

**CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
13 JUNE 2018
7.30 - 9.35 PM**



Present:

Councillors Mrs Birch (Chairman), Ms Gaw, Mrs Hamilton, Ms Hayes, Mrs McCracken, Peacey (Substitute), Mrs Temperton and Virgo

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor Skinner

Ms C Barrett, Children's Social Care Representative

Ms D Owen, Teacher Union Representative Teacher's Representative

Executive Member in attendance:

Councillor Dr Barnard

Also Present:

Nikki Edwards, Director of Children, Young People & Learning

Lorna Hunt, Chief Officer, Children's Social Care

Rachel Morgan, Chief Officer: Education & Learning

1. Election of Chairman

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Birch be elected Chairman of the Panel for the municipal year 2018/19.

2. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

RESOLVED that Councillor Brossard be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Panel for the municipal year 2018/19.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Children Young People and Learning Overview & Scrutiny Panel held on 18 April 2018 be approved as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

4. Declarations of Interest and Party Whip

There were no declarations of interest relating to any items on the agenda, nor any indication that members would be participating whilst under the party whip.

5. Urgent Items of Business

There were no items of urgent business.

6. **Public Participation**

No submissions had been made by members of the public under the Council's Public Participation Scheme for Overview and Scrutiny.

7. **Exclusion of Public and Press**

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and having regard to the public interest, members of the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of the following item which involves the likely disclosure of exempt information under the following category of Schedule 12A of that Act:

- (1) Information relating to any individual (Item 8).

8. **Update on Family Safeguarding Model**

During closed session the Panel received a presentation by members of the Children, Young People & Learning Team (Jackie Wilton, Project Officer; Sinead Rippington, Social Worker in Family Safeguarding Team; Kate Simmons, Social Worker for Under 11's Team; Stella Kahonde, Relief Senior Child Care Practitioner; Louise Duffy, Adult Mental Health Practitioner in Family Safeguarding Team) about how they used the Family Safeguarding Model (FSM) during the course of their work. Lorna Hunt, Chief Officer, Children's Social Care, then gave a presentation on the Family Safeguarding Model Baseline Evaluation and drew members' attention to the areas highlighted in the report which was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

The Chairman thanked the Family Safeguarding team for their presentation about their work, especially their case studies that showed clearly the importance and benefit of this model of working where professionals are directly working and in touch with each other on a daily basis.

9. **Update on Children's Centre visits 17 May 2018**

The Chairman thanked Cherry Hall, Strategy & Development Manager for Under 5's and her team for organising the visit to the Children's Centres and for their outstanding work. Members noted the benefits staff said they felt at being co-located.

10. **Pupil Premium Task and Finish Group**

Zoe Livingstone, School Standards and Effectiveness Partner, Learning & Achievement, outlined the complexity of need by children in receipt of Pupil Premium funding who were doubly disadvantaged due to also having a Special Educational Need (SEN). She referred to a Joseph Rowntree Foundation research paper 'Special educational needs and their links to poverty' which focused on 10 key areas, a number of which were thought to be relevant to Bracknell. The report explicitly requested policy makers and school leaders to look at policies for children in receipt of Pupil Premium funding; ensure staff in schools and early years settings were trained to identify needs as early as possible; and review targeted funding for pupils with SEN at risk of exclusion.

Zoe Livingstone informed members a sample of last year's Year 6 pupils across Bracknell found 34% of children in receipt of Pupil Premium funding were in good or outstanding schools, which reflected the national picture. This year group had one of the largest numbers of children in receipt of Pupil Premium funding. It was suspected part of the problem was the difficulty in recruiting teachers in schools where there were large numbers of children receiving Pupil Premium funding (mainstream and

academies). To try and address this issue Bracknell's Learning & Improvement Strategy had already focused on retaining and recruiting inspirational leaders. Zoe Livingstone drew members' attention to the data contained in the first table on Page 5 of the Supplementary Report 'Pupil Premium Task and Finish Group' which showed 21% of the cohort was disadvantaged in comparison to 28% nationally. However, the proportion of those who also had SEN was broadly in line with the national figure of 33% so it was thought the data required further exploration. In terms of outcomes, 35% of doubly disadvantaged children in Bracknell gained Expected Standard in reading compared to 28% of the same cohort nationally. It was thought this may largely be down to the local authority making this a priority for all schools across the Borough. However, the combined result for this cohort was much poorer as the number of doubly disadvantaged children achieving the Expected Standard was lower than the national percentage for both writing and maths. Indeed, 15% of children with SEN achieved the combined Expected Standard in comparison to only 11% of doubly disadvantaged children. Interestingly, the outcomes for Bracknell's doubly disadvantaged children in last year's Key Stage 4 cohort outperformed Bracknell's children with SEN.

Staff were aware of the need to collate and scrutinise data better and this was part of Bracknell's SEN Action Plan. Parental engagement was also thought to be an area for improvement, and fitted with the Family Safeguarding Model, to give parents the skills to help their children. Zoe Livingstone informed members that doubly disadvantaged children were over represented in figures nationally in terms of being identified as having an SEN but the support did not always follow through. The School Improvement Team were already keen to look at transition points and where children previously in receipt of Pupil Premium funding went on to after they turned 16, i.e. college or employment. Current data showed the majority of children in receipt of Pupil Premium funding in Bracknell were white, British pupils and children from Gypsy/Roma/Traveller Communities.

Zoe Livingstone went on to give examples of how the Council, through its SEND Strategy and School Improvement Strategy, were already focusing on intervening in schools where doubly disadvantaged children were not achieving to their full potential. Support currently in place for schools included a universal offer to all schools to support doubly disadvantaged children; termly Pupil Premium Network Meetings; an annual conference; governor sessions focusing on reviewing the use of Pupil Premium funding; Clerks briefings on Pupil Premium funding and four leading Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCOs) working with SENCOs in other schools. Bracknell also works with Wokingham Borough Council to share best practice in this area.

Zoe Livingstone had mapped out potential areas of work the Panel could scrutinise which included transition; an Inclusion Charter; the work of SENCOs; leadership in schools; attendance and quality of data.

Members agreed to set up a Task and Finish Group to look at children in receipt of Pupil Premium funding who also have SEN. The Panel would consist of Councillors Mrs Birch, Mrs Hamilton, Ms Hayes, Ms Gaw, Mrs McCracken and Mrs Temperton.

It was agreed to incorporate the effect of mental health needs of the parent on a child's attendance into the scope of the Task and Finish Group as well as consider the level of understanding of school governors about Pupil Premium funding and their role scrutinising the data.

Nikki Edwards, Director of Children, Young People and Learning reminded Panel members about the Children's Plan Phase Gateway Review on 17 July 2018 which

would look at shifting early help into family hubs and co-locate staff from a variety of disciplines such as employment support and family support workers.

Rachel Morgan, Chief Officer, Education and Learning explained that staff working with the Family Support Model developed Motivational Interviewing techniques and the same trainer had delivered a motivational conversations approach (how to help parents get their children into school) with 40 staff from 20 different schools across the Borough. It was the intention to repeat this training for other schools in September. There were also two further coaching days for leaders being offered to schools.

Councillor Dr Barnard requested the scope of the Task & Finish Group also seek to understand the level of understanding of school governors about Pupil Premium funding, as they should be scrutinising the data first and foremost. It was agreed this should be included in the scope.

Actions:

- **Members agreed the Pupil Premium Task and Finish Group and to proceed with the scoping meeting on 19 June**
- **Membership of the Groups as set out above**
- **Scope to include a focus on attendance and assessment of school governor's understanding of Pupil Premium and doubly disadvantaged pupils**

11. Elective Home Education DfE Consultation

The Chairman informed members about a Department for Education consultation 'Elective Home Education Consultation: call for evidence' and Panel members discussed whether or not to respond.

In order to support the Panel preparing a response the Chairman requested the following data:

- the number of children currently educated at home
- how many of those children are in each year group
- how many of those children are engaged with the local authority
- how long has each child has been educated at home

Nikki Edwards, Director of Children, Young People and Learning explained that they would not be able to provide data on how long a child had been educated at home as they had no statutory duty to collect this data.

Councillor Dr Barnard, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning reported that a recent South East regional meeting had raised a common concern about the scope of the review and the lack of parental accountability. Panel Members echoed these concerns and gave examples of parents who saw home education as an easy option and there was potentially a lack of real education and socialising opportunities for these children.

Members agreed to send a robust co-ordinated response and requested Governance and Scrutiny organised a meeting to agree their views which could feed into the Bracknell Forest Council response.

Actions:

- **Governance & Scrutiny Co-ordinator to arrange meeting for Panel members to meet to discuss their response to the consultation and forward to the Executive Member for inclusion into the Bracknell Forest Council response**

12. Cornerstone Project Update

It was agreed that Governance and Scrutiny would circulate the presentation and Panel members would email Lorna Hunt, Chief Officer, Children's Social Care, any questions.

Actions:

- **Overview & Scrutiny Co-ordinator to send presentation out to Panel members**
- **Panel Members to direct any questions on the presentation to Lorna Hunt, Chief Officer, Children's Social Care**

13. Panel Work Programme 2018/19

Members of the Panel considered the Work Programme topics which had been prioritised in advance of the meeting and agreed Pupil Premium funding with a focus on double disadvantaged children, as per agenda Item 10, should be one priority.

It was noted that the Health & Wellbeing Board were currently focusing on the Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) transformation plan and that it may be useful to have an Overview & Scrutiny focus on this at a later date.

Following discussion it was agreed that Special Educational Needs (SEN) should be their focus of another substantive topic to be completed by February next year. The Panel agreed that the scope of the SEN work should focus on the topics members had suggested such as early years, underachievement in boys and assessments.

Actions:

- **Governance & Scrutiny Co-ordinator to set up scoping meetings to discuss the two identified priorities – Pupil Premium and SEN**

14. Larchwood Short Break Unit Annual Inspection

Panel members noted the report and expressed their thanks and appreciation of the work carried out by Larchwood Short Break Unit Team.

15. Quarterly Service Report

It was agreed questions regarding QSRs be sent to Nikki Edwards, Director of Children, Young People & Learning ROLE to deal with separately.

In response to a query from Councillor Mrs Temperton regarding the new town centre youth facility being considered members were advised that a full update about the facility would be provided when more information was available publicly.

Councillor Mrs Temperton updated members that Easthampstead Park Community School had received a bronze award for their work with young carers.

Actions:

- **Councillor Dr Barnard to provide a further update regarding the new town centre youth facility, when available**
- **Panel Members to send questions regarding QSRs to Nikki Edwards, Director of Children, Young People & Learning**

16. Executive Key and Non-Key Decisions

Members received and noted the scheduled Key and Non-Key Executive Decisions of a corporate nature.

CHAIRMAN