

Children & Young People Select Committee

A meeting of Children & Young People Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 14th December, 2016.

Present: Cllr Carol Clark (Chairman), Cllr Elsi Hampton, Cllr Di Hewitt, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Lauriane Povey and Cllr Tracey Stott.

Officers: M.Gray, D.McConnell (CS); N.Hart, J.Trainer (ADE).

Also in attendance: Simon White (Head Teacher - Eggescliffe School)

Apologies: submitted on behalf of Councillors Patterson, Mrs Walmsley and Watson.

CYP 57/16 Evacuation Procedure

CYP 58/16 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest declared.

CYP 59/16 Minutes of the Meeting held on 30th November 2016

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the meeting of the Children & Young People Select Committee held on 30th November 2016.

AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 30th November 2016 be approved.

CYP 60/16 Children's Services: Performance Update Digest

Consideration was given to the content of performance reports on the following areas of activity which had been referred to Cabinet:-

- i) Safeguarding and Looked After Children;
- ii) Early Help;
- iii) School Performance;
- iv) Educational Performance of Vulnerable Groups;
- v) Ofsted Inspection - post inspection plan.

Members comments/discussion on the above were summarised as follows:-

-Safeguarding and Looked After Children

Reference was made to the proportion of care leavers in EET (43.5%). It was acknowledged that this was a difficult challenge to overcome despite the fact that Ofsted had praised our contact overall with LAC and despite the fact that our performance was reviewed regularly, including at MALAP.

The Chair referred to the Council's commitment in trying to ensure that people within EET were not financially worse off than when on benefit. Correspondence had recently been received regarding LAC entitlement to Council Tax benefit and this was currently being considered by Authorities in the region with a view to establishing the financial implications involved and the eligibility of those who

would qualify.

With regard to the number of case file audits assessed as requiring improvement, members were reassured that none of these had any impact on safeguarding, with the issues being mostly around the plans and targets being not SMART enough.

-Early Help - reference was made to the fact that the rate of admissions into hospital for young people as a result of self harm was higher in this area than both the regional and national rates. It was questioned how much of a priority area this was for CAMHS?

The Director of Children's Services advised that work was on-going currently jointly with Hartlepool B.C. redesigning the service with the intention of securing intervention at an earlier stage. It was noted that there is a significant lag with this data and that performance was last measured in 2012/13 and therefore also a little dated.

AGREED that the content of the Children's Services Performance Update and comments provided, be noted.

CYP 61/16 Scrutiny Review of Stockton Local Safeguarding Children's Board (SLSCB)

Consideration was given to the final draft report of the Committee's review of the SLSCB, which included the recommendations previously agreed by the Committee.

The final report would be submitted to Cabinet in January for consideration.

AGREED that the final draft report of the Committee's review of the SLSCB be approved and be referred to Cabinet for consideration.

CYP 62/16 Progress Updates on Previously Agreed Recommendations

The Committee received a Monitoring update of progress made on the following reviews carried out by this Committee:-

- Transition from Primary to Secondary;
- Child Sexual Exploitation;
- Employment and Education.

Members were able to hear first hand via a presentation from Simon White, the Head Teacher at Egglecliffe School, the positive impact felt by this school following their own work implementing the transition guarantee.

Mr White commented that the LGA had also been advised of how instrumental the transition work had been in transforming outcomes within the school.

The Head of Schools and SEN advised that every Primary School apart from one was now engaged with the transitional guarantee. Members advocated the development/use of any available technology , such as an App that would

supplement any of the excellent work involved within transition.

Members also received assurances that much was currently being done by the LSCB to develop a multi-agency training strategy to address CSE and other safeguarding issues; and therefore a more accurate picture of performance would be seen once this current work had been completed.

AGREED that the assessment of progress against the monitoring updates be approved..

**CYP
63/16** **Member Visits to Frontline Services**

There were no Member visits to report. Members were reminded to submit any forms that were outstanding from previous visits.

AGREED that Members submit any outstanding forms from previous visits.

**CYP
64/16** **Work Programme**

Members were advised that the scheduled meeting of the Committee in January could now be cancelled.

AGREED that the Work Programme be noted.