

Children & Young People Select Committee

A meeting of Children & Young People Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 13th September, 2017.

Present: Cllr Carol Clark (Chair), Cllr Elsi Hampton, Cllr Di Hewitt, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Paul Rowling, Cllr Sally Ann Watson, Cllr Paul Weston (Sub for Cllr Stott)

Officers: Peter Mennear, Michael Henderson (DCEO); Martin Gray (CS)

Also in attendance: Tony Beckwith (Healthwatch),

Apologies: Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Tracey Stott

CYP 20/17 Evacuation Procedure

The evacuation procedure was noted.

CYP 21/17 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

CYP 22/17 Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th April 2017-For Approval

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 26 April 2017 were approved.

CYP 23/17 Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th May 2017- For Approval

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2017 were approved.

CYP 24/17 Healthwatch Annual Report

The Committee was provided with the Annual Report of Healthwatch, Stockton-on-Tees.

The Committee discussed the Annual Report and that discussion could be summarised as follows:

- It was noted that there had been a slight increase in complaints and concerns raised about health services in recent years. It was suspected that this was, in part, due to an actual increase in problems encountered by service users but also people were becoming more aware of Healthwatch, and its role.
- Members supported Healthwatch's non-adversarial approach to issues they felt needed addressing, as this was likely to have the most positive response and outcomes.
- There was a role for elected members in highlighting the work of Healthwatch and raising issues of concern to residents, with it.
- There were 7 or 8 Youth Champions and the further development of this role was supported by Members.
- Healthwatch had not undertaken any specific work on Children's Services and

the Select Committee was encouraged to highlight any services that it felt might benefit from a Healthwatch review.

- Members noted the detail that Healthwatch reports went into and agreed that they were very valuable.

- Healthwatch would not investigate and offer comment on potentially political issues. For instance, on a particular strategic approach, or where it might be considered that levels of funding were impacting negatively on service provision. It was noted that Autism diagnosis, and increased Access to Psychological Therapies, waiting times would fall into this category, but Healthwatch may look at how the service was provided. It was suggested gathering views of children and young people in relation to services such as CAMHS and IAPT would be useful.

- When undertaking reviews it would be helpful to engage with young people to get that group's specific views on some of the practical issues, relating to the delivery of services, particularly in terms of new technology and social media. Healthwatch would look at this further.

- Members discussed how hospital appointments may be arranged and undertaken in the future, as technology took on more of a role.

- Members queried the number of Enter and View visits that were undertaken each year. It was noted that around three to five visits were undertaken each year; although the role of volunteers was important, but it was important to have staff support for these and so there would not be capacity to undertake many more than this each year.

RESOLVED that the Annual Report and discussion be noted.

**CYP
25/17** **Scrutiny Review of SEND - Preparation for Adulthood**

Members received an update around evidence that would be presented to the Select Committee's forthcoming meeting, including:

The next meeting of the Committee would include a summary of all the evidence provided, relating to this review. Draft guidance relating to preparation for adulthood would also be submitted.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

**CYP
26/17** **Work Programme**

Members noted the work programme.

**CYP
27/17** **Chair's Update**

The Chair referred to a report that was being presented to Cabinet in September relating to investment in Schools, SEN and Early Years provision within the Borough. It was noted that total investment to 2019/2020 totalled £37 million. Members were encouraged to consider the report outside the meeting.

Reference was made to a number of forthcoming events that would be of interest to members of the Committee. Further details of relevant events would be forwarded to members via outlook.