

Decisions of the Children, Education, Libraries & Safeguarding Committee

21 February 2017

Members Present:-

Councillor Reuben Thompstone (Chairman)

Councillor Alison Cornelius

Councillor Helena Hart

Councillor Anne Hutton

Councillor Val Duschinsky

Councillor Kathy Levine

Councillor Rebecca Challice

Councillor Kath McGuirk

Also in attendance (as co-opted Members):-

Denis Carey

Gladys Vendy

Kevin Mcsharry

Marilyn Nathan

Apologies for Absence:-

Darren Warrington

Absent:-

Councillor Bridget Perry (Vice-Chairman)

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was noted that Councillor Kathy Levine's name was mentioned twice in the minutes of the last meeting. This was corrected in the hard copy of the minutes.

RESOLVED – The minutes of the meeting held on 17th November 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

Co-opted Member Darren Warrington sent an apology for absence.

Councillor Bridget Perry, Vice-Chairman, was absent.

3. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

The following interest was declared:

Councillor	Item	Nature	Detail
Kath McGuirk	9	Non-pecuniary	That the Councillor was a teaching assistant in a community school in Barnet.

4. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER (IF ANY)

None.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS (IF ANY)

A public comment was made by Mr Keith Martin in respect to item 12, Promoting Arts and Culture in the Barnet.

Following the comment, Councillor Anne Hutton declared a non-pecuniary interest by virtue of being a trustee for the Barnet Borough Arts Council.

Councillor Brian Salinger was invited by the Chairman to make a comment in respect to item 10, Early Years Funding.

Councillor John Hart was invited by the Chairman to make a comment in respect to item 12, Promoting Arts and Culture in Barnet.

6. MEMBERS' ITEMS (IF ANY)

None.

7. HMIC (HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY) REPORT: NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION INSPECTIONS, THE METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE

The Committee noted that an addendum had been published, which had been provided by the Barnet Borough Commander for Metropolitan Police, Mr Simon Rose. The addendum provided an interim response to the HMIC report from the Metropolitan Police Borough Commanders, pending a full response later in the year.

Mr Simon Rose was then invited to the table to introduce the report and answer questions from the Committee.

Councillor Helena Hart stated that she was pleased about the new computer system, as stated in the addendum, and asked what specific problems have been raised in Barnet. Mr Simon Rose responded by saying that the criticism in the report was of the Metropolitan Police as a whole, and that the thrust of it was a lack of co-ordination across London. He stated that a mind-set change was needed of Borough Commanders in order to adequately address the issues highlighted.

The Commissioning Director, Children and Young People, stated that the Council has introduced a new adolescent service named *Reach*, which will have a police officer as part of it. He further stated that the Council will also be strengthening the work of the MASH service. In addition to this, he stated that the Council has recently introduced a new missing persons protocol, which has been developed with colleagues in the Metropolitan Police. He clarified that these actions were being taken by the Council in response to the need of the borough, and not just in response to the HMIC's report.

Mr Simon Rose added to the comment made by the Commissioning Director, Children and Young People, by stating that the MASH service is of a very high quality in Barnet.

Councillor Val Duschinsky questioned what improvements have already been made following the Committee's receipt of the report. Mr Simon Rose stated that much of the training (as stated in the addendum) has already been delivered, and that the local police force is continuing to provide training to all officers. Specifically, the 4-day course of training – as highlighted in the addendum – has already been delivered.

Councillor Kath McGuirk stated that a report on violence against women is scheduled for the March meeting of the Community Leadership Committee, and urged that integration of systems should be prioritised by the Metropolitan Police.

Councillor Alison Cornelius questioned whether the loss of local knowledge in Barnet would be a problem if the London Boroughs of Brent, Harrow and Barnet are amalgamated into one police area. Mr Simon Rose stated that in the event that this happens, there is a significant possibility that the headquarters would be based in the London Borough of Barnet. He stated that in the event of this happening, there would be no loss of Barnet inspectors who have local knowledge. However, he stated that the main risk that this would present would be establishing where officers patrol from, and how it is ensured that there is adequate coverage in all areas.

Councillor Anne Hutton asked about resource allocation, with Mr Simon Rose stating that he believed Barnet has enough officers, and crime reported to be declining. Whilst certain crime rates remain high, and that there would always be a preference for more resource allocation, it remained the fact that the demand on resources has been decreasing.

The Chairman stated that, at present the Metropolitan Police give very little resource to fund the LSCB. He asked what the Committee could do to challenge this and with whom. Mr Simon Rose responded by stating that the Leader of the Council could be the most helpful figure in Barnet to consult in respect to increasing the available funding.

The Chairman then asked what the Metropolitan Police in Barnet are doing in respect to approaching missing persons, child sexual exploitation and serious youth violence. Mr Simon Rose stated that he is aware of a lot of work going on, but was not at liberty to share the majority of the information. He mentioned that there is a progressive and ambitious data sharing system that would streamline information sharing and integration. Furthermore, he stated that the integration of the MASH service at Barnet Council was working proactively with the Metropolitan Police in respect to relevant issues.

The Chairman queried what Mr Simon Rose's thoughts were on how partners view the Metropolitan Police Service's performance on safeguarding. Mr Simon Rose responded by stating that one of the biggest criticisms would be the lack of adequate and timely information sharing. To resolve this, he stated that the Metropolitan Police would need to be more proactive in respect to working with partners.

Cllr Kath McGuirk stated on 8th March 2017 a report would be received by the Community Leadership Committee on violence against women. She requested that this report be circulated to Members of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee when it becomes available. The Committee agreed, and the Governance Team Leader present stated that he would fulfil this request.

Following consideration of the item, the Chairman moved to the recommendations, which were unanimously agreed. The following was therefore **RESOLVED:**

1. That the Committee noted the report.
2. That the Committee offered its comments on the report published by the HMIC on 25th November 2016 and noted that the comments made will be fed back to the London Borough of Barnet Metropolitan Police.
3. That the Committee noted that, when it is available, the Metropolitan Police Service's (MPS) action plan will be brought as a report to a future meeting for the Committee's consideration.

8. SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2018/19

The Programme Director, Education and Learning, introduced the item which outlined school admission arrangements for 2018/19.

Following consideration of the item, the Chairman moved to the recommendations, which were unanimously agreed.

The following was therefore **RESOLVED**:

1. That the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee agreed the school admission arrangements for community schools for 2018/19 as set out in Appendix A.
2. That the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee delegated to the Commissioning Director, Children and Young People (Director of Children's Services) authority to determine future admission arrangements where no change is proposed.

9. SCHOOLS FUNDING

The Commissioning Director, Children and Young People, introduced the item which related to Schools Funding.

The Commissioning Director, Children and Young People, noted that a briefing would be arranged for members of the Committee with the Director of Education and Skills and the Deputy Schools Funding Manager on the implications of the proposed National Funding Formula.

Councillor Kathy Levine made the following comment in respect to Appendix B (Response to the Government Consultation):

- That in respect to the response to question 14, consideration should be given to existing pressures on schools on top of the proposed National Funding Formula for schools. Specifically, the response should make reference to:
 - The rates at which efficiency savings can be made;
 - The need for retraining;
 - New process automation;
 - Losses in operational flexibility;
 - Increases required in staff productivity;
 - Potential redundancy costs;
 - Effective teaching quality and student outcomes;

- The increases in the amount that schools have to pay to cover pensions and national insurance;
- Pay rises promoted by the departments;
- Reductions to services such as the Education Service Grants.

The Commissioning Director, Children and Young People, stated that not all those comments made would be relevant to the response to question 14, however he stated that the issues specifically regarding the reduction to the Education Service Grants and increased pressures identified by the National Audit Office would fit appropriately into the response to the question. The Committee agreed for those relevant comments to be added to the response to question 14.

Councillor Kathy Levine commented that, in response to question 1, she is concerned that a £250mn funding gap had been created by the design of the National Funding Formula. Councillor Kathy Levine moved a motion – seconded by Councillor Kath McGuirk – to add the following wording to the end of recommendation 3:

- *‘...and that a comment is made in the response to question 1 of the Response to the Government Consultation [Appendix B to the report] that the Council would like to see the £250mn be put back into the budget for schools’.*

Votes were recorded as follows:

For	4
Against	4*
Abstain	0

** The Chairman used his casting vote against the motion, therefore meaning that it was lost.*

Following consideration of the item, the Chairman moved to recommendations 1, 2 and 4. Votes were recorded as follows:

For	8
Against	0
Abstain	0

Before proceeding to the vote on recommendation 3, Councillor Kath McGuirk stated that she believed the item should be reclassified as a ‘Key’ item. The Legal Officer and Governance Team Leader present outlined the reasons for classifying an item as ‘Key’ or ‘Non-Key’ as defined by Section 6 of the Responsibility for Functions, outlined in the Council’s constitution.

A simple vote was then offered by the Chairman on whether the report was incorrectly classified as non-key and should be reclassified as ‘Key’:

For	4
Against	4*
Abstain	0

** The Chairman used his casting vote against the request, therefore meaning that it was not upheld. .*

The Chairman then moved to recommendation 3, with votes recorded as follows:

For	4*
Against	4
Abstain	0

** The Chairman used his casting vote in favour of the recommendation.*

The following was therefore **RESOLVED**:

1. **The Committee noted the annual report on school funding in Barnet including:**
 - **The National Funding Formula for schools**
 - **The Barnet Schools Budget for 2017/18 set out in Appendix A and the submission of the Authority Pro-forma Tool as set out in Paragraph 1.9**
 - **The Education Services Grant**
2. **That the Committee delegated to the Commissioning Director, Children and Young People (Director of Children's Services) authority to consult the Schools Forum and schools on any potential changes to the School Funding formula for 2018/19 and possible retention of part of the DSG budget to fund services to maintained schools currently funded from the Education Services Grant and any other significant changes to the Schools Budget that may be necessary as a consequence of published Government regulations or guidance.**
3. **That the Committee commented on the proposed responses to the government's second round of consultation on the Schools national funding formula and the High Needs funding reform as set out in:**
 - **Appendix B: Draft Barnet response to the government consultation on the introduction of a national funding formula (stage 2)**
 - **Appendix C: Draft Barnet response to the government consultation on the reform of high needs funding.**

and delegated final submission of the response to the Commissioning Director, Children and Young People.
4. **That the Committee noted that a report on the results of any consultation and any proposed amendments to Barnet's Funding Formula for 2018/19 and any other significant changes to the Schools Budget or in respect of funding of services to maintained schools currently funded from the Education Services Grant will be submitted to the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee by December 2017.**

10. EARLY YEARS FUNDING

The Committee welcomed the Head of Early Years to the table to answer any questions from Members.

The Strategic Lead, Children and Young People, then introduced the item which related to Early Years Funding.

Following consideration of the item, the Chairman moved to the recommendations. The recommendations were unanimously agreed.

The following was therefore **RESOLVED**:

- **That the Committee noted that following consultation the local funding formula for early education and childcare has been amended to include a base rate of £5.17, a supplement for deprivation (5% of the funding allocation) up to a maximum of £1.53 and a SEND inclusion fund, as required by the DfE.**

11. COMMISSIONING PLANS - ADDENDUMS 2017/18

The Strategic Lead, Children and Young People, introduced the item which related to an addendum to the 2017/18 Commissioning Plan.

Following consideration of the item, the Chairman moved to the recommendations. Votes were recorded as follows:

For	8
Against	0
Abstain	0

The following was therefore **RESOLVED**:

- **That the Committee reviewed and approved the addendum to the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding (CELS) Commissioning Plan for 2017/18 (Appendix A).**

12. PROMOTING ARTS AND CULTURE IN BARNET

The Commissioning Director, Children and Young People, introduced the item which related to promoting arts and culture in Barnet.

The Programme Director, Education and Learning, then provided further information on the report's contents.

She stated that, given the Council's resource limitation, she would investigate the possibility of additional funding (such as from the London Mayor's Office) for arts and culture and share any information with the Committee.

Following consideration of the item, the Chairman moved to the recommendations, which were unanimously agreed.

The following was therefore **RESOLVED**:

- 1. That the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee noted what Barnet is doing to promote culture and arts in the borough.**
- 2. That the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee approved the approach for the development of a strategic framework for arts and culture in Barnet as set out in paragraph 1.24 and for the ongoing support for arts and culture as set out in paragraph 1.25.**

13. CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY

The Commissioning Director, Children and Young People, introduced the item which related to the Corporate Parenting Strategy (recently considered by the Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel).

Following consideration of the item, the Chairman moved to the recommendation, which was unanimously agreed.

The following was therefore **RESOLVED**:

- That the Committee approved the Corporate Parenting Strategy as appended to the cover report.**

14. CARE LEAVERS' STRATEGY AND NEEDS ANALYSIS

The Commissioning Director, Children and Young People, introduced the item which related to the Care Leavers' Strategy and Needs Analysis (recently considered by the Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel).

Following consideration of the item, the Chairman moved to the recommendation, which was unanimously agreed by the Committee.

The following was therefore **RESOLVED**:

- That the Committee approved the Barnet Care Leaver's Strategy as appended to the cover report.**

15. PLACEMENTS COMMISSIONING STRATEGY

The Commissioning Director, Children and Young People, introduced the item which related to the Placements Commissioning Strategy (recently considered by the Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel).

Following consideration of the item, the Chairman moved to the recommendations, which were unanimously agreed by the Committee.

The following was therefore **RESOLVED**:

- 1. That the Committee approved the Placements Commissioning Strategy.**

2. That the Committee noted that the strategy aims to achieve the following: to better enable children and families to build their resilience, to increase the number of local placements through improving support for foster carers and to reduce the long term costs associated with residential placements.

16. CHILDREN, EDUCATION, LIBRARIES & SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Chairman introduced the report which related to the Committee's forward work programme 2017.

Following consideration of the item, the following was **RESOLVED**:

1. The Committee noted the 2017 work programme.

17. ANY OTHER ITEM(S) THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

None.

The meeting finished at 21:08.