

Supplement – schedule of questions received for meeting of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – 23 November 2021

Agenda item no. 5 - Questions from members of the public

Question Number	Questioner	Question	
PQ 1	F Reid, Herefordshire	<p><i>In the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 5 August 2021 it was resolved that:</i></p> <p><i>"(d) the process be used to recruit an adult representative of families who are or have been supported by social workers ..."</i></p> <p><i>shown under Item 21 of the minutes.</i></p> <p><i>After more than 14 weeks the co-optee vacancy still has <u>not</u> been advertised on Hoople's website (as at noon on 17 November 2021).</i></p> <p><i>This delay has meant that any co-optee selected has not been able to participate in at least three Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee meetings than would have been the case if he or she had been recruited in a timely manner.</i></p> <p><i>Will the committee recommend a firm timeline for the above mentioned co-optee position to be recruited and inducted on to the committee?</i></p>	
<p>Response from the Monitoring Officer:</p> <p>We apologise for the delay in recruiting an adult representative of families who are or have been supported by social workers. I can confirm that the advertisement for this position and that of the other vacant co-optee positions has now gone live on the Hoople website (as of 19 November) and has also been added to the Council's facebook page. We have put a deadline for final expressions of interest of Friday 14 January 2022; applicants will be notified immediately following this date and if appointed, will be invited to attend the next committee meeting.</p>			
PQ 2	Ms J Liddle, Hereford	<p><i>"In March 2019 the Legal Services department became aware that there was serious public concern over the handling of peer on peer sexual abuse cases. Specifically, they received information that the CSO report had not been shared with CYP Scrutiny and that lessons about safeguarding had not been learnt. They also received information that other victims of serious sexual assault were being put back into school with their attackers, and that this had caused serious harm in more than one case.</i></p> <p><i>Has anyone asked Legal Services why they made the decision in 2019 not to pass on the concerns to CYP Scrutiny committee members or to properly investigate those concerns themselves?"</i></p>	
<p>Response from Commissioning Manager:</p> <p>An external independent investigation commissioned by the Council is currently considering the circumstances regarding the sharing of the CSO report and so it is not possible to provide a response to this question.</p>			