

Children & Young People Select Committee

A meeting of Children & Young People Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 14th November, 2018.

Present: Cllr Carol Clark(Chairman), Cllr Barbara Inman(Vice-Chairman), Cllr Evaline Cunningham, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Paul Rowling, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Sally Ann Watson,

Officers: Martin Gray, Jackie Ward, Dave Willingham (CS), Judy Trainer, Marianne Sleeman (DCE)

Also in attendance: Michelle Killcullen, Glynis Harris (CS), Andrea Murphy (EIS)

Apologies: Cllr Elsi Hampton, Cllr Di Hewitt, Peter Snowden

CYP 48/18 Evacuation Procedure

The Evacuation Procedures were noted.

CYP 49/18 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

CYP 50/18 Scrutiny Review of the Child's Journey

Members received information regarding the Scrutiny Review of the Child's Journey from members of the Social Work Team for Disabled Children which included:

- A case study about a child with Downs Syndrome illustrating how the child was involved, his views were sought and taken into account when planning his care. A computer programme called Boardmaker was used (this creates visual resources for children with communication difficulties to express their wishes and feelings). A social story was created to help the child understand the dangers of going out alone and the outcomes identified
- Boardmaker was used specifically for each individual child and was a country wide programme so if a child was moved out of area their specific story would go with them
- The Early Help Manager highlighted details of a case study which illustrated the importance of listening to the voice of the child without making assumptions and premature conclusions and another case study which illustrated how listening to the voice of the child could reduce concerns for adults

Full details of the case studies were circulated to Committee Members.

The main issues discussed were as follows:

- The resources were available nationally, in Stockton they were used at Hartburn Lodge, Oasis and in Stockton Schools

- The Boardmaker programme was only used by the Disabled Children's Team but could be used more widely and lent itself to communicating with younger children
- Bradford Council make Boardmaker available in public Libraries
- Even where families feel they fully understand the needs of the child, they were still encouraged to use Boardmaker as this could help the child communicate in settings other than the home
- The programme would lend itself to being used as an app; something the team would like to work towards
- Social Workers use the Boardmaker approach when attending out of area placements
- The trigger for support was not always the underlying problem that needed to be addressed and sometimes the child would tell an adult what they wanted to hear
- The cost of a Licence for the Boardmaker programme is approximately £300

CYP 51/18 School Performance

Members received information regarding Schools Performance:

The main issues discussed were as follows:

- Outcomes for vulnerable leavers offered a positive picture, this would be presented to Cabinet in December
- Outcomes for Secondary schools were generally positive but there was still some variation across schools
- It was highlighted that take up of English Baccalaureate (E-bac) was mixed across schools.

CYP 52/18 Children's Services Progress Update

Members received information regarding Children's Services Progress Update:

The main issues discussed were as follows:

- 97.2% of care leavers were in suitable accommodation, others were only in unsuitable accommodation for a very short period of time
- Children's Services aspire to have accommodation close to Children's Homes; Cllr Inman highlighted a vacant semidetached property in Roseworth;
- The Local Authority's budget pressure in relation to high needs funding was similar to other Councils. Specialist placements and top up payments to mainstream schools were causing a much greater budget pressure than

provision associated with exclusion.

- The Council was leading on discussions to consider and develop new Safeguarding arrangements as required by the Children and Social Work Act 2017
- Members acknowledged the letter from Ofsted stating it was positive they were taking exclusion issues seriously
- Work was being carried out on a whole system approach in Early Help and how resources could be shared. Work was also being undertaken around family circles and restorative practice

**CYP
53/18** **Work Programme**

Consideration was given to the Work Programme.

AGREED:

That the Work Programme be noted.

**CYP
54/18** **Chair's Update**

The Chair informed Members that some of the Committee were visiting Eastern Ravens as part of the Child's Voice Scrutiny Review.

The Chair reminded Members the meeting on the 12th December would commence at 4.30pm