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1 August 2013

AMBITIOUS PLYMOUTH

Monday 12 August 2013
10am
Council House, Plymouth (Next to the Civic Centre)

Members:

Councillor Bowie, Chair

Councillor Sam Leaves, Vice Chair

Councillors Sam Davey, Gordon, Jarvis, Jordan, Martin Leaves, Mrs Nicholson, Parker, Stark, Stevens and Wright.

Members are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business overleaf.

Tracey Lee
Chief Executive

AMBITIOUS PLYMOUTH

AGENDA

PART I – PUBLIC MEETING

1. APOLOGIES

To receive apologies for non-attendance by Ambitious Plymouth members.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members will be asked to make any declarations of interest in respect of this agenda.

3. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 6)

To confirm the minutes of the last meeting held on 1 July 2013.

4. APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED REPRESENTATIVES (Pages 7 - 8)

The panel will consider the appointment of co-opted representatives.

5. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

To receive reports on business which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be brought forward for urgent consideration.

6. LOCAL AUTHORITY APPROACH TO DYSLEXIA: ASSESSMENT, TRAINING, OPPORTUNITIES AND TYPICAL PROVISION AVAILABLE IN SCHOOLS (Pages 9 - 12)

To receive a report on the Local Authority approach to Dyslexia: assessment, training, opportunities and typical provision available in schools.

7. MISSING YOUNG PEOPLE'S TEAM REVIEW (Pages 13 - 16)

To receive a report on the Missing Young People's Team to establish the role of the team and identify any areas that may require further scrutiny.

8. CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE REVIEW (Pages 17 - 20)

To receive a report on Children's Social Care to challenge and review the service to identify any areas that may require further scrutiny.

9. NARROWING THE GAP: FREE SCHOOL MEALS VERSUS NON-FREE SCHOOL MEALS (Pages 21 - 26)

To receive a report on Narrowing the Gap: Free School Meals versus Non-Free School Meals in preparation for the panel undertaking a Cooperative Review looking at Narrowing the Gap in Schools. The panel will further receive the Narrowing the Gap in Schools Cooperative Review request document submitted to the Cooperative Scrutiny Board for consideration at its meeting on 7 August 2013.

10. TRACKING RESOLUTIONS (Pages 27 - 30)

The panel to review and monitor the progress of tracking resolutions and receive any relevant feedback from the Cooperative Scrutiny Board.

11. WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 31 - 32)

To review the Ambitious Plymouth panel's work programme 2013 – 2014.

12. EXEMPT BUSINESS

To consider passing a resolution under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it (they) involve(s) the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph(s) of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

PART II (PRIVATE MEETING)

AGENDA

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO NOTE

that under the law, the Panel is entitled to consider certain items in private. Members of the public will be asked to leave the meeting when such items are discussed.

NIL.

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Ambitious Plymouth

Monday 1 July 2013

PRESENT:

Councillor Bowie, in the Chair.

Councillor Sam Leaves, Vice Chair.

Councillors Casey (substituting for Councillor Stevens), Sam Davey, Gordon, Jarvis, Jordan, Martin Leaves, Mrs Nicholson, Parker, Stark and Wright.

Apologies for absence: Councillor Stevens.

Also in attendance: John Miller – Head of Youth Services, Stuart Palmer – Assistant Director for Homes and Communities, Jayne Gorton – Scrutiny Lead Officer and Ross Johnston – Democratic Support Officer.

The meeting started at 10am and finished at 11.30am.

Note: At a future meeting, the committee will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

1. **TO NOTE THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

The panel noted the appointment of Councillor Bowie as Chair and Councillor Sam Leaves as Vice Chair for the municipal year 2013 – 2014.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In accordance with the code of conduct, the following declaration of interest was made –

Name	Subject	Reason	Interest
Councillor Casey	6. Youth Services Restructure Review	Son is an apprentice through the Plymouth Adult and Community Learning Service.	Personal

3. **APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED REPRESENTATIVES**

The panel discussed the appointment of co-opted representatives onto the Ambitious Plymouth panel and those present commented as follows -

- (a) as well as working with the Plymouth Association of Governors the panel should work closer with schools to try and obtain increased levels of parent governor representation;
- (b) further work should be undertaken on sourcing faith representation onto

the panel, using organisations and bodies like SACRE to promote a more multi-cultured faith representation;

- (c) the appointed co-opted representatives of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Panel should be approached to become co-opted representatives on the Ambitious Plymouth panel;

Agreed to recommend to the Cooperative Scrutiny Board that –

- (1) the Democratic Support Officer contact the relevant organisations in an attempt to obtain nominations to fill the vacant statutory co-opted representative positions for faith representatives and parent governors to be co-opted onto the Ambitious Plymouth panel;
- (2) the Democratic Support Officer approach the Lead Officer of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) to ask for nominations from SACRE members to become co-opted representatives onto the Ambitious Plymouth panel;
- (3) Mrs Edith Bayley, Parent Governor co-opted representative on the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Panel, is approached to take up a position as a Parent Governor co-opted representative on the Ambitious Plymouth Panel for the next 12 months;
- (4) Alderman Pauline Purnell is approached to take up a position as a co-opted representative onto the Ambitious Plymouth Panel for the next 12 months;
- (5) the UK Youth Parliament are approached to take up two separate positions as co-opted representatives onto the Ambitious Plymouth panel for the next 12 months.

4. **CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

5. **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The panel noted its terms of reference.

6. **YOUTH SERVICES RESTRUCTURE REVIEW**

John Miller, Head of Youth Services, and Stuart Palmer, Assistant Director for Homes and Communities, provided the panel with an update on the Youth Service Restructure. The panel were informed that –

- (a) the Youth Services restructure review had resulted in on-going activities in an effort to continue to improve the quantity and quality of opportunities for young people within the city. On-going activities included –
 - improving volunteer provision across the service,

- enabling a consistent key-worker system in all city schools,
 - establishing better links with family support services;
 - re-instating a missing persons' service within the department;
- (b) the culture of the Youth Service was changing with more of an emphasis placed on key working with young people as well as dealing with increased targeted referrals;
- (c) the number of referrals over the past 12 months had significantly increased, with increased referrals being received from schools, the Police and Children's Social Care;
- (d) increased referrals have been largely due to the increasing challenges and issues facing young people in today's society including unemployment and the impacts of welfare reforms on young people and their families;
- (e) schools identified in the review that the Youth Service needed to provide better support and information sharing to schools, which had been addressed by developing an improved and consistent key-worker system available to all schools. This would improve support and assist schools in dealing with the increased issues and the subsequent increase in referrals from schools, which equated to 44 per cent of all referrals to the Youth Service;
- (f) city-wide safeguarding issues including missing people and child sexual exploitation had resulted in the Youth Service establishing a Missing Persons' Team, this was identified as a priority following the review and the service had worked closely with Children's Social Care and the Police in establishing this new team;
- (g) the Youth Service was committed to continuing to maintain and improve the services offered, whilst also facing difficult financial challenges through a reduced budget; this would be achieved through improving community levels of support by recruiting and training committed volunteers and by continuing to review the service through providing a greater voice for young people to comment on the services provided;
- (h) first time entrants into the Youth Justice system had reduced by 20 per cent in the past year, which was very encouraging, although it was acknowledged that the service could still improve to ensure that vulnerable young people, such as young offenders, were provided with the opportunities to improve their life chances;
- (i) in general, and despite the increased challenges facing the service, the Youth Service was delivering an excellent service, had become an integrated service which provided further benefits for young people, particularly in the transfer of young people between services, and was far exceeding benchmarking targets and the required levels of youth participation.

In response to questions raised, it was reported that -

- (j) the Youth Service was assessing its practice of dealing with missing young people when they were returned to their homes to ensure an improved service was delivered in the future;
- (k) there was a genuine interest from volunteers in working with Youth Service, which ensured the service was in an enviable position of not needing to undertake volunteer recruitment campaigns as volunteers approached the service. All volunteers undergo a six week training programme and were always supervised by qualified Youth Workers when volunteering;
- (l) the service was maintaining its targeted youth support grant to the voluntary and community sector, with 52 grants being provided to this sector over the past year;
- (m) a civil society policy was being explored which would provide an approach ensuring each community had the correct facilities in the most appropriate locations to enable increased participation and community involvement;
- (n) the service was committed to developing apprenticeships which had proved extremely successful and there was now plans to employ a further four apprentices;
- (o) the service would be seeking to make better use of social networking in developing its publicising of the services offered and would consider the use of a smartphone 'app'.

Agreed that –

- (1) a further review of the Youth Services is provided to the Ambitious Plymouth panel at a future meeting in early 2014;
- (2) John Miller is to provide a briefing paper to all members of the Ambitious Plymouth panel covering aspects including the types of services offered across the Youth Service, the service's staff structure, budget and budget pressures, the percentages of referrals and the numbers of volunteers active within the service;
- (3) John Miller is to provide an analysis and summary of the results of the Youth Service's youth survey to all members of the Ambitious Plymouth Panel when the survey has been completed;
- (4) the Youth Service arrange regularly meetings with ward councillors to ensure that councillors know their local lead Youth Service contact and are aware of what youth services are offered in their wards.

7. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The panel discussed the draft work programme 2013 – 2014 and agreed to recommend to the Cooperative Scrutiny Board the following items for inclusion:

- (1) a further Youth Services Review; to review the Youth Services in early 2014 following the implementation of services and new work initiatives after the completion of the Youth Service Restructure and results of the Youth Service's Review Survey;
- (2) skills and apprenticeships review, with a particular focus on children with special educational needs; this review could develop into a co-operative review;
- (3) library and museum provision; to review the provision of and use of the city's libraries and museums, particularly with a focus on future City of Culture bids;
- (4) Early Years Development review; to review the issues involved in nursery places and the allocation of school places;
- (5) Adult Education Service Review; to review the Plymouth Adult and Community Learning Service (PACLS);
- (6) City of Culture bids; to review the reasons why Plymouth was not selected as one of the final four cities in the City of Culture bid and learn for future bid submissions;
- (7) a review of service provision and support for children and young people with dyslexia;
- (8) a review of school transport provision; to review the school transport offer provided by Plymouth City Council with a focus on ensuring that there is a promotion of safer journeys to school;
- (9) Children's Social Care review; to undertake a thorough review of the Children's Social Care Service to establish the adequacy of service arrangements;
- (10) Missing Person's Team; to receive a presentation from this new service to understand the remit and work of the team and to establish whether any further scrutiny work is required, with a particular focus on the partnership arrangements between the Youth Service, Police and Social Care Services.

The panel also discussed potential ideas for cooperative reviews; these would be included on the panel's work programme and submitted to the Cooperative Scrutiny Board for approval at the appropriate time.

The following suggestions were put forward as potential cooperative reviews –

- (11) a review of the Children and Young People's Plan, prior to the Plan being updated in 2014; this review would see an holistic approach taken to reviewing the plan but the panel's main focus would be on early intervention and prevention and adoption and fostering;
- (12) Narrowing the Gap in schools; this review would encompass issues such as free school meals, the effects of welfare reforms on school children, child poverty and the ever increasing financial burden placed on parents for school proms.

8. **FUTURE DATES AND TIMES OF MEETINGS**

The panel received a copy of the future dates and times for Ambitious Plymouth meetings in the municipal year 2013 – 2014. It was commented that the meeting on 23 September 2013 clashed with the annual Labour Party Conference.

The panel noted the dates of its future meetings as follows –

Monday 12 August 2013
Monday 11 November 2013
Monday 3 February 2014
Monday 3 March 2014

It was agreed that, if possible, an alternative date is arranged for the meeting on 23 September 2013.

9. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

There were no items of exempt business.

AMBITIOUS PLYMOUTH

Co-opted representatives



1. The minute below reflects the discussion and recommendations with regards to minute 3. Appointment of Co-opted Representatives at the Ambitious Plymouth scrutiny meeting on 1 July 2013. These recommendations were subsequently forwarded to the Cooperative Scrutiny Board, where they were considered at its meeting on 24 July 2013.

The panel discussed the appointment of co-opted representatives onto the Ambitious Plymouth panel and those present commented as follows -

- (a) as well as working with the Plymouth Association of Governors the panel should work closer with schools to try and obtain increased levels of parent governor representation;*
- (b) further work should be undertaken on sourcing faith representation onto the panel, using organisations and bodies like SACRE to promote a more multi-cultured faith representation;*
- (c) the appointed co-opted representatives of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Panel should be approached to become co-opted representatives on the Ambitious Plymouth panel;*

Agreed to recommend to the Cooperative Scrutiny Board that –

- (1) the Democratic Support Officer contact the relevant organisations in an attempt to obtain nominations to fill the vacant statutory co-opted representative positions for faith representatives and parent governors to be co-opted onto the Ambitious Plymouth panel;*
- (2) the Democratic Support Officer approach the Lead Officer of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) to ask for nominations from SACRE members to become co-opted representatives onto the Ambitious Plymouth panel;*
- (3) Mrs Edith Bayley, Parent Governor co-opted representative on the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Panel, is approached to take up a position as a Parent Governor co-opted representative on the Ambitious Plymouth Panel for the next 12 months;*
- (4) Alderman Pauline Purnell is approached to take up a position as a co-opted representative onto the Ambitious Plymouth Panel for the next 12 months;*
- (5) the UK Youth Parliament are approached to take up two separate positions as co-opted representatives onto the Ambitious Plymouth panel for the next 12 months.*

2. In response to the above recommendations the Cooperative Scrutiny Board agreed the following:

- recommendations 1, 3 and 5 contained in the minutes;
- recommendation 2 subject to the following amendment 'the Democratic Support Officer approached the Lead Officer of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) to ask for nominations from *House A* to become co-opted representatives onto the Ambitious Plymouth panel';
- recommendation 4 subject to Alderman Pauline Purnell being co-opted onto cooperative review(s) as and when required and not the panel;
- with regard to the Youth Parliament co-opted representatives, there was some uncertainty whether these would remain the same in the new academic year; the Board agreed that the existing co-opted representatives should be invited to attend the panel meeting in August 2013 pending any revised nominations;

3. Following the approved recommendations, as above, the following have been approached to take up a position as a co-opted representative on the Ambitious Plymouth.

- Mrs Edith Bayley, Parent Governor;
- Matt Currie, Member of Youth Parliament;
- Harry Samuels, Member of Youth Parliament;

4. All of the above have confirmed that they would like to accept the offer of a position as a co-opted representative on the Ambitious Plymouth Panel for 2013 – 2014.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Ambitious Plymouth panel agree:

- (1) to appoint Mrs Edith Bayley as a co-opted representative, for a period of four years, subject to an annual review;
- (2) to appoint Matt Currie and Harry Samuels, Members of Youth Parliament as a co-opted representative, for a period of four years, subject to an annual review.

AMBITIOUS PLYMOUTH

**Local Authority Approach to Dyslexia: Assessment, Training
Opportunities and Typical Provision Available in Schools**

12 August 2013



Introduction

The local authority approach in Plymouth is to provide support to schools in developing their skills in identifying and meeting a range of special educational needs, including Dyslexia. To achieve this the authority offers guidance to schools on evidence based practice such as that identified in the most recent Government review of Dyslexia lead by Sir Jim Rose, 'Identifying and Teaching Children and Young People with Dyslexia and Literacy Difficulties', published in 2009. The authority also has a role to champion the needs of children and provide appropriate challenge to schools to ensure provision is made to meet those needs.

Provision in schools: identification, assessment and intervention

Every school has a Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) who is a qualified teacher who would be expected to work as a member of the school's Senior Leadership Team. The SENCo has a specific responsibility for identifying special educational needs, keeping a record of pupils with identified needs and for supporting teachers in ensuring that individual pupil needs are met through appropriate support and provision.

As with all kinds of special educational needs for children with literacy difficulties, including Dyslexia, it is important to identify and respond to those difficulties early, by monitoring the progress of children and identifying those who are not making progress in key skills, e.g. against the communication and language aspect of the EYFS profile for young children. The phonics screening assessment for year 1 children is a key point where children might be identified as having a difficulty with decoding skills. Local authority guidance supports the widely understood definition within the Rose review 'Dyslexia is a learning difficulty that primarily affects the skills involved in accurate and fluent word reading and spelling'. Testing, or assessment that is most appropriate focuses on those key skills and takes place at different points of a child's education.

Where an initial concern is raised regarding possible Dyslexia, schools consider what support is in place within the class teachers' quality first teaching and make adaptations to address the concern. All class teachers are expected to differentiate work and provide appropriate resources and support as required.

Where concerns continue and the above support does not enable a child to make appropriate educational progress a school should put in place specific interventions in collaboration with parents/carers. Plymouth's Advisory Learning Support Team (PALS) and the Educational Psychology Service provide advice and training about effective evidence based programmes to improve key literacy skills. PALS Team offer advice on appropriate ICT programmes and equipment to support pupils with Dyslexia. Schools purchase these resources from their delegated SEN funding.

In a small number of cases, where a child's difficulties are not reduced by school based intervention, the SENCo can request the involvement of PALS or an Educational Psychologist. Their role is to undertake additional assessments and to advise on specialist approaches to addressing needs including advice on literacy resources. These teams draw upon a range of assessment methods including observation, consultation and direct assessment of learning skills using dynamic and standardised tools.

Training opportunities

The LA provides a range of support and training specifically for SENCOs including termly meetings, central training opportunities and in-school advice and support.

Plymouth schools have attended central training on Dyslexia provided jointly by Plymouth Advisory Learning Support Team and Educational Psychologists. Take up on these courses has been high with most schools having staff who attended at least one of the courses available.

Training on Precision Teaching, an intensive monitoring and evaluation approach to the acquisition of key skills, continues to have a high level of take up. This has built upon locally based research which demonstrated the significant impact of this approach in improving reading skills.

The LA has provided to every school the nationally produced 'Inclusion Development Programme' (IDP) on Dyslexia, which provided advice on identifying and supporting pupils with Dyslexia within the classroom. This consisted of eight modules of high quality training for the Senior Leadership Team/ SENCOs for dissemination to all staff. Over a third of schools requested further support from the LA to launch the IDP within their school.

In 2011 an updated Dyslexia IDP was disseminated to schools. Every school in Plymouth has this refreshed IDP and thus has access to their own complete dyslexia assessment and training programme, which they can revisit at any time.

Below is a list of Dyslexia-based training provided by the Local Authority to schools since 2010 including on- going work in schools :

Central training 2010 - 2012
Developing Classroom practice for students with dyslexic difficulties (Secondary)
Classroom Support Dyslexia (Primary)
SEND: Supporting pupils with dyslexic difficulties – addressing parental concerns
Primary Teacher training
Primary TA training
Secondary Teacher training
Secondary TA training
In-School Support/Training On-going
Pupil Consultations incorporating staff coaching / SENCo support
Dyslexia / SpLD bespoke staff training sessions
Precision Instruction
Literacy Interventions
Training Spring Terms 2013
SEND: Supporting dyslexic difficulties across the curriculum (Secondary)
Bespoke in-school staff training sessions on Dyslexia / SpLD following individual school requests
Additional Accredited Training Planned for September 2014
Post Graduate Diploma in SpLD – joint training course with Plymouth University, Plymouth LA (PALS Team) and Devon LA

Linda Dawes

Leadership Adviser (SEN & VG)

Authors: Alan Fuller / Linda Dawes

Job Titles: Principal Educational Psychologist/ Leadership Adviser Special Educational Needs and Vulnerable Groups

Department: Education, Learner and Family Support

Date: Thursday 10 January 2013

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AMBITIOUS PLYMOUTH SCRUTINY PANEL

Integrated Youth Services
Missing Young People's Team



1. Introduction:

Research evidence indicates that children who go missing from home or Local Authority Care represent a particularly vulnerable group requiring special attention in terms of their potential for maltreatment and significant harm, including sexual abuse and exploitation. Early identification, assessment of risk and provision of support is therefore essential.

Plymouth City Councils Missing Young People's Team, renamed as MIST (Missing, Intervention and Support Team) is part of a multi-agency response to minimise the risk of children and young people going missing and to protect them from harm or exploitation.

MIST consists of four FTE Professional Youth Workers, a Full Time Qualified Social Worker and is managed by a Service Manager (Qualified Social Worker) from within the Youth Services. The Police are currently recruiting an officer to align themselves closely to the team.

The Team is informed by the following:

- *Plymouth City Councils Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures*
- *Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 and Working Together March 2013*
- *Statutory Guidance on children who Run Away and go missing from Home or Care 2011*
- *South West Peninsula Child Sexual Exploitation Standard Operating Protocol*

2. What the team is responsible for:

The Team has a shared responsibility for action to reduce the incidence of children in Plymouth going missing from home and from care.

3. The team's aims & objectives:

MIST aims to deliver, in partnership with other services, a brief intervention service to children to reduce the likelihood of further running away and missing episodes as well as a reduction in risk taking behaviour and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

Through awareness campaigns in schools and with information, encourage parents and carers:

- To better understand the reasons why children run away and the risks they are exposed to when missing
- To be alert to any likelihood that this may happen
- To take reasonable steps to keep their children safe and know their whereabouts
- To take prompt action to locate them if they have any concerns
- To report them missing to the police as soon as possible if they are unable to locate them and remain concerned for them.

Provide information, personal, health and social education within Plymouth schools to reduce the incidence of children who run away and the harm to them arising from it (for example Child Sexual Exploitation).

4. Who it works with:

The team works closely with Devon and Cornwall Police, who provide most of the referrals, using the I21a process, to the team. In addition, there is a partnership and very close working relationship with Children's Social Care, looking at young people who go missing from their care placement. The team also works closely with the wider Youth Service, (Community teams and YOT) as well as the voluntary sector such as Barnardos and NSPCC. Finally, schools are a key to any support and early intervention that young people and their carers may require. The team are planning to run two Educational Programmes on Child Sexual Exploitation, at Stoke Dameral Community College and ACE, starting in the new academic year.

The target group for support from the Team are young people aged 10 – 17 years, who have run away from their home or care placement, have been forced to leave, or whose whereabouts are unknown.

5. How it works:

MIST receives notifications from the police of all children reported missing from home in Plymouth.

On receipt of information, the team checks with social care to see if the child is known. Where this is found to be the case, the team liaise with the responsible case worker to ascertain whether or not services are required. The team will work with children's social care and other teams where children are already known and receiving support. It is primarily an early intervention team responding to needs identified by a missing person report.

A Return Interview will be carried out by practitioners from the Team who will make contact with the child and/or parent(s) within a maximum 48 hours, but ideally within 24 hours, where:

- The child is aged under 13 years
- The safe and well interview or other information about a child indicates that they are vulnerable
- a child has gone missing for a second or subsequent time.

Information is reflected in the Return Interview form and CSE Risk Assessment.

6. Key processes:

The interview and actions that follow from it should:

- Identify and deal with any harm the child has suffered – including harm that might not have already been disclosed as part of the Safe and Well check (his/her medical condition should be discussed and any need for medical attention assessed);
- Understand and try to address the reasons why the child ran away;
- Try to prevent it happening again

Where an allegation of physical or sexual abuse is made or becomes evident, child protection procedures must be implemented and contact made immediately with the Police Child Protection Unit.

The interview could lead to a pre-CAF initial assessment subject to agreement with the child and family. Depending on the issues and presentation of need, this may lead to a full CAF assessment and an offer of service for up to 3 months or signposting to other more appropriate teams.

Where a service is offered, this will be in order to:

- Increase the child's awareness of the dangers of running away and the issues young missing persons face
- Build up a trusting relationship with him or her leading to opportunities to identify the issues that made them run away from home or care
- To help the child to seek safer solutions to deal with their issues other than running away
- Enable him or her to feel safe to ask questions if they don't understand something or want to find answers to their questions.

7. Key performance data and outcomes:

The Team aims to make contact with the child/young person and/or parents within a maximum of 48 hrs and undertake a return interview and risk assessment.

Based upon the outcome of this meeting the team can then offer a brief focussed intervention and/ or appropriate signposting in order to:

- Increase the child's awareness of the dangers of running away and the issues young missing persons face
- Build up a trusting relationship with him or her leading to opportunities to identify the issues that made them run away from home or care
- To help the child to seek safer solutions to deal with their issues other than running away
- Enable him or her to feel safe to ask questions if they don't understand something or want to find answers to their questions.

April to June 2013:

The team began taking referrals in April and in the first quarter there have been **122 referrals, 42** which have been on **LAC young people**. This equates to approximately a third of the work coming into the team.

8. Current Developments

At the beginning of June the Team were requested to undertake interviews with officers from Devon and Cornwall Police, looking at the possibility of 'Looked After Children' being at risk of and/or being exposed to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). To date, as part of Phase I, the team has engaged with 13 young people and this work is on-going.

In addition, two schools have agreed for the Team to deliver the programme 'Be-Wise to Sexual Exploitation' to year 9 in September 2013.

We are also exploring with a National Missing Persons Service a 24 hour service for advice to parents and young people who have concerns and wish to talk with someone about the issue of running away or going missing. We are securing an 0800 number and are planning to produce leaflets and information with in social media about support we can offer to Plymouth young people and their parents/carers.

John Miller
Head of Youth Services
Homes and Communities

AMBITIOUS PLYMOUTH

Children's Social Care - 12 August 2013



Current developments, performance and issues

Introduction

Children's Social Care (CSC) provides social work and social care support services for vulnerable children and young people in Plymouth. This includes all assessment work, children in need, children subject to Child Protection Plans and children in care.

The service is currently organised so that Children and young people's needs are assessed in the first instance in the Advice and Assessment (A&A) teams. There is a police sergeant from the Public Protection team based with the screening team, and a member of the Common Assessment Framework team based within the service. This means that we have effective arrangements for information sharing and liaison with early intervention services.

Children in need including those that become subject to a Child Protection Plan will transfer to the Children in the Community (CintC) teams, and those that come into care will transfer to the Children in Care (CIC) teams. The CIC teams deal with the cases that are in care proceedings and the adoption and fostering teams. There is a specific Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service team that works with children in care and this team is based with the CIC teams which enables effective joint working.

In addition we work closely with colleagues in the integrated commissioning service, and they are involved in commissioning specific services such as those purchased on an individual basis for specific children such as residential placements. They work closely with commissioning colleagues in the locality from the peninsula – i.e. Devon, Cornwall and Torbay to ensure effective market management, and cost and volume arrangements.

National Developments

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013

The new Working Together guidance was published in March and this brings key changes in expectations in relation to multi-agency, and children's social care safeguarding practice these include. Establishing a single assessment that will replace the current Initial and Core Assessments, there are two key time frames:

- 24 hours from referral/contact to decision to assess
- 45 days from initial referral to complete the assessment.

An increased and specific emphasis on early help and the responsibilities of Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCBs) to monitor and quality assure the partnership's early intervention/help offer.

Implementation in Plymouth is being led by the Plymouth Safeguarding Children Board (PSCB), and changes to the Peninsula procedures will be agreed and implemented across the peninsula. Children's social care in Plymouth is developing a new single assessment framework which is based on best practice established in the pilot authorities and the best fit for local needs. It is likely to

include an expectation that the child/children will be seen within the first 10 working days. This work will also ensure that there is consistency with current CAF arrangements and the new SEN Education, health and care assessment and case planning framework.

The Early Intervention Foundation

The Early Intervention Foundation has been established, and following his visit to Plymouth Graeme Allen was invited and encouraged Plymouth to apply to be one of the first 20 to be a 'pioneering place'. This was based on his very positive response to the Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy in Plymouth. We have been successful in this and will be designated a pioneering place.

Adoption

There is a clear expectation from central government that radical change will be achieved this year, and beyond, in the recruitment of adoptive parents. The drive is to move to a national approach to recruiting a national pool of adoptive parents. This will mean a move away from a local authority based local approach to recruitment for the children that need adopting in Plymouth. There is a clear expectation that local authorities will collaborate with each other and with private adoption agencies. Work has begun with other authorities and providers to establish options and a proposal for how this is progressed in Plymouth.

Ofsted Safeguarding and LAC children inspections

Ofsted are changing their inspection arrangements and have just been through a consultation about the new arrangements. This will be reported back on in November this year when the new arrangements will be implemented. This will be a single agency, single inspection regime that will look at the services children, young people and their families receive across all areas including Early intervention, Assessment, Child Protection, Children in Need, Children in care, fostering, adoption and care leavers. Under the new proposals they will also consider how well the Local Safeguarding Children Board is functioning.

Changes to the Public Law Outline

New arrangements for child care proceedings are being piloted in Plymouth following our success in reducing timescales for care proceedings. This means that we have to consider new arrangements for service delivery to ensure that needs are fully assessed at the point that care proceedings are initiated rather than after they have begun.

Child Sexual Exploitation and missing young people

This is an increasing area of work with increased awareness nationally and locally about how concerns emerge and the arrangements that we need to have in place. There have been two whole day events run by the PSCB to raise awareness and ensure that all agencies and practitioners are aware of the guidelines for responding to these concerns.

New arrangements are now in place in Plymouth for dealing with children missing from home and from our care, and in particular appropriate returnee interview, and follow up have now been agreed and are being implemented. This includes a new team based in the youth service including a jointly funded social worker.

Welfare Reform

We anticipate that the impact of the welfare benefit reforms will impact during the autumn and we will be monitoring closely the impact on referrals and all aspects of our work.

Key Issues for Children's Social Care

Referrals remain high and increased last year by 10% this means that the service continues to manage increasing workloads and pressures. This is managed safely by rigorous supervision and case transfer arrangements. We allocate all cases and do not have any CIN, CP or CIC unallocated cases. We have also seen a marked increase in the number of children subject to Child Protection Plans from 312 at the end of last year to 345 in mid - June, although the numbers are now

started to reduce again. The numbers of children in Care have increased slightly from 373 to 380 at the end of June.

Care proceedings timescales

The Family Justice Board's expectations that care proceedings should be completed within 26 weeks has been implemented with rigour by the courts in Plymouth, and social work staff and managers have worked with great commitment to achieve this. This work has been supported and facilitated by colleagues in legal.

We have achieved the completion of all proceedings within this timescale in last quarter of last year, and this is an improvement from 56 weeks in the previous year. National figures indicate that we are the third best achieving borough in the country.

Advice and Assessment and Children in the Community services

Caseloads remain high in the Advice and Assessment, and Children in the Community Teams. Work has begun through a specific action plan that includes identifying cases that can be stepped down to services delivered outside CSC, and how this is managed safely. We are also reviewing current working arrangements and systems to ensure that all activity is as efficient as it can be, and that ICT is utilised to maximise the time social workers and managers have for direct work, reflection, evaluation, supervision, and planning.

Recruitment of experienced across the service remains a challenge, but we have good arrangements in place to support and develop newly qualified staff, and retention of staff remains good.

Children in Care service

There continues to be a difficulty in identifying enough foster care placements in the independent sector as there has been a recent high increase in the numbers of children coming into care in the peninsula, and in particular in Torbay. They have placed a high number of young children in Independent Fostering Agency placement in recently. This has meant that we have placed a small number of children in residential care that we think would have been able to be placed with foster carers but there have been no placements available. We continue to work hard to find appropriate placements and keep the numbers in residential placements low. By the end of quarter 1 we had 18 children in residential placements.

Work continues to maintain good performance in relation to care proceedings and we are looking at how we need to reconfigure delivery arrangements to meet the new demands in relation to the Public Law outline for care proceeding.

Alison Botham
Assistant Director
Children's Social care

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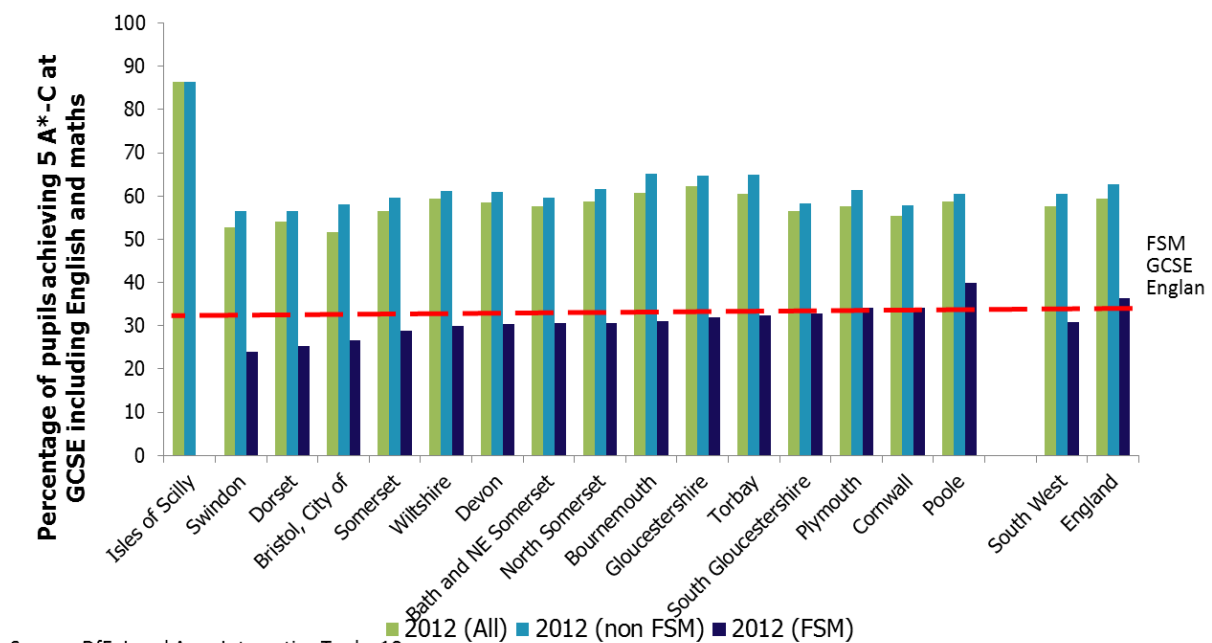
Analysis of performance

NARROWING THE GAPS FREE SCHOOL MEALS V's NON FREE SCHOOL MEALS (FSM) 2012 DATA						
	National Quartile	National data	National FSM Gap	Plymouth data	Plymouth's FSM GAP	Statistical Neighbour Ranking \$
Lowest achieving 20% in Foundation Stage Profile (FSP) v's rest	B	30.10%	30.10%	29.60%	29.60%	3
Good level of development' (78 points) in FSP for FSM		48%	19%	48%	17%	
Y1 phonic decoding test % of FSM reaching national expectation	B	44%	14%	45%	13%	2
KS1 L2+ in Reading for FSM		76%	14%	74%	14%	
KS1 L2+ in Writing for FSM		70%	16%	69%	16%	
KS1 L2+ in Maths for FSM		82%	11%	81%	11%	
KS2 L4+ in English/Maths for FSM	C	66%	17%	65%	17%	1
KS4 5+A*-C including English & Maths for FSM	B	36%	26%	34%	27%	2
KS5 Attainment of a level 3 qualification by age 19 FSM students	D	34%	24%	23%	27%	8
KS5 Inequality gap L3 qualification by 19 *	B	24%	34%	26%	24%	4
Key: * The percentage of FSM students at age 16 who achieved a L3 by age 19						
\$ Ranking based on Plymouth's data, where available, not necessarily the FSM gap						

Regional statistics

The new Ofsted Director of the SW Region has identified her overall priority is to improve the performance of pupils eligible for free school meals in the region. The reasons given include: the need to champion the case of disadvantaged young people; that improvement for this key group of pupils will lead to major impact on school improvement overall; that this group of pupils underachieve nationally and particularly underachieve in the South West and that pupil premium represents a considerable investment of public money. Plymouth has one of the smallest gaps in the SW however outcomes are only in-line with national averages for this group which is still unacceptable.

Performance of FSM eligible pupils compared to non FSM pupils at GCSE in 2012 in the South West by LA



Conclusion

High outcomes with small gaps between the attainment of pupils entitled to FSM and the rest is what we should aim to achieve. However, low outcomes often lead to low gaps. Looking at our statistical neighbour data the LA with the highest outcome often has the greatest gap in achievement for FSM pupils and the LA with the smallest gap often has the lowest outcomes too. Therefore it is important not to draw too many conclusions from the headline data. It may prove more useful to identify those schools that have reversed, or removed, attainment gaps for pupils entitled to FSM and study how they believe that they have achieved this. The latest national FSM take up data available, relates to 2011 (the national indicator was abolished) and it showed that take up in Plymouth was less than 80% at primary and 74% at secondary from those eligible. This lagged behind the national averages by about 6% but was higher, at the time, than regional LAs.

The main agent for change in recent times has been the distribution of Pupil Premium. Funding has risen from £623 per pupil to £900 and next year will rise again to about £1200. In 2012-13 Plymouth's schools received an extra £6,625,000 of pupil premium to target the underachievement of pupils entitled to FSM, Looked After Children and Service Family Children.

Looking at the data above the picture in Plymouth is reasonably positive with the KS5 data being of most concern. Potential lines on enquiry include: does the provision of hot school food make a difference to the attainment of FSM pupils; do schools with few FSM pupils have the greatest gaps in attainment; how effective are schools at deploying and evaluating pupil premium funding and how readily is this good practice shared?

John Searson – Principal Leadership Adviser (Schools and Settings)

30/07/13

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REQUEST FOR A COOPERATIVE REVIEW



Please submit this document to Democratic Support once complete.

The request will be submitted to the Co-operative Scrutiny Board for consideration against the approval criteria and you will be notified of its success. If the Board approve the request for a Co-operative Review on the subject matter below then a project plan will be completed and you may be asked for further information.

What is the name of the review?	Narrowing the Gap in schools
Please provide a brief outline of the subject and scope of the review?	There is a national focus on reducing the gap between the attainment of pupils on free school meals (FSM) and their non-free school meals peers. The government's intention is to ensure that those children who began life with some social disadvantage are not disadvantaged further through under-performance in educational terms. The review will expand on this to also specifically focus on the attainment and take up of FSM from Looked After Children (LAC) and children from service families. Additionally the review will address the concerns of the welfare reforms and its impacts on the eligibility of FSM and free school transport. Furthermore, the review will consider the financial burden placed on parents of school aged children from non-school uniform days and Proms.
Please outline the reasons as to why you believe a review needs to take place?	The main reasons of the review are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is a key Child Poverty area of focus. - It is a national focus and an area of concern for the public. - The impact of welfare reforms on an already potentially disadvantaged group. - The potential impact on the FSM and school transport budgets.
What will the review attempt to achieve?	It will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make recommendations to schools on the promotion and take up of FSM. - Demonstrate that the panel has reviewed the issues concerned and reviewed the allocation of resources in line with Council priorities.
Who will benefit from the review?	The main beneficiaries will be children and families across the city, particularly those who are the most socially disadvantaged.
How long do you think	The review is anticipated to take four months, and will hold

the review might take?	four separate public meetings.
When do you think the review should commence and why?	<p>The review will commence in September 2013, with a project planning meeting scheduled in August.</p> <p>The reasons for the review starting in September is that this is the earliest time that the review could be commenced to ensure that schools are encouraged, and able, to participate following the end of the Summer Term holiday.</p>
When do you think the review should be completed by and why?	<p>The review is anticipated to be completed in December 2013.</p> <p>This will allow adequate time for the panel to complete the review and consider all the relevant and required evidence and witness statements and ensure that any recommendations have a suitable period of time to be implemented for either the next financial year or start of the 2014-2015 school year.</p>
Review requested by?	Councillor Sally Bowie

Received in Democratic Support Section:	Reviewed by the Co-operative Scrutiny Board:
Date: 26 July 2013	Date:
Scrutiny Review Approved/Rejected	
If approved initial Project Plan meeting date:	12 August 2013

AMBITIOUS PLYMOUTH

Tracking Resolutions and Recommendations
2013 - 2014



Date, agenda item and Minute number	Resolution	Target date, Officer responsible and Progress	
01.07.2013 – Appointment of Co-opted Representatives (Minute 3 – resolution 1)	The Democratic Support Officer contact the relevant organisations in an attempt to obtain nominations to fill the vacant statutory co-opted representative positions for faith representatives and parent governors to be co-opted onto the Ambitious Plymouth panel.	Date:	12 August 2013
		Officer:	Ross Johnston
		Progress: The Cooperative Scrutiny Board (CSB) reviewed the recommendations (listed as Minute 3 – resolution 1 – 5) at its meeting on 10 July 2013 and agreed that the recommendations were deferred until the next meeting of the Board (24 July 2013) in order to gain clarification regarding the appointment of statutory co-opted representatives and non-statutory representatives. A briefing paper was provided to the CSB for its meeting on 24 July 2013 and it was then agreed that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - recommendations 1, 3 and 5 contained in the minutes; - recommendation 2 subject to the following amendment ‘the Democratic Support Officer approached the Lead Officer of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) to ask for nominations from House A to become co-opted representatives onto the Ambitious Plymouth panel’; - recommendation 4 subject to Alderman Pauline Purnell being co-opted onto cooperative scrutiny review(s) as and when required and not the panel; - with regard to the Youth Parliament 	
01.07.2013 – Appointment of Co-opted Representatives (Minute 3 – resolution 2)	The Democratic Support Officer approach the Lead Officer of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) to ask for nominations from SACRE members to become co-opted representatives onto the Ambitious Plymouth panel.		
01.07.2013 – Appointment of Co-opted Representatives (Minute 3 – resolution 3)	Mrs Edith Bayley, Parent Governor co-opted representative on the Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Panel, is approached to take up a position as a Parent Governor co-opted representative on the Ambitious Plymouth Panel for the next 12 months.		
01.07.2013 – Appointment of Co-opted Representatives (Minute 3 – resolution 4)	Alderman Pauline Purnell is approached to take up a position as a co-opted representative onto the Ambitious Plymouth Panel for the next 12 months.		

Date, agenda item and Minute number	Resolution	Target date, Officer responsible and Progress	
01.07.2013 – Appointment of Co-opted Representatives (Minute 3 – resolution 5)	The UK Youth Parliament are approached to take up two separate positions as co-opted representatives onto the Ambitious Plymouth panel for the next 12 months.	<p>co-opted representatives, there was some uncertainty whether these would remain the same in the new academic year; the Board agreed that the existing co-opted reps should be invited to attend the panel meeting in August 2013 pending any revised nominations;</p> <p>In relation to resolution 1: The Democratic Support Officer sent a letter on 30 July 2013 to the relevant representatives for the Church of England and Roman Catholic diocese asking for nominations to sit as a co-opted representative.</p> <p>In relation to resolution 2: SACRE's next meeting is on 11 November 2013 and a report will be submitted to this meeting asking if any members of Group A would like to take up the opportunity of becoming a co-opted representative.</p> <p>In relation to resolutions 3 and 5: The Democratic Support Officer sent letters to Mrs Edith Bayley and the UK Youth Parliament reps on 29 July 2013 inviting them to the next meeting of the Ambitious Plymouth panel on 12.8.13 where an agenda item 'Appointment of Co-opted Representatives' has been added to approve the appointments of these co-opted representatives.</p>	
01.07.2013 – Youth Services Restructure Review (Minute 6 – resolution 1)	a further review of the Youth Services is provided to the Ambitious Plymouth panel at a future meeting in early 2014;	Date:	End of municipal year 2013 - 2014
		Officer:	John Miller
		Progress	This item has been added to the Ambitious Plymouth work programme for a further review to be provided on 3 March 2014.
01.07.2013 – Youth Services	John Miller is to provide a briefing paper to all members of the Ambitious Plymouth panel	Date:	31 July 2013
		Officer:	John Miller

Date, agenda item and Minute number	Resolution	Target date, Officer responsible and Progress	
Restructure Review (Minute 6 – resolution 2)	covering aspects including the types of services offered across the Youth Service, the service's staff structure, budget and budget pressures, the percentages of referrals and the numbers of volunteers active within the service.	Progress	John Miller, Head of Youth Services emailed on 30 July 2013 that he requested briefing paper will be provided to all Ambitious Plymouth Panel members by the end of August 2013.
01.07.2013 – Youth Services Restructure Review (Minute 6 – resolution 3)	John Miller is to provide an analysis and summary of the results of the Youth Service's youth survey to all members of the Ambitious Plymouth Panel when the survey has been completed.	Date:	Following survey completion
		Officer:	John Miller
		Progress	John Miller, Head of Youth Services emailed on 30 July 2013 that the Youth Survey information is being collated at present and Juliette Morgan will have a summary paper available in approximately two weeks' time. The results of the survey had been delayed by a week as the service had extended the survey period in an attempt to gather wider responses.
01.07.2013 – Youth Services Restructure Review (Minute 6 – resolution 4)	the Youth Service arrange regularly meetings with ward councillors to ensure that councillors know their local lead Youth Service contact and are aware of what youth services are offered in their wards.	Date:	On-going
		Officer:	John Miller
		Progress	John Miller, Head of Youth Services emailed on 30 July 2013 confirming that all Service Managers and Team Leaders have been directed to arrange a round of ward councillor meetings following the summer holiday delivery period. Tom Abbott and Juliette Morgan will be leading this action. This was subsequently emailed to Ambitious Plymouth members.

Recommendations sent to the Cooperative Scrutiny Board.

Date, agenda item and minute number	Ambitious Plymouth Recommendation	Corporate Scrutiny Board Response	Date responded

Recommendation/Resolution status

Grey = Completed item.

Red = Urgent – item not considered at last meeting or requires an urgent response.

AMBITIOUS PLYMOUTH

Work Programme 2013 - 2014



Please note that the work programme is a 'live' document and subject to change at short notice. The information in this work programme is intended to be of strategic relevance and is subject to approval at the Cooperative Scrutiny Board.

For general enquiries relating to the Council's Scrutiny function, including this committee's work programme, please contact Ross Johnston, Democratic Support Officer, on 01752 307990.

Date of meeting	Agenda item	Purpose of the agenda item	Reason for consideration	Responsible Officer
01.07.2013	Youth Services Restructure Review	To review the Youth Service following the service restructure and identify any areas that may require a co-operative review.	Post-decision scrutiny and service review.	John Miller - Head of Youth Services and Stuart Palmer - Assistant Director for Homes and Communities
12.08.2013	Missing Persons' Team	To receive a presentation from this new service to understand the remit and work of the team and to establish whether any further scrutiny work is required, with a particular focus on the partnership arrangements between the Youth Service, Police and Social Care Services.	New Service Review and Partnership arrangements	John Miller - Head of Youth Services and Stuart Palmer - Assistant Director for Homes and Communities
	Dyslexia	To review service provision and support for children and young people with dyslexia.	Performance and provision	Linda Dawes - Leadership Adviser (SEN & VG)
	Children's Social Care Review	To undertake a thorough review of the Children's Social Care Service to establish the adequacy of service arrangements.	Performance and Provision – Service review	Alison Botham - Assistant Director for Children's Social Care.
	Narrowing the Gap in schools	To establish the challenges facing schools in tackling child poverty – the potential cooperative review would seek to encompass issues such as free school meals, the effects of welfare reforms on school children, child poverty and the ever increasing financial burden placed on parents from school proms.	Cooperative Review preparation	John Searson - Principal Leadership Adviser (Schools & Settings)/Heather Ogburn -Senior Leadership Adviser (RA & NTG)
23.09.2013	City of Culture Bid	To review the reasons why Plymouth was not selected as one of the final four cities in the City of Culture bid and learn where the city can improve for future bid submissions.	Future Learning and improving Plymouth's cultural offer	
	Library and Museum provision	To review the provision of and use of the city's libraries and museums, particularly with a focus on future City of Culture bids.	Performance and Provision	

Date of meeting	Agenda item	Purpose of the agenda item	Reason for consideration	Responsible Officer
	School Transport Provision Review	To review changes proposed by Citybus on school transport provision across the city.	Provision	Julie Roantree - Principal Transport & Allowances Officer
11.11.2013	Skills and Apprenticeships Review	To review the city's opportunities with regard to skills and apprenticeships, with a particular focus on children with special educational needs; this review could develop into a co-operative review.	Performance and provision – potential cooperative review.	Judith Harwood Assistant Director – Education, Learning and Family Support
	Early Years Development Review	To review the issues involved in nursery places and the allocation of school places.	Performance and Provision	Jo Hall Senior Adviser – Early Years & Childcare
	Adult Education Service Review	To review the Plymouth Adult and Community Learning Service (PACLS).	Performance and Provision	Carol Henwood Principal Leadership Adviser (Neighbourhoods & IL)
	School Transport Provision Review	To review changes implemented by Citybus on school transport provision across the city.	Provision	Julie Roantree - Principal Transport & Allowances Officer
03.02.2014	School Transport Provision Review	To review the school transport offer provided by Plymouth City Council with a focus on ensuring that there is a promotion of safer journeys to school.	Performance and Provision	Julie Roantree - Principal Transport & Allowances Officer
	Children and Young People's Plan	To review the current Plan prior to the Plan being updated in 2014; this review would see a holistic approach taken to reviewing the plan but the panel's main focus would be on early intervention and prevention and adoption and fostering.	Cooperative Review Preparation (Pre decision scrutiny)	Judith Harwood Assistant Director – Education, Learning and Family Support
03.03.2014	Youth Services Restructure Review	to review the Youth Services in early 2014 following the implementation of services and new work initiatives after the completion of the Youth Service Restructure and results of the Youth Service's Review Survey.	Post-decision scrutiny and service review.	John Miller - Head of Youth Services and Stuart Palmer - Assistant Director for Homes and Communities