



# Minutes

## *CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE AND LEARNING SELECT COMMITTEE*

Minutes from the meeting held on Tuesday 3 November 2015, in Mezzanine Room 2, County Hall, Aylesbury, commencing at 10.00 am and concluding at 12.02 pm.

This meeting was webcast. To review the detailed discussions that took place, please see the webcast which can be found at <http://www.buckscc.public-i.tv/>. The webcasts are retained on this website for 6 months. Recordings of any previous meetings beyond this can be requested (contact: [democracy@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@buckscc.gov.uk))

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dev Dhillon (Vice-Chairman), Phil Gomm, Paul Irwin, Valerie Letheren, Wendy Mallen, Robin Stuchbury and Katrina Wood

### **CO-OPTED MEMBERS PRESENT**

Michael Moore

### **GUESTS PRESENT**

Mrs. Lin Hazell and Zahir Mohammed

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

Carol Douch, Simon Rose and Yvette Thomas and Reece Bowman

### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Mrs J Blake, Mr D Babb, Mr D Watson.

### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



### **3 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 were agreed as an accurate record.

### **4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

### **5 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman updated the committee on the following:

- The Department for Education are due to visit social care soon to give their assessment of whether or not services are improving
- An LGA peer review team visited social care at the start of October and a verdict is expected from them shortly
- The Chairman, Miss Wood and Mr Bowman visited a foster carer on 19<sup>th</sup> Oct
- The Chairman and several other committee members had visited the Buckinghamshire Learning Trust on 20<sup>th</sup> Oct to meet the senior team and hear about what work is underway

### **6 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES**

Mr. Stuchbury and Miss Wood commented on the visits to the Buckinghamshire Learning Trust and the foster carer. They stated that both visits had been extremely informative and they expressed their gratitude to the hosts.

### **7 CABINET MEMBER UPDATES**

#### **7A CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE & LEARNING**

The key issues raised by the Cabinet Member included:

- The Local Government Association peer review that had taken place
- The 'Courageous Conversations' process that had taken place with staff
- Availability of parking for social workers
- The Department for Education's visit on 24<sup>th</sup> November

SEE PAPERS/WEBCAST FOR CONTENT

#### **7B CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & SKILLS**

The key issues raised by the Cabinet Member included:

- An Ofsted inspection of adult learning is starting today
- Using fewer, larger providers for adult learning is being explored
- Free adult learning courses are being provided from 23<sup>rd</sup> November for 1 week
- Apprenticeships are being developed – there is support for 6 at a local primary school
- The number of good and outstanding schools moved from 81% to 87% in Buckinghamshire
- Un-validated performance in schools is the same as last year, broadly
- Special Education and Needs (SEN) reforms – there is a move from statements to Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans, alongside a new inspection regime
- The service is forecasting an overspend, which needs to be managed whilst minimising the impact on the front line

SEE PAPERS/WEBCAST FOR CONTENT

## **8 CHILDREN'S SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT**

Members raised the following issues with the Cabinet Member:

- The findings of the Local Government Association peer review
- The variable levels of improvement across the performance indicators since June last year when Ofsted arrived, including the associated costs and impact on outcomes
- Fluctuations in the numbers of cases being sent to MASH
- Recruitment and retention of social workers

The Cabinet Member in response to questioning highlighted the following points:

- The findings of the peer review were mixed
- Various factors played a role in the fluctuating performance indicators, including unpredictable demand and issues around recruitment and retention
- Social workers recruited from overseas are being given the help and support they need to adapt to working in the county

SEE PAPERS/WEBCAST FOR CONTENT

## **9 TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSALS IN THE FUTURE SHAPE CONSULTATION**

The Service Director for Children's Social Care stated that the following principles underpinned the proposals:

- How joint commissioning with adult social care might work
- How the learning and children's social care aspects of the Business Unit can be more closely aligned.
- How to place the child at the centre of the Business Unit.

Members questioned the timing of the Future Shape programme given the current difficulties faced by the Business Unit.

SEE PAPERS/WEBCAST FOR CONTENT

## **10 CHILDREN'S INTERNET SAFETY INQUIRY PROGRESS UPDATE - 6 MONTHS ON**

Members received the update from the Policy and Equalities Manager.

The following issues were raised:

- The connection between internet safety and the prevention of CSE
- The hosting of the Cyber Safety Conference in 2016, including the best choice of venue given costs
- Web-based cyber-safety content, including what it consisted of and its accessibility

The members then considered their assessment of progress on each of the recommendations as follows:

- **Recommendation 1:** Recommendation implemented to the satisfaction of the committee.
- **Recommendation 2:** Recommendation implemented to the satisfaction of the committee.
- **Recommendation 3:** Recommendation on track to be completed to the satisfaction of the committee.
- **Recommendation 4:** Recommendation on track to be completed to the satisfaction of the committee.
- **Recommendation 5:** Recommendation on track to be completed to the satisfaction of the committee.
- **Recommendation 6:** Recommendation on track to be completed to the satisfaction of the committee.
- **Recommendation 7:** Recommendation implemented to the satisfaction of the committee.

SEE PAPERS/WEBCAST FOR CONTENT

## **10A INTERNET SAFETY INQUIRY UPDATE DOCUMENT (COMPLETED)**

## **11 CHILDREN'S SOCIAL SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

It was agreed that the work programme should be discussed in detail at the informal session to be held that afternoon.

## **12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2016.

**13 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Members agreed not to exclude the press and public for the following agenda item.

**14 TO RECEIVE THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE PREVENTING CSE INQUIRY**

Members discussed the draft report on child sexual exploitation (CSE).

The Committee resolved:

- To agree the Inquiry report and recommendations as a report of the Children's Social Care and Learning Select Committee; and for the report to go forward to the Safeguarding Board and Cabinet

The report and its recommendations were to be presented for response to the Children Safeguarding Board and Cabinet.

SEE PAPERS/WEBCAST FOR CONTENT

**CHAIRMAN**