

London Borough of Islington
Children's Services Scrutiny Committee - Monday, 19 January 2015

Minutes of the meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee held at Committee Room 4, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on Monday, 19 January 2015 at 7.30 pm.

Present: **Councillors:** Comer-Schwartz (Chair), Ward (Vice-Chair), Ngongo, Poyser, Ward, Wayne and Hamitouche (Substitute) (In place of Donovan)

Co-opted Member James Stephenson, Secondary Parent Governor
 Erol Baduna, Primary Parent Governor
 Mary Clement, Roman Catholic Diocese

Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz in the Chair

28 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (ITEM NO. A1)**
Apologies were received from Councillors Donovan and Turan.

29 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (ITEM NO. A2)**
There were no declarations of interest.

30 **DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (ITEM NO. A3)**
Councillor Hamitouche for Councillor Donovan.

31 **MINUTES (ITEM NO. A4)**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2014 be confirmed and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

32 **ITEMS FOR CALL IN (IF ANY) (ITEM NO. A5)**
None.

33 **CHAIR'S REPORT: PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY WORK PLAN (ITEM NO. B1)**
The Chair suggested that as the SEN reforms had just started to be implemented, deferring this scrutiny to the 2015/16 municipal year would allow time for the reforms to be embedded, would enable the committee to undertake a more in depth scrutiny and allow the committee to focus more on the Impact of Early Help on Preventing Escalation to Statutory Services.

The Committee considered whether to reduce the number of reports submitted to the Committee and were of the view that one report at each meeting would mean sufficient time could be allocated to the scrutiny review. Presentations should be limited to five minutes and time would be allocated for members' questions. As the Annual Report on Learning and Schools Standards was less strategic and operational than the Educational Services Report, it would be more useful to the Committee.

A vote of thanks to the chair for her work in devising the work plan was moved by Councillor Wayne, seconded by Councillor Poyser and carried.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Impact of SEN changes on Children and Families scrutiny be deferred to the 2015/16 municipal year.

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- 2) That, in addition to the Impact of Early Help on Preventing Escalation to Statutory Services scrutiny review, the Committee would receive one additional report at each meeting. This would be accompanied by a five minute presentation and questions from members. The report schedule would be as follows:
March 2015 – Annual Report on Learning and Schools Standards
April 2015 – Executive member presentation
May 2015 – Early Years report
- 3) That a vote of thanks be accorded to the Chair for her work in devising the work plan.

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IMPACT OF EARLY HELP ON PREVENTING ESCALATION TO STATUTORY SERVICES: PROPOSED NEXT STEPS (ITEM NO. B2)

The Chair outlined the proposed next steps for the Impact of Early Help on Preventing Escalation to Statutory Services scrutiny and explained that by identifying aspects of the local early help offer and partnership working, the scrutiny would be more focused. Similarly, identifying questions to focus on would help the committee scrutinise and provide useful recommendations. The questions in the Next Steps document focused on access and efficiency.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Next Steps document, including the six focus questions, be agreed.
- 2) That the decision on who would be invited to give evidence, be delegated to the chair, in consultation with officers.

MEETING CLOSED AT 7.55 pm

Chair