

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

14 FEBRUARY 2019

REPORT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE

CABINET DECISION

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

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF THE CHILD'S JOURNEY

1. Summary

The attached report presents the outcomes of the Children and Young People (CYP) Select Committee's review of the Child's Journey.

The aim of the review was to challenge how effectively the Council plans and delivers services across the whole of Children's Services which are based on the views, and lived experiences of children. The review tested how the Council engages with children and young people at a number of levels: strategic, service-level delivery, and working with individual children and young people.

2. Recommendations

The Committee's recommendations are mainly grouped into the three themes of the review, as follows.

The Committee recommends that the Council:

In terms of strategic engagement -

1. Requires all those working with children and young people to promote a culture and use of language which recognises individuality, respects young people's preferences on language, avoids labelling and use of jargon, and emphasises the child or young person at the heart of all we do;
2. Endorses the development of the Bright Minds Big Futures Big Committee and requests further updates on its progress;
3. Proposes that the Corporate Parenting Board continues to engage, and work closely with, the Let's Take Action Group;

In terms of service change -

4. Ensures that future safeguarding partnership arrangements retain a focus on the voice of the child as part of its active learning process;
5. Supports the expanded role of the Young Inspectors beyond residential care home inspection;
6. Undertakes a specific piece of work with the Big Committee on how the Council can evidence young people's views have an impact on care planning;
7. Undertakes consultation with children and young people to redesign the children in care / looked after review process;
8. Encourages all schools to respond to views expressed by pupils through examples such as the secondary school wellbeing survey (Schools Health Unit Exeter - SHUE) survey, which demonstrate the need for a strong pupil voice;

In terms of working with individual children and young people -

9. Notes that the Committee welcomed the commitment to using appropriate tools for engagement, and consideration should be given to widening their use where appropriate;
10. Ensures a continued focus on the child's lived experience is embedded into assessment and care planning and that this is monitored through audit and supervision.

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 2018-19.

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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DETAIL

1. The attached report outlines the findings of the review of the Child's Journey. The review was undertaken by Children and Young 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 significant changes to policies or service delivery. The review has considered services provided to all children and young people in the Borough, including those that may be more vulnerable.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4. There are no significant financial implications.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5. There are no significant legal implications.

RISK ASSESSMENT

6. This scrutiny review of the Child's Journey 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

7. The Council Plan 2017-20 includes the key objective for Children's Services of working collaboratively, effectively and efficiently.
8. The Children's Services Strategy 2017-2020 includes a specific commitment to listening to the voice of the child and those who we work with, as part of a focus on feedback.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

9. The recommendations include specific reference to services for children in our care. The review has considered how their views are taken into account as part of care planning, and service delivery.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

10. The review has been supported and informed by officers from across Children's Services. The Committee has considered information from members of Stockton Youth Assembly and Big Minds Bright Futures, Let's Take Action (Children in Care Council) and Young Inspectors, Eastern Ravens, and the Clinical Commissioning Group.
11. The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People was consulted on the findings and recommendations of the Select Committee.

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Education related? Yes

Background Papers: None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: N/a

Property: N/a