; doctors, contraception clinics, teachers, social workers, police all needed to do more.
- It was essential to have clear pathways into therapeutic services for children and adults who had experienced sexual exploitation.



In response to Members' questions it was reported that;

- Work on CSE was being undertaken with bus companies.
- The six week parenting programme on CSE was two hours a session once a week over a six week period.
- A concrete system was being set up for referrals for the parenting programmes; referrals were currently being made via the Early Help Gateway Programme; CSE Hub, schools etc.
- Further action was "not deemed in the public interest" in certain cases and due to the recent changes in the law in relation to sexting; there were other agencies that could deal with such cases.
- Children who were resident in Bradford and then moved would still be managed by Bradford.
- There was under reporting of CSE within all communities.
- Consultation with local authorities on the role of the Safeguarding Board would start soon; there would need to be a revised structure for a Safeguarding Board in place by April 2019 with full implementation in June 2019.
- The Nightwatch programme had been very successful and well received; fathers did attend the parenting programme; practitioners were being trained to offer courses at different times, plans were in place to offer a wider model; the course was designed for groups but could be adapted to offer one to one sessions to cater for individual family needs.
- When an incident was reported the police were duty bound to investigate it; looked at a whole host of information and what contact that person had with other people to show potential victims; some investigations were difficult as victims did not see themselves as victims; more historic cases were being found.
- Positive feedback had been received on the "Mr Shapeshifter" play; looking at turning it into a DVD; number of leaflets and online resources were available for parents; parents were being sign posted to other support; lots of resources were available online; anyone could access safeguarding videos.

A resident who was affected by CSE and her supporter attended the meeting and made the following comments:

- What was the level of work undertaken by the Safeguarding Board since the last Serious Case Review?
  - Were parent classes an appropriate way forward if a parent was dealing with their child being exploited? It was more important to have the appropriate support in place for families.
  - Had parents been consulted on the nine point strategic response? parents felt professionals did not understand what they were going through; emphasis should be on resilience of parents.
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- A Number of children were receiving specialist care out of local authority



provision – what happened to young people when they returned from local authority placements? could they engage back in education? needed to ensure children do not go back into the same situation; how many achieved good GCSE's? how many went to college or became NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training)?.

- Why did a number of referrals have to be made before action was taken to prevent CSE? needed to provide appropriate support early on.

In response to the queries raised the Police Representative reported that children who were referred to the CSE Hub a number of times could be because they may not be at risk of CSE; had to look at intelligence and speak to individuals who may not see themselves as victims; if there was no risk first time and another referral came in another risk assessment would be undertaken.

The Strategic Director Children Services emphasised that children were placed outside the district but the authority kept children local where possible; Bradford had more provision than other local authorities; vast majority of children homes were good or outstanding; the authority had invested heavily in foster care; sometimes it was in the best interest of a child to be placed outside the local authority; the authority always planned to bring the child back; vast majority of children returned home to where they were living if it was in the best interest of the child; the authority was working hard to improve the life chances of children; a number of young people had gone on to university and had the ability to move on.

The Strategic Director Children Services reported that the Serious Case Review was framed by experiences of young people and parents. The work in relation to CSE was recognised and would continue to develop.

#### **Resolved-**

- (1) **That an update on the progress of the 9 Point Strategic Response to CSE and issues raised at the meeting be submitted to the Committee in 12 months time.**
- (2) **That tailored reports on CSE be provided to Area Committees.**

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

## **22. CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2017-18**

The report of the Chair of the Committee (**Document "K"**) presented the Committee's Work Programme 2017-18.

A Member requested that a briefing note be circulated to Members of the Committee on the performance of Pupil Referral Units.





**Resolved-**

**That the Work Programme 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

