

# Children & Young People Select Committee

A meeting of Children & Young People Select Committee was held on Thursday, 19th June, 2014.

**Present:** Cllr Carol Clark(Chairman), Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E(Vice-Chairman), Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Elliot Kennedy, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Tracey Stott, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley.

**Officers:** Lynda Brown, Jane Humphreys, Shaun McLurg, Jane Wright, Simon Willson(CESC), Judith Trainer and Kirsty Wannop(LDS)

**Also in attendance:** Cllr Ann McCoy(Cabinet Member for Children & Young People), Colin Morris(SLSCB)

**Apologies:** Cllr Ken Lupton.

## 1 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

## 2 Draft Minutes - 23rd April 2014

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd April 2014.

AGREED the minutes be approved.

## 3 Overview of Children and Young People Services

The Committee were presented with an overview of performance delivery of Children & Young People Services during 2013/14. Members received information. Members received the following information:

- Key achievements for 2013/14.
- Key challenges for the year ahead.
- Emerging issues likely to impact on future deliver and performance of services.

As part of the item, the Committee considered an overview of performance of Children & Young People Services during 2013/14 at the final quarter of the year.

Discussion focused in particular on:-

- The importance of face to face feedback and support to parents in respect of the national child measurement programme.
- The new Ofsted Inspection Frameworks.
- How children would be prioritised for selection to the new children's homes.
- The challenges of recruiting social work staff.
- The positive feedback received for the Safeguarding Practice Diagnostic.

The Committee felt it would be beneficial to visit front line staff across the various teams to gauge a view of how services were being delivered and understand current issues.

Stockton-on-Tees Local Safeguarding Children Board (SLSCB) 2013 /2014

Colin Morris SLSCB Chair attended to report on the work of the LSCB over the past 12 months.

This included the following:-

- The Safeguarding Board's Governance arrangements.
- Common Assessment Framework (CAF).
- Signs of safety - A proposal for Stockton to implement commencing September 2014.
- Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
- Ofsted and revised multi agency inspection process proposed for the future.
- Revised Early Help Strategy.
- Increased focus on Performance / Quality Assurance of safeguarding systems across Stockton-on-Tees.

AGREED that the information be noted.

#### **4 Scrutiny Review of a Safer Place for Children**

Members received feedback from the Director of Children, Education & Social Care in regard to the Safer Place for Children Policy Guidelines. The director was strongly of the view that LSCB guidance should remain in place and that the age for children entering public settings unaccompanied by an adult should not be reduced from the current age of 10years.

It was requested that the Chair of Stockton Local Safeguarding Children's Board be asked for his personal view on the policy guidelines

The Committee discussed possible recommendation that would be considered at its next meeting.

AGREED that

1. The Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board be contacted to provide his personal view of the policy guidelines.
2. The information be noted.

#### **5 Action Plan - Scrutiny Review of Employment and Education**

Members were presented with the Action Plan setting out how the agreed recommendations from the Review of Employment and Education would be implemented and target dates for completion.

AGREED that the Action Plan be approved.

#### **6 Scrutiny Review of School Organisation and Admission Arrangements**

The Committee considered the scope and project plan for the Review of School Organisation and Admission Arrangements.

AGREED the scope and project plan be approved.

#### **7 Progress Monitoring Report - Scrutiny Review of Quality and Sufficiency of Childcare**

Consideration was given to the assessments of progress on the implementation of the recommendations from the Review of Quality and Sufficiency of Childcare.

AGREED the Progress Updates be noted and the assessments for progress be confirmed.

**8 Work Programme**

The work programme was noted.