

**SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL**

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

**Meeting held 25 January 2016**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Chris Rosling-Josephs (Chair), John Booker, Katie Condliffe, Sheila Constance, Aodan Marken, Mohammad Maroof, Karen McGowan, Pat Midgley, Chris Peace, Lynn Rooney, Colin Ross, Ian Saunders, Jack Scott and Cliff Woodcraft (Deputy Chair)

**Non-Council Members in attendance:-**

Gillian Foster (Diocese Representative - Non-Council Voting Member)  
Jules Jones (Parent Governor Representative - Non-Council Voting Member)  
Joan Stratford (Diocese Representative - Non-Council Voting Member)  
Alison Warner (School Governor Representative - Non-Council Non-Voting Member)  
Alice Riddell (Healthwatch Sheffield - Observer)

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**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 An apology for absence was received from Councillor Nasima Akther.

**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 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015, were approved as a correct record and, arising from their consideration, it was noted that, in relation to the first bullet point at paragraph 8.3 (Sheffield Sexual Exploitation Service – Annual Report 2014-15), Councillor Chris Peace had contacted Phil Ashford, Service Manager, Sheffield Futures, for guidance on further action with regard to the rejection of criminal injuries compensation claims in connection with the Operation Alphabet case.

4.2 The Committee also noted the Actions Update and responses to public questions which were attached to the minutes.

**5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

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

**6. 2015 CITY-WIDE ATTAINMENT OUTCOMES IN SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES AND LEARN SHEFFIELD**

6.1 The Committee received a presentation, a copy of which had been circulated, from Antony Hughes, Children's Commissioner and Director of Inclusion and Learning, which provided the Committee with further detail on attainment and performance outcomes from Foundation Stage to A-Level in Sheffield's schools and academies. This followed on from information provided at the previous Committee meeting. The presentation included comparisons to national performance and to other local authorities.

6.2 Also in attendance for this item were Stephen Betts, Interim Chief Executive, Learn Sheffield, Pam Smith, Head of Primary and Targeted Intervention and Kate Wilkinson, Service Manager, Performance and Analysis Service.

6.3 The following responses were provided to Members' questions:-

- Parkwood was the only secondary school in the City which was below floor targets.
- Government investment in the form of the London Challenge had helped the London Boroughs in improving their performance and enquiry visits were being planned to other authorities, including some of these London Boroughs, to see if anything could be learned from this.

6.4 Stephen Betts then addressed the Committee on actions taken by Learn Sheffield to raise standards in 2016. He also circulated a briefing note which contained information on Partnership Working, School Outcomes, Pupil Outcomes and Vulnerable Groups, and also provided details of further proposals and next steps in relation to Partnership Working.

6.5 Stephen Betts went on to inform the Committee that London, the North West and the North East were parts of the country from which lessons could be learned and that enquiry visits were planned to each of these areas. He also explained that the School Improvement Strategy (2016-18) would be circulated in draft form for consultation by the end of January 2016, and would hopefully be in place from Easter. In conclusion, Stephen Betts explained that Learn Sheffield was building towards a system with collective aspiration, with a refusal to tolerate poor performance and to celebrate success. He felt that Learn Sheffield could do this in the existing landscape and offered the ability to work together irrespective of the status of the school.

6.6 Members made various comments and asked a number of questions, to which responses were provided as follows:-

- In relation to the Pupil Referral Unit, a major piece of work was being

undertaken with secondary schools, with permanent exclusion being seen as a last resort. It should also be noted that the inclusion programme involved different strategies in this regard.

- In relation to inclusion, the focus was on working with Heads in the secondary sector, with the aim being to prevent exclusion in the first place and to get the pupil back in the mainstream as soon as possible. There were safeguards on quality and level of attendance at the Sheffield Inclusion Centre and it was felt that the strategies were going in the right direction. Learn Sheffield was also working closely with the Sheffield Inclusion Centre on attendance.
- The presentation reported on the 158 schools which had received Ofsted outcomes.
- Key Stage 5 data had only just been finalised and this showed that overall, Sheffield compared well to national performance coming in at 56<sup>th</sup> out of all local authorities in relation to average score per entry and 40<sup>th</sup> in relation to the percentage achieving grade A, B or better in facilitating subjects. A-level performance was slightly above the national average.

6.7 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) thanks those attending for their contribution to the meeting;
- (b) notes the contents of the presentation and the responses to questions; and
- (c) looks forward to continued improvements in attainment next year and beyond.

## **7. CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILY SUPPORT SCRUTINY AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - PREVENT TASK GROUP**

7.1 Councillor Cliff Woodcraft, Deputy Chair of the Committee and Chair of the Prevent Task Group, presented the Group's draft report, a copy of which had been circulated. He took the Committee through the report, paying particular attention to its membership, purpose, approach, findings and recommendations. Councillor Woodcraft also circulated a copy of an additional recommendation for the Committee's consideration, regarding referrals to the Safeguarding Service.

7.2 Members made various comments and asked a number of questions, to which responses were provided as follows:-

- Whilst there was no statutory requirement to monitor voluntary youth provision, the Council would investigate if there were any safeguarding issues. Members would have the opportunity, at the Committee's March meeting, to raise any issues with representatives of Youth Services in the City.

- Recommendation 7 in the draft report referred to looking at opportunities for funding to support work with the voluntary, community and faith sectors and local communities with regard to the Prevent agenda.
- It was acknowledged that monitoring young people's internet use was difficult and Recommendation 4 in the draft report made reference to ensuring that e-safety training and best practice materials were shared more broadly within the City. There were obvious parallels here with the Child Sexual Exploitation cases.
- Recommendation 5 in the draft report reflected the need to ensure that community relations in the City were not adversely affected by the Prevent agenda. Councillor Woodcraft reported that he had attended a training event, organised by the Council for local schools, and that this had covered all forms of extremism, including the far right. It was emphasised that there was no desire to stigmatise particular communities and it was noted that the training materials, seen by the Task Group members who attended the training sessions, were felt to be balanced. The importance of ensuring that vulnerable individuals were supported appropriately was also highlighted.

7.3 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) thanks Councillor Cliff Woodcraft and the members of the Prevent Task Group for their excellent work in producing the draft report;
- (b) accepts the draft report, including the recommendations and additional recommendation; and
- (c) recommends that the report be shared with the Council's Cabinet Members and local Members of Parliament.

## **8. SHEFFIELD PARENT CARER FORUM, STATE OF SHEFFIELD REPORT AND FAMILY COMMON ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK AND THE CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE SINGLE ASSESSMENT**

8.1 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) notes the contents of the Sheffield Parent Carer Forum, State of Sheffield Report and Family Common Assessment Framework and the Children's Social Care Single Assessment report; and
- (b) requests that Members with any questions on the report send these by e-mail to the Policy and Improvement Officer.

## **9. WORK PROGRAMME 2015-16**

9.1 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) receives and notes the draft Work Programme 2015-16; and
- (b) requests that Members with any ideas for a topic for discussion at the Committee's meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016 (Annual Meeting with Young Carers and Young People), e-mail these to the Policy and Improvement Officer.

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 10.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016, at 1.00pm, in the Town Hall.