



Minutes of the meeting of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE held on WEDNESDAY 29 JANUARY 2020 at 7.00 PM

Present: Councillor Carr (Chair)
Councillors Baines, K Bradburn, M Bradburn, Brown, Marlow, Miles, Townsend and Wales

Officers: M Heath (Director of Children's Services), E Watkins (Deputy Director of Public Health), G Sandmann (Head of Youth & Community), D Balderstone (Improvement Partner, Secondary), S Morrow (School Improvement Partner, Primary), S Lloyd (Policy Manager), R Mascarenhas (Youth Participation Worker), E McCabe-Smith (Liberal Democrats, Political Assistant) and R Tidman (Overview and Scrutiny Officer)

Apologies: Councillors Akter, D Hopkins, V Hopkins, Montague and I Oduko (Parent Governor Representative) and S Rahman (SACRE Representative)

Also Present: Councillor Nolan (Cabinet member for Children and Families), H Pugliese (Commissioner, Milton Keynes Clinical Commissioning Group), M Manley (MK 2050 Education Lead), L Amner (Milton Keynes Youth Cabinet), T Poyner (Milton Keynes Youth Cabinet) and two members of the public.

CYP12 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillors Brown and K Bradburn advised the Committee that they were employees of schools within Milton Keynes, but they did not have any interest in the items on the agenda that would preclude them taking part in any discussions or votes the Committee might have.

Councillors Marlow and Miles advised that they were governors of schools within Milton Keynes, but they did not have any interest in the items on the agenda that would preclude them taking part in any discussions or votes the Committee might have.

CYP13 MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the Committee's meetings held on 12 September 2019 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

CYP14 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED -

There were no questions from members of the public

CYP15 JOINT TARGETED AREA INSPECTION OF THE MULTI-AGENCY RESPONSE TO CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH IN MILTON KEYNES

**Witnesses: M Heath (Director of Children's Services),
E Watkins (Deputy Director of Public Health) and
H Pugliese (Commissioner, Milton Keynes Clinical
Commissioning Group)**

The Committee received an update on how the inspection was carried out and a summary of the report's recommendations. It was explained that the inspection was not just targeted at the Council it was an area based inspection of all services that offer a 'front door service' involving children. The witnesses indicated that the report was a fair reflection and noted that it did not identify any priority actions. The partnership was required to submit an action plan in response to the Inspection's recommendations by 30 March 2020.

In response to questions the Committee noted that:

- (a) mental health leads in schools was an extra 'hat' rather than an extra person and work was being carried out to ensure staff had the skills to recognise concerns earlier, for example, mental health first aid training;
- (b) national funding had been awarded to launch a mental health in schools team with Sir Herbert Leon Academy being the first school in Milton Keynes to benefit from the service which would offer 1:1 support for pupils, group work and support for schools to create a positive mental wellbeing environment;
- (c) bereavement support was an area that needed more development including the provision of a skilled menu of responses together with practical elements such as memorial gardens or reflection rooms;
- (d) whilst there was surprise about the lack of a directory of services, it was appreciated that directories were difficult to keep up to date;
- (e) the Kooth online support tool was being well utilised and allowed young people aged 11-20 to access it without parental consent;

- (f) the Youth Cabinet had resources to support young people with mental health issues;
- (g) there was concern that the Police were not working to the level we would expect them to in respect of children in custody and children in care;
- (h) it was identified in the report that the 'Voice of the Child' was not consistently captured within the hospital setting and that in an urgent medical situation stabilising a patient would take priority over anything else, but that work was being carried out particularly to improve practices in A&E; and
- (i) whilst there had been an enormous amount of work carried out in the last 18 months to improve access and wait times to children's mental health services these remained at unacceptable levels mainly due to the shortage of Educational Psychologists and other specialists.

RESOLVED –

1. That the witnesses be thanked for their reports and their contribution to the Committee's scrutiny of this item and that the efforts of all officers involved with the inspection be acknowledged.
2. That the Director of Children's Services be asked to:
 - (a) circulate the final Action Plan to the Committee; and
 - (b) advise the Committee of the schedule of joint training sessions for professionals.
3. That the Deputy Director of Public Health be asked to circulate to the Committee information about Kooth including performance information when this is available.
4. That the Committee confirm at its next meeting, the appointment of a member of the Committee as a 'Mental Health Champion for Young People'.
5. That a letter be sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable expressing the Committee's concerns around the Joint Targeted Area Inspection's findings in respect of young people in custody.

CYP16**STANTONBURY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**

Councillor Baines requested that an update on the recent events at Stantonbury International School be taken as an urgent item. The Chair agreed, that in accordance with the powers under Section 100B 4(b) of the LGA 1972, the Committee should consider this matter as an urgent item

During the ensuing discussion the Director of Children's Services advised that:

- (a) he was aware of safeguarding and academic concerns at the school and had undertaken a visit in order to be assured appropriate arrangements were in place;
- (b) Ofsted had made a no-notice inspection to the school; and
- (c) Ongoing concerns about the school had been raised with the Regional Schools Commissioner.

RESOLVED -

1. That the Director of Children's Services be thanked for his update and appraisal of safeguarding and performance issues at Stantonbury International School.

CYP17**SCHOOL RESULTS 2018/19**

**Witnesses: G Sandmann (Head of Youth & Community),
D Balderstone (Improvement Partner, Secondary) and
S Morrow (School Improvement Partner, Primary)**

The Committee received a presentation on the school results for 2018/19.

In answer to questions the Committee noted that:

- (a) there were a number of reasons why the performance of students tapered off at secondary school, including the transition of children out of the Milton Keynes school system;
- (b) the majority of primary schools were maintained, and therefore under Council control, whilst the majority of secondary schools were academies;
- (c) a greater than 1% improvement each year and a higher attainment in English and Maths was required if Milton Keynes was to achieve its vision;

- (d) there were no Ofsted graded 'Outstanding' secondary schools in Milton Keynes and this was not good enough to achieve the Council's ambitions;
- (e) constructive rather than combative conversations were required with the academy trusts and the Council must be frank and open with them about its vision; and
- (f) the work of the Education Partnership was critical to ensure that children from schools across Milton Keynes could achieve their potential.

RESOLVED -

1. That the witnesses be thanked for their report, their attendance at the meeting and their contribution to the Committee's scrutiny of this item.
2. That when the 2019/20 results are presented to the Committee a representative of the Education Improvement Board be asked to attend.
3. That when the 2019/20 results are presented to the Committee, these included a comparison of performance before and after Academies were introduced.

CYP18

MK 2050 – LEARNING WORK STREAM

Witnesses: M Manley (MK 2050 Education Lead) and S Lloyd (Policy Manager)

The Committee heard details on the implementation of the Learning 2050 report and the actions required to achieve the realisation of the Milton Keynes Education Partnership's goals.

In answer to questions the Committee noted that:

- (a) there was concern at reports that secondary schools were stopping work experience placements during term time. It was felt that this took away important links between schools and businesses and that it was vital for students work readiness and to raise aspirations that they experienced being within a work environment;
- (b) there was some evidence that parents could not afford to send their children on a work experience placement; and
- (c) there needed to more apprenticeships available within Milton Keynes including degree level apprenticeships.

RESOLVED –

1. That the witnesses be thanked for their report, their attendance at the meeting and their contribution to the Committee's scrutiny of this item.
2. That the Milton Keynes Child Poverty Commission be asked to review evidence to ascertain if some children were unable to afford to take part in work experience.
3. That a copy of the Committee's report on '*The Contribution of Education and Skills to the Development of Milton Keynes*' be forwarded to the MK 2050 Education Lead.

CYP19

2019/20 WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received and noted the proposed Work Programme for the remainder of 2019/20. The Chair requested that if there were any other items members of the Committee thought should be included in the Work Programme to let the Planning Group know.

RESOLVED

1. That the 2019/20 Work Programme be received and noted.
2. That if members of the Committee have any suggestions for items for scrutiny which are within the Committee's remit during 2020/21, they be fed into the Committee's Planning Group.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 9:30 PM