

Education, Children and Families Policy Committee

Meeting held 19th December 2023

PRESENT: Councillors Dawn Dale (Chair), Maroof Raouf (Deputy Chair)
Mohammed Mahroof (Group Spokesperson), Jayne Dunn,
Ann Whitaker, Maleiki Haybe, Ian Horner and Julie Grocutt (Substitute
Member)

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Councillor Dianne Hurst sent their apologies. Councillor Julie Grocutt attended as their substitute.

2. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

2.1 The Chair reported that two appendices relating to item 12 were not available to the public and press because they contained exempt information described in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person. Accordingly, if the content of those parts of the report were to be discussed, the public and press would be excluded from the meeting.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 No declarations of interest were received.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 The minutes of the previous meeting of the Education, Children and Families Committee, held on the 2nd of November 2023, were approved.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

5.1 No public questions or petitions were received from members of the public.

6. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

6.1 No Members' questions were received on this occasion.

7. WORK PROGRAMME

- 7.1 The Committee received the Committee's Work Programme for consideration and discussion. The aim of the Work Programme is to show all known, substantive agenda items for forthcoming meetings of the Committee, to enable this Committee, other committees, officers, partners, and the public to plan their work with and for the Committee. Changes since the Committee's last meeting, including any new items, had been made in consultation with the Co-Chairs, Deputy Chair and Group Spokesperson, via their regular pre-meetings, and these were set out at the beginning of Appendix A of the report.
- 7.2 Members raised the issue of School Admissions, an item which was due to come to Committee in February. They stated that feedback had been given by parents that the information available on this subject could be improved. Councillor Dale stated she would be willing to set up a Task and Finish Group on this subject. Councillors Ann Whitaker, Nighat Basharat and Maroof Raouf volunteered to be on this group.
- 7.3 Members asked whether Race Equality had been placed on the agenda for next year's Policy Committee meetings. The Chair confirmed this would be looked at and stated that the Strategic Director of Children's Services would provide updates in their regular Update Report item.
- 7.4 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Committee's work programme, as set out in Appendix 1, be agreed, including the additions and amendments identified in Part 1.

8. AN APPROACH TO SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

- 8.1 The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director of Children's Services which sought to outline what School Improvement consisted of, taking the following into consideration: (a) the Council's statutory duties and (b) any locally commissioned school improvement activities and (c) national considerations when thinking about School Improvement as a whole.
- 8.2 The Education, Children and Families Policy Committee noted the contents of the report and agreed to receive further updates to any changes in school improvement approaches either on a school, local or national level.

9. DEVELOPING OF A BELONGING FRAMEWORK

- 9.1 The Committee consider a report of the Strategic Director of Children's Services which set out a proposal to develop a Belonging Framework and use this to drive change.
- 9.2 The Education, Children and Families Policy Committee:
1. Agreed that Sheffield City Council would develop a Belonging Framework in coproduction with children and young people, families and stakeholders.
 2. Noted the intention of the Belonging Framework to provide an overarching

vision to drive change – so that everything done would be focused on deepening children and young people’s sense of belonging.

3. Noted the engagement planned with children and young people to inform the development of the framework.
4. Noted that the development of the framework would be an iterative process as the views of children and young people were gained in ways which worked best for them, and that the framework and next steps would be reviewed and refined based on this.
5. Noted the intention for an ongoing conversation with the Committee about belonging, including a further draft to be presented at Committee in Spring 2024.

10. UPDATE REPORT FROM THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN’S SERVICES

10.1 The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director of Children’s Services which provided the Strategic Director’s update on the performance and governance of Children’s services, including progress in meeting DCS (Director of Children’s Services) accountabilities and the delivery on statutory requirements. It also provided an update in relation to the Council’s Delivery Plan, key strategic events and issues on the horizon.

10.2 The Education, Children and Families Policy Committee:

- Noted the Strategic Director of Children’s Services report and agreed key activity for the months to come.

11. UPDATE ON ILACS INSPECTION REPORT

11.1 The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director of Children’s Services which provided the findings of the September 2023 Inspection of Local Authority Children’s Services (ILACs).

11.2 The Education, Children and Families Policy Committee:

- Noted the progress made since the 2019 inspection through both the Inspection Report (appendix 1) and the Action Plan (appendix 2)
- Highlighted the importance of the council-wide response to providing Good and Outstanding services for children and families in the city.

12. EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES BUDGET REPORT: OPTIONS FOR 24/25 BUDGET

12.1 The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of Children’s Services which set out the budget pressures and challenges facing the services which fell under the Education, Children and Families committee area, and provided an update to the budget and resourcing action plan considered by the Committee on the 2nd November 2023.

12.2 The Education, Children and Families Committee:

- Noted the financial pressures for 24/25 detailed within this report and the new income available to mitigate them
- Noted the measures proposed in the report to mitigate these pressures and that they would be presented to the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee as part of the Council's budget for 24/25
- Noted that Officers would work to develop any necessary detailed implementation plans for the proposals in this report so that the proposals, once agreed, could be implemented before or during the 2024/25 financial year
- Noted that this was an update on the position presented to Committee on the 2nd of November 2023

13. 2023/24 Q2 BUDGET MONITORING

- 13.1 The Committee received a report of the Director of Finance and Commercial Services which brought the Committee up to date with the Council's General Fund Revenue outturn position for 2023/24 as at quarter two.
- 13.2 The Education, Children and Families Policy Committee noted the updated information and management actions on the 2023/24 Revenue Budget Outturn as described in the report.