

**MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MEETING
HELD AT 7PM ON THURSDAY 15 MARCH 2018
BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOMS, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

Committee Members Present: Councillors: D Over (Chairman), R Bisby, G Casey, A Dowson,
A Iqbal, J Johnson, B Rush, M Mahabadi, C Harper
Al Kingsley Co-opted Member
Liz Youngman Education Co-opted Member

Officers in Attendance: Lou Williams Service Director for Children and Safeguarding
Brian Howard Head of Schools Infrastructure
Daniel Mason School Place Planning Officer
Jonathan Lewis Service Director Education
Pat Carrington Asst. Director Skills & Employment / Principal
City College Peterborough
Tanya Meadows Deputy Principal
Terry Jones Principal of Peterborough Regional College
Paulina Ford Senior Democratic Services Officer

Also Present: Cllr Sam Smith Cabinet Member for Children’s Services

49. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the Chairman Cllr Goodwin, Councillor Saltmarsh, Parish Councillor Co-opted Member Susie Lucas, Independent Co-opted Member Rizwan Rahemtulla, and Education Co-opted Member, Flavio Vettese. Councillor Harper attended as a substitute for Councillor Goodwin. The Vice Chairman, Councillor Over assumed the role of Chairman for the meeting.

As this was the last scheduled meeting of the Committee for this municipal year Councillor Goodwin, through Councillor Over, sent her thanks to the Committee for their support and valuable contribution to the scrutiny process over the past year. Councillor Goodwin also wished to thank all the officers who had provided reports to the Committee and their commitment to the scrutiny process in providing information and answers to the Committee’s questions.

50. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING DECLARATIONS

There were no declarations of Interest or whipping declarations.

**51. MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 29 JANUARY 2018**

The minutes of the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 29 January 2018 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

52. CALL IN OF ANY CABINET, CABINET MEMBER OR KEY OFFICER DECISIONS

There were no requests for call-in to consider.

53. SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK AS A RESULT OF BEING MISSING FROM HOME, EDUCATION OR CARE

The Service Director for Children and Safeguarding introduced the report. The report provided the Committee with an update on activities being undertaken by partner agencies that were working together to help safeguard children and young people who may have been at increased risk of exploitation by others as a result of being missing from home, care or education.

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

- The report outlined the work being undertaken by the Children and Safeguarding Service to try and safeguard young people who went missing.
- There was a clear overlap between young people who regularly went missing and risks that they faced from various forms of exploitation such as sexual exploitation.
- 'County Lines' was a concept whereby young people were used by older children or adults to move drugs around the country and was an increasing problem for the service. The young children involved often thought of themselves as actors in a role and saw themselves as getting some status from the activity therefore making the activity difficult to detect.
- There was similarity between all forms of exploitation in that there was a grooming process, an exploitation process and often the young people who were involved did not recognise what was happening to them.
- The key to addressing these problems was to make sure that those who worked with young people were alive to the issues and regularly talked to young people about them rather than shying away from them.
- There was a slight error in paragraph 4.3.3 which stated that the Strategic Missing Meeting *developed* multi agency strategic plans where in fact they did not develop plans but made sure that the plans that were in place were effective.
- No one could guarantee that the sort of things reported in Telford recently were not happening in Peterborough however, the service had a very good relationship with the Police and monthly meetings took place to share information such as addresses where vulnerable young people may be attending.
- The police were actively working to disrupt the activity of anyone who may be seeking to exploit Peterborough's young people.
- The service was vigilant to any sexual exploitation and although there were individuals who were at risk there did not currently seem to be any large gangs operating in the area.
- Officers did not feel that the new data protection legislation would have any impact on the sharing of information between services.
- Partnership engagement was very positive and the service was looking to extend more work across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire as a number of partners worked across the region as a whole.
- A missing, exploited and trafficked (MET) children's hub had been set up in Cambridge which sat in the integrated front door system and Peterborough hoped to set up a similar approach.
- The acronyms used in paragraph 4.23 of the report were explained as follows;

- CLA; a Child Looked After ie. a child currently in care
- CP; a Child with a Protection Plan but still living at home with their families
- CIN; a Child In Need and open to Children's Social Care but not subject to child protection plan
- Children who had gone missing were interviewed by Barnardo's if they were children who had gone missing from home. The National Youth Advisory service interviewed them if they were children who had gone missing from a care placement. The reason for using different organisations was so that children did not talk to anyone directly involved in their care in case the child had any concerns or worries that they did not want to share with a parent or social worker.
- Home educated children were monitored by a Home Education Officer to make sure that what was being taught was appropriate. Local authorities had very little powers if parents opted to educate their children from home.

ACTIONS AGREED:

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

1. The activities by Children's Services and partner agencies in Peterborough to reduce the incidence of children and young people going missing and reducing associated risks of child sexual or criminal exploitation and
2. The proposed activities to improve information sharing between partner agencies by developing closer working relationships in this area between Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council.

54. SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN 2018

The Head of Schools Infrastructure introduced the report which had originated at the request of the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee and at the request of the Cabinet Member for Education Skills and University to provide an update on the School Organisation Plan (2015-2020).

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

- During the last year the Schools Infrastructure Team had started working with the School Place Planning and Demography Team at Cambridgeshire County Council to help produce the annual capacity and forecast returns for the Department of Education. These returns formed the basis on which the needs capital funding was received each year.
- The number of primary schools had been expanded over the past five years to cope with the population increases that Peterborough had experienced. In October 2013 there had been 18300 primary age children on role and as of October 2017 there were 21256 children on role; an increase of 3,000 children which equated to 100 extra classes.
- Approximately 3100 children were forecast to enter the school system each year over the next five years and extra capacity for this had been created.
- Woodston and Stanground were 'hotspots' and providing sufficient places for local children had been an issue. The Cardea and Oakdale schools had been expanded to cope with demand and the situation would be monitored closely.
- Hampton schools had already been expanded to cope with demand and so opportunities for further expansion were limited. It was likely that mobile classrooms would have to be provided to cope with any bulge years.
- Rurally, there was concern about the Eye and St. John Clare primary schools' ability to cope with demand due to housing developments that were taking place in the area.

- The growth in primary places would start to place pressure on secondary school places from September 2019 even though the Ken Stimpson school expansion would be complete by then providing an extra 60 places and Bushfield, Nene Valley Park and Jack Hunt would have been expanded to provide another 150 year 7 places.
- By 2020 there would only be 14 spare secondary school places available and by 2021 only 7 spare places which was an extremely narrow margin to work with.
- The Paston Reserve Secondary school was scheduled to open in September 2021 but was waiting for the Government's wave 13 bidding round to reopen after a delay of a year. This may therefore cause a delay to the opening date. Paston School when open, would provide five forms of entry for the area of Manor Drive and Norwood, based on yield calculations and three forms of extra capacity for the rest of the City. The benefit of this funding bid was that approval would come with capital to build the school and therefore the Council would not have to fund it themselves.
- There were options and contingency plans for the City of Peterborough and Stanground academies to be expanded if needed and there had been expressions of interest from three other schools to take in bulge years.
- The 5% surplus places referred to in the report was an ideal but in reality schools worked to full capacity.
- Primary in-year growth had dropped significantly year on year from the highs of 2012-2016 which would help ease the pressure on in year placements.
- There were currently 121 spare primary school places in reception year, 47 in year 1 and 100 in each of years 2 to 6, and despite reporting pressures on the system the City had never run out of places.
- The mobile classrooms to accommodate bulge years would be used as a temporary measure however the modern mobiles were much improved and sometimes better quality than the existing school buildings. The mobiles also offered value for money for the Council because it gave a flexibility to accommodate extra students that may then not be needed in future years.
- Although the pinch points to school places seemed to be linked to new housing developments the Council fared relatively well in terms of section 106 contributions which often contributed the land for school development. At the new Great Haddon development, which would have a secondary school and three new primary schools section 106 monies would provide the land and capital to build the schools.
- Some of the students from Yaxley and Facet that historically would have gone to Stanground Academy now went to Hampton Gardens but capacity at Stanground was still needed because of the housing development at Cardea.
- Officers noted the omission of Barnack School from the primary catchment data shown on page 48 of the report and offered to provide a new diagram for Committee members with the latest, most up to date information.
- With school place planning there had to be a real balance between having enough school places and spending money on schools that would be empty in the future after bulge years had passed. Officers felt that although they were cutting it fine they had an eye on the future, were conscious of the future development plans of Peterborough and would meet the Council's statutory requirement to provide school places without overspending public money.

ACTIONS AGREED

The Children and Education Committee **RESOLVED** to note the present status described in the report of the School Organisational Plan (2015 -2020) as updated and published in 2017 and requested that:

1. Officers provide the Committee with an updated Primary Catchment Data diagram to include Barnack Primary school.

55. EXAMINATION (GCSE) OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AGED 16 YEARS IN 2017

The Service Director Education introduced the report which provided the Committee with an update on validated key stage 3 results and rates of progress made by young people in Peterborough Secondary Schools and Academies in the 2017 public examinations (GCSE).

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

- There was a considerable amount of new jargon and changes with regard to how attainment was measured. The Service Director offered to provide the Committee with a briefing on the changes at the beginning of the next municipal year.
- Progress measured how much value a school adds to a child during their time at that school. The Progress 8 figure compared children in Peterborough schools to children in every other school in the country individually to where they started and where they ended and where the most value was added.
- Outcomes for Peterborough had declined slightly and had moved from a measure of minus 0.03 to minus 0.07. This outcome is broken down into subject area with English results being one of the lowest components of the measure but maths had seen an improvement in outcomes. Results were lower in 'other' subjects which were not the core subjects such as history, music etc.
- There were no longer grades A to G and the grading was now 1 to 9 with a good pass being a grade 5 which was the equivalent of a low B grade in the old GCSE grading system.
- Secondary schools in the city were continuing to operate the Self-Improvement Schools Network and had been quoted as best practice.
- A great amount of work had already been done with regard to ESOL (English as a Second Language) courses. Further research needed to be done with regard to what schools were offering to fill the gaps at home for children and parents for whom English was a second language.
- Teach East was noted as being a success but Members sought clarification as to what could be done to retain teachers in Peterborough once qualified. Members were informed that those that had gone through the Teach East programme were more likely to be retained in Peterborough. The bigger challenge was around the pressures that were put on teachers generally. There had been some interesting work undertaken in other areas an example of which was the Workforce Charter in Nottingham which set out the expectations and requirements of teachers. Another initiative was where schemes of work were bought in for teachers instead of them having to produce a scheme of work and therefore reducing the work load. There was a need to have a look at what could be done to reduce the pressures on teachers and to provide good ongoing training and development opportunities.
- Members enquired as to whether awards or incentives could be offered to teachers. The Service Director advised that the annual Education Awards event was held annually where success was celebrated but noted that more could be done around the wellbeing of teachers and welcomed ideas from the Committee.
- Members felt that valuing the teachers, nurturing their enthusiasm and asking their opinion were important factors in retaining teachers.
- Members sought clarification as to how the Service Director felt about Peterborough being ranked 147 for attainment. The Service Director advised that the ranking was not acceptable and an action plan was in place to improve on this score as quickly as possible.
- Government judged Local Education Authorities on both attainment and progress and both needed improvement. Peterborough was a challenging context with high mobility, funding challenges, recruitment and retention issues. A considerable amount of work had

already been done to try and mitigate those issues. Despite those factors children needed to have better outcomes and a great deal more work needed to be done to improve these.

- A missing element from the report was about outcomes of young people leaving school and destinations. The Service Director noted this and advised that it would be included in future reports.
- Members wanted to know how the challenge of obtaining high outcomes at GCSE level and understanding that it was not always about going on to university could be dealt with. Members were informed that successful destinations and transitions to schemes like apprenticeships were just as important.

ACTIONS AGREED:

1. The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to note the contents of the report and engage positively with, and advise, other Elected Members and Officers in their work to support and challenge schools to improve standards of attainment and rates of progress for children in Peterborough Secondary Schools and Academies.
2. The Committee requested that future reports should include information on destinations of young people when leaving school.

56. COMMUNITY EDUCATION INCLUDING APPRENTICESHIP PROVISION

The Principal of City College Peterborough accompanied by the Principal of the Peterborough Regional College introduced the report which gave an update on City College Peterborough (CCP) since the last report to the Scrutiny committee in January 2017, with specific emphasis on apprenticeships and adult learning (including community learning).

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

- Apprenticeships. There had been significant change nationally in apprenticeships since the change in funding and the apprenticeship levy was introduced last year. The Budget Statement in October had reported a 59% decline in apprenticeship starts nationally. One of the challenges had been the differences in the new funding mechanism which had proved confusing for employers. Locally the unvalidated figures were showing a decline in apprenticeship starts of 17% but this did not reflect the national figure which was a decline of 54%.
- Both City College Peterborough and Peterborough Regional College had a strategy in place to build on and increase the number of apprenticeships and support local employers to understand how the apprenticeship scheme worked.
- Much work had already been done with local employers to assist them in understanding the national changes that were being put in place. Additionally work had taken place with the Council to ensure that all Directors and HR understood the changes that were taking place.
- The City of Cambridge and Peterborough were doing quite well with apprenticeship starts whereas there had been a significant dip in the more rural areas due to changes in funding and employers no longer finding it financially viable.
- Last year there were approximately 1400 apprenticeships and this year it was expected that there would be approximately 1500.
- Work started early by looking at labour market intelligence working in partnership with the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). There had been a recent review of apprenticeship providers and some previously established providers were no longer on the provider register. Peterborough Regional College had remained on the provider register.

- Peterborough Regional College (PRC) had recently gone into partnership to form the Peterborough Skills Academy with two light vehicle body repair businesses to provide apprenticeships. PRC had also bought a company based in Norwich which had a large number of Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) apprenticeships and had also formed a company for customer service based apprenticeships in the city.
- Apprenticeships were not just for young people and work had been done with businesses to re-educate them about investing in their current workforce and how apprenticeships can work for them and succession planning.
- The shortest an apprenticeship must last was a year and a day. Apprenticeships at the PRC tended to be for two or three years whilst the ones at the City College tended to be shorter and more administrative type apprenticeships. Delivery of apprenticeships by PRC were either delivered by sub-contracting them or delivering them directly. The aim was to reduce apprenticeships provided by sub-contractors as these tended to have a lesser success rate. Direct delivery apprenticeships had shown a year on year increase in success rates. Sub-contractors with a poor performance would have no new starters going forward.
- There were opportunities for the City College to work with schools and parents to raise awareness that the vocational element was an alternative route to university and that a high level accreditation could be achieved. The apprenticeship route also provided the opportunity to learn whilst earning.
- There had been a drop in the 16 to 18 age group for apprentices and an increase in the older age group apprentices due to the way the government funding was aimed.
- The Combined Authority had some money which could be invested in skills and they had agreed to provide additional funding on top of what the government provide. This would be used to support small to medium enterprises to take on apprentices and put extra money to apprenticeships for 16 to 18 year olds. A report was being prepared to present to the Combined Authority regarding the local issues surrounding provision of apprenticeships and what might be done to address this.
- It had been a concern nationally for a number of years regarding the decline in interest from 16 to 18 year olds in vocational subjects. The Minister for Education had recently announced that all schools would be accountable for offering careers advice for alternative career paths other than university.
- Most of the schools in Peterborough provide the opportunity for the City College and the Regional College to attend Sixth Form Careers events and to demonstrate the alternative career paths.
- Community Education. Over the past ten years there have been a significant amount of changes including the name of Community Education which had also affected the funding rules. It had become a very difficult landscape to navigate in terms of what the funding could be used for. The most significant change going forward was that from 2019/2020 Government would no longer administer the fund and it would be administered by the Combined Authority who would receive the funding to be administered for Peterborough and Cambridgeshire.
- Funding had reduced significantly by 40% for adult and community learning however the City College had through innovative ways continued to provide a diverse range of learning opportunities and continued to be rated as Good by Ofsted.
- Members commented that Peterborough used to have a record for being the leading Community Education provider in the country.
- Members were concerned at the lack of provision of Community Education courses for the over 65 year olds in Peterborough.
- Members sought clarification as to what Community Education programmes were being provided across the city by schools and academy's for the 60 to 64 year olds and over 65 year olds and what percentage of the City Colleges budget was being spent on non-vocational courses for this age group and what was the system of funding and was it being ring fenced. The Principle of the City College responded that there

was national concern that the numbers of people in adult education were dropping and many areas were not achieving their full funding allocation and money was being clawed back into a national pot. However Peterborough and Cambridgeshire were both achieving their budget allocations in terms of Adult Education. The City College could not deliver programmes that were not being funded and there were strict guidelines as to what programmes could be delivered with the Adult Education budget. A number of courses were being run for the older learners and money was being ring fenced for Post 19 education.

- The Principle of the City College had recently met with the Minister for Skills to discuss the Adult Education budget and how it could be used to support social integration, social mobility and the links to improve Mental Health. The Minister was asked if Government would consider the underspend in education being re-fed back into the system to specifically support things like mental health. There were already pilots being run, one of which was in Peterborough. The Minister responded that she was waiting to see the results of the pilots before this could be considered.
- There was a need for a Life Long Learning Strategy to ensure a joined up approach to Life Long Learning and this might be considered by Government.
- A lot of work was being done with the Combined Authority in understanding how support could be provided to those furthest away from education and if those people were not supported in skills development there would be a significant skills deficit going forward.

ACTIONS AGREED:

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee reviewed the report and **RESOLVED** to note the update on Community Education including apprentice provision.

57. MONITORING SCUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Senior Democratic Services Officer introduced the report which provided the Committee with a record of recommendations made at the previous meeting and the outcome and progress of those recommendations to consider if further monitoring was required.

ACTIONS AGREED

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to consider the response from Cabinet Members and Officers to the recommendations made at the previous meeting, as attached in Appendix 1 of the report and agreed that no further monitoring of the recommendations was required.

58. 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 forthcoming month. Members were invited to comment on the Plan and where appropriate identify any relevant areas for inclusion in the Committee's work programme

ACTION AGREED

The Committee noted the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions and requested further information on the following Key Decision:

- SACRE Agreed Syllabus – KEY/02APRI18/01

CHAIRMAN
7.00pm - 8.47pm

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