

Children's Scrutiny Panel

Wednesday, 8th June 2022

Meeting commenced: 6.30pm

Meeting ended: 8.20pm

Present:

Due to unforeseen circumstances, several Members of the panel were delayed, and the meeting commenced at 6.30pm. Councillor Wade took the chair until Councillor Brocklehurst joined the meeting at 7.30pm
Councillor A Brocklehurst (in the chair)

Councillors:

Adam Kealey, Lewis Nelson, Teresa Pepper, Neil Reynolds, Madeline Wade.

Co-opted Members: Reverend Keith Archer and Alex Klein

Parent Governor: Zoe Brown

Officer/s Present:

Christine Wood – Democratic Services (Clerk)

Cathy Starbuck – Assistant Director Education, Work and Skills

Officers(online):

Debbie Blackburn – Assistant Director, Public Health, Nursing and Wellbeing

Zoe Fearon – Assistant Director, Children's Social Care

Charlotte Ramsden – Strategic Director, People

Members of the public:

None

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting in particular, new members on the panel. Apologies were received from Councillor Josh Brooks, Councillor Jim Cammell, Councillor Margaret Morris, Councillor Mike Pevitt, Judith Elderkin and Becky Bibby.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday, 13th April 2022

Resolved: That, the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 13th April 2022 be approved as a true and correct record subject to the following amendments:

Reverend Keith Archer and Alex Klein to be added to Co-opted Members in attendance.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

- **Salford School Partnership Model (Team Around the School)**

A Committee Member enquired around the progress of the Salford School Partnership Model (Team Around the School). The Committee was advised that the new phase 2 model would be reported to a future meeting of the Committee.

- **Early Help Steering Group**

A Committee Member enquired around the Early Help Steering Group. The Committee was advised that details would be confirmed when Becky Bibby returned from leave.

- **Meeting times**

A Committee Member sought clarification around meeting times. It was agreed that this would be an item on the agenda for the meeting scheduled for 13th July 2022.

5. CSP WORK PROGRAMME 2022-23

- A presentation was submitted to the Committee – ‘Children’s Services Overview 2021-2022’ in which the Assistant Director of Children’s Social Care, Assistant Director of Public Health Nursing and Wellbeing and the Assistant Director of Education, Skills and Work outlined to the Committee what had worked well, areas for development and priorities for each of the service areas around the Salford Family Partnership.
- Also highlighted to the Committee were the Overarching Priorities 2022/2023 for the early help service area.
- Potential areas for Scrutiny for 2022/23 were highlighted as follows:
 - Support for Young carers
 - Thrive Plan – Supporting Emotional well being
 - Domestic Abuse
 - Improving Attendance
 - Supporting primary – secondary Transition
 - Secondary School improvement – partnership working with Multi Academy Trusts
 - Residential system
 - Route 29
 - Youth Justice
 - Community Parenting Annual report
 - Family Hub Developments
 - Bridge Transformation update

Councillor Brocklehurst advised of the suggestion from the recent LGA review that Scrutiny Committees should focus on fewer subjects and investigate issues in greater depth e.g., interview teachers, service users and those most affected in these areas.

The Committee was also advised of the discussion at the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel in which it had been suggested that a joint approach might be appropriate in some areas of Scrutiny by the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee and Child Scrutiny Panel.

It was suggested that following the meeting a Survey Monkey survey be circulated to the members to ask for their preferences and priorities for the key topics for the work programme for the coming year and that the preferences be considered at the next meeting of the panel on Wednesday, 13th July.

The Chair invited questions and comments from members and the following was raised:

- A member enquired around the increased caseloads of Social Workers following covid. The panel was advised that a report was provided each week advising of caseloads and advised that caseloads had reduced during the previous 12 months and that staff were coping with demand. The recruitment of AYSE Social Workers had assisted in significantly reducing caseloads. Workforce turnover had reduced from 24% to 3%.
- A panel member enquired around pay for Foster Carers. The panel was advised that a review of foster carers pay etc. was currently being undertaken and going forward, the issue would be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure Salford maintained the levels of other GM Authorities. The importance of retaining valuable Foster Carers was stressed.
- A Member enquired around support for young people with mental health issues. The panel was advised of a range of support available to school and young people such as Mental Health Support Teams in schools, training around Autism, ADHD and CAMHS support.
- A member suggested that it would be a good idea for a representative from the Youth Council to be a member of the Child Scrutiny Panel.

Resolved: That, the the Children's Scrutiny Panel:

1. Note the presentations; and
2. Respond to survey monkey to be circulated following the meeting findings of which will be considered at the next meeting to be held on

6. The Work Programme and Membership

6a. The Work Programme

- The Work Programme was noted.
- The Panel was advised that Transforming Learning had been removed from the portfolio of the Board.

6b. Membership

- The panel had the following vacancies:
 - A parent governor vacancy: to fill the place as Yolanda Amana Gholá was now an elected Member of the Council.

- A Labour Party vacancy: to fill the place left vacant by former Councillor John Walsh.

Resolved: That, the Children's Scrutiny Panel note the amended work programme as outlined above and noted the membership update.

7. Any Other business (AOB)

There were no items of AOB.

8. Date, time and venue for next meeting

- The meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th July 2022 (time to be confirmed).
- The venue for the meeting is Salford Suite, Salford Civic Centre, Old Town Hall Building. Members must attend in person.