

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY BOARD Overview & Scrutiny Committee Agenda

Date Thursday 14 September 2023

Time 6.00 pm

Venue Crompton Suite, Civic Centre, Oldham, West Street, Oldham, OL1 1NL

Notes 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST- If a Member requires advice on any item involving a possible declaration of interest which could affect his/her ability to speak and/or vote he/she is advised to contact Paul Entwistle or Constitutional Services at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

2. CONTACT OFFICER for this agenda is Constitutional Services Tel. 0161 770 5151 or email Constitutional Services@Oldham.gov.uk

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS - Any Member of the public wishing to ask a question at the above meeting can do so only if a written copy of the question is submitted to the contact officer by 12 noon on 11 September 2023.

4. FILMING - The Council, members of the public and the press may record / film / photograph or broadcast this meeting when the public and the press are not lawfully excluded. Any member of the public who attends a meeting and objects to being filmed should advise the Constitutional Services Officer who will instruct that they are not included in the filming.

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Recording and reporting the Council's meetings is subject to the law including the law of defamation, the Human Rights Act, the Data Protection Act and the law on public order offences.

Please also note the Public attendance Protocol on the Council's Website

https://www.oldham.gov.uk/homepage/1449/attending_council_meetings

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY BOARD

Councillors Ali, Bishop, H. Harrison, Hurley, McLaren, Moores (Chair), Rea, Shuttleworth and Wahid

Item No

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 1 - 6)

The Minutes of the Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Board held on 26 July 2023 are attached for approval.
- 3 Declarations of Interest

To receive Declarations of Interest in any contract or matter to be discussed at the meeting.
- 4 Urgent Business

Urgent business, if any, introduced by the Chair.
- 5 Public Question Time

To receive Questions from the Public, in accordance with the Council's Constitution.
- 6 Work Programme (Pages 7 - 10)

To discuss the Work Programme for 2023-24.
- 7 Exclusion of Press and Public

That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they contain exempt information under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and it would not, on balance, be in the public interest to disclose the reports.
- 8 Update on Additional School Places and Admissions Update (Pages 11 - 18)

To consider and discuss the report submitted by Andy Collinge, Head of School Support Services which provides a briefing and update to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Board on the delivery of school places and school place preference rates within the Local Authority.



Present: Councillor Moores (Chair)
Councillors Ali, Bishop, Charters, H. Harrison, Hurley, McLaren,
Mushtaq, Rea and Shuttleworth

Also in Attendance:

Matthew Bulmer	Director Education Early Years and Skills
Paula Healey	Education Improvement Manager
Gerard Jones	Managing Director Children and Young People
Ali Ahmed	Children's Council
Isaac Quin	Children's Council
Areeta Iqbal	Youth Service Worker

1 **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**

RESOLVED - That Councillor McLaren be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Board for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

2 **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for absence.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

4 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

5 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions for the Board to consider.

6 **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

RESOLVED that the terms of reference be noted.

7 **THE FAMILY HUBS PROGRAMME**

The Board received a presentation from Matt Bulmer, Director of Education, Early Years and Skills, regarding Family Hubs which are Single Access Points for Families.

Members received a video showing the opening of the Beaver Hub, St.Marys being the first Family Hub to open in Oldham. The Hub offers support for parents and children between the ages of 0-25 years. Parents can find support in infant feeding, mental health, early learning opportunities, speech and

language, midwifery, SEND, health visiting and youth services. Community support groups can also be signposted. Members were informed that as well as signposting for families appointments can be made via the Hub to any of the services where support is offered.



The Board was informed that the Hubs principles are

- Access – a clear simple way to access support
- Connections – professionals working together through co-location, data sharing and a common approach to their work
- Relationships – the Hub prioritises strengthening relationships and builds on family strengths

The Board was advised that the Council had received Grant Funding of £3.6 million from the Department of Education which will fund six Family Hubs situated in the Oldham Districts. The additional five will be located in Stanley Road, Spring Meadows, Medlock Vale, Oldham Library and a Shaw Family Hub.

Members were informed that the buildings that are being utilised for the six Family Hubs are as a result of combing Council assets to find appropriate sites which do not require excessive expenditure to achieve the desired family Hub.

Also launched is the Virtual Digital Hub which offers the same support as walking into the Hub centre. This will drive participation and allows engagement with families and communities who are unable to attend the district Hubs.

Matt Bulmer informed Members that signage was important to give a clear indication of the Hub location.

Members noted that rural areas will be targeted via voluntary bodies and the media. Voluntary groups have expressed the need to meet and work together.

Matt Bulmer informed the Board that since the delivery plan had been approved in January this year it has taken six months achieve the Beever Hub launch which was a notable achievement.

As part of the use of voluntary groups, volunteers in Children's Services to making they are representative of the communities.

It was emphasised that providing that the five Family Hubs achieve and deliver their aims, their will be expansion to other areas in Oldham.

Members requested that success rates be reported back to the Board later in the year.

RESOLVED that

(i) Matt Bulmer be thanked for the very informative presentation; and

(ii) An update report be submitted to the Board in nine months to show the success rates and progress of the Family Hubs in Oldham.

8 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED:

That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following four items of business on the grounds that they contain exempt information, as defined under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and it would not, on balance, be in the public interest to disclose the reports.

9 **THE CHILDREN'S TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME**

Councillor Ali, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, informed the Board that the Children's Services Transformation Programme is a fundamental restructuring to meet demands. He made reference to significant challenges following the pandemic. Pressure in early years, early health, child protection and looked after children. It was recognised that there needed to be change to the way these pressures are managed and with these pressures and the need to provide the best possible children's service, the Transformation Programme is being rolled out.

The Board received a presentation from Matt Bulmer, Director of Education, Early Years and Skills, regarding Children's Services Transformation Programme Structure.

The Board were informed of the following Programme Structure which sits across all workstreams –

- Quality support at the earliest point
- Making Oldham a great place to work
- A home for every child
- Improving the Mental Wellbeing of Children and Young People in Oldham
- Improving Speech, Language and Communication needs of Children and Young People in Oldham

Members were informed that since funding had been received in December 2022, the Project Timeline encompassed five stages -

- Stage 1 and 2 focus on Placements, Workforce and Market Management
- Stages 3 and 4 to focus on Prevention and Early Help and Health Integration

- Stage 5 is the impact and outcomes stage

Gerard Jones, Managing Director of Children's Services, drew attention to the areas in Children's Services which is this Council's responsibility but also to mental health where the NHS is commissioned for that service. He informed the Board that MH is an area where it is considered that working in partnership with the NHS would drive the improvements that the Council wants to achieve in that area. He emphasised that each of the areas in the structure is requiring a different way of working to achieve positive outcomes.

Discussion ensued regarding childrens service demands, delivering a service to meet those demands; which is interlinked with staffing to provide the best possible Children's Service for Oldham.

The Chair suggested that to enable Members and officers to additional time to have detailed discussion around the themes of the Programme Structure it would be beneficial to set up a workshop and where there is an element/s that Members feel requires further interigation then a task and finish group could be the way forward.

RESOLVED that

- (i) a workshop be arranged to enable Board members to have detailed discussion on themes of the Children's Services Transformation Structure Programme and if necessary, elements of the Programme being identified to be considered by a Task and Finish group; and
- (ii) a report be submitted in 12 months on the progress of the Children's Services Transformation Programme.
- (iii) the meeting revert to open session.

10

WORK PROGRAMME

The Board considered the Children and Young People Work Programme for 2023/24.

Members were informed that previously the work programme had been splintered over the various Scrutiny Committees so that there was a need refine a programme so that the programme aligns with the terms of reference for the Board.

The Chairman also emphasised that the programme needed to be reviewed and he and the Vice-Chairman would forward a refined version to Board Members prior to the next meeting. Members were requested to inform him of any additional matters to be added to the work programme.

Resolved - that a revised Work Programme be submitted to the next Board meeting.

11

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT

Consideration was given to the Key Decision Document covering Decisions taken from 23 June 2023.

Resolved that the Key Decision Document covering decisions taken from 23 June 2023 be noted.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 7.49 pm

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES SCRUTINY BOARD

DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

Thursday 14 September 2023	Update on Additional School Places and Admissions Update Report Portfolio – Education and Skills Managing Director – Children and Young People Andy Collinge, Head of School Support Services Service performance reporting – annual report.	Update on Additional School Places and Admissions Update Report Portfolio – Education and Skills Managing Director – Children and Young People Andy Collinge, Head of School Support Services Service performance reporting – annual report.	Update on Additional School Places and Admissions Update Report Portfolio – Education and Skills Managing Director – Children and Young People Andy Collinge, Head of School Support Services Service performance reporting – annual report.	Update on Additional School Places and Admissions Update Report Portfolio – Education and Skills Managing Director – Children and Young People Andy Collinge, Head of School Support Services Service performance reporting – annual report.
	Children’s Services Update on Financial Performance			
	Work Programme 2023-24			
Thursday 16 Nov 2023	Performance Report – Quarter 4, 2022/23 To scrutinise Council performance against agreed performance measures Portfolio – Leader of the Council. Assistant Chief Executive. Matt Drogan, Head of Strategy and Performance.	Performance Report – Quarter 4, 2022/23 To scrutinise Council performance against agreed performance measures Portfolio – Leader of the Council. Assistant Chief Executive. Matt Drogan, Head of Strategy and Performance. Service performance reporting	Performance Report – Quarter 4, 2022/23 To scrutinise Council performance against agreed performance measures Portfolio – Leader of the Council. Assistant Chief Executive. Matt Drogan, Head of Strategy and Performance.	Performance Report – Quarter 4, 2022/23 To scrutinise Council performance against agreed performance measures Portfolio – Leader of the Council. Assistant Chief Executive. Matt Drogan, Head of Strategy and Performance. Service performance reporting

	Service performance reporting		Service performance reporting	
	Oldham Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2020/21	To receive and consider the Board's Annual Report and Three-Year Strategy.	Dr Henri Giller, Chair of the Board. Portfolio - Children and Young People. Lisa Morris, Business Manager, Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership.	Annual Report consideration
	Children's Services - update on financial performance and Improvement Plan	To receive updates in respect of financial performance in Children's Services and delivery of the Improvement Plan	Portfolio – Education and Skills. Managing Director – Children and Young People.	Periodic performance update report; previous report
	Primary and Secondary School Performance		Portfolio – Children and Young People. Managing Director – Children and Young People Richard Lynch, Director of Education, Skills and Early Years/Tony Shepherd, Head of Learning.	Consideration subject to consultation with the Chair, Portfolio Holder and Officers

	Regional Adoption Agency – update: to scrutinise delivery and financing of adoption services in the Borough.		Portfolio – Children and Young People. Managing Director – Children and Young People. Elaine Devaney, Director of Children’s Social Care/Karen Brannick, Head of Adoption Now;	Periodic performance update report
Tuesday 5 th December 2023	Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)	To receive an update on participation and NEET rates and on activities looking to ensure appropriate opportunities for 16-18 year olds.	Portfolio – Education and Skills. Managing Director – Children and Young People. Amanda Youlden, Education and Skills Officer.	Part of the Employment, Work and Training – ‘themed’/significant issue consideration
	The Digital Sector: Developing a workshop to review apprenticeships across Oldham and the offering of digital apprenticeships by the Council.	To report back to the Committee on the Workshop delivered to the Youth Council on 23rd March 2022	Portfolios – Education and Skills/Employment and Enterprise Executive Director Place and Economic Growth/ Managing Director – Children and Young People	Part Employment, Work and Training/part young people ‘themed’/significant issue considerations.
	Youth Justice Plan 2023/24	To scrutinise the Youth Justice Plan for 2023/24.	Portfolio - Children and Young People. Managing Director – Children and Young People. Paul Axon, Director – Young People’s Services, Positive Steps.	Policy Framework item.
Thursday 18 th				

January 2024				
Tuesday 7 th March 2024	Repeat Referrals in Children's Social Care	To receive an update on rereferral performance, an overview of the five key themes relating to the rereferral rate and actions to ensure close management of this key performance indicator	Portfolio – Education and Skills. Managing Director – Children and Young People. Elaine Devaney, Director of Children's Social Care/ Gemma Gerrish, Assistant Director Social Work Services.	Periodic performance update report

BUSINESS TO BE PROGRAMMED

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of the Local Government Act 1972.

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