

Education, Children and Families Policy Committee

Meeting held 13 December 2022

PRESENT: Councillors Dawn Dale (Chair), Brian Holmshaw (Deputy Chair), Colin Ross (Group Spokesperson), Mary Lea, Anne Murphy, Vic Bowden Peter Garbutt and Ann Whitaker.

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mick Rooney and Gail Smith. Councillor Vic Bowden attended as substitute for Councillor Gail Smith.

2. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 No declarations of interest were received.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 Councillor Brian Holmshaw raised the issue of the Corporate Opportunities Register item not being added to the Work Programme, as mentioned previously. Andrew Jones stated this would be added to the next meeting's agenda.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

5.1 No petitions had been received and no questions from members of the public were asked at the meeting.

6. WORK PROGRAMME

6.1 The Committee received an amended report, circulated and published on the day prior to the meeting, containing the Committee's Work Programme for consideration and discussion. The aim of the Work Programme is to show all known, substantive agenda items for forthcoming meetings of the Committee, to enable this Committee, other committees, officers, partners and the public to plan their work with and for the Committee. Changes since the Committee's last meeting, including any new items, had been made in consultation with the Co-Chairs, Deputy Chair and Group Spokesperson, via their regular pre-meetings,

and these were set out at the beginning of Appendix A of the report. It was highlighted that this is a live document which will be brought to each meeting of the Committee and Members' input to it was invaluable.

6.2 Councillor Colin Ross noted that there had been a budget monitoring item on the agenda for December's Policy Committee. Fiona Martinez explained that this item had been withdrawn on publication day and would likely come to January's Policy Committee meeting.

6.3 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Committee's work programme, as set out in Appendix 1, be agreed, including the additions and amendments identified in Part 1, and with the addition of a report on the Opportunities Register pertaining to Education, Children and Families services being added to the work programme for submission at the next or subsequent meetings of the Committee.

7. FUTURE OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND THE LEARN SHEFFIELD COMMISSION

7.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Education and Skills which provided the committee with a summary of the Learn Sheffield commissioning arrangements and outlined potential recommendations for next steps following the commission end date.

7.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee:-

- (a) Note the work currently undertaken by Learn Sheffield, the changes in Government guidance and the decision taken by Schools Forum regarding funding for school improvement;
- (b) Endorse further work being undertaken to develop option 3, noting the risk areas and mitigations needed if the commission ceases or is significantly changed;
- (c) Note the circumstances that would require SCC to resign as the Supervising Authority of the school company; and
- (d) Agree to seek agreement from School Forum to de-delegate funds from school budgets to provide a service co-created with school leaders (such agreement to come into effect should option 3 ultimately be agreed by the Committee).

7.3 Reasons for Decision

7.3.1 Developing Option 3 will allow SCC to move towards delivering services directly to its maintained schools. This would enable SCC to:

- Make more effective use of a significantly reduced resource

- Know its schools better
- Allocate limited resources more appropriately
- Build stronger relationships with school leaders and governors
- Ensure support, challenge and intervention is better matched to need and provided in a more timely way
- Better coordinate and integrate school improvement services with other services provided by the council such as inclusion and SEND
- Have more confidence they are fulfilling their core school improvement activities

7.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

- 7.4.1 The Council must make suitable arrangements to delivery statutory services to maintained schools following the end of the grant funding period, and the options are detailed in paragraphs 1.15 – 1.23 above.

8. THE EARLY YEARS 'START FOR LIFE IN SHEFFIELD' STRATEGY 2023-28

- 8.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Integrated Commissioning requesting that the Education, Children and Families Committee note the intention to develop a new 5-year Early Years Strategy within Sheffield.

- 8.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee:-

- (a) endorse the proposal to develop a New Early Years Strategy for 2023 to 2028.
- (b) endorse the new title for the Strategy of 'Start for Life in Sheffield'. This new title is in line with national developments within the Family Hubs Programme and was supported by attendees at the Early Years Event in October 2022.

8.3 Reasons for Decision

The Current Early Years Strategy is ending in March 2023. It is vital that the city has a new Early Years strategy that considers not only the developments in Early Years outlined above but also has relevance in terms of the issues facing the families and children of Sheffield in the current economic climate.

8.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

- 8.4.1 The current Great Start in Life Strategy could be refreshed however the level of change locally both locally and nationally in terms of the issues facing families, the impact of the pandemic and the national developments around EYFS and Family Hubs present an opportunity to consult and co-produce a new Early Years

Strategy that can positively impact on the lives of children and young people.

8.4.2 As such it is recommended that a new strategy be developed for 2023 to 2028.

9. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY SUFFICIENCY BRIEFING

9.1 Joe Horobin, Head of Commissioning, and Matt Peers, Strategic Commissioning Manager, were in attendance to present a briefing on Special Educational Needs and Sufficiency.

9.2 Councillor Dawn Dale asked when the refreshed plan would be presented to the Committee and asked that this be initially shown in draft form for feedback and comments from Members. Joe Horobin stated that the intention was to bring this to committee in January 2023. Matt Peers stated the longer-term timeline could be discussed with members further when this draft was brought to committee.

9.3 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee notes the information provided on Special Educational Needs and Disability Sufficiency.

10. ALL PHASE MAINSTREAM COMMISSIONING PLAN 2023-26 – HEADLINES REPORT

10.1 Joe Horobin and Tracey Brook, Commissioning Officer, were in attendance to present a headline report on the All Phase Commissioning Plan for 2023-26.

10.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee notes the information provided on All Phase Mainstream Commissioning.