Present: Councillor Wrigglesworth (Chair)
Councillors Ahmad (Vice-Chair), Blyth, Houle, Judge, McCann, Roberts and Sheldon

Also in Attendance:
Jill Beaumont Assit Executive Director - Early Intervention and Families
Colette Kelly AED Neighbourhoods
Anne Ryans Interim Borough Treasurer
Kim Scragg AED Children and Safeguarding
Glynis Williams Head of Safeguarding

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Bashforth and Councillor Harkness.

2 URGENT BUSINESS
There were no items of urgent business received.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Councillors Wrigglesworth and Roberts declared a personal interest in Item 7 – Administration Budget (1st Tranche), by virtue of their appointment to the Positive Steps Board.

4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS
RESOLVED that the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance and Value for Money Select Committees held on 30th October 2014 and 13th November 2014 be approved as a correct record.

5 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME
There were no public questions received.

6 MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD TO NOTE
RESOLVED that the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 16th October 2014 be noted.

7 ADMINISTRATION BUDGET
Consideration was given to a report which detailed two 2015/16 savings proposals, B035, Redesigning Services for Children, Young People and their Families (0-19 offer), at a value of £1.525m and C045, Children's Services Redesign, at a value of £1.261m.
The Committee gave consideration to each of the budget proposals, asked a series of questions and made the following comments.

**B035 Redesigning Services for Children, Young People and their Families (0-19 offer)** (Assistant Executive Director Early Intervention and Families and Assistant Executive Director Neighbourhoods were in attendance)

- Clarification was sought over the secondment of Detached Youth Services to MAHDLO for a 12 months management pilot. It was explained that this was to test the management arrangement and approach which would be reviewed after 12 months to determine if staff should TUPE over or stay with the Council. It was stressed that the salaries were not part of the £600k saving.
- Concerns were raised regarding teenage pregnancy, however efficiencies released by delivering an integrated model would review back office and premise costs as opposed to impacting on front line delivery.
- Clarification was sought regarding the 3 proposals and the 4 equality impact assessments and the interrelation with the Early Age Help Offer. It was reported that this was complimentary to the savings being made at 0-19. The Early Help Offer was an ‘enabler’ which should reduce the demand on targeted services.
- Clarification was sought regarding the Early Years 0-4 offer. It was reported that when the Council assumes responsibility for the commissioning of Health Visiting Services in 2015 it would bring with it £4.5m and would allow the Council to look at an integrated early year’s delivery model.

**C045 Children’s Services Redesign** (Assistant Executive Director Children and Safeguarding and Assistant Executive Director Adults and commissioning Services were in attendance)

Concerns were raised on out of borough placements and the budget not coming before the needs of a child. It was stressed that the needs of the child were paramount. Foster care had better outcomes for children and some of the Council’s foster carers lived outside the borough. Recruitment of specialist foster carers was a direct attempt to reduce the number of residential beds required within the borough and external provision. Carers would be well supported and encouraged.

**RESOLVED** that the savings outlined in the report be endorsed.

**UPDATE OF ADOPTION PERFORMANCE IN OLDHAM**

The Committee considered a report which provided an update of adoption performance in Oldham. The objectives of Oldham’s Adoption Service were explained including the move towards collaborative working with neighbouring authorities to provide a pool of high quality appropriately trained and supported adoptive parents. This would reduce interagency fees for out of borough placements.
It was reported that Performance Measure A1 had improved year on year from 704 days to 628 days, and was 20 days away from the target set by the Government for this year, which for Oldham was 608 days. This indicator was one whereby delays outside the Council’s control arose from the Court. Manchester Family Courts exceeded the national length of care proceedings by 3 weeks, i.e. on average proceedings took 54 weeks compared to 50 nationally. However, the impact of the Public Law Outline had reduced Court timescales significantly and Oldham was now achieving a timescale of 26 weeks to complete proceedings, shorter than other neighbouring authorities.

Appended to the report were the Adoption Scorecard 2010-2013 and the action plan for tackling delay.

As the final version of the scorecard is available in January, it was suggested that the next update be provided in January 2016.

RESOLVED that the update be noted and a further update be submitted in January 2016.

QUARTER 2 COUNCIL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2014/15

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief of Staff which provided members with an overview of the Council’s performance against priorities outlined within the Corporate Plan monitored in the period July to September 2014.

The Chair invited comments and suggestions on areas that could be considered at future meetings of the Committee. Suggestions included:-

1) School Performance/OfSTED – regular item - to be considered at the 12th March 2015 meeting
2) Police and Crime (M7, 12 &13) – to be considered at the 12th March 2015 meeting
3) M658 (CP) Percentage of eligible people that have been offered a NHS Health Check in the year – to be considered at the 3rd February 2015 meeting
4) S202 (CP) Council Sickness Absence – Check improvement in 6 months.
5) S13 (CP) Number of vacant properties in town centre – check figures in next performance report.

RESOLVED that:
1. The report be noted.
2. The above suggestions be incorporated into the work programme.

WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Performance and Value for Money Select Committee work programme be noted.
The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 7.45 pm