

Public Questions to Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)

12th November 2024

No.	Question	Response
1.	<p>Please can the O&S Committee increase the Parent Governors posts to three to allow for a greater voice? The current two PGR's have been unable to attend for several meetings. A third PGR would help this situation as they could attend. We appreciate that sometimes parents cannot attend due to family matters. It is within the power of the Committee to do this without consulting with the full council.</p>	<p>The Committee reviewed its membership and Terms of Reference recently. The Committee is fulfilling its statutory obligations with regard to PGRs and no changes to membership were proposed following the recent review. The position on this has not changed.</p> <p>The process for electing PGR's has previously been explained to Voice of the Families, and any Parent Governors interested may put themselves forward for one of the two places when we are due to re-elect in Summer 2025.</p>
2.	<p>There is no current lived experience of adoption on the scrutiny committee. This is a serious gap. How will the scrutiny committee be addressing this?</p>	<p>A member of the Committee is an adoptive parent with past experience and as mentioned in previous meetings, the Committee considers itself to have lived experience.</p> <p>We have set up the parent/carers sub-committee for parents to speak to members so we can find out about parent/carers experiences and would welcome having adoption as a topic.</p>

3.	Was the KIDs bid for Sendiass cheaper than Barnardos?	<p>The contract was put out to tender and evaluated by a diverse panel with representation across SPCF, SEND, health, commissioning, procurement and finance based on the following relative weightings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality (60%), • Price (30%) • Social Value (10%). <p>Whilst we are mindful of sharing commercially sensitive information, we are able to disclose that there was a 0.85% difference between the price scores for the bids submitted for this contract.</p>
4.	The Sendiass situation has been changed yet again which is confusing for parents. What was wrong with Barnardo's performance that led them to lose the contract?	<p>The contract was put out to tender following a 12-month pilot of SENDIASS with Barnardo's. The Council had to put the service out to tender in order to comply with Public Contract Regulations. The contract was awarded based on the quality of the bid submissions received, as referenced in question 2. Under current procurement legislation, past performance from a provider cannot be taken into account when evaluating submissions.</p>
5.	Now that the in-house FASD expert	We will continue the training via the

	has resigned from Sefton Child Services, what happens next? Is this the end of FASD training or will a Sefton be going with an external FASD trained agency that can consistently deliver?	Educational Psychology Team.
6.	As an employer how many jobs does Sefton Council give to post 16 young people who have/ had an EHCP?	This information is not collected during the recruitment process.
7.	What new measures have been put in place to strengthen the safeguarding issue regarding elected councillors following the arrest and conviction of a recent long standing Sefton councillor?	<p>A question on this issue is due to be asked at Full Council this Thursday 14th November. Any suggested course of action will be considered and implemented following that meeting.</p> <p>In addition, the Member Development Steering Group regularly monitors completion rates for mandatory member training and has recommended that the forthcoming training relating to Corporate Parenting, Safeguarding Awareness for both Adults and Children be promoted, with a view to increasing completion rates by Members.</p>