

Children & Young People Select Committee

A meeting of Children & Young People Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 24th June, 2015.

Present: Cllr Carol Clark(Chairman), Cllr Tracey Stott(Vice-Chairman), Cllr Elsi Hampton, Cllr Di Hewitt, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Lauriane Povey, Cllr Sally Ann Watson

Officers: Shaun McLurg (CSE), Dianne McConnell (CSE), Judith Trainer (Scrutiny), Peter Mennear (Scrutiny), Daniel Childs (DSU)

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Cllr Rachael Proud, Mr Phil Rigby

1 Evacuation Procedure

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest

3 Monitoring/ Action Plans

Officers presented information regarding Monitoring/Action Plans and Progress Updates, and elaborated on the role of Scrutiny Committees within the Local Authority.

Officers presented the Review of Transition from Primary to Secondary, elaborating on each of the recommendations and proposed actions. Subsequent to the presentation, a discussion took place, which could be described as follows:

- Members asked whether uptake of the training and moderation programme, and the Campus Stockton Teaching Alliance programme had met expectations. Officers stated that many primary and secondary schools had already signed up for the programmes but that the programmes would be formally launched from September 2015.
- Referring to Action Two and the monitoring of student performance, Members enquired as to whether parents would have input into the process. They were informed that this would be the case.
- Referring to action 3, Members asked whether parents would provide input to ragged information. Members were informed that parents' feedback would be fed into the process and would inform outcomes.
- Members stated that the proposals represented progress towards addressing a lag in student performance at secondary school level and added that performance would need to be reviewed regularly.

Officers presented the Review of Child Sexual Exploitation, elaborating on each of the recommendations and proposed actions. Subsequent to the presentation, a discussion took place, which could be described as follows:

- Members asked for further information about the identification of perpetrators. Officers provided some background information and discussed the role of various practitioners in the area.

- Members discussed the possibility of linking CSE work to adult safeguarding. Officers highlighted that there were very specific, narrow definitions of vulnerable status, and therefore challenges around such definitions.

Officers presented the Review of Employment and Education, elaborating on each of the recommendations and proposed actions. Subsequent to the presentation, a discussion took place, which could be described as follows:

- Members noted the presence of two slipped items on the progress update and asked for further information. Members suggested that publicising events was one way to increase uptake of the Jobs Fair but also considered other means of increasing uptake among young people who were more difficult to engage with. Members suggested that many children and young people were unaware of the opportunities available to them, while it was also felt that work was needed to encourage employers to interact with schools and colleges.

- Members discussed experiences and the perception of Sixth Form as a route to University and FE College as a route to a trade. Officers stated that historically this had been the case but added that providers had to keep pathways open for students. It was added that there was interest in 16-18 years transition with a focus on meeting student needs, which was currently in development.

- Members stated that there was a need for greater partnership working between business and education. While some schools were noted to offer excellent careers support. Members stated that innovative, creative ways of engaging with children and young people were needed. Members also considered how the success or failure of such advice would be measured, particularly considering high levels of youth unemployment in the area.

AGREED that:

- 1) the Action Plans and Progress Updates be noted and the assessments for progress be confirmed subject to the amendments above.

- 2) Further information be provided as requested.

4 Work Programme

Consideration was given to the project plan and it was noted that the following reviews were on the work programme for the select committee:

- School Organisation and Admission Arrangements

- Stockton-on-Tees Local Safeguarding Children Board

5 Chair's Update

The Chair did not have any further information to present to Members.

