

**MINUTES** of a meeting of **the IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PEOPLE** held at County Hall, Matlock on 6 September 2017.

**PRESENT**

Councillor Mrs J Twigg (in the Chair)

Councillors N Barker, Mrs D Charles, Mrs L Chilton, R Flatley, J Frudd, R Iliffe and D Taylor and D Turner.

Also in attendance: Councillor A Dale, J Parfremment, H Henderson-Spoors.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor A Fox.

**15/17** **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 5 July 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**16/17** **YOUNG PEOPLE CABINET PORTFOLIO** Councillor Dale attended the meeting with J Parfremment, Strategic Director of Children's Services and presented an update on current key issues and priorities:

- Safeguarding – number of reported cases was low but increasing. Funding available for 30 more Social Workers across the county. Remodelling Social Worker teams and introducing a Practice Supervisor role. This would offer day to day support, experience and knowledge to Social Workers.
- Children in Care – many complex issues. Foster carer recruitment was important. Linden House, Swadlincote needed refurbishing.
- Early Years – significant proportion of spending in this area. Working more with Public Health and NHS on a model which was more targeted and evidence based.
- Young People – Derbyshire Skills Fair to take place in September, offering specific sessions for vulnerable young people. Employment skills initiative for more opportunities for people. Review of travel for SEND students. New Head of Employment Skills in place co-ordinate the improvement of skills.
- Rural Schools – many challenges as a result of size and location of many schools with 100 schools in Derbyshire with less than 100 students.

The main issues faced by the Authority were continuing escalating costs and funding, remodelling and recruitment and encouraging working together to combine resources. Departments now needed to be more business-minded and creative to be more efficient and save money.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Dale and the Strategic Director for a positive report and their work responding to the recent Serious Case Review.

**17/17**      **DERBYSHIRE HEALTHWATCH**    Helen    Henderson-Spoors attended the meeting and provided a briefing on the organisation's current work.

Public consultation – Healthwatch had put together a best practice guide to consultation, the purpose of which was to promote 'meaningful public engagement' in decision making about significant changes to health and social care services in Derbyshire. The guide included the legal requirements that should be followed and was accompanied by a 'consultation checklist'.

Dementia engagement - the organisation was planning to talk to people across the county who are living with dementia, including families and carers, about their experiences and views on the care and support they receive. This work would further explore comments received and would enable them to have a greater understanding of what was working well and what would be improved on. Recommendations on improvements would be published early next year.

Members congratulated the organisation on a worthwhile initiative.

**18/17**      **SCRUTINY REVIEW PROPOSAL**    Councillor Flatley presented members with the scope of a school permanent exclusions review.

According to government figures, the number of permanent school exclusions in England had increased, with the equivalent of 35 young people being expelled every school day. Derbyshire had the second highest number in the East Midlands in 2016/17.

The review would consider alternative ways that the Council provided and financed the education of excluded school pupils and would focus on the following key lines of enquiry:

- the school policies which impact on the permanent exclusion process;
- the role of the authority in the permanent exclusions process, including School Improvement Service, Education Psychologists, Pupil Referral Units, Integrated Pathways Team and the Regional Schools Commissioners Office;
- information on the number of permanent exclusions by school type, area and reasons for exclusions;
- how funding was affected by permanent exclusions, including pupil payment transfers/penalties;
- the impact on home to school transport;
- how mental health contributes to permanent exclusions;
- the use of 'alternatives', for example: managed moves, home education;
- National developments and good practice from other Local Authorities.

The review would seek evidence from the following:

- relevant officers from Childrens Services
- cabinet member for Young People
- regional School Commissioners Office
- head teachers in Derbyshire schools
- Derbyshire Schools Forum
- groups and organisations who provide expertise and support to those who may or have been permanently excluded from school.

The review would be completed by March 2018. A working group would be appointed by this Committee to undertake the review and submit progress reports and a final report to the full Committee at the conclusion of the review.

**RESOLVED** (1) the committee approved the scope of the review of permanent exclusions;

(2) Councillors Twigg, Flatley, Fox, Chilton, Frudd and Barker and D Turner be appointed on to the review working group: and

(3) D Rose, Scrutiny Officer would contact members to arrange a date for the first working group meeting.

**19/17      SAFEGUARDING WORKING GROUP** The committee had not yet met following its establishment at the previous meeting due to the review into the authority's care homes.

Members suggested that the working group meet to consider the outcomes of the recent Serious Case Review and look at the steps being taken by the Authority, as a result of its outcomes.

**RESOLVED** that D Rose, Scrutiny Officer contact members to arrange a date for the working group to meet.

**20/17      TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT NEEDS IN SCRUTINY FOR MEMBERS** D Rose, Scrutiny Officer confirmed that a suitable course had been identified and would be considered in the near future by the Member Development Working Group.

**RESOLVED** that Members would be updated on the training arrangements in due course.

**21/17      BUDGET MONITORING REPORTS** The committee was asked to consider the joint reports of the Strategic Director of Adult Care and Director of Finance and ICT outlining the revenue out-turn for Adult Care and Children's Services for 2016/17 .

**RESOLVED** (1) that the reports be noted: and

(2) any future questions be addressed to D Rose for discussion with the Director of Finance and ICT.

**22/17      WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18** The committee was asked to agree the work programme which was appended to the Director of Legal Services' report.

**RESOLVED** to approve the work programme for 2017/18.