

## **CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL**

THURSDAY, 26 JANUARY, 2012 AT 6.00 P.M. AT THE COUNCIL HOUSE

<b>Panel Members Present</b>	Councillor B. Cassidy (Chair) Councillor O. Bennett Councillor K. Chambers Councillor T. Jukes Councillor A. Paul Councillor J. Rochelle Councillor K. Sears Councillor D. Shires
<b>Non elected voting members present</b>	S. Rayner (Lichfield Diocesan Education)
<b>Non elected non-voting members present</b>	D. Jones (Primary Teacher representative) R. Bragger (Secondary Teacher representative)
<b>Portfolio holder present</b>	Councillor R. Andrew - Children's Services
<b>Officers Present</b>	Louise Hughes, Assistant Director, Children's Services Dan Mortiboys, Service Accounting and Financial Reporting Denise Faulconbridge, Managing Director, Walsall Children's Services - Serco Frank Barnes, Assistant Managing Director, Participation, Serco Alan Michell, Head of Service, Integrated Young People's Support Service (IYPSS) Claire Dhami, Strategic Lead, IYPSS Matt Underhill, Scrutiny Officer
<b>Invitees</b>	Ian Hankinson, Retired Head Teacher and former Chair Person of Darlaston School Cluster

### **155/12 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received for the duration of the meeting from Councillor R Thomas.

### **156/12 SUBSTITUTIONS**

Councillor Jukes substituted for Councillor Thomas for the duration of the meeting..

### **157/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND PARTY WHIP**

There were no declarations of interest or party whip identified at this meeting.

## **158/12 MINUTES**

In relation to the minutes of the last meeting it was explained that a meeting had taken place, with participants including the Executive Director for Children's and Young People and the Head Teacher of Brownhills School, regarding the funding of transport for pupils who had transferred from the former Sneyd School. It was reported that Brownhills School had gratefully accepted the council's offer to fund this transport over the next twelve months at a cost of £28k as a one off payment. A Member explained that the school's governors had also welcomed the offer. The Chair observed that the outcome was a notable success for the Panel.

The minutes of the previous meeting were noted.

### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2011, copies having previously been circulated be approved as a true and accurate record.

## **159/12 TARGETED YOUTH SUPPORT**

### **Targeted Youth Support**

The Chair explained that this item would be considered earlier than in the published agenda. The Head of Service, Integrated Young People's Support Service (IYPSS) and Strategic Lead for Targeted Youth Support introduced the presentation. The following is a summary of the briefing and subsequent discussion:

- Targeted Youth Support (TYS). This way of working, which is directly integrated with the Children's services new operating model, seeks to locate and identify the level of need in young people typically aged 9 – 19. A young person identified as having Level 1 need was likely to be experiencing emerging issues of vulnerability; at Level 2 a young person was likely to need support in response to a number of needs; at Level 3 a young person is likely to have complex needs. (Young people with Level 3 needs were often Looked After Children (LAC)). This is overlaid with a step up / step down process to respond to a changing level of need. It was explained that referrals were received from a range of partner organisations including schools, the Police and Children's Services.
- The type of provision includes at Level 1 referral to community based activities via IYPSS through to 1-1 support at Level 3. It was also explained that the referral process includes establishing whether a young person is being supported by any other organisations, the presentation of the case to a multi-agency Panel, made up of senior youth workers and others including representatives from education and the ASB unit. This is then followed by allocation to a worker who undertakes an assessment in conjunction with the young person and their parent or guardian;
- It was explained that YYS had received 192 referrals between November 2010 and December 2011, with around 80% male and 20% female, with an age range of between 7 and 18. 79% of cases had been closed with successful

engagement and the completion of an individual programme. 51% of open cases engaged on programmes had seen a reduction in their risk factors. Targets for the future include providing interventions for 500 young people over a 12 month period; at Level 2 for 85% of young people to have successfully completed an intervention programme, with 90% to have demonstrated an improvement in their Employment Training or Education (ETE) status. Further targets include reductions in youth ASB and the number of first time entrants to the criminal justice system;

- It was explained that the achievement of targets includes at both Level 2 and Level 3, 100% of young people indicating a reduction in their risk factors, while at Level 2 100% had shown an improvement in their Education Training and Employment (ETE) status. It was explained that when a young person successfully leaves their scheme follow up activity is undertaken to ensure that they progressing well with the option of a further referral available;
- A young person, Jack, who received TYS support explained that he had been referred to the process by his school and mother. He had received 1-1 support from a care worker and had participated in a number of activities, including an event run by the Fire Service, which had assisted him in building his self-confidence. He also received anger-management support which had enabled him to better deal with difficult situations. The Panel thanked Jack for attending the meeting and invited him to attend again in the future to report his progress. Members and officers also noted the contribution made by the Fire Service to local efforts to provide support to vulnerable young people.

## **Resolved**

That the report be noted.

## **160/12 DARLASTON SCHOOL CLUSTER ACTIVITY**

### **Darlaston School Cluster Activity**

The former Chair Person of Darlaston School Cluster introduced the presentation (annexed). The following is a summary of the briefing and subsequent discussion:

- It had been previously been recognised by schools within Darlaston that a number of factors, including their geographical proximity to each other and funding pressures, provided the opportunity to share resources. It was agreed to work together for the benefit of pupils and the wider community of Darlaston. The need for formal arrangements and agreement was also identified. This resulted in the production of a Memorandum of Understanding between each of the schools;
- The cluster has been active for five years and during that period there was collaborative working in a number of areas including extended schools provision, parent support adviser work and resource sharing. The cluster undertook a best value review to determine what services it could buy-in. This resulted in a number of cluster commissioned services including finance and catering;
- It was explained that within the cluster most schools that had been particularly successful in certain subjects, for example the achievement of Level 3 in maths

at Key Stage 1, had been able to offer resources and support to those schools where performance had been less good;

- A Member, as well as Governor of a school within the cluster, observed that the arrangements had worked well in Darlaston and the successful adoption of similar arrangements elsewhere would be subject to local variations;
- It was explained that a significant amount of time had been committed to identifying savings via collective commissioning arrangements. However, the collaborative working arrangements had also facilitated improvements to the education received by young people at schools within the cluster. It was also explained that should schools within the cluster become academies collaborative working would remain unaffected. It was confirmed that should a school within the cluster go into special measures the other schools party to the arrangements would provide appropriate support.

### **Resolved**

That the presentation be noted.

### **161/12 BUDGET CONSULTATION FEEDBACK 2012/13**

The Service Accounting and Financial Reporting Manager introduced the report (annexed). The following is a summary of the report and subsequent discussion:

- It was highlighted that the report contained the feedback regarding local views. Members noted that the online feedback facility enabled residents to participate in key budget decisions. However, queries were also raised regarding the low number of respondents in the second round of consultation, including whether or not this would be statistically meaningful.

### **Resolved**

That: the report be noted.

### **162/12 FINANCIAL PLAN 2012/13 TO 2014/15: THIRD DRAFT REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR CONSULTATION**

The Service Accounting and Financial Reporting Manager introduced the report (annexed). It was explained that the budget proposals remained unchanged from those reviewed by the Panel previously.

- The report provided guidance in relation to the forecast underspend for the council of £156k for the financial year 2011/12. It was explained that the draft revenue budget proposals for Children's Services remained unchanged;
- The report also included guidance in relation to the capital programme. It was explained that the Capital Strategy Board included the Leader of the Council, the Executive Director for Regeneration and the Head of Property Services. Officers agreed to provide regarding the membership and function of the board. It was

also explained that improvements in sources of income received by the council included that from the hire of stalls at local markets;

- In terms of new capital bids for consideration in relation to Specialist Services it was explained that the options included the closure of Dale Street and refurbishment of Stroud Avenue, or alternatively operate from a new Bentley Community Facility. Following a Panel query, officers agreed to provide guidance regarding whether costing included provision for security for facilities which were permanently closed.

## **Resolved**

- (1) That guidance be provided to the Panel regarding the Capital Strategy Board, together with details of the new capital bids for Specialist Services;  
  
and
- (2) The report be noted.

## **163/12 FRAMEWORK FOR INCLUSION SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN)**

Frank Barnes, Assistant Managing Director, Participation, Serco introduced the presentation (annexed). The following is a summary of the report and subsequent discussion:

- It was explained that in terms of provision SEN advisory teachers were a fully traded service. However, Early Years SEN teachers, Sensory Advisory Support and the Educational Psychology Team were all provided on a core plus part traded basis. It was also explained that special school provision was formed of seven special schools, together with Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP) to address a number of areas including Autistic Spectrum Disorders and physical disabilities;
- An improvement in progress from Key Stage (KS) 1 to KS 2 and KS 2 to KS 4 in both English and Maths between 2010 and 2011 was noted, as was a closing of the gap between the performance of pupils with a SEN at KS 2 and other pupils. It was also explained that going forward it was anticipated that there would be no significant gaps in SEN provision, this included post-conversion of schools to academies;
- In relation to the SEN and Disability Green Paper it was explained that the government have appointed twenty pathfinder projects with varying objectives. These include the development of a new birth to 25 assessment process, as well as identifying the most successful approach to ensuring full engagement of children, young people, parents and families. It was explained that new legislation was not anticipated before 2015. The Chair expressed concern regarding the implications of personal budgets for some who may have difficulty in undertaking the personal management of their child's needs.

## **Resolved**

That the report be noted.

## **164/12 SAFEGUARDING WORKING GROUP**

The Chair advised the Panel that this item would be deferred until the Panel's next meeting.

## **165/12 WORK PROGRAMME 2011/12 AND FORWARD PLAN**

The Panel considered the work programme and Cabinet's Forward Plan.

## **Resolved**

That the work programme and Forward Plan be noted.

## **166/12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Chair informed Members that the date of the next meeting would be 8 March 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

## **Private Session**

### **Exclusion of public**

## **Resolved**

That during consideration of the remaining item on the agenda, the Panel considers that the item for consideration is exempt information by virtue of the appropriate paragraph(s) of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972, and accordingly resolves to consider the item in private.

## **167/12 EDUCATION CONTRACT**

[Exempt information under paragraph of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended)]

The Panel received a presentation from the Assistant Director, Children's Services

## **Resolved**

That: the report be noted.

The meeting terminated at 7.55 p.m.

Chair:

Date: