

Children's Trust Joint Committee

Wednesday 23rd June 2021

At 2:00 pm in The Maybin/Sunflower Room, One Angel Square, Northampton

Members in Attendance:

Councillor Lloyd Bunday	North Northamptonshire Council (NNC)
Councillor Andre Gonzalez de Savage (substitute for Councillor Fiona Baker)	West Northamptonshire Council (WNC)
Councillor Jonathan Nunn	West Northamptonshire Council (WNC)
Councillor Jason Smithers	North Northamptonshire Council (NNC)

Officers in Attendance:

Rob Bridge	Chief Executive NNC
Anna Earnshaw	Chief Executive WNC
Janice Gotts	Executive Director of Finance NNC
Martin Henry	Executive Director of Finance WNC
Cathi Hadley	Director of Children's Services NNC/WNC
Adele Wylie	Director of Legal and Democratic Services & Monitoring Officer NNC
Sarah Phipps	Assistant Director of Commissioning and Partnerships NNC
Rory Seymour	Commissioning Manager NNC
Jenny Daniels	Democratic Services NNC
Raj Sohal	Democratic Services NNC

01. Election of Joint Chairs

Councillor Jason Smithers nominated Councillor Scott Edwards from the North and Councillor Fiona Baker from the West. Each authority would host alternative meetings.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Councillors Fiona Baker (WNC) and Scott Edwards (NNC) would jointly chair the meetings with each authority hosting alternative meetings.

02. Appointment of Deputy Chairs

It was pointed out that the terms of reference stated that in the absence of a Chair the Chair would be elected from those at the meeting. There was therefore no need to appoint deputy chairs.

For this meeting, Councillor Jason Smithers nominated Councillor Jonathan Nunn as Chair. This was seconded by Councillor Andre Gonzalez de Savage.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) It was noted that as stated in the terms of reference in the absence of a Chair one would be elected from among those members at the meeting; and
- (ii) Councillor Jonathan Nunn was elected as Chair for the meeting.

03. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Fiona Baker, Scott Edwards and Matt Golby.

04. Declarations of Interests

Members were requested to declare whether they had any personal or pecuniary interest in any item to be considered by the meeting. No declarations of interest were made.

05. Terms of Reference for the Children's Trust Joint Committee

At the Chairman's invitation Adele Wylie (Director of Legal and Democratic and Monitoring Officer for North Northamptonshire Council), introduced this item (copies of which had been previously circulated). Ms Wylie stated that they had been approved by both the North and West Councils during the shadow authority period. They had been included in the Constitution of both councils.

Councillor Lloyd Bunday stated that under Cancellation of Meetings it referred to 3 Co-Chairs. The Director of Legal and Democratic and Monitoring Officer stated she would seek to have that amended.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) The Children's Trust Joint Committee noted its Terms of Reference.

06. Overview of the Contractual Relationship with Northamptonshire Children's Trust

At the Chairman's invitation Cathi Hadley (Director of Children's Services), introduced this item (copies of which had been previously circulated).

Queries on the report included:

- Some of the Key Performance Indicators were included but a further report could be provided so that it fully understood what constituted poor performance and a lack of improvement and poor financial management.
- The report would also include the timelines. The operational group and strategic groups both met monthly and there were a number of things to report to them on so details of these would be included in the report.
- It was understood that the Committee was more concerned with management between the two councils, but they wished to understand fully what was monitored by the two strategic groups.
- There was a structure in place for management of the contract and holding the trust to account which was undertaken within the commissioning group, and councillors Edwards and Baker would be managing it with the commissioning managers.
- Performance of the trust could be affected by its dependency on the two councils. E.g., if West Northants provided a service the trust relied on, but it couldn't be referred to this group.

- The Strategic Group met quarterly but meetings could be arranged more frequently if required.
- The trust could attend 3 democratic meetings a year of each Council.
- Both Councils would be reporting performance of the trust in their reports so councillors would receive information on how the trust was performing. Councillor Scott and the Director of Children's Services would be on hand to answer any queries that arose from the reports.
- It was noted that whilst scrutiny was an excellent process it could sometimes take its time to understand an issue. Both Councils were determined the trust succeeded

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the Children's Trust Joint Committee noted the contractual relationship with Northamptonshire Children's Trust and would receive a further report to clarify role of the commissioning group, strategic group, and the Children's Trust Joint Committee.

07. Schedule of Meetings

At the Chair's invitation, Ms. Adele Wylie introduced the report (copies of which had been previously circulated). These were approved.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) The Joint Committee approved the schedule of meetings.

08. Urgent Items

There were no urgent items on this occasion.

09. Exempt Items

There were no exempt items on this occasion.

10. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 2:27 pm.