

Open Agenda



Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee held on Wednesday 3 September 2014 at 7.00 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT:

Councillor Lisa Rajan
Councillor Evelyn Akoto
Councillor Anne Kirby
Councillor James Okosun
Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Kieron Williams
Lynette Murphy-O'Dwyer
Abdul Raheem Musa

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT:

OFFICER SUPPORT:

Darren Coghlan, Head of Secondary and Further Education
Employment and Inclusion
Liz Britton, Manager, Priority Learners
Kerry Crichlow, Director Strategy & Commissioning
Davina Bailey, Southwark Youth Council involvement officer
Julie Timbrell, Scrutiny project manager
Rory Patterson, Director, Children's Social Care
Jean Young, Head of Primary, Community and Children's
Commissioning

1. APOLOGIES

1.1 There were apologies for absence, due to illness, from Councillor Jasmine Ali.

1. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

2.1 There were no urgent items of business, other than to note the supplement agenda
was not posted.

1. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

3.1 There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

1. MINUTES

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2014 were agreed as a correct record.

1. SOUTHWARK YOUTH COUNCIL

5.1 The chair welcomed Southwark Youth Council (SYC) members to the meeting and invited the young people to explain their roles and how SYC works.

5.2 The youth council members explained that each prospective candidate makes three pledges when they stand for election and they are questions on these at hustings. There are 18 people on the SYC board. SYC have an action plan brought together by the combined pledges and the suggestions made on the ballots papers - around 3000 young people contributed to this process. SYC agreed four themes in order of priority, these are:

Crime & safety

Youth activities & involvement

Support (e.g. exam stress , mental health wellbeing)

Improving the community (e.g. racism, anti social behaviour, community cohesion)

5.3 SYC had an event to highlight youth opportunity with over 100 young people attending. They have also made a film on bullying, self image and which explores what a healthy relationship is and how to get help. The video will be used as a tool.

5.4 The committee members then asked when the members were elected and SYC said they have been in place since February. Another member asked how to get in touch about a project to do with Hawksmore and SYC suggested contacting one of the local branches of the youth council or coming to the regular Monday meeting or inviting SYC to a meeting. There are five Youth Community Councils (YCCs); these are BRYCC Bermondsey and Rotherhithe, WBBYCC Walworth Borough and Bankside, DYCC Dulwich, CYCC Camberwell and PNYCC Peckham and Nunhead.

5.1 SYC were asked about their aims and they explained they will be carrying out three campaigns on each of the four themes.

5.2 SYC were asked how the committee could best work with SYC and the young people suggested that members of the scrutiny committee sometimes come to the SYC meetings and sometimes young people came to the scrutiny committee meeting. SYC also

suggested holding an open public meeting, possibly at a Youth Centre and tying this to some kind of event. The committee said they would like to hear more about SYC activities, hear a presentation and a showing of the film SYC have made. The young people agreed and suggested the committee look at the website and invited the committee to read the regular newsletter.

5.3 The chair thanked the young people for attending and said that they were very welcome to participate in other items on the agenda.

1. ATTAINMENT GAP - REVIEW

6.1 Liz Britton, manager of priority learners, introduced the work done to improve the performance of children in care. She explained that the data in the paper is based on children who were in 12 months continuous care as of March , as this is the performance measure that central government sets . However the team work with all children who come into care.

6.2 The chair invited questions and the following issues were raised by committee members and SYC young people:

6.3 Please explain the placement of young people in borough and out of borough and the impact on education? The officer explained that it is important to place children with the best and most suitable foster carer and some these are out of borough. In addition to this some children need to be placed out of borough for good reasons. She was then asked if children do better in borough or out of borough and the officer explained that many of the children placed out of borough are young people in years 10 & 11 with challenging behaviour -moving does negatively impact on education, as does the trauma of going into care and the incidents that have led up to this, however sometimes for their safety children do have to be moved out of borough.

6.4 What training and support is available for foster carers? The council have a letterbox training programme, where we write directly and provide guidance on how to support children through their education.

6.5 What about gifted children? Do you have a special programme? No, but children each have an individual learning programme, and children can be pushed.

6.6 Can you help the SYC get into all schools? The committee members expressed surprise and disappointment that given the good work SYC do that they are not able to access all schools and asked the SYC to provide details and in order to try and facilitate this.

6.7 What work is being done to get local foster carers? There is an outreach and training programmes to get more local people to apply.

6.8 Does being in care trigger pupil premium? Yes

6.9 What has most enabled the council to improve the results of children in care? Having half a dozen education offices who are co located with social services has been very effective; the education workers focus exclusively on the education part, but also have a dialogue with social workers and this has improved outcomes. The children's PEP (Personal Educational Plan) has also been re-written so there is a more systemic approach. This is more focused and restricted in the data recorded.

6.10 The chair invited Darren Coghlan, Head of Secondary and Further Education, Employment and Inclusion to present his area of work. He summarised the report and highlighted an error; the new GCSE will not be graded 1 to 10 with 1 being highest grade, rather it will be graded 1-9, with an ungraded level, and 9 will be the highest grade.

6.11 The chair invited the committee and SYC members to ask questions.

6.12 What vocational options are available for preparation for students who are less academic? There is a university technical college and studio schools.

6.13 What about the apprenticeship scheme? There is a 6 week traineeship started by Lend Lease and others.

6.14 Are these paid? No, but there are job centre plus exceptions.

6.15 How are the apprenticeships promoted? There is an employment and training advisor who visits school. The local authority used to offer careers advice but now this obligation now goes to school.

6.16 How many apprenticeships are there? 310

6.17 Why is the system moving to 1-9 grades? To show greater differentiation at the higher grades.

6.18 Are children with no recourse to public funds eligible for free school meals? No child is turned away from free school healthy meals in primary school. In secondary schools there has to an entitlement to a benefit.

6.19 Concern was raised about provision for the bottom 30 percent that there is currently a poor curriculum offer in schools and colleges for less academically inclined children & young people. Officers agreed and said that there needs to improvement at schools and better performance by the local Further Education College. A good offer at schools is dependant on the right teaching and facilities – for example catering equipment and expertise.

6.20 Who pays for re-sits? Schools.

6.21 Are qualification currently 'norm referenced or 'criteria' referenced? Currently these are criteria reference, rather than 'norm' referenced, but this will change.

6.22 Modular exams are easier to study for than an exam which tests everything at the end of the course, why is there a move to one final exam? The rationale is that it will promote deeper learning.

6.23 Will there be changes to OFSTED ? Yes these will be employed directly rather than contracted out.

6.24 Liz Britton, manager of priority learners requested the last page be taken off the website as it has information that could be personally identifying.

6.25 There was a discussion about the Attainment Gap review questions and how to ensure that the head teachers captured improvement in progress for children's & young people who might not be academically inclined and whether it was right to use the word disadvantaged, as children who had special needs, for example, might not be socially disadvantaged.

RESOLVED

SYC to provide details of the schools they have difficulty accessing and scrutiny to work to resolve this.

Continue the dissuasion on the Attainment Gap outside of the committee meeting, and with the chair, once she is better.

1. SOUTHWARK CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP REPORT ON CHILDREN'S HEALTH SERVICES

7.1 Jean Young, Head of Primary, Community and Children's Commissioning summarised the report enclosed with the agenda.

7.2 The chair invited questions and members of the committee raised the following points:

7.3 Teenagers are no longer given a BCG jab, why is this? This is given as babies and will now last through adulthood so this jab is now only given on a selective basis to young people.

7.4 How is mental health integrated with other provision ? All opportunities are used - for example youth offending team will ensure that the psychological, physical and sexual health of young people is attended to.

7.5 Do you have specific priorities? The service's priorities include obesity & teenage pregnancy. Another priority is the integration of the mental & health agenda. There is a strategic plan to increase well-being. Safeguarding is also a priority.

7.6 Do you have a lead for safeguarding? Yes, the CCG have a clinical lead for safeguarding. We feed into the safeguarding board, and produce a report for the Southwark's annual safeguarding report. The CCG also chair the practice and development group.

7.7 Where are you innovating? Services at Evelina are very innovative and in particular the Evelina London Child Health Programme

7.8 How is Evelina Funded? We can supply follow up information.

7.9 There is a concern about the top tier of Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) nationally, how is Southwark coping? There is big demand locally for paediatric acute mental health crisis beds. There is a pressure nationally & locally and the CCG is meeting locally to look to see if there is a need to commission more beds. The national problem is having an impact locally as there is more sharing of information and resources. How often are children in need of an acute bed being placed away from Southwark? Sometimes it has to happen but we do repatriate as soon as possible. There has been an increase in demand since the changes in commissioning. There is an analysis of why this happening.

7.10 Is there a break down of unintentional and deliberate / non - accidental accidents? Every child going to A & E generates a message to a health visitor or teacher. Is there a collection of data on this? Yes, this would be part of Safeguarding. Feedback is kept in the health economy and there would be a multi agency meeting if social services became involved. If a child has a protection plan than there is flag system.

7.11 What is the process for assessing the funding transfer of Public Health money to the council, which was formally held by the NHS? There is a due diligence process and this tracks back a number of years to establish funding spent.

ACTION

Provide details on the funding of the Evelina London Child Health Programme

1. **AUTISM - REVIEW**

8.1 The committee noted the Autism timetable. A member reported that the council has recently produced a report on focus groups held to support the strategy's development.

RESOLVE

Circulate the report to members.

1. **CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION & SAFEGUARDING - REVIEW**

9.1 The committee discussed the review and members recommended looking at Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in more detail and, in particular, explore the following issues in more depth: Domestic Abuse; Looked After children; Grooming and the role of faith groups & voluntary organisations in preventing abuse.

9.2 The scrutiny officer reported that she and the chair had requested a briefing from Children's Services on work to date on CSE and suggested the committee also receive an overview report, which would put the committee in a better position to decide if it wanted to focus on a particular area within CSE and/ or Child Trafficking & FGM, which are both

identified in the scoping document for the review to look in more depth. She recommended working towards looking in more depth at one of two areas, but suggested that an overview report would be helpful to set the context on both CSE and Safeguarding.

9.1 Rory Patterson, Director, Children's Social Care, explained that there has been a big investment in CSE and the strategy is now being reviewed, and offered to bring a report to the next meeting.

1. ADOPTION - REVIEW

10.1 The committee recommended receiving an officer report and then planning the next steps.

1. WORK-PLAN

11.1 The committee recommended moving the Free School report to November to relieve pressure on the agenda at the October meeting.