

Children & Young People Select Committee

A meeting of Children & Young People Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 12th September, 2018.

Present: Cllr Carol Clark (Chair), Cllr Evaline Cunningham, Cllr Di Hewitt, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Paul Rowling and Cllr Sally Ann Watson, Peter Snowden, Mrs Neelam in Kabir and Katie Slack.

Officers: Peter Mennear, Peter Bell (DCE), Martin Gray, Jackie Ward, Rhona Bollands (CS). Jane Webb (HRLC) Karen Grundy (Healthwatch).

Also in attendance: Members of SYA.

Apologies: Cllr Elsi Hampton and Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley.

CYP 32/18 Evacuation, Audio Recording & Housekeeping Procedures

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and the evacuation procedure was noted. It was also noted that the Governance Officer would be making an audio recording of the meeting to assist in the drafting of minutes of the meeting.

CYP 33/18 Declarations of Interest

Katie Slack declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 9 - Quarterly Children and Young People Performance Report as she worked in the Public Health Team.

Councillor Evaline Cunningham declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 5 - Scrutiny Review of the Child's Journey as she was a member of Eastern Ravens.

CYP 34/18 Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th April, 2nd & 30th May (attached) and 27th June (to follow)

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meetings held on 18 April, 2 May, 30 May and 27 June 2018.

AGREED that the minutes be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

CYP 35/18 Scrutiny Review of the Child's Journey

Members continued their review of the Scrutiny Review of the Child's Journey.

Members had agreed the scope of the review at the meeting in July 2018. This was attached to the report for reference.

It was agreed to consider how the voice of the child was heard and acted upon at the various levels of the Council's work: the strategic, at service level, and within individual cases.

A range of case studies would be used to inform the review.

The meeting focused on engagement with children and young people at the strategic level, and specifically the role of the Bright Minds Big Futures (BMBF) initiative and the Stockton Youth Assembly (SYA).

Prior to the meeting Members were given the opportunity to view a video as further background to the BMBF project.

Members of the SYA were in attendance at the meeting and presented their views on the way forward. Their presentation covered the following key areas:-

- A joint bright future
- Introducing BMBF
- What does BMBF do: SBC Correspondents, Consultations & Conventions, Social Media Presence, Columns and Blogs, Secret Sound, #SIRF18 and Interviews
- The need for change
- Format of meetings
- Improving effectiveness
- Changes to recruitment
- Membership and Vision

The presentation was very well received by Members and it was noted that as the SYA was a formal committee of the Council the necessary changes would need to go through the due processes.

In the general discussion the following were noted:

- how and whether young people were engaged and listened to
- the range of activities in the Borough
- how the Borough can develop and retain young people.

Members felt that the Council had listened to what the young people of the Borough had to say and the suggestions that the young people had made were being acted upon.

Members thanked the members of SYA for their presentation.

AGREED that:-

1. The presentation be received.
2. The comments made by Members be noted.

**CYP
36/18**

Healthwatch Stockton-on-Tees - Annual Report

Members were provided with the Annual Report of Healthwatch Stockton-on-Tees.

Local Healthwatch organisations were required to produce an annual report setting out their aims and achievements.

Copies of the report would also be presented to Adult Social Care and Health Committee.

Members asked what steps had the organisation taken to increase the number of volunteers on the back of losing so many people following the changes to data regulations and the need for people to opt in to communications. In response it was outlined that Healthwatch were now involved in many events across the Borough including attending patient participation groups and GP surgeries. The website was being looked at and had been re-vamped. Tweets had been increased and were being put out on a daily basis. Five new volunteers had been recruited and since the GDPR there were 30 new members.

It was noted that Healthwatch would engage with Big Minds Bright Futures to develop their approach to Young Inspectors.

AGREED that Annual Report of Healthwatch Stockton-on-Tees be noted.

**CYP
37/18**

Report-in Review of Care Leavers - Local Offer

Members were presented with a report that informed of the new guidance and legislation outlining the duties for local authorities to support care leavers to be known as the care leaver's local offer.

The report outlined the current care leaver's local offer and proposals for consultation to develop the care leaver's local offer.

The next steps were:

- Publish the existing care leavers local offer on the SID by October 18
- Hold consultation sessions in November / December 2018 with care leavers and partners
- Outline plan in place to develop the care leaver's local offer by January 2019.
- Report-in to Children and Young Peoples Select Committee – January 2019
- Report to Cabinet – March 19

With regard to the Stockton Care Leavers Offer it was noted that in consultation with a group of care leavers the existing local offer had been reviewed to consider if the current services and support on offer met the requirements of the Government's Statutory Guidance and it was pleasing to see that it was agreed that they did.

During the exercise some great ideas had been developed from the young people and staff involved. The ideas may need the support of other departments and partner agencies therefore it was agreed the current local offer should be agreed and published. Then it would be updated and consulted with care leavers and partner agencies to further develop the offer.

The current local offer was already available to care leavers in the form of an

information booklet however it also needed to be published in digital format and with that in mind care leavers had been consulted about publishing it on the Stockton Information Directory (SID) and it was anticipated that this would be available by October 2018.

The current local offer and some of the ideas for development were attached to the report.

It was noted that funding had been provided from central government but it was not clear whether this would fund all commitments, and there had been national criticisms of the New Burdens assessment process in this regard.

Members felt it was a really interesting piece of work and made several suggestions to the care leavers offer that included:-

- The Health and Wellbeing offer including a section on sexual health
- Pregnancy information
- LGBT information
- The prison group of care leavers
- Mental health information
- Financial opportunities information

AGREED that:-

1. The Care Leavers - Local Offer be noted.
2. The comments from Members be noted.

**CYP
38/18**

Monitoring the Impact of Previously Agreed Recommendations

Members were asked to consider the Action Plan setting out how the agreed recommendations from the review of Inclusion in Schools would be implemented and target dates for completion.

The Committee's final report on Inclusion in Schools was considered by Cabinet in July. Cabinet accepted / endorsed the recommendations contained within.

These were now subject to the procedure for monitoring the implementation of agreed recommendations. An Action Plan had been drawn up and was attached to the report. This set out how the relevant departments would be taking forward the agreed recommendations and included target dates for completion.

Members considered and approved the Action Plan. The Committee would receive six-monthly updates on the implementation of recommendations.

A leaflet on exclusion was circulated for Members information. Members queried how this was being circulated to patients.

AGREED that the Action Plan be approved.

**CYP
39/18**

Quarterly Children and Young People Performance Report

Consideration was given to a report that provided a summary of performance across Children's Services. It included both a Quarter 4 update and an Annual Update. It was based on the Children's Strategy priorities agreed by Cabinet in June 2017.

The update report was in three parts:

- a. Update on 2017/18 priorities.
- b. Update on other actions and progress against the wider strategy
- c. A summary of priorities for 2018/19.

Members noted that there was a very constructive relationship with the Head teacher from Thornaby Academy on improving the schools perception within the community.

Members queried the impact of the Early Help strategy on the number of children being taken into care, and the percentage of care leavers in employment, education or training. It was noted that this was improving but further work was needed, particularly around motivation of care leavers. The data was however on par with other local areas.

AGREED that:-

1. The continued performance in respect of early years and schools be noted.
2. The continued performance and outcomes from inspection for children's homes be noted.
3. The outcomes from peer challenge and inspection be noted.
4. The key priorities for 2018/19 be noted.

**CYP
40/18**

Work Programme

Consideration was given to the Work Programme 2018-19.

AGREED that the Work Programme 2018-19 be noted.