

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CHILDREN'S SERVICES
AND SAFEGUARDING)**

**MEETING HELD AT THE COMMITTEE ROOM, TOWN HALL, BOOTLE
ON TUESDAY 21ST MARCH, 2017**

PRESENT: Councillor Murphy (in the Chair)

Councillors Carragher, Hands, Keith,
Brenda O'Brien, Pitt, Spencer and
Webster.

**Overview
& Scrutiny**



ALSO PRESENT: Councillor J. J. Kelly - Cabinet Member for
Children's Services and Safeguarding; and
Councillor Maher – Leader of the Council.

42. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bennett and Bradshaw and Ms. Libby Kitt.

43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were received.

44. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2017 be confirmed as a correct record.

**45. NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET)
WORKING GROUP - IMPLEMENTATION OF
RECOMMENDATIONS**

RESOLVED:

That the report be deferred to the next ordinary meeting of the Committee.

46. BREASTFEEDING IN SEFTON

The Committee received a presentation and report from the Head of Health and Wellbeing in relation to the breastfeeding practice in Sefton that included the interventions and services in place which support and promote breastfeeding.

The report detailed some of the determinants of breastfeeding; evidence based interventions to improve breastfeeding practice; progress in Sefton and the next steps in raising awareness of the benefits to breastfeeding.

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Members of the Committee raised the following observations:

- That consistent support for Mothers and their families should be provided by the appropriate professional's throughout pregnancy and in the months/years after.
- That the benefits of breastfeeding should be promoted to the wider community to eliminate any negative views that may be associated with it.
- Employers should encourage breastfeeding to those employees who are returning to work after maternity leave, by providing a suitable breastfeeding room and fridge in order that they may express their milk.

RESOLVED: That:

- (1) the value of the UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative be noted;
- (2) the efforts of partners who champion breastfeeding be supported;
- (3) the UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative through wider Community participation such as employers, shops and cafes in promoting a positive breastfeeding environment, be supported; and
- (4) the requirement of all partners, commissioners and providers, to be held accountable against NICE guidelines, be noted.

47. UPDATE ON SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Schools and Families in relation to School Performance in Sefton as requested by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) at its meeting held on 31 January 2017, Minute No. 39, Chief HMI's Annual Report.

It was reported that the report was an initial analysis of all the available data that informs the local authority's ongoing monitoring of the performance of Sefton schools. The evaluations within the report were based on the 2016 performance data that was available at the time of writing the report and so were estimates and invalidated. The report also detailed Sefton's results compared with the national average, the Merseyside average and that of Sefton's statistical neighbours.

It was reported that significant changes had taken place with the introduction of new measures and the way outcomes were measured and it was further reported that those changes had made it challenging to compare like with like in school performance, in previous years.

The Head of Schools and Families reported that whilst most of Sefton's Primary Schools were either good or excellent, Sefton's secondary Schools were not performing as well.

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The Head of Schools and Families acknowledged that whilst challenging schools to raise achievement for all pupils continued to be a focus for the Local Authority it was difficult to compare the former Ofsted framework statistics of school performance with the new Ofsted framework.

Members of the Committee raised concerns regarding the reasons why school pupils upon leaving primary school were attaining well and at secondary school the attainment level of the same pupils deteriorate. Members requested that the Head of Schools and Families investigate the possible reasons why secondary schools in Sefton were not performing as well as they should be, looking at factors such as pupil and teacher absenteeism, the level of consistency of the same class room teacher, the correlation of low attainment to deprivation and those who receive free school meals.

A Member of the Committee referred to the Education system in Newcastle and more specifically the process of students leaving primary school to move onto middle school before then entering high schools at the beginning of GCSE study. It was suggested that the change in classroom culture from primary school culture to secondary school culture could be too daunting for some students and a middle school to ease students from primary school could be beneficial.

RESOLVED: That:

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the Head of Schools and Families be requested to submit a report to a future meeting of the Committee identifying the possible reasons why secondary schools and their students are not attaining as well as they could be.

48. CABINET MEMBER REPORT

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Regulation and Compliance in relation to the most recent report of the Cabinet Member - Children, Schools and Safeguarding for the March 2017 period. The report included details of National Funding Formula for Schools, Academisation, South Sefton College and SEND Inspection.

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet Member update report be noted.

49. KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN - 1 APRIL - 31 JULY 2017

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Regulation and Compliance in relation to the Committee's programme of work. A number of Key Decisions within the latest Key Decision Forward Plan fell under the remit of this Committee and Members were reminded of their right to pre-scrutinise such items.

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The Senior Democratic Services Officer, Mrs Ruth Harrison, referred Members to Appendix B to the report, which detailed the programme of work for the Committee for the Municipal Year 2016/17. It was reported that whilst the majority of work within the work programme had been completed there were some outstanding reports that would be carried forward to the new Municipal Year 2017/18.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Committee notes items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan for period 1 April to 31 July 2017;
- (2) the Committee notes the progress of the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Working Group; and
- (3) the programme of work for 2016/17, as set out in Appendix B to the report, be noted and agreed as completed subject to the following reports being carried forward to the work programme of the Committee for the new Municipal Year 2017/18:-
 - Not in Education, Employment or Training Working Group – Implementation of Recommendations;
 - School Organisation and School Places;
 - Public Health Annual Report;
 - Secondary School Performance; and
 - Children and Adolescent Mental Health Working Group – Final Report.