

Children's Scrutiny Panel

Wednesday, 14th September 2022

Meeting commenced: 6.30pm

Meeting ended: 8.15pm

Present:

Councillors: Councillor Adrian Brocklehurst (Chair)
Adam Kealey, Lewis Nelson, Michael Pevitt.

Co-opted Members: Judith Elderkin, Jacqui Morrissey

Church of England Diocesan Representative: Reverend Keith Archer
Representative from the Jewish Faith: Alex Klein

Parent Governor: Zoe Brown

Officer/s Present:

Alex Archer – Strategic Finance Manager

Zoe Fearon – Assistant Director Children Social Care

Christine Wood – Democratic Services (Democratic Services Officer)

Officers(online):

Lee Matthews – Head of Youth Justice Service

Members of the public:

None

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and apologies were received from Charlotte Ramsden, Becky Bibby, Debbie Blackburn, Cathy Starbuck, Cllrs Brooks, Leitner, Morris, Pepper, Neil Reynolds, Rowlands, Wade and Warren.

2. One minute silence

The panel observed a one-minute silence in memory of HM Queen Elizabeth II who had passed away on Thursday, 8th September 2022.

3. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday, 13th July 2022

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

That Councillor Kealey had not attended the meeting on Wednesday, 13th July 2022 and had submitted apologies to the meeting.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

- A panel member referred to minute 5 (Children's Scrutiny meeting times). The Chair advised that he had spoken to most members of the panel regarding the issue.
- It had been suggested and agreed that for the remainder of the municipal year, meetings would continue to commence at 6pm. Pre-meetings would not be required unless specifically requested.

6. Youth Justice Plan

- The Head of the Youth Justice Service submitted the Salford Youth Justice Plan 2022-23 along with a presentation informing of the plans and priorities of the Salford Youth Justice Service for the period 2022-23
- The presentation included details of the Plan and Youth Justice Board ratings which had been categorized as 'Outstanding' in 12 of 13 areas reflecting a strong position for the pending HMIP inspection.
- The panel was advised that the plan had been signed off and approved by Charlotte Ramsden, Strategic Director – People and Chair of the Youth Justice Service Partnership Board on 29th June 2022 and would be required to be presented to a future meeting of the Full Council.
- The panel was further advised that the plan will be reviewed on an annual basis to reflect the impact of the changing national and local youth justice priorities and service user feedback.

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

- Panel members enquired around conversations with young people around the strategy e.g., Youth Council, young people residing in deprived areas, care for young people and people leaving the care system. The panel was advised of several areas for development in this area and further advised that a Child Friendly Youth Justice Plan was to be considered.
- The panel was also advised of the various forms of feedback that were received and collated. The panel was further advised of the Participation Strategy. It was agreed that a copy of the Strategy would be circulated to all Members of the Strategy.
- A panel member referred to the 2021-2022 Education, Training and Employment offer. The panel was advised a Directory of Services had been compiled and that an Adolescent Strategy was to be finalised, capturing the voice of young people. This service area had recently been categorised as 'Outstanding' following an inspection although this was in verbal feedback as the visit was not a graded visit.
- A panel member referred to incidences when 'hidden' young people, not previously known to services had committed very serious crimes and may have previously displayed behavioural concerns that had not been addressed and suggested identification, targeting, intervention and prevention working with, young people who had been excluded from mainstream education. The panel was advised that a Prevention Co-ordinator had recently been appointed and would be working on identifying and providing a wraparound service to such children.
- A panel member referred to the exploitation of some vulnerable young people within the community. The panel was advised that there is a multi-agency Complex safeguarding team called "Connect" already well established within Salford, this area of concern continues to be a big challenge, and that multi-agency work continues to address the issues and to produce the Adolescent

Strategy (as referred to above). The panel was advised that some of the young people involved had very complex issues.

- The panel expressed thanks and congratulated the Head of the Youth Justice Service on the excellent plan.

Resolved: That, the the Children's Scrutiny Panel note the plan.

7. Children's Services Revenue Monitoring 2022/23

- The Council's Strategic Finance Manager presented the Children's Services Revenue Monitoring Report 2022/23 which set out:
 - The forecast year end position of the 2022.23 revenue budget and integrated fund, highlighting any risks/sensitivities up to 30th June 2022; and
 - The forecast year end position of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), highlighting any risks/sensitivities.
- The Chair invited questions and comments from members and the following was raised:
- Panel Members raised concerns around the implications of the Education Bill e.g., MATs, DSG projected deficits, increased energy costs The panel was advised that the Director of Education, Work and Skills was investigating Government proposals around some of these issues.
- A panel member expressed concerns around commissioning of private sector providers and around the quality of care. The panel was advised that only private sector providers categorized as 'good' or 'outstanding' were commissioned by Salford Children's Services.
- Panel members requested that future reports should provide more detail arounds overspends e.g., grounds for SEN transport overspends.
- A panel member commented on the positive reduction in LAC. The panel was advised of the positive impact of services such as Route 29.
- A panel member referred to the collaborative working of Greater Manchester Authorities.
- The Panel requested that Lead Officers and Members be present at future meetings when budget reports are presented.

Resolved: That, the report be noted.

8. CSP Work Programme 2022/23

- The panel considered the proposed CSP Work Programme 2022/23.
- The Chair advised that due to reduced administration support, if the proposed Spotlight Review (12th October 20220 and 8th February 2023) was to be undertaken, Panel members would be required to commit to provide extra support to complete the process.
- The Chair requested 4 volunteers to complete the Spotlight Review.
- A panel member referred to the School Improvement Service and of potential implications of a Spotlight Review inclusive of 6 MATs.

Resolved: That: The panel approve the CSP Work Programme 2022/23 but defer decision on proposed Spotlight Review subject to recommendations including parameters set for the review being reported to the next meeting of the Panel on Wednesday 12th October 2022.

9. Any Other Business

- **Potential Conflict of interest implications for Councillors who are members of the Community Parenting Panel and the Children's Scrutiny Panel.**
 - The Chair advised of the possibility of a Global dispensation for Members of the panel affected.
 - Further details to be presented at the October 2022 meeting.
- **Protocol for non-attendance at meetings**
 - A panel Member sought clarification around protocol for non-attendance at meetings.
 - The Chair advised around the protocol.

10. Date, time and venue for next meeting

- Wednesday, 12th October 2022 at 6pm, Salford Suite, Salford Civic Centre.
Members must attend in person.