

EDUCATION, CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL

Minutes of the meeting of the Education, Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel held on Tuesday, 21 June 2016 at 7.00 pm at the Civic Offices, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Will Purvis (in the Chair)
David Tompkins
Paul Godier
Suzy Horton
Gemma New

44. Apologies for absence (AI 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Ben Dowling and Alison Jeffery, Director of Children's Services.

45. Declarations of interest (AI 2)

Councillor Godier declared a personal interest as his Sister-in-Law works for the Youth Offending Team.

46. Minutes of the Previous meeting - 29 March 2016 (AI 3)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Education, Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel held on 29 March be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

47. Discussion of future topics for the Education, Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel (AI 4)

The Chair welcomed the new members of the panel to the meeting. He explained that towards the end of the municipal year the panel agreed to start scoping their next agreed topic which was Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). After a brief discussion the new members of the panel agreed that they were happy to proceed with this topic this municipal year.

The Chair advised that the panel were also required to put forward to the Scrutiny Management Panel (SMP) a second and third topic for consideration and asked members to put forward suggestions.

Councillor Godier suggested a topic around extra-curricular activities and mentioned the frequent financial demands on parents to finance school trips, etc. in wards with a high deprivation and wondered what could be done to improve this. Members felt a topic on widening access to extra-curricular activities, to ensure all children have the same opportunities, was a good topic to put forward.

Members discussed issues around bullying, particularly online bullying with the increase in children having social media accounts, and using mobile phones in school. Sara Newman added that it was important to take a different approach and rather than identify the victims of bullying, to identify the bullies to provide an intervention and find out the underlying reasons for the bullying. It was felt that this would also be a good topic to put forward although this would need to be tightly defined.

Councillor Horton suggested a topic on safer routes to school. Members commented that as Portsmouth is such a densely populated city and predominately flat, the number of children who cycle to school is relatively low, and felt that this was a good idea for a future review.

RESOLVED that the suggested review topics be put forward to Scrutiny Management Panel for agreement following completion of the review into Child Sexual Exploitation:

- **Widening access to extra-curricular activities in schools**
- **Bullying in schools with a particular focus on how to combat online bullying**
- **Safer routes to schools**

48. New topic for review - Child Sexual Exploitation (AI 5)

Scoping Document

Members considered the draft scoping document which had been circulated to members for comment and was included in the papers for today's meeting. Members were happy with the proposed objectives and list of witnesses. It was agreed that five formal evidence gathering meetings would be sufficient.

RESOLVED that the draft scoping document be approved, subject to amendment during the course of the review.

Sarah Newman, Deputy Director of Children's Social Care

Sarah introduced her paper which was included in the agenda for today's meeting. She then circulated a summary of the three targeted inspections from South Tyneside, Oxfordshire and Central Bedfordshire and pointed out the good practice identified and areas to work on.

In response to questions Sarah made the following points:

- The operational MET group will have figures for the number of children that are Looked After Children who have been identified as high, medium and low risk of CSE.
- Data on the number of potential perpetrators, their ethnicity and the profiling of them would be information the police witness can provide when they attend one of the meetings.
- Many of the vulnerable young people in Portsmouth know each other and have established a network, which becomes problematic. The young people would describe themselves of part of the group however in reality they are not and they are being exploited. The Chair said he

would be interested to hear from witnesses about the work being done to disrupt these networks. It would also be useful for the panel to understand the exchange of soft intelligence

- Sarah advised that the panel could ask the police how many child abuse warning notices have been served in Portsmouth.
- Members briefly discussed some of the high profile CSE cases in other parts of the country and felt it was important to invite a senior police officer to provide evidence for this review. Sarah advised that Vicky Dennis from Hampshire Police, who is also the chair of PCSB missing, exploited and trafficked (MET) group was on the witnesses list and had agreed to provide evidence for the review.

Sarah Newman circulated a proposed schedule of witnesses for future meetings, which the panel felt was logical and agreed.

Date of Next Meeting:

Members discussed timing of future meetings and it was agreed to hold meetings at 6:30pm every three weeks where possible. The date of the next meeting was agreed as Tuesday 19 July at 6:30pm and witnesses would be Sarah Newman, Deputy Director of Children's Social Care, Vicky Dennis, (Police), Claudia Villa-Hughes (Barnados) and Tina Scarborough (CCG).

The meeting concluded at 8.00 pm.

Councillor Will Purvis
Chair