

CHILDREN & FAMILIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting: 18 September 2019

At: 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Wendy Meikle (Chair) in the chair; Councillor Linda Holt (Vice-Chair); Councillors Paul Ankers, Laura Clingan, Yvonne Guariento, Janet Mobbs, Becky Senior and David Wilson.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 10 July 2019 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. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PROGRAMME (MTFP)

The Cabinet Member for Children, Family Services and Education submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing the opportunity for the Scrutiny Committee to comment on the Medium Term Financial Programme and on the development of proposals which had been agreed by the Cabinet in February 2019.

The following comments were made/issues raised:-

- Councillors discussed the response to the SEND inspection undertaken in September 2018 by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission. They noted the excellent work undertaken by officers in the Directorate and thanked them for their efforts.
- The impact of proposed savings on staffing.
- The successful efforts undertaken to recruit and increase the number of Foster Carers – it was acknowledged that this was a continuous challenge and that the ambition was always to place children in care within the borough.
- The Chair sought assurances that every effort would be made to mitigate the impact of the proposals on individuals effected by the SEND Transport proposals.
- The Committee discussed in detail the proposal relating to Stockport Local Transport and noted the Cabinet Members response in respect to the mitigating measures that will be put in place in an effort to protect the most vulnerable children and young adults.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

5. PREPAREDNESS FOR UK DEPARTURE FROM THE EU

A representative of the Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on Stockport's preparations for the UK's departure from the European Union.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

6. AGENDA PLANNING

A representative of the Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) setting out planned agenda items for the next meeting and relevant entries in the Forward Plan.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

7. YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN

A representative of the Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the Youth Justice Plan headline achievements against last year's plan and outlining priorities, opportunities and challenges for the forthcoming year.

Councillors welcomed the report and thanked officers for the excellent work undertaken over the course of the past year.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

8. SERIOUS YOUTH VIOLENCE AND KNIFE CRIME : STOCKPORT'S RESPONSE

A representative of the Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) explaining how the Council and its partners have responded to the report 'Keeping Kids Safe' published by the Children's Commissioner in February 2019 in efforts to address serious youth violence and to identify children who are at risk of gang affiliation and involvement in serious crime, including knife crime.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 7.10 pm