

Children & Young People Select Committee

A meeting of Children & Young People Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 11th November, 2015.

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

Officers: Darren Coulton (Admissions, Placements and Commissioning Manager), Lynda Brown (Head of Education, Early Years & Complex Needs), Shaun McLurg (Head of Children and Young People's Services), Dave Willingham(CESC), Judith Trainer (Scrutiny Officer), Jenna McDonald (Governance Officer)

Also in attendance: Tony Beckwith (Healthwatch)

Apologies:

CYP 23/15 Evacuation Procedure

The evacuation procedure was noted.

CYP 24/15 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

CYP 25/15 Draft Minutes - 14th October 2015

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2015.

AGREED that the minutes be approved.

CYP 26/15 Healthwatch Annual Report

The Committee was presented with the Healthwatch Annual Report. Key points were highlighted as follows:

- Healthwatch was becoming more involved in activities carried out across the borough and had a key role in engaging and involving the local community in the scrutiny of local services
- Healthwatch was responsible for conducting in depth investigations into identified areas of concern.
- Public engagement was carried out in order to identify and understand the gaps in services
- Healthwatch acted on concerns of the public and used it's statutory right to enter and view local services. Enter and view had taken place on two separate occasions in care homes within the Borough in addition to Care Quality Commission (CQC) work
- In addition to linking in with scrutiny committees, Healthwatch held a statutory seat on the Health and Wellbeing Board which enabled delivery of intelligence gathered from the community

- Healthwatch worked with NHS England regarding registration to GP services

Members raised the following points and questions:

- It was asked whether a GP Practice would be required to register an individual to the practice after already refusing registration. It was noted that there was a strong likelihood that the individual would have registered at an alternative practice after being refused registration. The Committee heard that where individuals were refused registration, NHS England would be notified.

- Members asked if there were any particular patterns or trends in the people being refused registration at GP Practices, in response, it was heard that there were currently no particular patterns or trends.

- The Committee raised concerns that while Healthwatch was made aware of some cases of refusal of registration, there would be many cases that were not reported.

- The Committee were keen to understand the expertise of those employed by Healthwatch. In response the following expertise within the team were highlighted:

- Many years experience of working within the Health Service
- Experience in working with the Local Authority, Health and Social Care and Education
- Experience in Charity work and nursing
- Graduate Researcher
- Experience in Social Housing
- Eastern Ravens connections
- Experience in working with individuals with Learning Disabilities
- Experience in working with Guide Dogs UK Charity for the Blind and Partially Sighted

- Members sought information on the relationship between Healthwatch and OFTSED. It was noted that no real link between Healthwatch and OFTSED existed as Healthwatch's role was limited with Children's Services. Links however, existed between Healthwatch and CQC.

- Concerns were raised around waiting times to see a GP. It was highlighted that the process of calling the GP Practice was stressful and concerning particularly for those patients feeling extremely unwell.

AGREED that the information be noted.

**CYP
27/15**

School Organisation and Admission Arrangements

- **Consultation on 2017 Admissions – (Consultation Document to be circulated at the meeting)**
- **-School Organisation Plan and relevant extract from Asset Management Plan (subject to Cabinet approval on 12 November)**
- **Consultation –Update**

The received the consultation document for information on 2017 admission

and also the School Organisation Plan and relevant extracts from the Asset Management Plan .

Initial feedback from the information gathering sessions was summarised and further discussion would be taking place with primary and secondary heads to inform the review. Further meetings were planned with parents and at children's centres.

The Scrutiny Officer would circulate details to Committee Member when the dates were finalised.

- It was noted that an officer present at the meeting Chaired The Northern Admissions Group and represented the North. Members heard that the purpose of the Group was to discuss and debate changes to the School Admissions Code

Members raised the following points/questions:

- Were any plans in place for the developments of new schools in the Borough? It was noted that it was likely that a new school would be required within Stockton North and Central, however no plans were currently in place. In summary, Members noted that the primary developments were likely whereas secondary developments remained only a possibility

- Discussions took place around Free Schools, it was noted that it was important to attract as much capital investment as possible. It was highlighted that Government decisions could not be determined

AGREED that the information be noted.

**CYP
28/15**

Quarterly Progress Update on Previously Agreed Recommendations

Members received a Quarterly Progress Update on previously agreed recommendations.

Key points were highlighted as follows relating to the progress update on the review of Employment and Education:

- A Digital Apprentice was employed within the Youth Direction Team. It was noted that the apprentice role involved developing the Facebook and Twitter pages in order to engage more with young people

- Relationships had developed between the Youth Direction Team, Stockton Riverside College and Stockton Sixth Form College. Members heard that team were involved with groups such as Matty's Bistro

- Work took place on Stockton High Street in order to engage with the more hard to reach individuals

- It was highlighted that Members of the Innovation Challenge recently completed a study on 'how to encourage young people to live and work in the area'

- Confirmation was awaited on the Tees Valley YEI bid which was being led by Hartlepool. Members heard that further negotiation was due to take place
- If a young person did not qualify in Maths and English as part of their school qualifications, it was important to encourage the young person to complete their Maths and English qualifications in college. Work had taken place in school assemblies in the area to raise awareness of the importance of Maths and English qualifications

Members raised the following points/questions:

- It was asked whether Members of the Committee could be invited to future Job Fairs and Skills Events
- The Committee asked whether it was expected that it would become more difficult for young people to find employment in the future. In response, it was noted that challenges existed around education, training and the local labour market and that there remained skills gaps
- The Committee were keen to understand the quality and success measures of apprenticeships in the area
- Members asked whether there was a shortage of bricklayers in the borough. It was heard due to a number of reasons, including a shortage of training providers, a large skill gap existed. The Committee was reassured that conversations had taken place with the providers focusing on the gap

Key points were highlighted as follows relating to the progress update on the review of Child Sexual Exploitation:

- It was noted that membership of Strategic VEMT had increased over quarters 1 and 2
- The Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Safeguarding Forum was in place which focussed on disseminating information and organising further discussion when necessary
- Members heard that the Head of Children and Young People's Services attended the VCSE Safeguarding Forum to provide an update on CSE
- The Safeguarding Forum featured presentations for schools on how to develop curriculums in respect of CSE
- Regular CSE Performance Reports were presented to the Council's Cabinet and the Children and Young People's Select Committee as part of the quarterly performance updates
- Barnado's had been commissioned to obtain feedback from children as part of further assurance work
- It was noted that the strategy and action plan were regularly and robustly reviewed

- Members heard that recommendations made by the Committee had been timely and had highlighted the key issues

Members raised the following points/questions:

- How were charities and the voluntary sector being involved? In response, it was heard that The Safeguarding Forum was the key link with the voluntary sector

- The Committee raised questions relating to school engagement. It was highlighted that all schools took the issues seriously and had also signed up to the Chelsea's Choice programme.

AGREED that:

1. The Committee receive information relating to future job fairs and skills events

2. The Committee be provided with success rates and quality of apprenticeships as part of further progress updates.

CYP **Work Programme**
29/15

Members gave consideration to the Work Programme.

AGREED that the Work Programme be noted.