

Children & Young People Select Committee

A meeting of Children & Young People Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 26th March, 2014.

Present: Cllr Carol Clark(Chairman), Cllr Michael Clark(Vice Cllr Norma Stephenson) Cllr Ben Houchen, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Elliot Kennedy, Cllr Ken Lupton, Cllr Tracey Stott, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley, Phil Rigby.

Officers: Lynda Brown, Jane Humphreys, Shaun McLurg, Simon Willson, David Willingham(CESC), Richard Poundford, Roland Todd(DNS) Judith Trainer and Kirsty Wannop(LDS).

Also in attendance: Cllr Anny McCoy

Apologies: Cllr Norma Stephenson and Cllr Ben Houchen

CYP 52/13 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared.

CYP 53/13 **Minutes for Signature - 22nd January 2014**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd January 2014 were signed by the Chair as a correct record.

CYP 54/13 **Draft Minutes - 19th February 2014**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 19th February 2014.

AGREED the minutes be approved.

CYP 55/13 **Performance Update Q3 2013/14**

Members received the Quarter 3 performance report in relation to the agreed framework for Children Services.

The Committee received the following:-

- Feedback from the Critical Friend Review from Northumberland County Council.
- Quarter 3 performance overview for Children & Young People Services that included a summary of some performance indicators linked to priorities in the Council Plan, along with commentary on other performance issues arising during the quarter.
- Adoption performance update; this was based on the last available year end data for which comparative national data was provided, along with some updated local information.

The Committee asked questions in relation to the following issues:

- The percentage of secondary school judged to be good or outstanding which was lower than the England average. Officers commented that the most recent performance information indicated that the situation was improving and were hopeful that the improvements at primary would in turn have a positive impact on secondary performance. Cllr Ann McCoy highlighted the importance of examining transition from primary to secondary. The Committee note that this

topic was on the Committee's work programme for the current year.

- The timeliness of assessments under the new Single Assessments Process. Officers advised that the latest date from February indicated that targets were being met.

- The take up of free childcare places for eligible families were being encouraged to take advantage of free places. It was recognised that this could have a positive impact on a child becoming ready for school.

- the timeliness of the adoption process. The Committee noted that there had been significant improvements and recognised that performance in respect of this indicator needed also to be considered alongside placement stability.

AGREED the information be noted.

**CYP
56/13** **Scrutiny Review of Employment and Education**

The Committee considered the draft final report for the Review of Employment and Education.

The Committee suggested that in addition to asking Governing Bodies to appoint a governor champion for Enterprise and Employment, that they should be asked to consider placing a regular item on Enterprise and Employment on Governing Body meetings.

AGREED the report be approved and forwarded to Cabinet for consideration subject to the amendment set out above.

**CYP
57/13** **Work Programme**

The Committee's work programme was noted.