

ITEM 04

Time commenced – 6.00pm
Time finished – 6.55pm

Children and Young People Scrutiny Review Board 24 June 2019

Present: Councillor Lind (Chair)
Councillors Hezelgrave, Hussain, Kus, McCristal, Pattison and Testro
Co-optee – Steve Grundy.

In Attendance: Abdul Siddiqi, Youth Mayor
Gagandeep Kaur, Deputy Youth Mayor
Gurmail Nizzer – Director of Children's Integrated Commissioning
Alison Wynn – Assistant Director of Public Health (Corporate)
Councillors Ashburner and Naitta

01/19 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Andy Smith, Strategic Director Peoples Services, Nicky Fenton

02/19 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were none.

03/19 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

04/19 Minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

The Board requested updates on the actions from the last meeting

05/19 Extended Entitlement for 3 and 4 Year Olds Parental Survey

The Board considered a report which gave an update on the outcome of a further extended entitlement parental survey undertaken in February 2019.

The report highlighted the good performance the Council has had with the take up of the extended entitlement. This had exceeded the achievements of other Local Authorities both regionally and nationally. It was good news that there were 2,127 children currently accessing the offer in Derby compared with DfE expectations of 2,050.

The report raised awareness of the activities undertaken by the Council's Childcare and Families Information Team (CFIT) to not only promote the

extended entitlement but, also, Tax Free Childcare (TFC). This scheme could help reduce childcare costs for parents by 20%. The survey confirmed 55% of parents were accessing TFC compared to just 28% in the February 2018 survey.

The report also highlighted how flexibly the extended entitlement was being delivered across the city in both childcare settings and schools to support working parents and those looking to increase work hours / or return to work.

The report updated the Board on how feedback was given by the Council to the DfE and HMRC on the application process and how robust communication, support and guidance given by the Council to childcare providers, schools, parents and professionals had resulted in 93% of the parents in the survey now being confident with the process and making online applications to HMRC.

It was noted that this further extended entitlement survey was requested by the Board at the meeting on 9 April 2018 and the concerns at the time linked to the HMRC application process, schools ability to deliver the offer and low take up of the Tax Free Childcare, which had all significantly improved.

Members of the Board asked if the comment responses in the survey would be followed up with parents.

Resolved

- 1. To note the excellent take up levels of the FEEE extended entitlement in Derby and performance which was above East Midlands and National levels.**
- 2. CFIT to continue to proactively support parents, childcare providers and professionals to be aware of the extended entitlement, the application process and the ability to reduce childcare costs by 20% by using Tax Free Childcare.**
- 3. To note the positive outcomes of the FEEE extended entitlement has had on families and the continued actions to be undertaken by Council to ensure this continues to be delivered flexibly and compliantly by childcare providers to meet the needs of working parents.**
- 4. To request that the comments in the responses from parents be followed up.**

06/19 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Update

The Board received a presentation which gave an update on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

The presentation included

- Children for whom Education and Health Care (EHC) plans were newly made.

- New EHC plans issued within 20 weeks.
- Placement of children for whom Local Authorities maintain an EHC plan.
- Placement of children with a new EHC plan.
- Resourced provision in maintained mainstream schools.
- EHC plans with personal budgets, mediation and tribunal cases.

It was reported that there had been a SEND Ofsted inspection last week and SEND peer review the week before. Details of these would be brought to the Board at the appropriate time.

Members of the Board asked about the differences between what the Council was saying and what parents were wanting. It was reported that parental concerns tended to occur when the placements broke down or because of parental preference.

Members of the Board asked if there was any evidence to suggest that attending special schools resulted in better outcomes from the pupils rather than attending main stream schools. It was reported that there was no academic evidence of better educational outcomes. Special schools tended to accommodate children with higher levels of special needs (severe learning difficulties).

Members of the Board asked about the costs of using barristers / solicitors in mediation cases. It was agreed to request statistical information on the costs for tribunal cases to a future meeting of the Board.

Members of the Board asked if the approach to the criteria for children attending had changed recently. It was reported that historically the thresholds had been different but the graduated response strategy now outlined levels for inclusion in main stream schools.

Resolved

- 1. To note the presentation.**
- 2. To request statistical information be presented to the Board on tribunal cases for mediation.**

07/19 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Health Needs Assessment

The Board considered a report which gave an update on the SEND Health Needs Assessment (HNA) which was published as part of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).

Resolved to note the process by which the SEND HNA was currently being reviewed and updated.

08/19 Work Programme 2019/20

The Board considered a report which allowed the Board to study its Terms of Reference and Remit for the forthcoming Municipal Year. The report set out key work areas, issues and potential topic review subjects within the service areas for discussion or inclusion in the work programme.

The Board agreed the work programme set out in appendix 1 to the report.

Two suggestions were put forward for potential topic reviews, these were child obesity and child suicide. It was agreed to receive a short summary of these items and any other items suggested by the Board be considered at the next meeting for potential topic review.

It was reported that the Health and Wellbeing Board were holding a child obesity workshop in October/November 2019 and Members of the Board could attend this if they wished to. It was also reported that there would be a SEND performance surgery on 16 October 2019.

Resolved

- 1. To approve the work programme set out in appendix 1 to the report.**
- 2. To request Members of the Board to submit items for potential topic review to the Chair for consideration at the next meeting.**
- 3. To receive a short summary on items for potential topic review at the next meeting.**

MINUTES END