

CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

TUESDAY, 17 JULY, 2012 AT 6.00 P.M. AT THE COUNCIL HOUSE

Panel Members Present	Councillor B. Cassidy Councillor R. Martin Councillor G. Perry Councillor E. Hughes Councillor D. Shires Councillor T. Jukes Councillor E. Russell
Non elected voting members present	S. Rayner (Lichfield Diocesan Education)
Non elected non-voting members present	D. Jones (Primary Teacher representative) R. Bragger (Secondary Teacher representative)
Portfolio holder present	Councillor R. Andrew - Children's Services
Officers Present	Louise Hughes, Assistant Director, Children's Services Michelle Whiting, Assistant Director, Children's Services Dan Mortiboys, Senior Finance Manager Alan Michell, Head of Integrated Young People's Support Services (IYPSS) Isabel Vanderheeren, IYPSS – Strategic Lead – Positive Activities

205/12 APOLOGIES

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

206/12 SUBSTITUTIONS

Councillor E Russell substituted for Councillor R. Thomas for the duration of the meeting.

207/12 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND PARTY WHIP**

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

208/12 **MINUTES**

In relation to item 195/12 Safeguarding vulnerable and looked after children inspection, the Chair explained that the update would be provided at the Panel's next meeting as the inspection report would not be published until 27 July 2012.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2012, as amended, and copies having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

209/12 **UNITED KINGDOM YOUTH PARLIAMENT PRIORITIES 2012/13**

The Head of IYPSS explained that the presentation was to be made by recently appointed apprentices to the service. It was explained that there were currently 13 apprentices, with 6 within positive activities, 6 within active involvement and also a web development apprentice. The following is a summary of the presentation and subsequent discussion:

- Work had been undertaken linked to the UK Youth Parliament priorities. This included a range of activities aimed at getting young people involved in participating in IYPSS activities within their local communities. This included working with various forums and groups, together with five Facebook pages and the use of Twitter. The young people who had participated in the last year's summer activities programme were asked to complete a related survey, while the IYPSS satisfaction survey, regarding the level of service provided, was completed by those young people who were members;
- It was explained that there were a number of groups aimed at giving a voice to young people in Walsall. This included the Changemaking Fund which has a £50,000 pot. Young people are able to apply for money to help them in a variety of ways with an emphasis on helping achieve the Every Child Matters outcome. The Change Making Fund Panel is made up of young people who decide whether or not to fund applications. Since April 2012 fifty applications for funding had been received;
- It was also explained that Walsall has four members of the Youth Parliament who were elected by 12,000 young people within the borough. The local members of the Youth Parliament participate in a range of activity, including in relation to tackling teenage pregnancy and bullying. Much of this work is undertaken in partnership with the Police and others. It was also explained that young people were involved in safeguarding through the Safeguarding Inspections Team (SIT). This is a group of young people that have an interest in quality assurance and

are passionate about services for young people. Members are from 13 to 22 years of age, with some of the senior members acting as mentors and volunteering during holiday periods. Strong links have been developed with key partners and responses developed to issues including domestic violence and force marriage. Other work includes working with Walsall Manor Hospital and artists to design the Child Protection Suite. In addition, Council 4 Kids is a specialist forum set up for looked-after-children (LAC) in Walsall. The purpose of the group is to ensure that the views of LAC are acted upon and assist in shaping services. It was also explained that the MyPlace centre was opened on 12 June 2012; this has included some of the young people operating the café and earning food safety certificates. The centre is regularly used by a variety of groups and is accessible to young people within the borough.

- It was explained that the IYPSS Facebook pages were separately badges from the council. However, the pages were linked with the council in order to reach a wider audience. In addition, IYPSS have developed a demo 'Keep Me Safe' game for the Play Station 3. It was also explained that the maximum individual award that could be made by Changemaking Fund was £1,500. Panel Members congratulated the young people and IYPSS on the success of the work they had undertaken.

Resolved

- That the results of the surveys being undertaken by IYPSS be reported to the Panel later in the year; and
- The presentation be noted.

210/12 INTEGRATED YOUNG PEOPLE' SUPPORT SERVICES

The Head of IYPSS and IYPSS – Strategic Lead – Positive Activities introduced the report. The following is a summary of the report and subsequent discussion:

- It was explained that IYPSS has been successful in achieving a reduction in youth related anti-social behaviour (ASB) in Walsall. It was further explained that IYPSS had a target to reduce youth related ASB by 25% for 2011/12 and achieved a reduction of 34.83%. It was emphasised that key to this success was effective partnership working:
- It was explained that IYPSS had developed a Youth Related ASB intervention model aims to address all aspects of youth related ASB. It is focused on seeking to provide a sufficiently diverse range of activities for young people, with significant input from young people in the development of the programme. While the use of detached youth work teams and effective promotion of activities were also critical;
- The model of assessment of ABS is based on four levels. These range from Level 1 and ASB in local communities as a result of young people not being aware of the positive activities that are available in the area. This is addressed

by community reassurance and direct support to engage young people in positive activities. While Level 4 would relate to an issue of safeguarding and would be likely to involve the police;

- It was explained that referrals are received from a range of services including ASB officers, police community members and others. ASB is tackled through targeting hot spots, particularly through the use of detached workers;
- In terms of next steps it is intended to seek to achieve a further reduction in Youth related ASB of 10%. It was explained that the summer programme of positive activities will be key to helping achieve this target. Other work includes the Summer of Change Programme which has involved recruiting young people in sixth forms and Year 11 to provide support to those in Year 6 as they prepare to make the transition to secondary education.
- Officers agreed that it might prove a useful exercise to seek to understand which positive activities were the most effective, together with work to understand whether those who participate in positive activities also have better school attendance records. It was also explained that the performance data was provided by the police, with the report providing guidance on a quarterly basis;
- A Panel Member expressed concern regarding the reluctance of local residents within her ward to report incidence of youth ASB to the police, meaning the extent of this issue might not be reflected in the official figures. Officers acknowledged that there was still much to be done to tackle youth ASB and achieving further reductions was likely to prove challenging. However, it was explained that further evidence of the success of positive activities in reducing youth ASB were reductions in number of first time entrants into youth justice and the number of repeat offenders.
- **Resolved**
- That the report be noted.

211/12 **Safeguarding Peer Review Findings**

The Assistant Director, Children's Services introduced the report. The following is a summary of the report and subsequent discussion:

- It was explained that the council's safeguarding services for children were subject to national peer review in March. The conclusions of the report were that a concise road map strategy should be drawn up; the importance of communicating how services need to change; identifying key indicators for demonstrating the achievement of improved outcomes for children; effective partnership working and developing Member awareness. Officers explained that a road map had subsequently been drawn up;
- Officers agreed with Members that much of what the review had highlighted for improvement was already present within the council. However, some work would

be taken to draw documents together and collate evidence to ensure they provided clarity to those from outside the authority.

Resolved

- That the report be noted.

212/12 RAISING AWARENESS AND CLARIFYING THE ROLE OF THE PANEL IN RELATION TO THE LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

Panel Members agreed with the Chair that it would be important to invite representatives of the board to attend a future Panel meeting to gain an understanding of the work undertaken.

Resolved

That representative of the local Safeguarding Children Board attend the future meeting.

213/12 FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2011/12

The Senior Finance Manager introduced the report. The following is a summary of the report and subsequent discussion:

- It was explained that the unaudited 2011/12 year end position was revenue underspend against budget of £0.791m. It was explained that the main reason for the underspend was a lower number of looked after children (LAC) which at 477 (lowest number during the year) was fewer than the anticipated 513;
- Further guidance was provided in relation to the use of redundancy reserves to fund the costs of teacher redundancies in local schools, while there was also increased expenditure in relation to the use of agency social workers;
- It was explained that there was a capital breakeven position. While outturn includes £624k of carry forwards to 2012/13.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

213/12 WORK PROGRAMME 2012/13 AND FORWARD PLAN

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

Resolved

That the work programme and Forward Plan be noted.

Summary of item considered in private session

214/12 EDUCATION DEVELOPMENTS

The Panel received an update from the Assistant Director, Children's Services

(Exempt information under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972) (as amended)

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair informed Members that the date of the next meeting would be 13 September 2012 at 6.00 pm.

The meeting terminated at 7:31 pm

Chair:

Date: