

Children & Young People Select Committee

A meeting of Children & Young People Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 28th August, 2013.

Present: Cllr Carol Clark (Chairman), Cllr Elliot Kennedy, Cllr Ken Lupton, Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E, Cllr Tracey Stott, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley

Officers: Ms L.Brown, S.McLurg, Ms W.Starks, D.Willingham (CESC); R.Poundford, R.Todd (DNS); N.Hart, Ms M.Jones, Mrs J.Trainer (LD).

Also in attendance:

Apologies: was submitted on behalf of Cllr Inman.

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest declared.

2 Minutes for Signature - 5th June 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th June 2013 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

AGREED that the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3 Draft Minutes - 24th July 2013

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the meeting held on 24th July 2013.

AGREED that the minutes be approved.

4 Performance Management Framework - Selection of Priority Issues

Consideration was given to the proposed Performance Management Framework for quarterly reports to this Committee on the performance of Children's Services.

The reports would cover an overview of performance based on the quarterly Children & Young People's thematic report that had links to performance indicators contained within the Council Plan; along with focus on particular topics drawn from challenges contained within the Children & Young People's Overview Report 2012/13. Regards the latter, it was proposed that the Committee consider the following topics:-

- Quarter 1 (18th September 2013)-Adoption timescales;
- Quarter 2 (27th November 2013) -School and Academy Performance;
- Quarter 3 (19th February 2014) -Reducing the proportion of NEET's.

Flexibility would be retained to allow topic areas to be changed in the event of new significant priorities emerging during the year.

AGREED that the proposed performance management reporting arrangements,

be approved.

5 Scrutiny Review of Employment and Education

Consideration was given to the Scope and Project Plan for the Committee's Scrutiny Review of Employment and Education.

The main issues/services covered by the review were split into three main strands and presented and summarised for members. Arising from this, the Committee noted the following:-

Strand One-Demand:-

- Stockton businesses that had announced business growth in the last 12 months were noted. Of these new jobs, 45% were at 'entry level', and were (in theory) full time and were available for young people to access;
- These jobs were expected to be recruited over a 12-18 month period;
- Apprenticeships required a lot of resources from employers.

Strand Two-Provision and Performance:-

- IB Free school would be opening a sixth form;
- Stockton Riverside and Stockton Sixth form colleges both 'Required Improvement';
- Conyers & Egglecliffe Sixth Form were rated by Ofsted as 'Outstanding';
- Stockton was a net exporter:36 – 40% choose to study outside the borough, 16% come from outside Stockton to study;
- There were four providers of Level 1, four providers of level 2 & 3, and a plethora of other providers offering structured programmes;
- There was currently no faith school sixth form;
- The success rate of completing an apprenticeship was 77.2% - above the national average;
- There were some young people that left sixth form and wanted an apprenticeship, which had an affect on those coming out of schools;
- 43% coming out of school had not got English & Maths – at 19 half of these had still not achieved this;
- Colleges did not meet regularly with each other as in reality they were in competition with each other.

Strand Three-Participation and Support:-

- Schools from outside the borough purchased careers guidance from Stockton;
- Youth Services picked up those young people who dropped out of courses part way through in an effort to keep them engaged;
- January was a key time when some young people stopped engaging;
- Schools currently buy career guidance at a reduced cost, but would have to start paying full cost for this at some stage in the future.

AGREED that:-

1. The draft scope and project plan of the review be approved.
2. The main issues/services contained within the three strands of the review be

noted, alongside the comments noted.

6 Work Programme

Consideration was given to the proposed Committee Work Programme for 2013/14.

It was noted that the next meeting would feature a more in-depth examination of Strand One of the existing Scrutiny Review of Employment and Education; along with Quarter 1 Performance Report and OFSTED Action Plan.

AGREED that the Work Programme be noted.

7 Chair's Update

There were no issues the Chair wished to report.

AGREED that the update position be noted.