

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

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

Meeting held 5 November 2018

PRESENT: Councillors Mick Rooney (Chair), Cliff Woodcraft (Deputy Chair), Simon Clement-Jones, Tony Downing, Francyne Johnson, Mohammad Maroof, Bob Pullin, Colin Ross, Ian Saunders and Alison Teal

Non-Council Members in attendance:-

Gillian Foster, (Diocese Representative - Non-Council Voting Member)
Alison Warner, (School Governor Representative - Non-Council Non-Voting Member)
Sam Evans, (Diocese Representative - Non-Council Voting Member)
Peter Naldrett, (Parent Governor Representative - Non-Council Voting Member)
Alice Riddell, (Healthwatch Sheffield, Observer)

.....

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Andy Bainbridge, Bryan Lodge, Abtisam Mohamed, Sophie Wilson and Steve Wilson.

2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

2.1 No items were identified where the public and press may be excluded.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 In relation to Agenda Item 8 (Young People Services Review), Councillor Francyne Johnson and Sam Evans declared personal interests as employees of a company providing education and training for young people with disabilities and of an organisation working with children and young people, respectively.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 3rd September 2018, were approved as a correct record and, arising therefrom:-

- (a) further to comments raised by Councillor Bob Pullin, in connection with a request for statistics regarding indices of deprivation for Batemoor, Jordanthorpe and Lowedges, the Policy and Improvement Officer (Deborah Glen) stated that, as requested, Kate Wilkinson (Service Manager – Performance and Analysis Service) had circulated statistics to Councillor

Pullin based on neighbourhood level; Ms Wilkinson stated that the specific information being requested could only be created from lower level super output areas, which required the creation of a bespoke geography, and which, whilst possible to be provided, would not be straight-forward;

- (b) further to comments from Councillor Mohammad Maroof, regarding the possibility of changing monitoring information held by relevant colleagues regarding data on exclusions/attainment of pupils of rural Pakistan (Kashmir and Mirpur) origin being extracted from figures for children of general Pakistani origin, and included in future attainment reports, as well as whether information could be obtained in terms of the language spoken in family households, in order to ensure they received adequate support, and that there was adequate recording of this; Pam Smith stated that the Authority was dependent on information received from schools in this regard, and that, with effect from two years ago, there was a statutory requirement on all schools to report the number of children speaking a different language at home, but recent changes meant that schools were no longer required to do this, resulting in the Authority asking schools to continue to provide this information on a voluntary basis;
- (c) Councillor Cliff Woodcraft stated that, further to the item on the call-in of the Cabinet Member decision on Short Breaks Consultation – Implementation Phase, there was still a requirement for further clarity on the Cabinet Member's response to the further correspondence from the Parent Carer Forum. The Chair confirmed that Councillor Jackie Drayton was formulating a response, to be sent to the Forum, and shared with this Committee; and
- (d) Councillor Bob Pullin stated that, further to his request for information on the support provided to Roma, gypsy and traveller children, following the loss of the dedicated resources (half a post), he had been informed that the decision to delete the post had been reversed, and that the post-holder was still in post, and was continuing to lobby national associations for assistance in this regard; Councillor Pullin made reference to the recent closure of the National Association for the Teaching of Travellers, indicating that this was likely to make the post-holder's job somewhat more difficult, and requested that this issue be added to the Committee's Work Programme.

4.2 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) requests:-

- (i) further to the comments made by Councillor Mohammad Maroof, a message be sent to the Council's representative on the Schools Forum to try and ensure that schools continued to record and report the five-stage proficiency in English code; and
 - (ii) Councillor Jackie Drayton (Cabinet Member for Children and Families) to share with this Committee, her response to the latest communication from the Parent and Carer Forum with regard to the outstanding issues raised; and
- (b) agrees that the issue regarding support provided to Roma, gypsy and traveller children be added to the Committee's Work Programme.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

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

6. 2018 PUPIL OUTCOMES - CITY CONTEXT AND SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

- 6.1 The Committee received a presentation from Pam Smith (Head of Primary and Targeted Intervention) on an interim update in terms of city-wide education attainment in 2018. Also in attendance for this item was Kate Wilkinson (Service Manager - Performance and Analysis Service).

- 6.2 In terms of headlines regarding primary schools, Ms Smith reported that (a) there had been some strong improvements in areas targeted last year, mainly reading and phonics, but some measures had plateaued, (b) the Sheffield cohort in respect of Key Stage 2 results had more low attaining pupils than the national average, (c) when Key Stage 2 results were analysed by prior attainment group, Sheffield was still at, or above, the national average of most measures, (d) progress in reading and maths at Key Stage 2 was still in line with national averages, (e) provisional Key Stage 2 benchmarking data indicated that Sheffield's national rankings had mostly been stable, or dropped slightly, with its position in relation to other core cities having improved for the combined measure, (f) the rankings for English, Grammar, Punctuation, Spelling (EGPS) had dropped further to 137/152, suggesting that this may need to be an area of focus next year and (g) Sheffield's national rankings have improved slightly for Year 1 phonics.

- 6.3 In terms of Key Stage 4 and Post-16 headlines, Ms Smith reported that (i) the move of 20 further GCSEs to reformed specifications this year had made comparisons with last year on Attainment 8 and Progress 8 difficult, (ii) Progress 8 at Key Stage 4 was slightly lower than last year due to qualification reforms, but was still above national

average and in the second quartile, with Sheffield having the highest Progress 8 of all core cities, (iii) the percentage of pupils achieving 5+ in English and Maths had improved slightly and national ranks are similar to last year, (iv) EBacc entries went down due to the impact of early entries in non-reformed qualifications, which would also have an impact on the new EBacc average points measure, and it was expected that Sheffield's performance would improve next year, (v) A-level performance appeared to be broadly in line, or possibly slightly improved, compared with last year, although it had been difficult to make comparisons as more A-levels had now moved to linear courses, (vi) Level 3 average points per entry was similar to the national average, and Sheffield was in the second quartile and (vii) the percentage achieving AAB or above in facilitating subjects (A-levels generally accepted for university entry) was above the national average, and Sheffield ranked in the top quartile.

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

- It was accepted that prior attainment was very important, and as a result, schools would focus on BME/EAL pupils, as well as low attaining white British pupils in this regard. The Local Authority was working with Learn Sheffield in order to identify priorities in connection with prior attainment, as well as working in partnership with schools at a local level to identify those pupils requiring additional help. There was also a reliance on schools to share good practice in this regard. In addition, the Early Years Team had carried out a considerable amount of work in terms of re-organising the early years timetable, and plans were being made for the establishment of seven Early Years Centres of Excellence in the City. Early Years Centres and nurseries were also working more closely with private providers to share best practice and early identification of need.
- It was difficult to say, at this stage, whether the percentage greater depth drop in terms of Key Stage 2 writing from 20% in 2017 to 18% in 2018, was a temporary blip, or part of a wider trend. Officers would work to ensure that an accurate assessment of this was obtained, and would continue to monitor this closely, and put in extra resources if required.
- The Local Authority would constantly monitor the results of the other core cities and, if it was found that any were performing consistently higher than others, it would work with that authority in terms of sharing good practice. The Local Authority had worked closely with a number of other authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber region in terms of sharing good practice.
- There was no clear evidence, at this stage, to show whether or

not academies were performing better than community or other schools. This would require a more in-depth analysis, and whilst such information may be able to be provided in the future, it would not be a straight-forward breakdown.

- The Local Authority worked closely with all schools in terms of sharing good practice. This included contact with independent schools for moderation and completion of statutory duties. These links occurred particularly around Early Years, where officers have monitored this, and invited all schools, including independent schools, to share good practice in this area. The Local Authority had recently hosted the Early Years Conference, which had been attended by over 200 delegates, which had also been used as an important forum in terms of sharing good practice.
- It was believed that there was an indicator in terms of how those pupils who had retaken examinations had performed, but further work was required to find this information. If and when this was found, it would be shared with the Committee.

6.5 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) notes the information reported as part of the presentation now made;
- (b) thanks Pam Smith and Kate Wilkinson for attending the meeting, and responding to the questions raised; and
- (c) requests the Executive Director, People Services, and Stephen Betts (Chief Executive, Learn Sheffield) to submit a report to a future meeting, around spring 2019, demonstrating that the Locality Action Plans were meeting the priorities identified with the localities, specifically with regard to pupils' performance on punctuality, prior attainment and phonics, and to report on the final verified attainment figures.

7. YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICES REVIEW

7.1 The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, People Services, setting out the work of the Young People Services Review which was being overseen by the Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore). The Review was considering the range of support currently commissioned and delivered by the Council, which supported young people who struggled to make a successful transition from their teenage years into early adulthood. The Review would develop proposals for the future delivery of these services, potentially through a more joined up service model, which should be more effective and streamlined, and support better outcomes for young people.

7.2 In attendance for this item was Sam Martin (Head of Commissioning – Vulnerable People). The report set out details of the process of the Review and contained statistical information regarding the changing needs of young people, referring specifically to Education, Training and Employment, Crime, Health and Mental Health and School Engagement. The report also set out data held by the People Services Portfolio, and other partners, such as the NHS and the police, relating to attainment/progression, lifelong barriers and social/individual issues. The report contained details of the specific services available for vulnerable young people, summaries of the staff and provider engagement events and young people's feedback following consultation, the current findings, agreed key principles and outcomes, together with details of the commissioning and delivery of a final model and the next steps.

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

- Some of the aims of the Review were linked in with the former Troubled Families agenda, and had included a considerable amount of work in terms of looking at the provision of joined-up family support in the hope to keep any duplication of work to a minimum. There would be a focus, as part of the Review, on those older children who had moved out of the family home, therefore needed additional support, such as finding them suitable housing.
- The new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) did not fundamentally change what the Council was trying to do in terms of the Review, but did mean that the Council needed to be clearer when setting out its requirements from the outset. It was hoped that the various partner agencies would not “hide behind” the GDPR.
- Whilst efforts had been made to find the exact number of young people who were supported by one or more of the specific services for vulnerable young people, it had proved very difficult to obtain clear data, hence the approximate number of 4,000 young people. There were major differences between young people in levels of need. It was made clear that, although there were some common themes in the needs of vulnerable young people, each young person was different, and needed to be treated as such. Some young people would only need a little help, whereas others needed a lot more.
- There were some services that the Council could run, or arrange delivery through delivery partners, such as charitable organisations, as well as a number of services offered by schools and health services and voluntary groups. It was planned, as part of the Review, to offer support to as wide a group as possible, and not simply focus on the most vulnerable young people. The work undertaken by community organisations was very important in terms of identifying those vulnerable young people. The Council had, and would continue to, undertake a considerable amount of work with the police, particularly in connection with gun and knife crime.

- One of the main reasons for undertaking the Review was due to the budget constraints facing the Council and its partner agencies, as well as the fact that a number of contracts regarding services for young people were coming to an end. There was an opportunity for the Council to think more broadly about the services that fit together, and a further piece of work would need to be undertaken on wider Youth Services.
- A number of different groups and organisations had been included in the consultation on the Review, including the Youth Council, Children in Care Council and Special Educational Needs groups. Officers also visited a number of youth clubs and homeless hostels in the City.
- It was pointed out by Committee Members that one of the reasons for the fall in re-offending rates was due to changes in how the police recorded offences. The use of case studies was incorporated to capture information about the approach.
- The figure of 7,000 young people who had some caring responsibilities in the City had been estimated based on national research. The additional responsibilities placed on young carers could be very destructive for some young people, which was why they had been included in the scope of the project.
- Consideration would be given to running a pilot with one or more provider who would be keen to assist the Council in providing services for vulnerable young people.
- It was acknowledged that radicalisation was a new and emerging risk to young people, and that this would be considered as one of a number of key areas any new service delivery model would need to take into account.
- It was the Council's assessment that the relatively high drop-out rate at year 12 suggested that there was an issue with regard to appropriate Post-16 provision. There was a need to scope Post-16 provision as part of the Employment and Skills Strategy linked to the development of a new support model for young people.
- In terms of the next steps, the Review was planned to be completed, and a report summarising the findings and recommendations was anticipated to be taken to Cabinet, in December, requesting approval to implement the recommended approach, with a view to a new service model being in place from September, 2019. There would need to be further consultation on the new service model prior to implementation. It was also proposed that a further report on the Review would be submitted to this Committee.

7.4 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) notes the contents of the report now submitted, together with the responses to the questions raised;

- (b) thanks Sam Martin for attending the meeting, and responding to the questions raised; and
- (c) agrees that an item on Post-16 provision be added to its Work Programme.

8. CHANGES TO SCHOOL FUNDING AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR SCHOOLS

- 8.1 The Committee received presentations from Mark Sheikh (Head of Service – Business Strategy) on the changes to revenue funding and the capital programme for schools and the challenges being faced by both the Local Authority and the schools themselves regarding both issues.
- 8.2 With regard to the revenue funding, Mr Sheikh reported on the history of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and on the overall DSG settlement for Sheffield for 2018/19, which indicated a low settlement in comparison to other Core Cities. Mr Sheikh made reference to the pupil premium, schools block funding and the role of the Schools Forum, which comprised a statutory body, made up of representatives from schools, academies and other non-school organisations, and which served as a mechanism for consultation on issues concerning the funding of schools. He reported on the background to the National Funding Formula (NFF), and referred to the implications and impact of changes to the formula for Sheffield. Mr Sheikh referred to the Early Years Block and High Needs Funding, and concluded by reporting on what the Council was doing to address the current funding challenge.
- 8.3 With regard to the capital programme for schools, Mr Sheikh reported on the Government policy priorities and capital funding allocations, referring to the numbers of children at both primary and secondary schools, historically from 2001/02, and forecast, to 2027/28. He reported on the planned expenditure in terms of basic need and school places and referred to the key issues regarding the School Condition Programme. Mr Sheikh reported on the numbers of new school places, and associated costs, under the Free Early Learning initiative, and concluded by highlighting a number of photographs showing recent school refurbishment and expansion projects.
- 8.4 Members of the Committee raised questions, and the following responses were provided:-
- In terms of the role and powers of the Schools Forum, there was a requirement to consult the Forum on any proposed funding changes, and the Forum had the power to contest any decisions made with regard to schools' funding formula, resulting in the final decision being made by the Department for Education. There was a statutory requirement for the Local Authority to consult with the Forum on funding decisions regarding early years provision.
 - Further discussions on the scale of the works required in terms of the refurbishment of, and expansion to, schools in the City were required with

colleagues in Corporate Finance. The Authority was already borrowing £21 million for this purpose, which could have an adverse effect on the Council's overall cash flow.

- Whilst officers were mindful of the funding benefits in terms of academy conversion, it was not considered a factor, particularly as capital spend on academies had also now reduced.

8.5 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) notes the information reported as part of the presentations now made;
- (b) thanks Mark Sheikh for attending the meeting, and responding to the questions raised;
- (c) requests that, in the light of comments raised as part of the previous item on 2018 Pupil Outcomes, the Schools Forum gives specific consideration to the allocation of funding with regard to prior attainment; and
- (d) tasks the Chair to carry out further investigations into the potential for prudential borrowing with regard to capital funding for schools.

9. WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19

9.1 The Committee received a report of the Policy and Improvement Officer containing the Work Programme for 2018/19.

9.2 Deborah Glen reported that an item on Learn Sheffield Peer Review had been added to the Programme, and referred to the fact that four Members of the Committee, who would be joined by a similar number of Members from the Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee, had volunteered to be on the group which had recently been established to scope the Mental Health Review.

9.3 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) approves the contents of the Work Programme for 2018/19; and
- (b) approves the membership of the group established to scope the Mental Health Review.

10. PAM SMITH

10.1 The Chair reported that Pam Smith (Head of Primary and Targeted Intervention) was attending her last meeting of the Committee as she would shortly be retiring.

10.2 RESOLVED: That the Committee places on record its thanks and appreciation for the valuable service provided by Ms Smith, during her involvement with the

Committee.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 11.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Monday, 10th December 2018, at 10.00 am, in the Town Hall.