



EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee held on Monday 28 November 2011 at 7.00 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G01B - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor David Hubber (Chair)
Councillor the Right Revd Emmanuel Oyewole
Councillor Sunil Chopra
Councillor Rosie Shimell

**OTHER MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

OFFICER Julie Timbrell: Scrutiny project manager
SUPPORT: Kerry Crichlow: Assistant director; strategy and support.
Davina Bailey: Southwark Youth Council involvement officer

1. APOLOGIES

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Morris, Smith and Soanes. Education representatives Nick Tilderley and Colin Elliott also sent their apologies.

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

- 2.1 There was none.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

- 3.1 There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

4. MINUTES

- 4.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2011 were agreed as an accurate record.

5. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PLAN (CYPP) WITH SOUTHWARK YOUTH COUNCIL AND SPEAKERBOX

- 5.1 Kerry Crichlow, assistant director for strategy and support, introduced the plan. She explained that there had been extensive consultation work with young people in the plans development, and the plan outlines young people priorities. The assistant director noted that one of the accomplishments, set out in the progress report, is the improvement in attainment at school, but the council still want to improve the attainment at school of care leavers, in particular.
- 5.2 The assistant director went on to say that the council now need to decommission and will be using the plan to do this, while continuing to consult with young people.
- 5.3 The chair invited comments from the young people by asking if representatives from Southwark Youth Council (SYC) thought the plan related to them . A representative commented that SYC agree with the principles and believe if the council deliver on the plan it will make a big difference. Representatives went on to comment that they collectively looked through the plan, and the report on progress, and SYC like the way the council is looking at the achievements. SYC reported that they also like that the council are reporting on age categories and what still needs to be done in.
- 5.4 Members asked the SYC for any suggestions for delivering on the plan and a representative suggested that one way to prevent crime is to ensure young people are occupied so that they are too busy to engage in mischief . A member asked if this could be achieved through more investment in sport. Representatives agreed and noted that locally Southwark and London have lots of stars. Sports people with a national profile can help draw young people into sport and encourage them to be active.
- 5.5 The chair spoke about the reduction in funds available and the increased importance for more community involvement, via community councils and SYC, in youth provision. He went on to comment on the need to use all funds more wisely as there is less money around. In the Rotherhithe area there is a very good youth club in a run down building and the Community Council are looking at more than one youth provider being co-located in one building so we make better use of resources.
- 5.6 SYC representatives went on to highlight the need for more employment opportunities so that people can earn money legally. A representative noted that he is out of work and has made scores of applications but there is nothing available. Representatives went on to emphasis the importance of transition support from

school and collage to work. They noted that work experience is needed at key stage four and support is needed. Young people are finding it difficult to get work placements even when they are well qualified and skilled.

- 5.7 A member affirmed the importance of work based training. He commented that he studied at collage while working. He went on to say, however, that he viewed the recent work placements offered by the government as exploitation and he thought they should be stopped. Instead he advocated partnership and training between small business and schools and collages.
- 5.8 A SYC representative suggested training in collage for a few days and then a few days in employment would allow young people to get their foot in the door and gain work experience. There was a comment that even people going to university are not getting employment as they have no experience. Representatives suggested that the Public Sector give placements, for example local government could give placements to people in collage. A member noted that there are good opportunities in hospital radio to gain skills.
- 5.9 The chair asked SYC representative if they have any further comments they would like to make. Representatives said that they would like the council to come and visit SYC to discuss how they intend to devolve more decision making power to young people. Representatives commented that they would like to continue this link with scrutiny and to refer issues to scrutiny. The chair advised the SYC that the cabinet member is the best person to address if there is anything in the plan that they think should be in there. He went on to explain that the cabinet member is accountable for the plan; scrutiny has an influencing and advisory role. Officers advised that they can facilitate the cabinet member visiting SYC. It was agreed that quarterly joint scrutiny of the plan is useful.
- 5.10 The young people announced that they will soon be holding the SYC elections. The chair wished representatives well and the committee thanked the young people for attending.

6. REVIEW OF PARENTING SUPPORT - PART 2 : SUPPORT FOR PARENTS

- 6.1 The chair opened the item by commenting that he had received some excellent information from CVS "Volunteers in Child Protection" conference.
- 6.2 Members noted the further evidence received from parents and carers of disabled children. Officers were asked to comment on this. A first draft summarising the evidence will also be produced and parents and carers will be invited to continue to contribute to the review.

ACTION

Distribute information about the CSV 'Volunteers in Child Protection Event', which took place on 28th November.

Draft a report ready for the next meeting summarizing the evidence received so.

Officers will prepare a report commenting on the information received so far.

Families and voluntary organisations will be invited to comment on reports.

7. SCHOOL ADMISSIONS REVIEW - FEEDBACK

7.1 The cabinet report on the School Admissions review was noted and welcomed by members. It was noted that in 6 months there will be a report back on the delivery of many of the reviews recommendations, to cabinet.

ACTION

The six month cabinet report on progress will be reported to the committee

8. REVIEW OF CHILDHOOD OBESITY AND SPORT PROVISION - FINALISE REPORT

8.1 The report was agreed. Julie Timbrell, Scrutiny project manager, and all the other officers who had contributed were thanked.

ACTION

The report will now go to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

9. REVIEW OF UNIVERSAL FREE HEALTHY SCHOOL MEALS

9.1 The Hull report was noted by the members and officers drew attention to a scrutiny report by Islington that had some good quality engagement with examples of questions to ask children, catering staff and teachers.

9.2 A member asked about the provision of free school meals to children with no recourse to public funds. Offices reported that all children, regardless of income, who are in this programme, can take up free healthy school meals.

ACTION

Circulate the Islington scrutiny report on nutrition and free school meals.

Develop questions to put to schools.

Visit schools taking part in the Universal Free Health School Meals pilot, after the next meeting.

10. UPDATE ROTHERHITHE SCHOOL

ACTION

Officers will prepare a report on Rotherhithe School to be circulated.

11. UPDATE ADULT EDUCATION

ACTION

Officers will update the committee at the next meeting with progress on the consultation with stakeholders for the Adult Education visioning exercise.

12. WORKPLAN

12.1 The workplan was noted.