

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

A meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board was held on 5 February 2019.

**PRESENT:** Councillors M Storey (Vice Chair); Councillors Hellaoui, Higgins, Lewis, Mawston, McGee and Saunders and J Walker.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** J Cain (Local Democracy Reporter)

**OFFICERS:** S Bonner.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Councillor D P Coupe, Councillor E Dryden, Councillor L McGloin, Councillor J Sharrocks.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

No declarations were made at this point in the meeting.

**19/49 MINUTES - OSB - 8 JANUARY 2019**

The Chair advised Members that item 7 did not include the Panel Progress report from the Chair of the Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel. The Chair also advised Members this update had now been included in those minutes.

The Chair sought clarification from the Board regarding item 6 for which the Board had ordered, "That a meeting between all Scrutiny Panel Chairs, the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board and relevant officers be arranged to discuss a mechanism for feeding issues emerging from scrutiny panels into the Council's business imperatives."

It was clarified that Scrutiny Panel Chairs wanted the Scrutiny function to be involved earlier in the planning stages when Service Areas devised policy.

Notwithstanding the above, the Minutes were submitted and accepted as a true record.

**19/50 MINUTES - OSB CALL IN - 15 JANUARY 2019**

Councillor Lewis advised that while marked as present, she had submitted her apologies for the meeting.

Notwithstanding the above, the Minutes were submitted and accepted as a true record.

**19/51 FINAL REPORT – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL – SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROVISION.**

The conclusions and recommendations of the Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel were outlined following a scrutiny investigation of School Holiday Provision.

A discussion took place regarding School Holiday periods and how some academies in Middlesbrough had extended their Summer Holiday provision from six to seven weeks. It was agreed that OSB would contact the leaders of the relevant academies to ascertain the initiative's rationale and its impact on the well-being of children and their families.

A discussion took place regarding how the recommendations could be strengthened to include input from different Council Services. It was agreed that the Chair of the Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel, along with the relevant Democratic Services Officer, would amend recommendation e) of the report.

The Chair thanked the Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel, and Democratic Services Officer, for the work undertaken on producing the report.

The Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel recommended to the Executive:

- a) Commitment from Middlesbrough Council to support the funding bid to the Department for Education (DfE) Holiday Activities and Food Research Fund.
- b) That Middlesbrough Council works in partnership with Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council to bid for the DfE Holiday Activities and Food Research Funding.
- c) Middlesbrough Council to provide a named Officer within the Council to support the development of a bid to the DfE Holiday Activities and Food Research Fund and to support the growth of the Feast of Fun project.
- d) Encourage active partnerships with Middlesbrough Environment City to grow skills in the local community
- e) Ensure relevant Council departments are aware of the benefits of the Feast of Fun Project (Children's Social Care, Education, Public Health, Community Safety) and recommend that budgets are scrutinised to support the Feast of Fun Project to continue and grow.
- f) Director of Education to have creative conversations with schools to encourage them to run holiday provision from schools by promoting the Pennyman Primary School Holiday provision as a model of good practice.
- g) To examine procurement of Middlesbrough Council contracts to ensure that potential enrichment activities include the provision to support vulnerable children.
- h) To actively collaborate with volunteers from Teesside University and the voluntary sector to provide support for the Feast of Fun and other initiatives to support vulnerable children.
- i) To continue collaboration with the Primary School Network.
- j) The Executive to endorse the recommendation that the Council provides substantive financial support to the Feast of Fun project to enable it to continue and grow.
- k) To explore need and potential provision for secondary school age young people.
- l) Signposting and publicity on school holiday provision to be available on the Council's website, Love Middlesbrough magazine and other appropriate media, subject to the funding bid being successful.
- m) That information on available school holiday provision to be circulated to all Chairs of School Governing Bodies, subject to the funding bid being successful.

**ORDERED:**

1. That the findings and recommendations of the Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel be endorsed and referred to the Executive.
2. That OSB contact Academies that extended their Summer Holidays to seven weeks, to establish if implications to well-being had been fully considered.
3. That the Chair of the Panel, in consultation with the relevant officer, amend recommendation e) to ensure that service areas recognise the importance of the project and that investment/financial support is encouraged from across the Council. Furthermore, that the Board receives a report by July 2019, which will enable Members to assess whether the project is receiving sufficient support.

19/52

**EXECUTIVE UPDATE**

The Democratic Services Officer submitted a report advising Members of the matters considered by the Executive at its meeting on 22 January 2019, namely:-

- City Centre Strategy
- Social Regeneration
- Joint Waste Management Strategy

**ORDERED** that the information provided be noted.

19/53

**EXECUTIVE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chief Executive submitted a report which identified the forthcoming issues to be considered by the Executive as outlined in Appendix A to the report.

The report provided the Overview and Scrutiny Board with the opportunity to consider whether any item contained within the Executive Forward Work Programme should be considered by the Board or referred to a Scrutiny Panel.

**ORDERED:-**

1. That the information provided be noted.

19/54

**SCRUTINY PANEL PROGRESS REPORT**

The Chair of the Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel advised OSB that the recommendations and conclusions of its Clean Air topic would be finalised at the Panel's next meeting, on 6 February 2019. The Chair also advised that an update was to be provided by the Town Centre Manager and Head of Economic Growth regarding the current condition of the retail offer and other challenges and opportunities the Town Centre faced.

The Chair of the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel advised OSB that at the Panel's last meeting the Director of Culture and Communities and the Chief Executive of the Middlesbrough Voluntary Development Agency (MVDA) updated the panel on current partnership working between the Council and the MVDA. At the same meeting the Panel also received an update from the Selective Landlord Licensing team regarding the rollout of the scheme in the Newport Area. The Chair also advised that the next scheduled meeting of the Panel would not be held, however work on the current topic would continue.

The Chair of the Children and Young People's Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel advised that at the Panel's last meeting further information was received on its current topic, early help and prevention services. The Senior Strategic Development Officer for MVDA provided information about how children and families were supported via the voluntary sector. The panel heard MVDA had undertaken a two year study to explore the opportunities for the Voluntary and Community Sector to support the development of Middlesbrough's early help services. At the Panel's next meeting the Director of Children's Care would provide a verbal update regarding Children's Services First Contact team. The Independent Chair of Middlesbrough Safeguarding Children Board would also be in attendance to provide an update on the Board's work.

The Chair of the Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel advised that at the panel's last meeting the Director of Education provided an overview of mental health in local schools and advised that representatives from local schools would be attending future meetings to provide their input. This would allow the panel to examine areas of good practice and then share those among all schools.

The Chair of the Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel Advised that the panel was beginning to look at support for older carers with the aim of raising issues around this including financial resources.

The Chair of the Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel provided an update on the work of the Health Scrutiny Panel. At its last meeting the panel received an update from the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) on local services, particularly the impact the closure of the Walk-In centres and extended GP hours was having. There was a positive picture emerging as residents are able to see GPs more readily due to extended hours. An example was the ability for Accident and Emergency patients to be re-directed to out of hours GP surgeries in relevant cases. This, in turn, had the effect of maintaining current levels of demand in A&E as opposed to increasing demand, a trend witnessed in other parts of the country.

The panel also agreed to receive a further update from the CCG regarding mental health provision, and how partnerships with TEWV and commissioned services were operating and how this affected Social Care Services. An update was provided to the panel regarding integrated services and the geographic footprint of care services to cover four CCGs and three hospital trusts. It was also advised that there was a small subgroup examining breast radiology services, specifically residents not attending appointments. This group would be receiving feedback on the results of telephone conversations with residents who failed to attend follow up appointments after their initial screening.

A discussion took place regarding how austerity measures in health and other areas were leading to prevention of progress despite evidence of positive work in those areas.

**ORDERED:-**

1. **That the updates be noted.**