

Swindon Borough Council

Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 29 June 2010

Committee Room 6, Civic Offices
(Anticipated meeting room)

At 6.30 p.m.

Conservative Councillors

Michael Bray
Doreen Dart
Melanie Duff
Raymond Fisher
Russell Holland
(Chair)
Colin Lovell
Mary Martin
David Wren

Labour Councillors

Fay Howard (Vice-Chair)
Rochelle Russell

Liberal Democrat Councillors

Martin Wiltshire

Independent Councillors

Co-opted Representatives:

Peter Crockett, Association of Swindon Special School Headteachers
Chris Davis, Swindon Association of Primary School Headteachers
Dick Mattick, National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers
Mrs Penny Summers, Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
Peter Wells, Catholic Church Diocese
Rachael Matthey, Swindon Association of Secondary Headteacher
Malcolm Barton, Church of England Diocese
Mrs Fatima Pereira, Parent Governor

Contact Officers:

Rita Glen-Gallo (Committee Officer), 01793 463611, rglen-gallo@swindon.gov.uk
Sally Smith (Scrutiny Officer), 01793 463412, ssmith@swindon.gov.uk
Swindon Borough Council, Civic Offices, Euclid Street, Swindon, SN1 2JH
(Telephone 01793 445500)

AGENDA

PART 1 (PUBLIC ITEMS)

1. Apologies for Absence.

2. Declarations of Interest.

Members are reminded that at the start of the meeting they should declare any known interests in any matter to be considered, and also during the meeting if it becomes apparent that they have an interest in the matters being discussed.

3. Public Question Time.

See explanatory note below. Please phone the Committee Officer whose name and number appears at the top of this agenda if you need further guidance.

4. Minutes. (Pages 1 - 6)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2010

5. Appointment of Co-optees. (DLDS-B) (Pages 7 - 10)

6. Corporate Parenting Advisory Board Annual Report 2009/10. (GDC) (Pages 11 - 30)

7. Developing the Work Programme. (DLDS-B) (Pages 31 - 44)

Date of Despatch: 21 June 2010

Key:

GDC	-	Group Director: Children
DLDS-B	-	Director of Law and Democratic Services
DSCYP-C	-	Director of Services to Children and Young People
DCFS	-	Director of Children and Family Services

Access Arrangements – *The Venue is wheelchair accessible and an infrared receiver hearing system is provided. If you would wish to attend the meeting but have any special requirement to enable you to do so please contact the Committee Clerk above, as soon as possible prior to the date of the meeting.*

If you would like to receive any of the pages contained in this agenda in a larger print size please contact the Committee Officer whose name appears on the first page of this agenda.

**Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Terms of Reference**

To fulfil all the functions of an overview and scrutiny committee as they relate to –

- the review, scrutiny and development of policy recommendations,
- the management of performance,
- the monitoring of progress against corporate priorities and
- the formulation of advice for the Cabinet, Council and other partners and stakeholders.

To have specific responsibility for (but not limited to):–

- the scrutiny of the Children and Young People Block of the Swindon Local Area Agreement;
- Education within Swindon;
- the provision of opportunities for education, training and learning outside of the school environment including pre-school, adult and community learning and the Youth Service;
- Social services for children and young people;
the delivery of services to children and young people in Swindon generally.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 23 MARCH 2010

PRESENT:- Councillors Glenn Smith (Chair), Fay Howard (Vice-Chair), Michael Bray, Doreen Dart, Raymond Fisher, Russell Holland, Des Moffatt and Kevin Parry

Co-opted Representatives: - Peter Crockett (Association of Swindon Special School Headteachers), Dick Mattick (National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers), Peter Wells (Catholic Church Diocese), Rachael Matthey (Swindon Association of Secondary Headteacher), Malcolm Barton (Church of England Diocese) and Mrs Fatima Pereira (Parent Governor)

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Penny Summers (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education).

Also Present: Paddy Bradley (Director Schools and Learning), Angela Jensen (Lead Advisor Gifted, More Able and Talented Pupils), Jan Shadick (Headteacher Swindon Academy).

37. Declarations of Interest.

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting. No declarations were made.

38. Minutes.

Resolved - That the minutes of 16th February 2010 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

39. Public Question Time.

The following question were submitted in accordance with Standing Order 28.

Questioner

Mr Paul Sunners – Swindon

Questions in relation to Agenda Item 7 - Special Educational Needs

Question 1. - In light of Nyland School entering Special Measures within one year of both national and local review criteria indicating that it was a 'good school, well led, confident, self-improving in which all children achieve challenging but realistic personal and educational targets' - how might lessons learned be scrutinised regarding the use of investigation procedures and the importance of maintaining balance in relation to safeguarding principles and the welfare of staff who, working in the most challenging circumstances, find themselves subject to disciplinary procedures?

Question 2. Has there been a cost analysis of managing the circumstances at Nyland School since October 2008?

Question 3. The BESD consultation document published in November 2008, refers to the author and the Group Director of Children Services having experience of closing 'poorly functioning segregated provision and returning children to mainstream schools with significant success'. In light of Nyland's circumstances, has closure been an option?

The Chair thanked Mr Sunner for his questions and advised that he would ask the Director of Schools and Learning to provide a written response to his questions.

40. Strategy for Change.

Paddy Bradley (Director of Schools and Learning) submitted a report informing Members on the strategic education plan to transform learning in Swindon schools and on introducing different ways of organising schooling supported by new models of leadership.

The Committee heard that:

- The Council submitted an expression of interest to the Government to be part of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. Whilst this expression of interest had been unsuccessful, the exercise allowed the Council to establish the criteria for mapping out a priority list that would aid development.
- The technique implemented had been part of the BSF programme where the process for this work had been linked to areas of deprivation that schools were servicing, schools' performance and building condition.
- Feedback received indicated that the bid had been unsuccessful because other Local Authorities had greater needs in terms of deprivation.
- As the expression of interest had been limited in its attention to post 16 provision, a study had been commissioned into the range of provision and to outline options for the future. Mr Peter Wells would lead this work.
- Leadership examples within Appendix 2 of the report of the Director of Schools and Learning already existed within Swindon schools with Headteachers taking a flexible modern approach.
- The future would see fewer school leaders and schools merging and being led by a single leader.
- Consultation to attract interested parties in school merges was to be undertaken.
- The Local Authority would be a commissioner rather than a direct provider.
- As the Academy covered pupils between 0-19 years, there were no transition issues.
- The Committee heard about the actions being undertaken to address headteacher shortages. This included the formation of 'The Federation' that gives prospective Headteachers opportunities to lead a school.

- Thirteen headteachers were appointed last year. This had been to address the shortage of headteachers in Swindon. The Leadership Models had contributed to aiding the recruitment process.

Members of the Committee raised the following points:

- Whether the shortage of headteachers had been age related.
- Development study and funding would be led by Mr Peter Wells.
- The Union involvement in the process. Mr Peter Wells advised the study was not at the consultation stage. It was still at the preliminary stage and was on a fact finding exercise to look at numbers and actions required.

Councillor Garry Perkins advised the Committee that future funding for the BSF programme would be limited. He added that diploma qualifications had been introduced in the past year and if the creation of specialist colleges/ secondary schools were to be an option, this would ensure that education aims met business goals. He confirmed that to ensure the number of NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) figures did not increase, the need for Post 16 education needed to be addressed.

Jan Shadick (Headteacher at the Swindon Academy) recommended that the Committee reviewed a 'UTube' extract entitled 'Shift Happens'. She advised that this extract related to "educating our children today, for jobs that do not yet exist, using technology not yet invented, to resolve as yet unidentified problems". She added that whilst 95% of 12 year old pupils wanted to learn, only 38% enjoyed coming to school. The Committee heard that this was the challenge currently being faced by education and that this should be the agenda for the way forward in education. She advised that the challenge would be on the way pupils were educated.

Jan Shadick informed the Committee about her experiences as a headteacher at an Academy and discussed the curriculum and attainment of pupils. She advised that the Academy opened for 3 to 19 year old pupils in 2007. This had been extended to encompass 0-3 year old pupils through the partnership with Sure Start. She added that as an Academy, there had been the opportunity to rebrand and look at the wider market to build partnerships. The Committee heard about the ease of communication and engagement with parents across all school years; as one school covering 0 to 19 years, staff had collective responsibility for the pupils across the range of years; staff development was available and staff would be able to teach across all years.

Members of the Committee raised the following points:

- The challenge of recruitment for the Academy in future years.
- The performance of pupils at the transition stage when they relocate from satellite sites. The Committee heard that there were no issues usually associated with transition. Behaviour and attainment was positive.
- School Education Needs (SEN) funding and processes regarding Looked After Children.

Resolved – (1) That, it be noted that there was no change in the bid for the schools prioritisation for building development in the BSF Expression of Interest.

(2) That the Director of Schools and Learning submit an interim report regarding progress made on the commissioned study, including information regarding Looked After Children and action taken to decrease the NEET figures to this Committee in June 2010.

(3) That the efficacy of the ways of organising schooling and the new models of leadership, be noted.

(4) That the Director of Schools and Learning and Mr Peter Wells submit a joint progress report regarding progress and actions to be taken following the commissioned study, to this Committee in October 2010.

(5) That further to Jan Shaddick's invitation, Members were welcome to visit the Academy.

41. Gifted, Talented and More Able.

Angela Jensen (Lead Advisor, Gifted, More Able and Talented Pupils) presented a report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Gifted, Talented and More Able Task Group. The Committee was advised that the Lead Advisor drew up an action plan that implemented the seven recommendations from the Task Group.

The Committee noted that:

- From September 2010, bursaries of £250 would be available to secondary schools to support pupils who were identified on the school's gifted and talented register and were eligible for free school meals.
- Guidance papers had been issued to schools providing clear definitions of 'Gifted, More Able and Talented'.
- School Improvement Partners had undertaken training take out in schools.
- Schools and the Local Authority worked closely together on the School Improvement Plans.
- The Swindon Merlin learning platform had been set up offering a range of downloadable contacts for schools to inform parents about.
- To assist pupils with after school activities, various venues/ grants were available for schools.
- Guidance documents had been issued highlighting best practice for a smooth transition process. Currently, schools were responsible for managing their own transition methods.
- That further to training conducted during autumn 2009, School Improvement Partners would continue to aid schools in utilising self evaluation tools to report progress on Institutional and Classroom Quality Standards.

Resolved: (1) That the Director of Schools and Learning writes to parents of all pupils receiving Free School Meals advising them of additional entitlements that might be available to them.

(2) That the Lead Advisor, Gifted, More Able and Talented Pupils submits a further report outlining progress made on the recommendations to this Committee in March / June 2011.

(3) That the Lead Advisor, Gifted, More Able and Talented Pupils be thanked for her report.

42.

Special Educational Needs.

Paddy Bradley (Director of Schools and Learning) presented an update on developments in the areas of Special Educational Needs. He explained that important developments had taken place over the past year which included the Behaviour, Social and Emotional Difficulties (BESD) Review.

The Committee considered the report and noted the following points:

- That the number of permanent exclusions had decreased significantly this year. The 'Fair Access Panel' had played a significant role in this achievement. This Panel was constituted from representatives from schools who received information on individual pupils who were on the cusp of exclusion or were previously excluded and needed support.
- That increased effective collaboration between schools had resulted in best practices on assisting students with BESD to be identified and shared. This had also highlighted what training would be required.
- That Primary School provision for BESD students would be reviewed
- Consideration on supporting students with BESD, whether funding should be allocated to schools to help them undertake various projects.
- That a future study be undertaken to address why pupils disengage at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.
- That work had been undertaken to ensure provision is tailored to the needs of students.
- That a new Special Resource Provision had been created at Greendown School.
- That Ruskin School had assisted in developing resource provision for Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) pupils to access provision in their mainstream primary schools.
- That due to progress attained, both Nyland School and Stratton Education Centre would be out of Special Measures by the end of 2010.
- That subject to funding, the feasibility of having a social worker who understand SEN needs be attached to Special Schools to act as a conduit with Social Services, be investigated.
- That Peter Crockett had been leading a collaboration to undertake work between Crowdys School and Chalet School regarding Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

Resolved – (1) That further to Appendix 1 of the Director's report, an update setting progress on recommendations to the Cabinet by this Committee on Special Educational Needs provision be circulated to Members of the Committee.

(2) That further to 2.6 in the report of the Special Educational Needs and inclusion Manager, a breakdown on spending be submitted to the Committee in March 2011.

(3) That a progress report on Special Educational Needs provisions be submitted in March 2011.

(4) That the Senior Secondary Strategy Manager be thanked for her report.

43.

Review Of The Year.

The Committee considered a report of the Scrutiny Officer on the achievements of the Children and Young People's Overview Committee during the

Municipal Year 2009/10.

Resolved: (1) That the report be noted.

(2) The Committee thanked all Members and staff for their support and contribution to the work of the Committee during the Municipal Year 2009/10.

APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTEEES

Children & Young People's Overview & Scrutiny Committee

29th June 2010

Author: Director of Law and Democratic Services

Parish / Wards Affected: All wards

Purpose

- To confirm the appointment of co-optees to the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2010/11.

Recommendation

The Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to:

- To confirm the appointment of Fatima Pereira as a Parent Governor representative to the Committee
- To confirm the appointment of Malcolm Barton as Church of England Diocese representative to the Committee
- To confirm the appointment of Peter Wells as the Catholic Church Diocese
- To confirm the appointment of the following non-voting representatives:
 - Dick Mattick (Swindon NASUWT Branch)
 - Peter Crockett (Swindon Association of Special School Headteachers)
 - Penny Summers (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education).
 - Chris Davis (Swindon Association of Primary Headteachers)
 - Rachel Matthey (Swindon Association of Secondary Headteachers)

1. Reasons

- 1.1 The Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee is required by the Council's Constitution to appoint parent governor and diocese representatives to its membership and may choose to appoint additional co-opted members.

2. Detail

- 2.1 The Council's Constitution states that the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee will appoint no more than 2 church representatives and 2 parent governor representatives to its membership as full voting members in respect of education matters. If the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Overview Committee deals with other matters, these representatives shall not vote on those other matters, though they may stay in the meeting and speak.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from *Sally Smith*, 01793 463412 or Email ssmith3@swindon.gov.uk.

APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTEEES

- 2.2 The Committee is asked to confirm the appointment to the Committee of Fatima Pereira, who was appointed by the Governor Support Service following consultation with the Association of Swindon Governors.
- 2.3 The Committee is asked to confirm the appointment of Malcom Barton, who was appointed by the Church of England Diocese.
- 2.4 The Committee is asked to confirm the appointment of Peter Wells, who was appointed by the Catholic Diocese/
- 2.5 The Council's constitution states that each Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall be entitled to appoint a number of people as non-voting co-optees.
- 2.6 It is recommended the following appointments be made for 2010/11:
- Mr Dick Mattick (Swindon NASUWT Branch)
 - Mrs Penny Summers (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education).
 - Peter Crockett (Swindon Association of Special School Headteachers)
 - Chris Davis (Swindon Association of Primary Headteachers)
 - Rachel Matthey (Swindon Association of Secondary Headteachers)
- 2.7 The Committee is asked to determine whether any additional co-opted representatives should be sought to support its work programme for the year.

Alternative Options

The Committee may choose only to appoint co-optees required under the Constitution and to appoint other co-optees to support their work programme on a meeting-by-meeting basis.

Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- Co-opted representatives are entitled to claim travel and meal allowances in order to attend Council meetings, the costs of which are met from within the Allowance budget. There are no procurement implications arising from the contents of his report.

Legal / Human Rights Implications

- There are no human rights or legal implications arising from this report.

APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTEES

Children & Young People's Overview & Scrutiny Committee

29th June 2010

Links to Corporate Plans and Policies (in particular to Swindon 2010 Promises)

- None

Consultees

- Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted on all reports.

Background Papers and Appendices

- None

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from *Sally Smith*, 01793 463412 or Email ssmith3@swindon.gov.uk.

This page is intentionally left blank

Corporate Parenting Advisory Board Annual Report, 2009/10

Children and Young People's Overview
and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 29 June 2010

Author: Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Group Director, Children

Parish / Wards Affected: All

Purpose

- To review the work of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Board over the previous Municipal Year and to advise the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee of any areas of concern or possible work streams.

Recommendation

The Committee is requested to

- Comment on the review of the Board's work.
- Provide any feedback it may have to the Corporate Parenting Advisory Board.

1. Reasons

- 1.1 As part of the Council's commitment to integrate and improve its working practices it has been agreed that the Corporate Parenting Advisory Board produce an Annual Report and that it be submitted to the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2. Detail

- 2.1 The Board appointed Councillor Mick Bray as Chair and Councillor Doreen Dart as Vice-Chair and was comprised of the following additional Members Ray Fisher, Fay Howard and Vera Tomlinson. Officers from Children's Services and in particular Jean Pollard, Terry Scragg, and Frances Matchett, supported the Board. Other officers attended meetings of the Board as required. The Board would like to formally recognise the work of officers in supporting Members during the year.
- 2.2 During the Municipal Year 2009/10 the Corporate Parenting Advisory Board has considered the following issues:
- 2.3 Corporate Parenting Strategy
 - 2.3.1 The Corporate Parenting Strategy is Swindon Borough Council's statement and commitment to improving outcomes for children and young people in care. It was adopted at Cabinet on 23rd July 2008 and launched at the Care Matters conference on 29th September 2008.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Shaun Banks on *Direct Dial No. 463606* or Email sbanks@swindon.gov.uk

Corporate Parenting Advisory Board Annual Report, 2009/10

Children and Young People's Overview
and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 29 June 2010

2.3.2 The Corporate Parenting Advisory Board had an ongoing role in monitoring and supporting the implementation of the strategy. In particular it received quarterly updates on the progress of the Action Plan.

2.3.3 Following concerns raised at meetings of the Board the Children in Care Council is now meeting on a regular basis. Some 24 young people have signed up for this with about 12 turning up for each meeting. Members of the Board have met representatives of the Children in Care Council on a regular basis during the year and work is on-going to regularise this process.

2.3.4 The Board has received three key priorities from the Children in Care Council and have agreed to receive a report on each of these priority areas at future meetings (one report to each of the next three meetings).

2.3.5 The Ofsted Children's Rights Director Roger Morgan produced a report "Children's Care Monitor 2008 – Children's Views on how care is doing". This is the report of his work with children and young people nationally about their experiences of the care system.

2.3.6 The report also analysed the local picture for children and young people in care as compared to the findings nationally. The analysis found that many issues identified nationally were relevant locally, and that areas for work in Swindon have already been picked up through the Corporate Parenting Strategy or other routes.

2.4 Runaways Action Plan - Briefing Note on National Indicator 71

2.4.1 The report briefed, in their role as Corporate parent, on the key requirements of the National Indicator and the Runaways Action Plan. In their role as Corporate Parent members need to satisfy themselves of their duty, under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004, to cooperate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children is satisfactory and shared across all services. Significant elements of the National Indicator 71 and the Runaways Action plan consolidate good practice that is already in place or in development nationally and in Swindon. This paper and verbal presentation to members at the Committee gave members an overview of relevant policy or approaches that are already in place, those that are planned and area of new development.

2.4.2 The Board considered the following background:

- Young people (up to the age of 18) who run away from home or care, or who feel that they have had to leave, face a particular

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Shaun Banks on Direct Dial No. 463606 or Email sbanks@swindon.gov.uk

Corporate Parenting Advisory Board Annual Report, 2009/10

Children and Young People's Overview
and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 29 June 2010

range of risks from having to find alternative places to stay and means to survive.

- Children and Young people run away for a reason. They may be 'pushed away' following incidents of abuse, bullying, or other factors that make a place unacceptable to live in. They might be 'pulled away', wanting to be near friends, or because they have been groomed by adults who want to exploit them.
- Running away should be seen as a clear sign that something is wrong in the child or young person's life, and that a response must be made quickly and effectively.
- The Children's Society *Still Running* surveys produced estimates that around 100,000 young people under the age of 16 run away from home or care each year across the UK.
- Many of these young people stay with friends or family members but there are some who do not have access to support systems and who are forced to stay in places that are harmful to their safety and well-being.
- Services need to be in place to respond to the triggers and incidents of running away to prevent these problems from escalating to prevent young people coming to harm.
- From 1st April 2009 National Indicator 71 (NI71) required local authorities in England to share information with the police and other relevant organisations in relation to missing children and young runaways.
- A young runaway is a young person (up to the age of 18) who has run away from home or care, or who feels that they have had to leave. The term 'runaway' is in the main self-defined by the missing person, so that, in the majority of cases, it will be unknown if the person is a runaway upon receipt of a missing person report ACPO (2009) *Interim Guidance on Missing Persons, as a Supplement to the ACPO (2005) Guidance on the Management, recording and Investigation of Missing Persons*.

2.4.3 The Board also received information regarding national Indicator 71 and its relevance to the work of the Board namely:

- National Indicator 71 was introduced to create a focus on the provision of services to this vulnerable group of young people. Local areas are not asked to provide information on the level of running, or the detail of their service provision, rather to provide a picture of the extent to which appropriate services are provided.
- This indicator is focused on service provision rather than outcomes for young people. At present the recording and sharing of data at a local level can be patchy, that it would be impossible to have an indicator based on this data. It is hoped that improvements in the

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Shaun Banks on Direct Dial No. 463606 or Email sbanks@swindon.gov.uk

Corporate Parenting Advisory Board Annual Report, 2009/10

Children and Young People's Overview
and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 29 June 2010

processes and service provision that this indicator will bring about will allow a move to a more outcome-focused indicator in 2011.

- Local areas assess and score their performance quarterly on a scale of 0 to 3 against five key elements of service planning and provision on the basis of the following criteria:

Local information about running away is gathered.

Local needs analysis, based on gathered information, is in place. Local protocols to meet needs of runaways agreed, and procedures in place to support them.

Protocols for responding to urgent out of hours referrals from Police or other agency are in place and procedures in place to support them.

Prevention and Early Intervention Protocols are in place

- In relation to this, police forces will refer all reports of children and young persons to the local authority children's services within 48 hours of the missing person report being taken.
- The local authority that should be notified is the one that covers the address that the child/young person is missing from.
- National Indicator 71 does not dictate which data should be shared, but it is advantageous to share as much as possible, enabling better analysis and use of data.
- This information should then be used to assist Local Safeguarding Children's Boards and Children's Trusts to improve local service provision for runaways, and support them in achieving the five Every Child Matters outcomes.
- The DCSF published the Missing from Home and Care Guidance due in Spring 2009, the revision of this guidance was part of the DCSF Runaways Action Plan, which is being coordinated by the DCSF.
- The Government's Young Runaways Action Plan sets out what local agencies need to do to give these vulnerable young people the help that they need, and demonstrates their commitment to support improvements in services for young runaways.
- Swindon's response in preparation for the implementation of NI71 was to undertake an audit with the police in order to analyse the extent of the problem. These findings were disseminated to the Local Safeguarding Board and at the LSCB Annual conference on 'Risky behaviours' in 2008 highlighting the need for urgent action to address this safeguarding issue.
- To coordinate this work The Swindon Runaways Action Plan was adopted by the Local Safeguarding Board in October 2008 and a

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Shaun Banks on *Direct Dial No. 463606* or Email sbanks@swindon.gov.uk.

Corporate Parenting Advisory Board Annual Report, 2009/10

Children and Young People's Overview
and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 29 June 2010

sub group established to raise awareness and establish the scale of running away. The aim is create a focus on the provision to this vulnerable group of young people and to put services in place that respond accordingly and effectively.

- To support joint working between Police, Children's Services, and other relevant bodies a retired Police Officer was employed temporarily to progress the work, supported by student social workers from the NSPCC. They will be carrying out 'Return to Home' interviews with the young people to identify the 'pushes and pulls for the child' and a review of best practice based on the Gloucester 'Astra' project which was set up in response to the Fred and Rosemary West case.
- Because of the similarities in focus and close working relationship between the Sexual Exploitation Forum and Runaways Working Group this prompted a move to combine them in order to secure more joined up planning and delivery of services which would then be reported back to the Local Safeguarding Management Board.

2.4.4 The Board agreed the following:

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That the Head of Safeguarding be requested to submit an Annual Report on National Indicator 71 - Missing from Home and Care and the Runaways Action Plan to this Board.
- (3) That, further to (2) above, if there are any substantial changes to the National Indicator it be reported to the next meeting of this Board.
- (4) That National Indicator 71 - Missing from Home and Care and the Runaways Action Plan be referred to the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee for information.

2.5 Policy & Procedures for the Care Leavers Service

2.5.1 The policy and procedures for the care leaver's service represent this Council's approach to this very vulnerable group of young people. As such, elected members need to satisfy themselves that these reflect their views.

2.5.2 As part of its response to 'Care Matters – a time for change' the 'Care Leavers' service was set up in November 2008. This represents a major shift in the teams operation. Previously the 16+ team had attended to **all** young people aged 16+ who required a service which included, but was not exclusively for care leavers. Now the team will only work with care leavers. It is therefore necessary to write new policies and procedures that underpin this service. The procedures acknowledge that this is an especially vulnerable group due to their life experiences and their lack of

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Shaun Banks on *Direct Dial No. 463606* or Email sbanks@swindon.gov.uk.

Corporate Parenting Advisory Board Annual Report, 2009/10

Children and Young People's Overview
and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 29 June 2010

family support. It is for these reasons that robust support arrangements need to be put in place.

- 2.5.3 The policy importantly covers two special groups – disabled young people and unaccompanied asylum seekers – and lays out the department's duty to both.
- 2.5.4 It provided definitions of the confusing legal distinctions of care leavers including: - eligible, relevant and formally relevant young people. It is against these definitions that a care leavers entitlement is established.
- 2.5.5 Importantly the document recognised that no one agency has responsibility for this group and outlined the very many links with other agencies e.g. Connexions, Housing Department etc. and gave a transparent view of the financial assistance available for young people.
- 2.5.6 Given the age of the young people worked with by this service it is essential that they are encouraged to work alongside team members to help us develop the service in a way that is right for them. To this end meetings have already been held with groups of young people to ascertain what they want from the service. This process will be ongoing.
- 2.5.7 The service was launched in June 2009 and Board members were invited to the launch. It is hoped that that young people will continue to play a key role.
- 2.5.8 There are many issues that require consideration when thinking about Care Leavers. At a recent conference looking at Care Leaver services in the South West some of the headlines included:-

Issues confronting Care Leavers:-

- Higher incidence of mental health issues
- Greater likelihood of becoming pregnant early (40% of young women who have been in care are mothers by the age of 20)
- Greater risk of sexual exploitation.
- Greater risk of being unemployed.
- Over represented in prison system
- Difficulties in accessing housing and financial support

What care leavers wanted:-

- Placement stability.
- Consistent support over time
- A secure base – accommodation
- Help to solve problems

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Shaun Banks on *Direct Dial No. 463606* or Email sbanks@swindon.gov.uk

Corporate Parenting Advisory Board Annual Report, 2009/10

Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 29 June 2010

- A gradual transition from care
- Help to access appropriate training and education

2.5.9 It is specifically because of our awareness of these issues that we have decided to create the Care Leavers Service. It is hoped that now the team is fully staffed that we can really begin to put an excellent Care Leavers service that works to the highest of standards and regularly asks the question 'Would this be good enough for my own child?'

2.6 Health of Children and Young People in Care

2.6.1 The Board considered the following information:

National Targets

C19 Health of Children in Care – This target measures the number of children who have been in care for a year and have had a health assessment and dental check in the previous 12 months. For the year ending 30th September 2008 we reported 92.63% which should again make us one of the highest performing local authorities. All health assessments forms are monitored by the Health Liaison Worker who also gives training for those completing health assessments. An audit of health care plans is being planned for 2009 using a junior Doctor provided by Dr King Designated Doctor for Children in Care.

N58 Mental Health of Children in Care – This is a new national target, focusing on the mental health and emotional well being of children in care. We now have to report on the number of children who have been in care who have had Strength and Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQ) completed and the number who have had a high score (see appendix one). The SDQ is a nationally recognised screening tool for assessing mental health and emotional well being (see appendix for a sample of the questionnaire).

The aim of the indicator is to monitor how we improve the mental health and emotional well being of children in care. This year we just have to report as there is no target.

The cohort is children who have been in care for more than a year on 30 March 2008.

184 children in cohort

65 SDQs were not applicable as they were under 4 years of age or over 17 years of age or have a sever disability.

119 children who need SDQs completed

104 had SDQs completed 87%

44 had high scores 42% all these children were followed up and it was recommended that they receive extra support regarding mental health and emotional well being.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Shaun Banks on Direct Dial No. 463606 or Email sbanks@swindon.gov.uk

Corporate Parenting Advisory Board Annual Report, 2009/10

Children and Young People's Overview
and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 29 June 2010

Mental Health

The placement support project provided through the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) from Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust was again fully staffed with Angela Markham joining Bridget Leverton in February 2009. The number of referral and consultations is increasing and the feedback from foster carers is that this is a valuable service. The Council are working with CAMHS to continue to improve the service they provide for children in care including ensuring that a service is provided to include young people up to the age of 18 years and reviewing the referral pathway. The Board was aware that the tendering process for future CAMHS services within Swindon may impact on the provision of service and we are regularly reviewing this with our colleagues from CAMHS.

Teenage Pregnancy

The health liaison worker for children in care continues to work with the teenage pregnancy team to reduce the number of teenage pregnancies among young women in care. We are now monitoring whether health promotion regarding sexual health is given within health assessments for young people who have been in care for more than a year. There has been an improvement in the percentage of those where there is evidence of sexual health and relationships health promotions being discussed from 67% in a 2007 audit to 79% looking at all health assessments in 2008. It remains difficult to gain accurate local figures of the number of young women in care and care leavers who are pregnant particularly within the care leaver population. There are now plans for a drop in service for the new Care Leavers Team which will include regular sessions from the sexual health outreach nurses to increase the number of care leavers having access to contraceptive services.

The health liaison worker has now set up a small library of books and leaflets suitable for foster carers and young people when discussing relationships and sexual health and sexual health will be part of the health training for foster carers as part of the new training programme for foster carers.

The Borough wide sexual health policy has now been finalised and there is discussion as to whether an additional policy is required for children and young people in care. There is an issue of capacity to write and publish an additional policy and at present this is on hold.

Health Care

We have run two very successful INSIDE OUT events in the last six months one for girls in October 2008 and one for boys in April 2009.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Shaun Banks on *Direct Dial No. 463606* or Email sbanks@swindon.gov.uk

Corporate Parenting Advisory Board Annual Report, 2009/10

Children and Young People's Overview
and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 29 June 2010

INSIDE OUT events are for children who are in secondary school and the aim is to improve self esteem and promote a healthy life style.

The girl's event was a day at the Cotswold Forest School and a day with an artist from Artsmad at Legge House. On the second day the girl's helped produce an excellent two course lunch.

The boy's event unfortunately could only be for one day due to lack of finances, we took the boys to the Cotswold Forest School.

The feedback was excellent for both events. One girl said they were days she will always remember as some of the best days of her life. Through the INSIDE OUT project we now have a group of young people who work well with the Health and Education Team for Children in Care and actively attend other projects such as the after school programme and extra study sessions.

We are now looking for new funding sources and planning a consultation session with the children who have been to recent INSIDE OUT events to get their view on how we can take the project on.

Corporate Parenting Strategy

Develop access to drop-in health advice for care leavers – this provision is on track with the involvement of the Contraceptive and Sexual Health Outreach Nurses and U-Turn (young people substance misuse services) and we are hoping the drop in will be available in the Autumn. There has been some delay due to finding suitable premises.

Draft Guidance on the Health of Children in Care

In 2008 the Government commissioned NICE to review and reissue the guidance on the health of children in care. In May 2009 NICE sent out for consultation the Draft Guidance on Promoting the Health and Well being of Looked After Children. The consultation period ends on 3rd August. A paper is being prepared to discuss the implications locally and a consultation process is being started to involve as many agencies as possible and young people in care.

2.7 Adoption Service Update

2.7.1 In their role of Corporate Parent, elected members need to satisfy themselves that the work of the Adoption Service is satisfactory.

2.7.2 National Minimum Standards for Adoption, published in 2003, require that Local Authority Adoption Services provide the executive side of the council with a written report on the management and outcomes of the service

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Shaun Banks on *Direct Dial No. 463606* or Email sbanks@swindon.gov.uk

Corporate Parenting Advisory Board Annual Report, 2009/10

Children and Young People's Overview
and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 29 June 2010

every six months (Standard 17.3)

2.7.3 The demand for Adoption Support Services continues to increase, absorbing an increasing proportion of staff time as adopters become increasingly aware of their entitlement to seek support in parenting their children, all of whom have additional needs. There are no indications that demand is likely to diminish in the foreseeable future – indeed, it seems clear that early and sustained intervention offers the best prospect for successful outcomes for adopted children and their families.

2.7.4 The Board received quarterly update reports and considered the relevant statistics on a meeting by meeting basis.

2.8 Vacant Posts and Unallocated Cases

2.8.1 The allocation of Child Protection, Children in Care and complex Children in Need to a qualified social worker relates to safe management of cases.

2.8.2 The Board received an updated analysis of unallocated cases and vacant qualified social worker posts to the Advisory Board at each of its meetings.

2.8.3 The Board noted the following trends in its monitoring:

Previous periods of understaffing and difficulties in recruitment and retention of qualified staff have been key factors in concerns that children services were unsafe.

Swindon had a continual programme of recruitment of qualified social workers and offered existing staff support through workshops and action learning sets where the workers have identified their specific post qualification learning needs and skill development areas, and additional supervisory input funded by the NQSW programme. This funding has enabled other staff, namely new assistant team manager's, to benefit from the additional learning, e.g. supervision skills training.

There was a restructuring of Children and Families to align with the Integrated Locality Teams in preparation for co-locating geographically. As part of this restructure and as part of our commitment to the Care Matters agenda and corporate parenting developments for Children in Care, the new Children's Service for Children in Care now has a designated Children in Care Team and Care Leavers Team. Both have full teams following the restructuring process. The Care Leavers team was launched on 18th June 2009.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Shaun Banks on *Direct Dial No. 463606* or Email sbanks@swindon.gov.uk.

Corporate Parenting Advisory Board Annual Report, 2009/10

Children and Young People's Overview
and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 29 June 2010

There are continuing difficulties recruiting staff that have good skills, experience and post qualified learning, which is a necessity for complex child protection work and care proceedings. Retention of good experienced staff on the referral team and both community teams and remains difficult. These teams that have the highest caseloads and workload demands as the ability to do planned proactive work with children and young people lessens when social workers often have to respond to unplanned family breakdown or new child protection concerns.

The turnover of staff and staff sickness continue to present significant difficulties and pressure on these teams, not only in terms of additional workload and caseload management, but also in providing continued support and mentoring to NQSW's. There are constraints as to the nature of work NQSW's can undertake and they represent over 25% of our frontline workforce.

The above experiences are part of the wider national experience. Following Lord Laming's report on the 'Protection of Children in England' March 2009 and the Government Response to Lord Laming's report (May 2009), the Social Work Taskforce was asked to advise the government of a comprehensive reform for the whole of the social work profession, and to identify the challenges and actions needed to address issues. The new DCSF national computerised Integrated Children's System (ICS), went 'live' in Swindon in April 2009. This system nationally has increased the bureaucratic workload of social workers and decreased time with children in families significantly. The task force is keen to remodel social work; seeking clarity of the social work role and to explore the role of administrative and other roles working alongside social workers to provide the service that users need. It will be working simultaneously on several themes; high caseloads, staffing shortages, professional practise support, high quality management and supervision guidelines, effective educational support within both universities and post qualification, good national support for the profession, and good performance management, supporting practise that improves good outcomes for children. The timescale for delivering their response to the government, based on their 'call for evidence' from practitioners, service users and the public is October 2009. Swindon has already taken part in the caseload and workload weighting exercise, which will contribute to national guidelines setting out maximum caseloads, and a weighting exercise, which will help plan workloads.

Staff continue to focus on ensuring that the children they are working with are safeguarded and we continue to achieve improvement in our performance results, despite workers having high caseloads, which is

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Shaun Banks on *Direct Dial No. 463606* or Email sbanks@swindon.gov.uk.

Corporate Parenting Advisory Board Annual Report, 2009/10

Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 29 June 2010

commendable. Staff shortages on the referral team and area teams had some impact on our ability to hold our performance.

2.9 Education of Children in Care

2.9.1 The Board received regular reports on the education of Children in Care. This included progress on the action plan agreed by the Care Matters Task Group.

2.9.2 The Board noted that (a) Levels of educational attainment among children in care nationally are significantly lower than their peers. The aim of the Education Service for Children in Care (LACES) is to support professionals and carers in order to achieve better outcomes for this group; and (b) The Children and Young Person Bill received royal assent in November 2008. This is linked to the Care Matters agenda and both will impact on the work of LACES.

2.9.3 The Board received statistical information relating to the number of children in Care and their educational requirements including Out of Borough Placements and Personal Education Plans. It also considered the introduction of the Integrated Children's System (ICS) – the new national computer system for frontline staff and their managers to record, collate, analyse and output information and the next step for the Personal Education Plan process is to integrate it fully into the exemplars.

2.9.4 The Board noted that the take up of the Personal Education Allowance (PEA) (up to £500 for each child in care who is not predicted to reach the expected level of attainment (the national average) in SAT and GCSE tests) continued to be good.; and that staff were starting to receive feedback on the positive impacts of the extra support identified, particularly around the area of self-esteem building. An initiative to appoint 2 key workers in the Secondary Behaviour Support Team who have responsibility for children in care was successful. The posts operate out of the Stratton pupil referral unit and provide a rapid response to schools requesting support and it is hoped that this will lead to a decrease in fixed term exclusions.

2.9.5 The DCSF published draft guidance on the role of the designated teacher for children in care in schools. This was circulated to school heads, governors and existing designated teachers. It can be downloaded from the DCSF consultations website. Two days of training for designated teachers on the new role through the CPD centre was provided.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Shaun Banks on *Direct Dial No. 463606* or Email sbanks@swindon.gov.uk.

Corporate Parenting Advisory Board Annual Report, 2009/10

Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 29 June 2010

-
- 2.9.6 As a result of the Children and Young People's Act 2008 the role of the designated teacher was placed on a statutory footing. The 2 main changes to the role of the designated teacher were:
- The designated teacher will have to be a qualified teacher from Sept 2009
 - The school will receive funding for 2 days of supply cover to enable the designated teacher to attend on going training.
- 2.9.7 Primary school pupils in years 3 and 5 received parcels through their letterbox designed to improve literacy and numeracy. This is a national scheme organised by Booktrust, which during its pilot phase, reported an increase in reading age of one year in just 6 months. Children received a parcel which includes books, maths games and educational materials once a month for 6 months.
- 2.9.8 A multi agency conference was held on 10 June 2009 at Swindon College and explored the issue of attachment. The guest speaker, Dr Patricia Crittenden, is renowned in the field of attachment theory. 265 delegates applied to attend the conference. These are mainly from the areas of health, social care and education along with smaller numbers of adopters and foster carers.
- 2.9.10 After school sessions are running on Tuesdays Wednesdays and Thursdays at The Lyndhurst centre. These comprised of (a) a Key Stage 3 literacy group was compiling a recipe book and testing recipes and (b) GCSE maths and tailored GCSE revision support. - Although the take up is quite low – varying between 3 and 4 pupils. (Transport was available if needed) Schools are also providing these resources and we are ensuring that those needing extra support are receiving it through the PEP actions and PEA allowance.
- 2.9.11 The Pushy Parent scheme pilot was launched with 4 Pushy Parents. Each will have 1 young person allocated to them. Verbal updates were provided at the corporate parenting meeting.

10. Terms of Reference

- 10.1 The Board's Terms of Reference were reviewed to make them more relevant to Members increasing Input into the work and agenda setting and in order to reflect the Children and Young People in Care Council will have a key relationship with the Board and this needs to be reflected in the TOR.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Shaun Banks on *Direct Dial No. 463606* or Email sbanks@swindon.gov.uk

Corporate Parenting Advisory Board Annual Report, 2009/10

Children and Young People's Overview
and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 29 June 2010

-
- 10.2 The Board also agreed a structured Work Programme as part of its review of its Terms of Reference.
11. Fostering Service
- 11.1 The Board's role was, in their role of Corporate Parent, elected members to satisfy themselves that the work of the Fostering Service is satisfactory.
- 11.2 The primary legislation under which the service operates is the Children Act 1989. The specific Functions and Responsibilities of the Fostering Service are set out in the Fostering Services Regulations 2002 and accompanying National Minimum Standards.
- 11.3 Members noted the re-configuration of the Family Placement Team designed to ensure a more equitable balance between the adoption and fostering functions of the team.
- 11.4 The Board noted the pressures associated with the team operating at below maximum capacity as a result of vacancies within the fostering section. Although it continued to respond quickly to initial enquiries from prospective carers, the staffing shortfall has impacted on the team's ability to take up new assessments in a timely way, and some prospective carers have waited some months for their assessment to commence. Additionally, team members in the adoption section continued to hold the support role for a number of foster carers, which in turn created pressure on our ability to develop our adoption support services to the extent that they would have wished. The appointment of a 2nd Assistant Team Manager in July 2008 to take the lead in the development of recruitment activity has resulted in a much more consistent approach to the task.
- 11.5 The two key functions of the Family Placement Team are:
- 1) The recruitment, assessment, training, and post-approval support of foster carers (and adopters).
 - 2) The 'matching' of children needing care placements with the most suitable carers, taking into account the specific needs of the child and the identified strengths and qualities of the available carers.
- 11.6 The Board received regular updates on Information Sessions held for prospective foster carers, follow-up visits and formal assessments.
- 11.7 Training and Support - Regular (weekly) lunch-time workshops/ support groups are now held and are well-attended and a variety of activity days were hosted during school holidays for foster families and adoptive families – these have proved immensely popular and attract a high level of

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Shaun Banks on *Direct Dial No. 463606* or Email sbanks@swindon.gov.uk.

Corporate Parenting Advisory Board Annual Report, 2009/10

Children and Young People's Overview
and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 29 June 2010

participation (usually in excess of 50 attendees). A regular newsletter for our carers is produced.

Of equal importance has been the continued development of our training programme for foster carers. We have for the first time been able to produce a comprehensive brochure of training events.

April 2008 saw the introduction of the Childrens Workforce Development Council's Training, Support and Development Standards for Foster Care, which all carers are required to show compliance with by April 2011. We are proud to find that we are in the forefront amongst neighbouring Authorities in delivering training on these standards to our carers. The teams efforts have been recognised by the national Fostering Network.

One further highlight of the year for the team has been the establishment of a support group for the sons and daughters of foster carers – "United Kids" – which at long last enables us to recognise the invaluable contribution that carers own children bring to the fostering task. Although still in its infancy, the group is attracting high attendance and is already proving its value in providing a forum for children to share their experiences – good and bad - of being part of the fostering community,

- 11.8 Placement Activity – The Board received regular reports on placement activity.
- 11.9 With effect from April 2009, the Family Placement Team has assumed responsibility for the development and delivery of the Council's Supported Lodgings Scheme previously held within the 16+ Care Leavers Team. Recent changes in legislation regarding this particularly vulnerable group of service users led us the Council to review the assessment and approval procedures for Lodgings providers, to ensure that such providers offer the same quality of care, under the same level of support and supervision, as foster carers for younger children. These changes are in their early stages, but implementation will
- 12 Fostering Statement of Purpose
- 12.1 The Board recommended the approval of the Council's Fostering Statement of Purpose to the Cabinet. The Statement has been adopted.
- 12.2 Regulation 3(1) of the Fostering Services Regulations 2002 required every fostering service provider to compile a written Statement of Purpose which shall consist of:
- (a) a statement of the aims and objectives of the fostering service; and

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Shaun Banks on Direct Dial No. 463606 or Email sbanks@swindon.gov.uk

Corporate Parenting Advisory Board Annual Report, 2009/10

Children and Young People's Overview
and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 29 June 2010

(b) a statement as to the services and facilities to be provided by the fostering service.

- 12.3 Regulation 4 required that the Statement of Purpose be kept under review and revised where appropriate. The National Minimum Standards for Fostering (NMS) which accompany the regulations require that the registered provider [in the case of a local authority, the elected members] formally approves the Statement of Purpose of the fostering service, and reviews, updates and modifies it where necessary at least annually.
- 12.4 The information to be included in the Fostering Service Statement of Purpose is set out at Standard 1(4) in the National Minimum Standards.
- Its status and constitution
 - Its management structure
 - The services it provides
 - Its aims and objectives, principles and standards of care
 - Numbers, relevant qualifications and experience of staff
 - Numbers of foster carers
 - Numbers of children placed
 - Numbers of complaints and their outcomes
 - The procedures and processes for recruiting, approving, training, supporting and reviewing carers.

13 Private Fostering

- 13.1 New legislation that came in to force in 2005 sought to heighten the profile of Private Fostering with a particular emphasis on making sure that those children placed under such arrangements are safe. The Board monitored the Council's expectations in fulfilling this legislation. Primarily this involves assessing all of those situations we are aware of to check their suitability, including checking the household and speaking with the child alone. There were 23 such visits in the year 2008/09.
- 13.2 Reports concerning private Fostering are taken to the fostering panel for approval. Since the appointment of the dedicated worker the quality of the reports is said to have improved significantly. Consent has been agreed in 16 cases and a further 5 cases were awaiting Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks. Importantly the authority is expected to check that the child is doing well. Initially this should be after 6 weeks and then every three months. 78% of the initial visits were carried out in 6 weeks and 85% were visited every 3 months. Social workers are expected to demonstrate how they have listened to the views of the child and this is undertaken by ensuring that children are seen alone where appropriate. This is also reported on in the report.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Shaun Banks on *Direct Dial No. 463606* or Email sbanks@swindon.gov.uk

Corporate Parenting Advisory Board Annual Report, 2009/10

Children and Young People's Overview
and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 29 June 2010

14 Ofsted Inspection of the Adoption Service

- 14.1 As a very important element of Children's Services the Adoption team were congratulated for the excellent result of the OFSTED Inspection of the Adoption Service carried out between the 16th and 20th November 2009. This covered all aspects of functioning of the Adoption Service. The outcome of the inspection was that the Service was deemed to be outstanding in all areas.
- 14.2 The Adoption Service is a part of the Family Placement Service based at the Lyndhurst Centre, Swindon. Their role is to recruit, train, assess and support adopters. They also work alongside field social work staff to enable Swindon children to be placed with adopters in other areas.
- 14.3 The Adoption Team consists of very experienced and capable social work staff, who are able to undertake an extremely important and often fraught area of work. There are also highly skilled and able managers supporting the service and this was noted by inspectors.
- 14.4 Perhaps the most pleasing element of the inspection was that adopters themselves asked to meet with inspectors and gave them exceedingly positive feedback on their experiences of the services they had received. This is also true of birth parents who had relinquished their children but in a way that they were able to feel comfortable with.
- 14.5 The single recommendation from the inspectors was that we adopt British Agency for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) guidance when placing children with adopters who smoke. In reality this has not happened in Swindon for a number of years although our written guidance was not explicit. The guidance was amended whilst inspectors were still with us.
- 14.6 The Service was judged against the following headings:-
- Protecting Children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe.
 - Helping Children achieve well and enjoy what they do.
 - Helping children make a positive contribution.
 - Organisation. (Within Organisation is a sub heading of Equality and Diversity.)

Safeguarding Children and Equality and Diversity were limiting grades, e.g. the grade for these elements could not be exceeded by the final grade. The service was deemed to be **outstanding** in all 4 of the main areas and also in Equality and Diversity. This is then summarised by the overall grading which was also **outstanding**. The Inspector commented that he had never awarded outstanding across the board previously.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Shaun Banks on *Direct Dial No. 463606* or Email sbanks@swindon.gov.uk.

Corporate Parenting Advisory Board Annual Report, 2009/10

Children and Young People's Overview
and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 29 June 2010

- 14.7 Throughout the feedback it was apparent that the inspectors recognised the skill and effectiveness of the Adoption Team staff, and this is reflected in their own words when they say:-
The adoption and permanence team of Swindon Borough Council ensure that children are provided with good adoption placements. This is achieved by the good practice of a well qualified and managed team, who are well trained and are supported by sound policies and procedures.
In their verbal feedback inspectors warned against the temptation to become complacent following such a judgement, but members of the team are already developing a dynamic action plan that will continue to improve the service provided.
15. Ofsted and Care Quality Commission Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children Services
- 15.1 The Board congratulated officers on the outcome of the recent Ofsted and Care Quality Commission Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children Services.
- 15.2 Ofsted led an inspection of Safeguarding and Looked after Children Services in Swindon from 23rd November to 4th December 2009, giving 10 working days notice of the inspection. The purpose of the inspection was to evaluate the contribution made by relevant services in Swindon towards ensuring that children and young people are properly safeguarded, and to determine the quality of service provision for Looked After Children and care leavers.
- 15.3 The inspection had a very strong 'multi-agency' focus upon those various service areas that are charged with supporting some of our most vulnerable children and young people. This includes schools, our key partners (voluntary and statutory), other Council wide departments and the full range of Children's Service areas within the Council.
- 15.4 The inspection team consisted of seven inspectors - four of Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI), two inspectors from the Care Quality Commission, and one shadow HMI.
- 15.5 87 separate events were arranged over the two week inspection period, at the request of inspectors. The evidence evaluated by inspectors included:
- Discussions with 46 children and young people and 22 parents/carers receiving services, front line managers, senior officers including the Group Director, Children, who is also the Chair of the Local

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Shaun Banks on Direct Dial No. 463606 or Email sbanks@swindon.gov.uk

Corporate Parenting Advisory Board Annual Report, 2009/10

Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 29 June 2010

Safeguarding Children Board, elected Members, and a range of community representatives

- Analysing and evaluating reports from a variety of sources including a review of the Children and Young People's Plan, performance data and information from the inspection of local settings, such as schools and day care provision
- A review of 18 case files for children and young people with a range of need. This provided a view of services provided over time and the quality of reporting, recording and decision making undertaken
- The outcomes of the recent annual unannounced inspection of the contact, referral and assessment service undertaken in July 2009.

15.6 In summary, there were 33 grade descriptors overall, with **8 graded as outstanding, 23 as good and 2 graded as adequate**. The new Ofsted Safeguarding Inspection Framework commenced in September 2009.

Alternative Options

None

Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- There are no specific financial or procurement implications associated with this report.

Legal / Human Rights Implications

- Legal/Human Rights Implications were addressed in the original reports.

Links to Corporate Plans and Policies (in particular to Swindon 2010 Promises)

- These were addressed in the original reports.

Consultees

- The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

Background Papers and Appendices

- None

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Shaun Banks on *Direct Dial No. 463606* or Email sbanks@swindon.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

Developing the Work Programme
Children & Young People's Overview & Scrutiny Committee

29th June 2010

Author: Director Law & Democratic Services

Parish / Wards Affected: All

Purpose

To develop the Committee's work programme for 2010/11 municipal year.

Recommendation

The Children & Young People's Overview & Scrutiny Committee is requested to:

- Approve the first draft of the 2010/11 work programme
- Identify any training that would assist Members in carrying out their role

1. Reasons

- 1.1 Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee is required to have a work programme.
- 1.2 The work programme details the issues that each Committee intends to review in 2010/11 with the aim of producing evidence based recommendations intended to provide service improvements for Cabinet and external organisations to consider.
- 1.3 Members are reminded that the work programme must take into account:
 - The workload of the Committee and of individual members
 - The capacity of the Scrutiny Unit and other officers to support a review
 - The resource implications of carrying out a review
 - The timescales for a review
 - The most appropriate method of carrying out a review e.g. Committee meeting, Task Group, Member Champion review

2. Detail

- 2.1 The Chair and Vice-Chair have produced a draft work programme to be considered by the Committee on 29th June 2010. See Appendix 1.
- 2.2 This has been produced following discussions with officers regarding:
 - Items that the Committee suggested for inclusion on the 2009/10 work programme during the 2009/10 municipal year (Appendix 2)
 - The priorities for Children's Services and the Children & Young People's Block of the Local Area Agreement over the next 12 months, where input from the Committee could add value

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from *Sally Smith* on 01793 463412 or Email ssmith3@swindon.gov.uk.

- Issues suggested by other stakeholders for inclusion on the work programme (Appendix 2)
 - The potential outcomes of including each item on the Committee's work programme
- 2.3 The purpose of the meeting on 29th June 2009 will be:
- To discuss the draft work programme proposed by the Chair and Vice-Chair and make any amendments as appropriate
 - To enable Members and other stakeholders to suggest any other items to be included on the work programme
 - To discuss the most appropriate method for the Committee to review each issue included on the work programme
- 2.4 As far as possible, issues not requiring any action by the Committee but that would be of interest to Members will be dealt with by written briefing or at a training/ briefing session.
- 2.5 Members are encouraged to identify any training that would assist them in carrying out their role.
- 2.6 The work programme will be reviewed at each Committee meeting to ensure that it remains relevant and can be effectively resourced.

Youth Forum Mentors

- 2.7 The following Members have volunteered to act as mentors for the Youth Forum:
- Councillor Mick Bray – Communications and the media
 - Councillor Doreen Dart – Communication with Older People
 - Councillor Fay Howard – Emotional Well being
- 2.7 The Youth Forum are looking for two more Mentors for the following areas:-
- Encourage young people to participate in positive activities;
 - Reduce obesity in children and young people.
- 2.3 Members are encouraged to volunteer to become a Youth Forum Mentor, and should contact the Scrutiny Unit for further details.

The Effect of Alcohol on the Borough of Swindon – Task Group Review

- 2.8 The Safer & Stronger Overview and Scrutiny Committee are part way through carrying out a two year review on the effect of alcohol on the Borough of Swindon.
- 2.9 Two or three Members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee have been asked to join in with this review to look at the impact of alcohol amongst young people in the Borough.

- 2.10 Members are asked to notify the Scrutiny Unit if interested in working on this review.

Alternative Options

There are none. The Committee is required to have a work programme to inform its activity.

Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

Any expenditure arising as a result of an item on the Committee's work programme will be met by the Overview and Scrutiny Support budget, subject to the approval of the Committee.

Legal / Human Rights Implications

- The Local Government Act requires every local authority to establish an overview and scrutiny function to hold the Executive to account, undertake policy development and review, monitor and improve performance.
- The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 provides for the scrutiny of Local Area Agreement targets

Links to Corporate Plans and Policies (in particular to Swindon 2010 Promises)

The remit of the Committee includes the review, scrutiny and development of policy recommendations and the monitoring performance of corporate priorities including Swindon 2010 and the Children & Young People's Block of the Local Area Agreement and other plans and priorities linked to matters impacting on children and young people in Swindon.

Consultees

The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

Background Papers and Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Children & Young People's Overview & Scrutiny Committee Draft Work Programme
- Appendix 2 - Children & Young People's Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme Suggestions

This page is intentionally left blank

Children & Young People Overview Committee Work Programme 2010/2011Key: People

C&YP Plan	Children & Young People's Plan 2008-11
DA&P	Director Access & Provision
DIC&YPS	Director Integrated Children & Young People's Services
DS&C	Director Strategy & Commissioning
DS&CP	Director Safeguarding & Corporate Parenting
DS&L	Director Schools & Learning
ECM	Every Child Matters
GDC	Group Director Children
LAA	Local Area Agreement 2
YOT	Youth Offending Team
Promise	Swindon 2010 Promise

Key: Corporate Priorities

Priority	Explanation
LAA and C&YP Plan Priority 8	Narrow the gap for children who are vulnerable so that there are no schools with more than 30% achieving less than their peers at Key Stage 4
LAA NI 110 and C&YP Plan Priority 11	Increase young people's involvement in positive activities from a baseline to be established in 2008 by 10% by 2011
LAA NI 117 and C&YP Plan Priority 7	Improve achievement of all children and young people at Key Stage 3 and 4 to that of Similar local authorities by 2011
LAA NI 68 and C&YP Plan Priority 5	Increase referrals going to initial assessment to 58% by 2011
NI 69 and C&YP Plan Priority 4	Reduce bullying among children to 16% by 2011
Swindon 2010 Promise 10	Youth Forum
Swindon 2010 Promise 17	Temporary school buildings
Swindon 2010 Promise 20	Educational attainment
Swindon 2010 Promise 24	Youth Service
Swindon 2010 Promise 33	Educational attainment of vulnerable children and young people

Information/ reports to be circulated outside of the meeting – Reports for 'information only' will be circulated to Members in addition to the agenda and papers for Committee meetings. Members are asked to advise the Scrutiny Unit of any queries they may have as a result of any reports or if they feel that the report should be considered at a future Committee meeting.

Review of the Work Programme

The work programme will be reviewed at every meeting of the Children & Young People's Overview & Scrutiny Committee to ensure that it remains relevant, to ensure that Members and Officers have sufficient capacity to deliver the work programme and to include any additional items on the work programme, if appropriate.

29th June 2010

Theme	Objectives	Member Champion	Responsible Officers	Other witnesses	Proposed Outcomes
Care Matters Task Group Update LAA education indicators, C&YP Plan Priority 7 and 8, Promise 20 & 33, ECM Enjoy & Achieve]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To determine whether the recommendations made by the Task group have been implemented and their impact To consider the views of young people in care who were involved in the original review 	Cllr Holland	DS&CP	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To determine whether any further action is required by the Committee
Corporate Parenting Advisory Board to submit an annual report on its work throughout the year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive an update on the work that has been carried out by the Corporate Advisory Board 		DS&CP		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To determine whether the Committee wishes any items to be included in it's work programme for 2010/11
Work Programme Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To discuss items of interest to be included in the work programme for 2010/11 To determine what reviews the committee wants to carry out 	All Members	Scrutiny Officer		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To agree the topics to be included in the work programme for 2010/11

21st September 2010

Theme	Objectives	Member Champion	Responsible Officers	Other witnesses	Proposed Outcomes
Question & Answer Session with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To put questions to the Cabinet Member in relation to the strategic vision for the provision of improved buildings for education. To put any other questions to the Cabinet Member regarding their portfolio in order to hold them to account 	Chair	Scrutiny Officer	Director Access & Provision Director Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To gain a better understanding of the extensive school refurbishment and rebuilding programme that has taken place over the last four to five years To identify the extent of further work that needs to be undertaken to improve school buildings To identify the future constraints on capital and revenue expenditure and the possible available funding sources

	and to identify areas of concern.					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify any areas of concern and actions required. To provide Members with an in depth knowledge of the Children's Services Department To endorse the revised 13-19 Strategy To determine whether any further action is required on behalf of the committee Determine whether the 13-19 Partnership is fulfilling its role Scrutiny of performance indicators within the remit of the Partnership Make any recommendations for improvement
Children's Services Departmental Briefing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide an insight into the Responsibilities of Children's Services Department as a whole 		GDC		DIC&YPS DS&C DS&CP DS&L DA&P	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review the additional Primary and Secondary school places provided in recent years To identify the future pressures on school places as a result of the growth agenda in Swindon Borough Council To assess the need for additional SEN places To flag up any concerns or areas for further work in relation to the long-term plan for additional school places, including the possible impact of new Government legislation
NEET Strategy and Action Plan update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To update the Committee on the NEET Action plan 		DS&C DS&L			
13-19 Partnership [LAA NI 117, C&YP Plan Priority 7, Promise 20, ECM Enjoy & Achieve]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To understand role and remit of the 13-19 Partnership To receive an overview of key strands of work and performance Scrutinise the effectiveness of the Partnership 		DS&L		Representatives from the 13-19 Partnership to be agreed with DS&L	
School Organisation Plan 2010/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive an overview of the Plan To contribute towards the development of the Plan 		DA&P DS&L			

23rd November 2010

Theme	Objectives	Member Champion	Responsible Officers	Other witnesses	Proposed Outcomes
Update from the Youth Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive an update from the Youth Forum members on the work carried out in the past six months To receive an update from the Youth Forum Mentors 		DS&C	Participation Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To determine whether any action is required to assist the Youth Forum in achieving it's goals.

Theme	Objectives	Member Champion	Responsible Officers	Other witnesses	Proposed Outcomes
Runaways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive an update on how the Authority promotes the welfare of children and young people who run away from home 		DS&CP		
School Meals Strategy/Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive an overview of the ongoing work contributing to the national "Transforming School Meals" agenda To highlight the progress that has been made in Swindon To contribute to what still needs to be achieved 		DA&P		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To gain a better understanding of the School Meals Strategy and the requirement for improved nutritional standards for pupils To make recommendations and identify any further areas to explore
Building Schools for the Future – Expression of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive an overview of the new Government Policy/approach 		DA&P DS&L		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review the Local Authority's Expression of Interest submitted in November 2008 for Building Schools for the Future To understand more fully the latest position on Building Schools for the Future and the impact of the Government's new approach in this area To identify work so far done on the Strategy for Change To make recommendations and propose any further areas to explore

Theme	Objectives	Member Champion	Responsible Officers	Other witnesses	Proposed Outcomes
Special Educational Needs Update [LAA education indicators, C&YP Plan Priority 8]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To scrutinise whether the issues identified by the SEN Task Group have been addressed To consider evidence from SENCOS, parents, headteachers & governors 		DS&L	SEN/ Inclusion Manager, Parent Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To evaluate the impact of the SEN Task Group Report To determine whether there are further issues for development
Corporate Review of Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review the Transport provision, including mainstream and SEN school transport To find a more effective and efficient way of delivering mainstream and SEN school transport 		DS&L DA&P		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To gain an understanding of the Corporate review of transport, which is being carried out To determine the effect of this review on both mainstream and SEN school transport To make any recommendations as to further work that could be undertaken
Schools Business Continuity and Emergency Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 		DA&P		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To examine the Local Authority's and schools' arrangements for business continuity and emergency planning To examine any areas where the current arrangements need to be strengthened To evaluate the effectiveness of the current business continuity and emergency planning arrangements for schools To identify any other possible areas where further needs to be carried out in conjunction with schools to ensure an effective and immediate response to an emergency or business continuity issue

Report for Noting to be circulated to Members outside of the Committee

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 2

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme Consultation 20010/11 Summary of Results

Purpose

It is important that Overview and Scrutiny adds value to the work of the Council and produces tangible outcomes for local people that result in real service improvements. Selecting the right topics is crucial to ensure that scrutiny will be effective. This report summarises the results of the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme Consultation that has been undertaken by the Scrutiny Unit.

What is an Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme?

Under the Council's Constitution, Overview and Scrutiny Committees are required to agree a work programme at the start of the municipal year outlining their priorities and likely outcomes of considering these issues.

The work programme is developed taking into account:

- Corporate priorities and objectives, including the Cabinet Forward Plan
- Partnership strategic priorities and objectives
- The interests and concerns of Members, Council officers, members of the public and other stakeholders such as community and voluntary groups and local businesses

Committees are encouraged to review the work programme on a regular basis to ensure it remains relevant and to prioritise the workload of the Committee.

Work Programme Consultation

Between the end of March and mid-May 2010, the Scrutiny Unit has invited the following stakeholders to suggest topics to be included on Overview and Scrutiny Work Programmes for 2009/10:

- All Swindon Borough Council Members, including Cabinet Members
- Group Directors and Directors
- Chief Executives of each of the NHS Trusts that operate in Swindon (for Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee)

- Swindon Borough Council Staff
- Local Area Agreement Partnership Board
- External stakeholders including Town and Parish Councils, local employers, community and voluntary groups, neighbouring local authorities and the local media
- Members of the public via local press, the Swindon Borough Council website and three focus groups

Members are reminded that the work programme must take into account:

- The workload of the Committee and of individual members
- The capacity of the Scrutiny Unit and other officers to support a review
- The resource implications of carrying out a review
- The timescales for a review
- The most appropriate method of carrying out a review e.g. Committee meeting, Task Group, Member Champion review

Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee 2010/11 Summary of Work Programme Consultation Results

	Brief description of topic/ issue	Suggested timescale for review	Suggested by
1.	Alcohol – The Health impact on the Borough: Safer and Stronger Committee are doing a detailed review of the effect alcohol has on Swindon. CYPOS have been asked to take part in review to look at the impact from underage drinking	2010/11	Members (M) Public Stakeholders
2.	Support for young people (11-16) who are gifted and talented in their chosen sports	Not identified	Public

	Brief description of topic/ issue	Suggested timescale for review	Suggested by
3.	Look at the interface between parents of children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and schools – improving communications and children’s outcomes, set up parents forums – improve the system for parents so that the schools will be more proactive in supporting and developing strategies for SEN children and listening to parents points of view	Not identified	Member
4.	School Organisation plan 2010/13	2010	Officers
5.	Building Schools for the future – expression of interest - Strategy for Change (linked) already in the work programme	2010 – awaiting “new” Government policy/approach	Officers
6.	School meal strategy/action plan – to raise awareness of the ongoing work contributing to the nation “Transforming School Meals” agenda, illustrating the progress that has been made in Swindon and what still needs to be achieved	2010/11	Officers
7.	Corporate review of transport – includes mainstream school transport – more effective and efficient way of delivery mainstream school transport	2010/11 and beyond	Officers
8.	Schools Business Continuity and Emergency plan – Input to review being carried out	2010/11	Officers

	Brief description of topic/ issue	Suggested timescale for review	Suggested by
9.	Out of Borough placements – look at education infrastructures – make recommendations to Cabinet	Not identified	Member
10.	Voluntary Sector Commissioning and Commissioning generally – particularly in respect of the provision of Speech and Language Therapy/Occupation Therapy and other education provision provided by the PCT and other non-council providers	Not identified	Member
11.	NEET's - prevention and what can be done for existing NEET's	Not identified	Member
12.	Post 16 Provision – issues around sixth forms	Not identified	Member
13.	Early years – information on targets, attendance, successes or otherwise from the early years facilities in Swindon, eg. Surestart, playgroups, children's centres	Not identified	Member
14.	Process of school admissions for people moving to Swindon	Not identified	Member
15.	Uptake of free school meals – how can we improve this	Not identified	Member