

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

**Children, Young People and Family Support Scrutiny and Policy Development
Committee**

Meeting held 5 September 2013

PRESENT: Councillors Gill Furniss (Chair), Talib Hussain, Karen McGowan, Mohammad Maroof, Lynn Rooney, Colin Ross, Andrew Sangar (Deputy Chair), Ian Saunders, Diana Stimely and Cliff Woodcraft

Non-Council Members in attendance:-

Jules Jones, Education Non-Council Voting Member
Gillian Foster, Education Non Council Voting Member
Joan Stratford, Education Non-Council Voting Member
Alison Warner, Education Non-Council Voting Member

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Helen Mirfin-Boukouris and Nikki Sharpe.

2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

2.1 No items were identified where resolutions may be moved to exclude the public and press.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 4th July 2013, were approved as a correct record, subject to the amendment of item 1 – Apologies for Absence, by the substitution of the name “Joan Stratford” for “Joan Strafford” and, arising therefrom, further to a query by Councillor Andrew Sangar as to whether there had been any progress in terms of action following the closure of the Meadows Nursery, it was requested that the Policy and Improvement Officer should contact Councillor Jackie Drayton, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families, seeking such information, and to circulate a briefing note thereon to all Members of the Committee.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

5.1 There were no questions raised or petitions submitted by members of the public.

6. IMPROVEMENTS IN KEY STAGES IN SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES 2013

6.1 Maggie Williams, Deputy Executive Director, Pauline Anderson, Strategic Lead – Primary, and Matt Percival, Secondary Lead Headteacher, Children, Young People and Families, provided an update on improvements in Key Stages in schools and academies in 2013.

6.2 A paper was circulated, containing information and statistics in terms of the attainment and it was reported that the full national data would not be available until mid/late-October 2013, when a detailed report would be submitted to this Committee and, in terms of key statistics, it was noted that:-

- Sheffield should be ranked no lower than 102nd in line with disadvantage measure.
- Key Stage 1 – Improvement in all measures on 2012 results, with the exception of Level 3 writing, which has stayed the same.
- Key Stage 2 – in 2012 ranked 99th out of 152 local authorities (subsequent issue regarding children in one school had resulted in a move down) to 117th. 86%, 92% and 88% of pupils had made good progress in reading, writing and maths, respectively.
- Key Stage 4 (GCSEs) – Sheffield continued its improvement trajectory with a 1.4% increase on 2012 outcomes.
- Key Stage 5 – A number of schools have significantly increased the proportion of students gaining AAB grades.
- Two secondary schools were below the Government's national floor standards (both academies).
- Nine primary schools below the Government's national floor standards at Key Stage 2.

6.3 Members of the Committee raised questions and the following responses were provided:-

- The nine primary schools which were below the Government's national floor standards at Key Stage 2 were Byron Wood, Greenlands Junior, Mansel (Academy), Shortbrook, Southey Green (Academy), Springfield, St. Patrick's (Academy), Valley Park and Watercliffe Meadows.
- The improvements in attainment over the past six years had not been a 'quick fix', but as a result of a systematic year on year improvement. One of the main reasons for the improvement was due to the leadership changes in a number of schools and as a

result of this, as well as other changes, including how well schools had worked with each other and the actions of school governors, it was considered that such improvements in attainment would be sustainable in the City in forthcoming years.

- Whilst there had been an improved performance in terms of attainment levels at Key Stage 4 for the sixth consecutive year, it was difficult to explain the reasons behind why there had been a decline in attainment levels at nine of the 25 secondary schools. It was accepted that there was always going to be varying standards in terms of academic cohorts in different years and this could have been the reason for the decline.
- Further “descriptive analysis” around the data was requested, along with data on Sheffield College and the University Technical Colleges, and which would be set out in the more detailed report to be submitted to the Committee’s meeting in December, 2013.
- Whilst there was draft data available in terms of a comparison in attainment levels between the different categories of schools in the City, it was not in such a format which could be published at the present time, but would be included in the detailed report to be submitted to the Committee’s meeting in December 2013.
- Under the new Government legislation, the City Council had limited, but clear powers in terms of what action it could take to help improve results. These included the power to advocate on behalf of every pupil, particularly vulnerable pupils, and to focus on those schools causing concern.
- Details of who would advocate on behalf of those pupils attending independent schools in the City would be forwarded to Members of the Committee.

6.4 It was reported that Maggie Williams would be retiring on 19th September, 2013, after seven years’ service with the City Council.

6.5 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) notes the contents of the paper now circulated, together with the additional information reported on attainment levels in respect of all Key Stages in schools and academies in the City in 2013;
- (b) welcomes the overall improvement in terms of attainment levels across all of the Key Stages;
- (c) requests that a detailed report on attainment levels be submitted to its meeting to be held in December 2013; and

- (d) expresses its thanks and appreciation to Maggie Williams, Deputy Executive Director – Children, Young People and Families Portfolio, for the valuable work carried out by her during the last seven years.

(NOTE: In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 26 of the Council's Constitution and the provisions of Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, the Chair decided that the above item be considered as a matter of urgency to enable Members to be updated in terms of attainment levels in the interim period, prior to the detailed report being submitted to the Committee in December 2013.)

7. TASK AND FINISH GROUP - PRIORITY AREAS FOR 2013/14

- 7.1 The Chair reported on the proceedings of the first meeting of the Task and Finish Group, established on the recommendation of the Committee at its last meeting on 4th July 2013, and comprising herself and Councillors Nikki Sharpe and Diana Stimely and Jules Jones.
- 7.2 Councillor Furniss stated that the Group had discussed and agreed that it would like to propose to the Committee that it undertakes an in-depth piece of work around pupil attainment, focusing on either looked after children in the top and bottom 10% (to include gifted and talented children) or good quality nursery education. It had been proposed that the Group would review the detailed information in terms of attainment levels in the City, which should be available at the end of October 2013, prior to making a decision on which category to focus on. As part of the work, it had also been proposed that the Group would meet a number of different providers, relating to the chosen category, as well as possibly visiting other areas of the country to look at best practice, and undertake detailed analysis of any data provided. It was proposed that the work would commence in November/December 2013, and be completed in April/May 2014, when the Group would report its findings and recommendations to the Committee.
- 7.3 Members of the Committee raised a number of other categories, which they suggested the Task and Finish Group should give consideration to, which included pupils with average attainment levels, and new arrivals.
- 7.4 The Policy and Improvement Officer referred to the Work Programme for the Committee for 2013/14, indicating that she would circulate it to all Members of the Committee for information and comment.
- 7.5 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee:-
 - (a) notes the information now reported in respect of (i) the progress

made by the Task and Finish Group and (ii) the proposed Work Programme for the Committee for 2013/14; and

- (b) agrees (i) that Alison Warner should become a member of the Task and Finish Group and (ii) the plan of work in respect of the Group, as now reported.

8. ANNUAL MEETING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

- 8.1 The Policy and Improvement Officer submitted a report on the proceedings of the Committee's Annual Meeting with Young People, and setting out proposed options on how the Committee's work with young people could be conducted in the future.
- 8.2 The Chair stated that the meeting, which had been held in April, 2013, at Devonshire Green Young People's Building, and organised in conjunction with Sheffield Futures, had been both very interesting and productive and that the reaction of the young people had shown how much they appreciated the fact that the Committee were interested to hear what they had to say. She stated that the meeting had provided an opportunity for Members of the Committee to meet young people and young carers who were involved in the Sheffield Youth Cabinet. The young people had raised a number of areas of concern, including issues regarding contacting services such as Housing and GP services.
- 8.3 Jules Jones stated that one of the young people had raised the issue relating to the fact that under 18 year olds were not entitled to Carer's Allowance and that there was a general lack of awareness of the work undertaken by young carers, and the implications that this had on their lives.
- 8.4 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-
- (a) notes the contents of the report now submitted, together with the comments now made; and
- (b) requests the Policy and Improvement Officer to (i) draft a letter, to be signed by the Chair of the Committee, and to be sent to all Sheffield Members of Parliament, expressing the concerns raised by the young people regarding their inability to access Carers Allowance and (ii) make the necessary arrangements for the Committee to visit and meet the young people in April 2014.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 9.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Thursday, 3rd October 2013, at 2.00 pm, in the Town Hall.