

CHILDREN & FAMILIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting: 5 December 2018

At: 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Linda Holt (Chair) in the chair; Councillor Paul Porgess (Vice-Chair);
Councillors Malcolm Allan, Paul Ankers, Richard Coaton, John McGahan, David Meller,
Jude Wells and David Wilson,

Ian Roberts (Church of England Diocesan Education Committee)
Dr Lisa Robinson (Parent Governor Representative).

1. MINUTES

The Minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 31 October 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors and officers were invited to declare any interests they had in any of the items on the agenda for the meeting.

No declarations of interest were made.

3. CALL-IN

There were no call-in items to consider.

4. STOCKPORT YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2018/2019

The Director for Children's Services submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) outlining achievements against last year's plan and identifying priorities, opportunities and challenges for the coming year.

The following comments were made/issues raised:-

- Stockport YOS Partnership has managed to improve performance areas over the past 12 months when compared to other GM and North West authorities. The number of First Time Entrants (FTE) has decreased by 26.7% in Stockport over the past three years.
- Stockport still operate a youth court, one day a week, from Stockport Magistrates Court and pick up additional work from East Cheshire and the High Peak, for which there is a recharge.
- The YOS have a team of 9 volunteers fully trained in
- Restorative Justice and Mediation Skills to operate 'Referral Order Community Panels', which facilitate and agree a community contract with the young person and their family when they receive a 'Referral Order'.

- The Committee welcomed the fact that an Educational Psychologist works within the service on a commissioned basis to ensure the specific needs of offenders are addressed, as well as jointly delivering bespoke programmes for parents.
- Councillors discussed the ongoing work in respect to substance misuse and work with Mosaic in increasing awareness amongst case managers regarding emerging substances that young people may be using to ensure that they can signpost young people for appropriate support.
- The Committee noted that YOS was actively involved in a number of GM developments that had impacted on the way services were delivered and opened opportunities for further collaboration which had been widely taken up across the conurbation.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

5. MTFP: CABINET RESPONSE: OUR BUDGET CHOICES FOR 2019/2020

The Cabinet Member for Children & Families and Education submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on proposals which fell within the remit of the Scrutiny Committee.

The following comments were made/issues raised:-

- A Councillor asked how the specific budget saving proposals had been specifically arrived at particularly in respect to proposal one.
- The Committee noted that a detailed report would be submitted to the next meeting in respect to SEND.
- Councillors discussed the proposals relating to the removal of the Stockport Local Assistance Scheme. A number of Councillors expressed concern in relation to this proposal.
- The proposal to cease funding for the free Stockport Metroshuttle service after the current contract ends on 27th April 2019.
- The Committee expressed reservations about proposals to remove the Faith element of Free School Travel eligibility. Given the small level of savings it was suggested that the impact on local residents would far outweigh the benefits of the savings achieved. The impact would affect those pupils who attend Harrytown and St James' schools significantly.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

6. AGENDA PLANNING

A representative of the Democratic Services Manager submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) setting out planned agenda items for the Scrutiny Committees next meeting and relevant Forward Plan items.

Councillor Malcolm Allan reminded Councillors that he would like the Scrutiny Committee to give consideration to how best to engage young people more regularly in the decision making process.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.22 pm