

# Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel

9 September 2015

**Time** 6.00 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Scrutiny

**Venue** Committee Room 1 - Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1SH

## Membership

**Chair** Cllr Peter O'Neill (Lab)

**Vice-chair** Cllr Arun Photay (Con)

Labour	Conservative	Liberal Democrat
Cllr Paula Brookfield	Cllr Christopher Haynes	Cllr Richard Whitehouse
Cllr Jasbinder Dehar		
Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre		
Cllr Julie Hodgkiss		
Cllr Rupinderjit Kaur		
Cllr Welcome Koussoukama		
Cllr Martin Waite		
Cllr Daniel Warren		

Quorum for this meeting is three Councillors.

## Co-opted Members

Leanne Dack	Parent Governor Representative
Cyril Randles	Church of England – Diocese of Lichfield Representative
Portia Tsvangirai	Parent Governor Representative
Mrs R Watkins	Catholic Church Representative
Emma Curran	Wolverhampton Youth Council
Kashmire Hawker	Wolverhampton Youth Council

## Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the democratic support team:

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Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

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# Agenda

## Part 1 – items open to the press and public

*Item No.*    *Title*

**1            Apologies**

Apologies were received from the following member(s) of the panel:

Cllr Christopher Haynes  
Cllr Paula Brookfield  
Rosalie Watkins

**2            Declarations of interest**

Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre and Cllr Daniel Warren declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 6 Wolverhampton Youth Zone

**3            Minutes of the previous meeting ( 8.7.15 )**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8.7.15, subject to the agreed changes, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**4            Matters arising**

Minute 6 – Role of local authority in raising school standards of attainment

Scrutiny Officer advised the panel that a briefing paper on the number of children leaving school with no qualifications will be published before the end of September 2015.

Scrutiny Officer advised that a briefing paper on the monitoring arrangements for children being educated at home was sent to panel members on 27.8.15.

Minute 7 Wolverhampton Children, Young People and Families Plan 2015 25

Scrutiny Officer advised that a briefing paper on the achievements to date of the Children and Young People Plan 2011-14 was been sent to panel members on 31.7.15.

**5            Corporate Parenting, Children in Care Council and the role of Councillors**

Alice Vickers, Corporate Parenting Officer, presented the report. Corporate Parenting Officer explained that Kyron Hughes was unable to attend the meeting. Cllr O'Neil suggested that the presentation be deferred to a future meeting.

Corporate Parenting Officer outlined the responsibilities of the Council and local partners to meet work together to meet the needs of Looked After Children.

Corporate Parenting Officer outlined the important role of Councillors to support young people to get the best outcomes for Looked After Children (LAC). Corporate Parenting Officer encouraged Councillors to think about the impact of policies, initiatives and services on LAC in their meetings.

Corporate Parenting Officer updated the panel on the positive impact on Children in Care Council members who have their monthly meetings in the Council Chamber. The meetings are used to talk about policies and procedures and interview heads of service. Corporate Parenting Officer commented on the links between members Children in Care Council and Wolverhampton Council and work being done to build relationships. Corporate Parenting Officer commented on the range of work being done to support Looked After Children, for example, six weekly joint meetings with Youth Council to get their voices heard.

Representatives of the Children in Care Council are attending a conference in Birmingham

Panel welcomed the report.

The panel made the following comments about the report.

- The panel commented on concerns about how LAC cope with the number of professionals who would typically be in contact during the year and also the work done to reduce the number of changes in social worker allocated to their case. Corporate Parenting Officer explained the Total Respect training is an opportunity to share their feelings. In addition, links are being made with Wolverhampton Council to encourage LAC to talk to other young people. Emma Bennett, Service Director Children and Young People, outlined the range of work done to review the number of people who are in contact with LAC. Service Director outlined the work done to minimise the number of changes in social workers in contact with the LAC.
- The panel queried evidence to show progress in meeting the corporate parenting priorities listed in the report. Corporate Parenting Officer explained that a range of representatives from different agencies are involved in delivering the priorities. In the commissioning process organisations are asked how they can support care leavers. Organisations will have to provide evidence that they are delivering on their commitments to LAC. Members of CIC have been involved in drafting a set of bank questions that bidders will be asked to respond. This work is part of wider efforts to involve LAC in decisions that will affect them and get services to think about their needs.

**6          Wolverhampton Youth Zone**

Philippa Gregory, Development Manager – The Way, gave a presentation to update panel on the current progress of the building work and the key themes that will be used to structure activities. The building is based on the idea first developed in Bolton to provide a range of facilities to young people. Development Manager explained that the building will aim to provide young people with somewhere to go, something to do and someone to talk to.

Development Manager gave examples of specific plans and activities that will be delivered at the centre. The building will open to young people aged 8-19 years. The building will be open every day and young people will be charged 50p per visit to take part in 20 different activities on offer.

Development Manager commented on the support provided by local sponsors and the work being to recruit more local business. Development Manager commented on the important role of volunteers to the future success of the building and there will be a focus on encouraging adults to either act as a mentor for young people or to provide sessions. Young people will have the opportunity to take part in a range of taster activity sessions such as basic first aid, apprenticeships.

Development Manager explained that the building will be open on 16 January 2016. 18 local businesses have agreed to sponsor the building. The target is to recruit 50 local businesses in total.

A range of work is being done to involve young people in developing core values of the Youth Zone.

Development Manager outlined work done to learn the lessons from the first Youth Zone building that was developed in Bolton. There was concern before the building young people coming into the city centre and from parents about children aged 12 - 14 and the public transport. In response to concerns a direct bus service to the building was introduced. Development Manager explained that discussions are on-going with Bromford Homes and the provision of a dedicated shuttle bus service.

The panel queried the opening times. Development Manager explained that the centre will be open from 4pm to 10pm. Young children will have to be dropped off and collected.

The panel queried if there will be a security presence at the Youth Zone. Development Manager explained that security staff will not have an identified look. The aim will be to provide a low key presence at the building. Development Manager outlined the range of measures to create a safe and positive environment for young people and staff. For example, youth workers will be involved in tackling behaviour issues by building trust with young people and talking about issues. The police will also be involved in working with staff to deal with anti-social behaviour. The aim will be to encourage young people to treat the building with respect. There will be system used to monitor people entering and leaving the building.

Service Director Children and Young People commented that targeted youth workers would also be involved in supporting the staff in dealing with issues at youth zone building. The experience since the opening of the Epic Café showed the positive impact on young people's behaviour of having youth workers available

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]