

**MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
MEETING  
HELD AT 7PM ON THURSDAY 14 MARCH 2019  
BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOMS, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

**Committee Members Present:** Councillors J Goodwin (Chairman), S Bashir, G Casey, A Dowson, A Ellis, M Farooq, S Lane, D Over (Vice Chairman) J Stokes, R Brown, B Saltmarsh  
Co-opted Members: A Kingsley, Rizwan Rahemtulla, P Cantley, and Parish Councillor J Bhatti

**Also Present:** Councillor Ayres, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University  
Councillor Smith, Cabinet Member for Children's Services  
Liz Knight, Academic Director at University Centre Peterborough  
Pat Carrington, Assistant Director Skills and Employment / Principal, City College Peterborough

**Officers Present:** Lou Williams, The Service Director for Children's Services and Safeguarding  
Jonathan Lewis, Service Director, Education  
Adrian Chapman, Service Director Communities and Safety  
Anna Jack, Head of Youth Support  
Clare Buckingham, Strategic Education Place Planning Manager, CCC and PCC  
Ian Trafford, Area Education Officer

**47. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Rush and Councillor Fower. Councillor A Iqbal and Councillor Stokes attended as substitutes. Apologies were also received from Parish Councillor Co-opted Member Susie Lucas and Education Co-opted Member Flavio Vettese.

**48. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING DECLARATIONS**

**ITEM 7. THE UNIVERSITY OF PETERBOROUGH UPDATE REPORT**

Councillor Casey declared a pecuniary interest in that he was an employee of Anglia Ruskin University and that he would therefore leave the room when item 7 was discussed.

**49. MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON 3 JANUARY 2019**

The minutes of the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 3 January 2019 were agreed as a true and accurate record with the acceptance of the following additions:

- Cllr Sam Smith, Cabinet Member for Children's Services wished it noted that she had sent her apologies ahead of the meeting but that these had not been noted in the minutes.
- Co-opted Member Parish Councillor Junaid Bhatti also wished it noted that he had submitted his apologies ahead of the meeting but that these had not been noted.

## **50. CALL IN OF ANY CABINET, CABINET MEMBER OR KEY OFFICER DECISIONS**

There were no requests for call-in to consider.

## **51. PETERBOROUGH SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN 2019 and EDUCATION ORGANISATION PLAN 2020**

The Service Director for Education introduced the report accompanied by the Strategic Education Place Planning Manager, Area Education Officer and Cabinet Member for Education Skills and University. The report provided the Committee with an update on the current 2018-2019 School Organisation Plan and proposed changes to the 2019-2020 School Organisation Plan.

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- Members sought assurance with regard to the opening of the new Hampton Lakes Primary school in 2020 and whether any contingency plans had been put in place should this not happen. Officers advised that there had been a recent meeting between the Trust and the Department for Education and they were confident that the school would be open in 2019 .
- Concern was raised with regard to the additional 650 homes that would be built at Peterborough showground and whether there would be enough school places available. Members were informed that Ormiston Meadows Academy was currently under subscribed and that capacity was being monitored but it was felt that there would be enough school places available.
- A decision on whether Peterborough had been successful with regard to the application to open a secondary free school under Wave 13 of the DfE's central free school programme at Paston Reserve was still outstanding, and it was not known when this decision would be made. If unsuccessful plans for secondary school provision would have to be reviewed.
- Members referred to page 37 of the report, Fletton and Woodston Primary School and how the children in the area would soon exceed the places available and what was being done to address this. Members asked if consideration could be given to the old British Sugar building at Sugar Way and if this could be integrated in some way in the future for use by the children. Officers advised that it was not within their remit to decide on the use of a building but would pass on the committee's suggestions to the planning department.
- Comments were made with regard to reports in national newspapers concerning a teacher's survey and the state of education due to funding cuts. Members asked if a similar confidential survey could be conducted with the teachers in Peterborough asking what they were concerned about at their schools due to the impact of funding cuts. Members were informed that there were concerns from the schools about the lack of funding, pay awards and pension cuts. Funding cuts were also impacting on Early Years and SEND provision. Peterborough had been highly proactive around this issue and a recent petition had been presented to Parliament for debate. Head Teachers have been approached and they had agreed to provide anecdotal information about the impact that the cuts were having on their schools. A full report on the results and how the council were lobbying Parliament would be brought back to the Committee at a future meeting.

- Members referred to page 32 of the report and the statement *“The Council continues to respond positively to the changes in national policy direction, working closely with existing and potential education providers and the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) to promote diversity, choice and quality in education provision across the City.”* Members referred to the ‘quality’ aspect of the statement and sought clarification as to whether there was a strategic approach to expanding the ‘outstanding’ schools provision. Members were informed that the Local Authority had been very proactive in expanding schools starting with the high performing schools. In terms of expanding Free School provision an invitation inviting bids and setting out clearly what the Local Authority required and expected in terms of quality and educational outcomes had been sent out to schools that were performing well and had the capacity to expand. Consequently the Local Authority had received two Free School bids from quality providers already in the city which would help to drive up the standards across the city however the final decision would not be determined by the Local Authority.
- Paston Reserve Secondary school would initially have a five form entry with a long term aspiration to go to an eight form entry. The entry would start at year 7. The school would grow naturally but would also take into account any change in demands.
- The secondary allocation for the new September intake had a 4% increase in children obtaining their first preference which meant that 86% of children were now getting their first preference which demonstrated the success of the school place planning strategy.

#### **AGREED ACTIONS:**

1. The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to note:
  - (a) the present status of the 2018-2019 School Organisation Plan and endorse the planned changes described in the report for 2019 and the proposed Education Organisation Plan 2020
  - (b) that the DfE approved changes to school planning areas are reflected in future updates of both plans
2. The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee also requested that the Director of Education bring a report back to the Committee in July containing the results of the survey conducted of Head teachers about the impact that the cut in funding was having on their schools. The report to include how the Peterborough Education Authority were lobbying Parliament regarding the funding cuts.

## **52. TARGETED YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICE**

The Chairman acknowledged the attendance of the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services for this item and that the Cabinet Member would be stepping down from this position for the next municipal year. The Chairman wished to thank the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Committee for her commitment and hard work in supporting Children’s Services in her role as Cabinet Member and in attending the scrutiny committee meetings and responding to all questions asked of her.

The Service Director, Communities and Safety accompanied by the Head of Youth Support and Cabinet Member for Children’s Services introduced the report which was being presented to the Committee as a referral from the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee and provided Members with information on the progress made relating to the implementation of the Targeted Youth Services (TYSS) following its redesign. The service supported young people with complex needs and challenging behaviour. The Cabinet Member for Children’s Services requested that members of the Committee advertised the service as much as possible to ensure that 13 to 19 year olds in need of help received the maximum support available.

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- Members sought clarification as to whether there had been much knife crime in Peterborough and if so how it was being dealt with. Officers advised that they were aware of young people who were carrying knives or were involved with adults groups who have been known to carry knives, however there was not a persistent problem in Peterborough at the moment. Targeted support was put in place for those young people felt to be at risk of turning to criminality through exploitation to support them in not going down that route. TYSS were working with colleagues from Health, Social Care and Police to ensure a targeted response. The Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Children's Board was leading on a cross partner organisation review to ensure that knife crime in the city did not escalate.
- A considerable amount of consultation had taken place with service users, families and partner organisations with regard to the redesign of the service.
- The Police Force worked alongside the TYSS and had a seconded police officer sitting alongside the TYSS team. There was currently a zero tolerance in place with regard to knife related crimes and the police would take action if a young person was found to be carrying a knife. A more preventative approach was used with regard to lower level crime.
- It was hoped that over the next twelve months there would be an increase in the early help element of caseload work and a decrease in other areas.
- Members noted in the report that the TYSS had experienced challenges in respect of the recruitment of qualified Social Workers to the Youth and Family Teams and questioned whether this had improved. Officers advised that they had now recruited three full time staff who would be starting towards the end of April. There was currently a 40% vacancy rate but over the next two months it was anticipated that there would be a full complement of staff in place.

#### **AGREED ACTIONS:**

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to:

1. Scrutinise and comment upon progress made in respect of implementation of the Targeted Youth Support Service.
2. Consider, comment on and endorse the performance framework plans for the first 12 months of implementation.

At this point Councillor Casey left the room for the duration of item 7, The University of Peterborough Update Report.

#### **53. THE UNIVERSITY OF PETERBOROUGH UPDATE REPORT**

The Assistant Director Skills and Employment / Principal, City College Peterborough introduced the report accompanied by the Academic Director at University Centre Peterborough and the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University. The report provided the Committee with an update on the progress of University Peterborough. It was noted that the priorities and vision of the university had now been agreed and a Shadow Council for the University had now been formed.

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses included:

- Members requested better communications and clarity regarding the formation of one University in Peterborough as there had been some confusion over whether there would be two universities, those being the University of Peterborough and Anglian Ruskin

University. The Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University confirmed that there would be one single university in Peterborough but this would take time to establish. Momentum was gathering and a site had been identified on the north side of the embankment for the University and the curriculum was being worked on.

- The University would meet the needs of the people of Peterborough and would include both the classics and business apprenticeships. A degree apprenticeship was still higher education. There was not enough young people currently in Peterborough who were being inspired and the University would provide an offer to suit a variety of skills e.g. engineering, computers, accounting etc. The University would be employment focussed and would also offer courses for people who were already in work but wanted to develop their career.
- Members requested that consideration be given to having an extramural department at the University as well as vocational courses to allow more mature students to have a second chance at education.
- Members commented that a University would raise the profile of Peterborough and bring people to Peterborough.
- The Shadow Council of University Centre Peterborough consisted of thirteen members. The Chairman, Professor Sir Les Ebdon was not being paid in his role as Chairman. He had been Vice Chancellor at Plymouth and Bedfordshire and the role he had before was in Government. He had also worked in the organisation which was now called Office for Students (OfS) which provided the regulatory framework for Higher Education in England where his main area of focus was around access and participation for underrepresented groups.
- Members were concerned that the Vision for the University was purely about human capital to benefit the economy of Peterborough. Members were informed that the Vision for the University was about equipping people for opportunities in life to enable them to get good employment and wider transferable skills. An Employer and Consultative Group was being formed to drive the strategy for the University and the Academic Director at University Centre Peterborough invited representation onto the group.
- Members commented that a blend of traditional subjects and work based vocational subjects was an ideal blend and what city businesses were looking for. This also provided more opportunities for people who were looking for a more affordable route into education.
- Consultation on the types of courses would be done in a range of ways. Curriculum development intensive days would be held which would involve academics, students, professional bodies and high profile employers.
- Members commented that the national trend for those going into higher education was declining and wanted to know how this would impact on the new University.
- The Academic Director advised that a lot of time had been spent looking at student choice and working with UCAS who provided information on national trends and what types of subjects would need to be offered now and in the future. The key was to have a curriculum which offered a variety of degrees including accelerated two year degrees. The curriculum could be traditional but also mapped to degree apprenticeships where appropriate and to digital, engineering and health and social care needs. Peterborough currently had low level of educational attainment but having a University would change that as had been proved in other areas like Lincoln and Ipswich.
- To submit the Degree Awarding Powers (DAP) application to the OfS and Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) a three year plan had to be provided which included health and social care and pathways within computing. The health and social care would be an integrated degree including foundation level and would be mapped to degree level apprenticeship. It was important to look at transferable skills, employability and personal growth.
- Members commented that tourism and agriculture should also be considered as part of the curriculum. The regeneration of the city was also important to ensure that there was something to offer students when they were off campus which including better transport.

The Chairman thanked the Academic Director for attending the meeting and providing the Committee with a passionate and in-depth overview of the vision and emerging curriculum for the University.

#### **AGREED ACTIONS:**

1. The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to note the content of the report, the history and progress to date in securing a University in Peterborough that would have degree awarding powers.
2. The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee also requested that a further report on the progress of the University be brought back to the Committee during the next municipal year.

8.20pm Councillor Casey re-joined the meeting.

#### **54 SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK AS A RESULT OF BEING MISSING FROM HOME, EDUCATION OR CARE**

The Service Director for Children's Services and Safeguarding accompanied by the Cabinet Member for Children's Services introduced the report. This report briefly summarised the ways in which agencies were working together in Peterborough to help prevent young people becoming at risk of exploitation by others and to actively disrupt the activities of those seeking to exploit vulnerable young people.

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses included:

- The Service Director pointed out that there was a typographical error in the report at paragraph 4.37 where it stated that "*Further details about the TYSS are included in a separate report Appendix 1 - The Contextual Safeguarding Briefing*". Further details regarding the TYSS were not part of the Safeguarding Children and Young People report but had been included in a previous report at agenda item 6, Targeted Youth Support Service. Appendix 1 – the Contextual Safeguarding Briefing however had been included.
- The Cabinet Member for Children's Services advised the Committee that she had recently attended a meeting of the Safeguarding Board where it was highlighted that criminal and sexual exploitation was everybody's business and not just a Local Authority problem or Policing issue. Health, Education, parents and all communities needed to be involved to be aware and be able to recognise the issue.
- The table on page 65, under paragraph 4.21 provided data on how long children and young people had been missing for. Most young people who went missing were missing for a relatively short amount of time and most young people only went missing on the odd occasion. There was however a very small group of children and young people who went missing for a longer period of time and more regularly and these were often children who were known to Children's Services. It was important that agencies distinguished between normal behaviour of young people and those whose behaviour was more concerning.
- Members sought clarification as to whether County Lines was more of a problem in Cambridge rather than Peterborough. Members were informed that information received from the Police was that there was a more established local supply network in Peterborough than in Cambridge but there were more County Lines involving young people in Cambridge than Peterborough, however this was changing.
- Members noted that during the current financial year 331 children and young people had gone missing but the report had not stated how many had returned and sought assurance that the missing children and young people had been found. Members were informed that the children listed as missing had generally only been missing for 24 hours and that all children and young people listed in the table on page 65 had returned.

- Members were concerned that there may be children missing that were not known to the authority and if so how could this be resolved. Officers advised that they could only deal with situations that had been reported and most parents would report their child missing.
- Members referred to the Contextual Safeguarding Framework and asked if this had created significant additional workload and if so how capacity was being handled. Officers advised that this had created additional workload but it was managed through the shared Integrated Front Door Team located in Cambridgeshire which included a Missing, Exploited and Traffic Hub team and the Police. An IT system was currently being developed to enable partners to share information.
- Young people who had been excluded from school were more vulnerable to exploitation but it was the statutory duty of the school to notify the LEA.
- Young people were legally classed as an adult at the age of 18 and were therefore able to make independent decisions, however the Local Authority continued to work with young people at the age of 18 if they were considered to be vulnerable.

#### **AGREED ACTIONS:**

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note the activities by children's and community services as well as partner agencies to reduce the incidence of children and young people going missing and reducing associated risks of child sexual or criminal exploitation, and;
2. Note the new arrangements to improve information sharing between partner agencies by developing closer working relationships in this area between Peterborough City and Cambridgeshire County Councils, and;
3. Note the role of the new Targeted Youth Support Service in working with vulnerable young people at risk from exploitation.

#### **55. MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Senior Democratic Services Officer introduced the report which enabled the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee to monitor and track progress of recommendations made to the Executive or Officers at previous meetings.

#### **AGREED ACTIONS:**

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to note the progress made on recommendations made to the Executive or Officers at previous meetings.

#### **56. FORWARD PLAN OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

The Committee received the latest version of the Council's Forward Plan of Executive Decisions, containing key decisions that the Leader of the Council anticipated the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Members would make during the course of the following four months. Members were invited to comment on the Forward Plan and where appropriate identify any relevant areas for inclusion in the Committee's work programme.

Members requested further information on the following:

- **Expansion and Remodelling of Marshfields School – KEY/11DEC17/03** - The Service Director, Education informed Members that the need for additional places in special schools was recognised and that discussions were ongoing with both Marshfield's and Heltwaite` schools. Members were also advised that proposals would be available in late spring.

**AGREED ACTIONS:**

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to note the latest version of the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions.

CHAIRMAN  
7.00pm to 8.43 pm