

Minutes of: SAFEGUARDING SUB-COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 1 October 2020

Present: Councillor Susan Southworth (in the Chair)
Councillors K Hussain, M Powell, C Walsh and M Whitby

Also in attendance:
Julien Kramer, Interim Assistant Director (Education & Inclusion)
Sandra Bruce Assistant Director (Early Help and School Readiness)
Tony Decrop, Assistant Director (Social Care & Safeguarding)
Sheila Durr, Executive Director Children and Young People
Chloe Ashworth, Democratic Services

Public Attendance: No members of the public were present at the meeting.

Apologies for Absence: Councillor R Caserta and Councillor J Grimshaw

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Walsh declared an interest as she is the Acting Head of Learning Support at Holy Cross.

2 MINUTES

It was agreed:

The minutes of the meeting held on 07th July 2020, be approved as a correct record.

3 MATTERS ARISING

It was agreed:

1. An action tracker is produced for future meetings
2. To re-circulate the report on recovering the Education System to members.
3. To circulate the report on summer activities

4 PRESENTATION

Julien Kramer, Interim Assistant Director Education & Inclusion, Sandra Bruce, Assistant Director Early Help & School Readiness and Tony Decrop, Assistant Director Social Care & Safeguarding provided a presentation to the Safeguarding Sub-Committee.

The presentation covered the following topics; Impact of Covid-19; Early Help; Education; Social Care and Ofsted Update.

Following the presentation the Committee were invited to ask questions and the following themes emerged:

Private Nurseries:

Questions were raised regarding private nurseries and how they are coping through COVID-19. They have been supported to bid for grants and no settings have had to close due to financial difficulties at this moment in time. Private Nurseries and their sustainability is continuing to remain a high priority for the Council and has been flagged to the Department for Education when suitable.

Participation with Parents:

The justice system throughout lockdown has been an issue as many parents have limited access to facilities to adequately participate in online meetings. Tony Decrop confirmed that this was an issue in March 2020- May 2020 however as the pandemic progressed the meetings which are deemed reasonable to do so are now taking place in person with robust risk assessments.

Safeguarding:

Child Protection Conferences are taking place in Knowsley Place with TV screens to engage with partners digitally to ensure everyone is in participation where needed. The hybrid hearings are now established so parents and all other needed participants are in attendance.

Learning and Inclusion:

When the Distance Learning Review takes place to consider both the pros and cons of following a Teams Style Google Classroom approach for every school. This can then ensure if groups of students or year groups of students have adequate access to an online platform should they have to isolate.

Risk Assessments:

Inconsistency and difference of Risk assessments was also discussed. The risk assessments were done early and some schools have regularly updated these and this is why there are different practices across schools.

It was agreed:

1. Sandra Bruce to find out more information on the Mosses and Sure Start Centre as Nursey Provision to update on.
2. Sandra Bruce to provide the Committee with information on the summer activities offered to children in the Borough.
3. Councillor Walsh and Julien Kramer to pick up any specific issues surrounding the online learning platforms outside of the meeting
4. To note the hard and difficult work that teachers currently face around protocols and dealing with children and young people
5. To note thanks to staff and Head Teachers in schools

5 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Items for the next meeting were discussed. The following items are to be brought to a future committee.

It was agreed:

1. An update on the OFSTED Report to be brought.
2. Distance Learning Review
3. Update on School improvement

6 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent items.

COUNCILLOR
Chair Councillor Southworth

(Note: The meeting started at 5.00 pm and ended at 6.21 pm)