

## CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**19 JANUARY 2017**

**REPORT OF PEOPLE  
SELECT COMMITTEE**

### **CABINET DECISION**

**Lead Cabinet Member – Children and Young People – Councillor Ann McCoy**

#### **SCRUTINY REVIEW OF DISADVANTAGE IN EARLY YEARS AND SCHOOL**

1. Summary

The attached report presents the outcomes of the People Select Committee's review of Disadvantage in Early Years and School. The main focus of the review was tackling disadvantage in the early years, including school readiness. The impact of disadvantage on a child's development and education is now widely recognised, as is the crucial importance of the first five years of a child's life.

Some children in the Borough need to be supported to catch up significantly on a range of factors such as socialisation. The review also intended to follow on from the review of Child Poverty and examine how Pupil Premium was being used in the Borough, and consider the role of the new Early Years Pupil Premium.

2. Recommendations

The Committee recommends that the Council should:

1. Ensure that there is a clear focus on what is meant by disadvantage and this is reflected in relevant strategies.
2. Maintain the focus on identifying children eligible for funded Early Years education, and ensuring a comprehensive level of take-up.
3.
  - i) Roll out the 'Moving Forward Foundation Stage 0 to 5 Years' Transition Guarantee approach;
  - ii) Embed the 0-5 Years Transition Guarantee and additional work (eg. local Partnership meetings) to track the impact of children's progress through different settings to inform targeted interventions and quality assurance.
4. Ensure the improvement in number of 2½ yr olds receiving health development reviews is sustained and coverage approaches 100%.

5. Work towards an integrated 2 year old check with health and education professionals.
6. Ensure the Committee receives a full update on the work of local Early Years' services, including the role of both the Children's Centre Teams and the health visiting service as part of the 0-19 Workforce, following the reviews of these service areas.
7. Consider a renewed focus on sensory, physical, and communication activity for Under 5s in Early Years Settings.
8. Ensure that use of Early Years Pupil Premium is reviewed and audited to ensure local good practice (in line with the approach taken with School Pupil Premium).
9. Explore the feasibility of developing a system to secure Pupil Premium funding for the whole journey of the child through their education to reduce the number of eligibility checks required.

### 3. Reasons for the Recommendation(s)/Decision(s)

The report presents the findings of the scrutiny review that took place as part of the agreed work programme for 2016-17.

### 4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item, as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council's code of conduct and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, **in accordance with paragraph 18** of the code, consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest and the business:-

- affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or
- relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code)

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

### Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code)

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**SUMMARY**

The attached report presents the outcomes of the People Select Committee's review of Disadvantage in Early Years and School. The main focus of the review was tackling disadvantage in the early years, including school readiness. The impact of disadvantage on a child's development and education is now widely recognised, as is the crucial importance of the first five years of a child's life.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee recommends that the Council should:

1. Ensure that there is a clear focus on what is meant by disadvantage and this is reflected in relevant strategies.
2. Maintain the focus on identifying children eligible for funded Early Years education, and ensuring a comprehensive level of take-up
3. i) Roll out the 'Moving Forward Foundation Stage 0 to 5 Years' Transition Guarantee approach  
ii) Embed the 0-5 Years Transition Guarantee and additional work (eg. local Partnership meetings) to track the impact of children's progress through different settings to inform targeted interventions and quality assurance.
4. Ensure the improvement in number of 2½ yr olds receiving health development reviews is sustained and coverage approaches 100%.
5. Work towards an integrated 2 year old check with health and education professionals
6. Ensure the Committee receives a full update on the work of local Early Years' services, including the role of both the Children's Centre Teams and the health visiting service as part of the 0-19 Workforce, following the reviews of these service areas.
7. Consider a renewed focus on sensory, physical, and communication activity for Under 5s in Early Years Settings.
8. Ensure that use of Early Years Pupil Premium is reviewed and audited to ensure local good practice (in line with the approach taken with School Pupil Premium).

9. Explore the feasibility of developing a system to secure Pupil Premium funding for the whole journey of the child through their education to reduce the number of eligibility checks required.

## **DETAIL**

1. The attached report outlines the findings of the review of Disadvantage in Early Years and School. The review was undertaken by People Select Committee.
2. Following consideration by Cabinet, an action plan will be submitted to the Select Committee setting out how approved recommendations will be implemented detailing officers responsible for action and timescales.

## **COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS**

3. The review does not propose any major changes to policies or service delivery. Implementation of the recommendations should specifically improve services aimed at improving access and outcomes for disadvantaged children. The recommendations are aimed at services for children in the Early Years and in school.
4. It is widely recognised that Stockton is a Borough that includes areas of both affluence and significant deprivation. Clearly the health and wellbeing of many children in the Borough is very good, but as the 2016 Child Health Profile for the Borough (Public Health England) notes: 'The health and wellbeing of children in Stockton-on-Tees is generally worse than the England average [...] The level of child poverty is worse than the England average with 21.8% of children aged under 16 years living in poverty.' The number of children in care has increased over the past year, in line with regional and national trends.
5. Levels of disadvantage are not uniform across the Borough. In schools for example, the numbers of disadvantaged pupils varies across the Borough (as measured by number of pupils eligible for Pupil Premium due to accessing Free School Meals or being Looked After). Some schools receive Pupil Premium funding for a majority of their pupils eligible for Pupil Premium, others receive a smaller amount in comparison; it is however noteworthy that schools from all areas of the Borough are receiving some level of Pupil Premium grant.
6. The Committee considered in more depth areas of particular need. For example, the review considered the A Fairer Start project, which focusses on the Stockton Town Centre ward area, in more detail. Two site visits, to Tilery Primary School and the Star Children's Centre, took place, and Committee Members hosted a discussion with Fairer Start Community Champion volunteers.
7. Also considered was existing research relating to perceptions of school readiness in the reach area of High Flyers Children's Centre (Thornaby), as well as feedback in relation to Early Years Engagement activity across the Borough.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8. There are no direct financial implications from this report.
9. Increased uptake of Free School Meals/Pupil Premium would increase the funding available for local schools and early years settings to spend on disadvantaged children.

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10. None identified.

## RISK ASSESSMENT

11. This scrutiny review of disadvantage in early years and schools is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

## COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

12. The review directly relates to the following Policy Principles:
  - Promoting equality of opportunity through targeted intervention.
  - Developing strong and healthy communities

## CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

13. The report outlines the usage and monitoring of the Pupil Premium. This is allocated to schools based on the numbers of children on Free School Meals, and also the number of Looked After Children. Early Years Pupil Premium was introduced in 2015.
14. The report highlights the importance of ensuring this funding stream is monitored and used effectively, including the element intended for Looked After Children.

## CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

15. The review has been supported and informed by the Education Improvement Service and Early Help, Partnership and Planning. Ofsted, Public Health, North Tees and Hartlepool, and Tees Esk Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trusts, were all represented at Committee meetings.
16. The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, and Director of Children's Services, were consulted on the findings and recommendations.

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Education related? No

Background Papers None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: N/a

Property

N/a