

Children & Young People Select Committee

A meeting of Children & Young People Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 11th September, 2019.

Present: Cllr Carol Clark(Chairman), Cllr Barbara Inman(Vice-Chair), Cllr Clare Gamble, Cllr Ray Godwin, Cllr Tony Hampton, Cllr Andrew Sherris, Cllr Sally Ann Watson,

Officers: Roland Todd (EDGS), Maria Murrell, Jon Doyle, Dave Willingham, I Caley (CS), C Mahoney (SI), Judy Trainer, Peter Mennear, Marianne Sleeman (DCE)

Also in attendance: Kelly Britton-Hawes, Andrea Naylor (TVCA), Emily Hill (BMBF)

Apologies: Cllr Marilyn Surteen

CYP 7/19 Evacuation Procedure

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and the evacuation procedure was noted.

CYP 8/19 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

CYP 9/19 Minutes from the meeting held on 17th July 2019 for approval/signature

Consideration was given to the minutes from the meetings held on 17th July 2019.

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17th July 2019 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

CYP 10/19 Task and Finish Scrutiny Review of Domestic Abuse

The Committee was asked to consider the draft scope and Project Plan for the Task and Finish Review of Domestic Abuse and appoint members from the Select Committee to sit on the Task and Finish Group.

It was noted that a Domestic Abuse Bill had been progressing through Parliament but this had not been progressed following the prorogation.

AGREED

Members agreed the draft scope and Project Plan for the Task and Finish Review of Domestic Abuse.

Agreed Members on the Task and Finish Review would be:

Cllr B Inman
Cllr C Clark
Cllr C Gamble

**CYP
11/19** **Scrutiny Review of Careers Provision**

Members received information regarding the Scrutiny Review of Careers Provision from Kelly Briton-Hawes and Andrea Naylor from Tees Valley Combined Authority which included :

- TeesValleyCareers.com was a 3 million pound initiative and the first of its kind in the UK. Programmes were funded through devolution funding which sits within the combined Authority. It delivered the work of the national Careers Education Company (CEC) within the sub region.
- TVCA primarily work with secondary, SEND and colleges, but hope to expand to primary schools in the future.
- It was hoped that all 70 schools in the Tees Valley would be matched and paired with an Enterprise Adviser (volunteers from businesses across the Tees Valley) by the end of 2019. All Stockton schools had a linked Enterprise Adviser. It was an aspiration to have at least one per school across the area, and there was a low number of Advisers compared to total number of businesses in the area.
- Ofsted was due to take a greater interest in whether schools were meeting the Gatsby Benchmarks. This included meaningful employer engagements - long term encounters (up to a week or six days over six weeks), ensuring students on work experience had appropriate tasks to complete.
- The Tees Valley hosted a Careers Hub pilot. All schools were involved in one of two phases. Each phase provided support to schools to develop their career provision, and funding was available from a central Hub fund for more strategic spend. Phase one provided schools with a virtual wallet of £3000 funding. This was not a large amount per school but the national CEC had removed this provision from phase two. Members queried that types of activity could be covered by the central hub fund.
- A Toolkit has been produced which included lesson plans, hints and tips for schools and colleges. There is also a 'Shout Out' system where schools can complete a request form for any support needed around a career's event.
- Members were informed SEN schools were performing well with SEN student achieving the 8 Gatsby benchmarks. Two SEND schools in the Tees Valley were achieving all eight benchmarks.
- Schools were able to share their achievement of the benchmark with parents but this was not compulsory or common. Schools were required to provide some information on careers provision on their website but the content was not prescribed. The Compass Tool held by the TVCA provided an overview of Stockton school performance.
- TVCA constantly request evaluation from both students and employers

and acknowledged one of the biggest challenges they faced was time to provide careers provision in the timetable both at work and school.

- Careers were not always seen as a highest priority despite the statutory requirements that were now in place. It was a challenge for schools to achieve and then maintain the benchmarks.
- Discussion took place around any merit of holding events during the weekend. The first one was due to take place in Hartlepool. The TVCA was keen to support any events that engaged with parents.
- It was stated that feedback was continually sought from young people who attend TVCA events, and schools were required to evaluate provision as part of the Benchmarks.
- Members were informed that TeesValleyCareers.com had been cited as one of the best initiatives in the country in a report by the national CEC.
- Members requested specific numbers in terms of student engagement with TVCA activity and data underpinning the presentation.

AGREED

The information be noted.

The information requested be provided

CYP 12/19 Monitoring the Impact of Previously Agreed Recommendations

Consideration was given to progress of the implementation of previously agreed recommendations from the Scrutiny Review of Inclusion in Schools

The main issues discussed were as follows:

- Funding had been sought from TVCA for Pastoral Support in schools for pupils who were constantly on fixed term exclusions. The Inclusion team will hear in October if they have been successful in their bid.
- Discussion took place regarding Governors and their understanding and subsequent training around exclusion, inclusion and all aspects of SEND. An advisor who can support parents should exclusion lead to an independent appeal made available. The service would double check that the original Committee report on inclusion had been provided to all schools including Governors, and that Governor training was being offered to all. The Governors that had attended training had provided positive feedback.
- Restorative practice is working very well, work continues to support families with early intervention to prevent exclusion. There has been an indication that fixed term exclusions in secondary have decreased, and four permanent exclusions have been overturned on appeal.

- Members were informed some of the curriculum does not allow for the needs of some students and the new Ofsted framework included greater focus on vocational programmes. Costs of alternative provision were potentially significant for schools and they had to work within their budget. Schools were working with the Pupil Referral Units to see what they can provide to enable pupils to be placed on a pathway instead of exclusion.
- Members requested feedback on the new SEND Free School in Redcar in reference to which Multi-Academy Trust will be running it. This would be confirmed in February 2020.
- Home Education recommendation was on track, the Inclusion Team are alerted when a pupil was home schooled. The number of home schooled pupils is rising.
- Every pupil that has an EHCP (Education Health Care Plan) is visited every 6 months. Their EHC Plan is also reviewed every 6 months.
- Members were informed that Ofsted do not get involved with home school visits directly but check information from Local Authorities.

AGREED

The Progress Updates on previously agreed recommendations be noted and the assessments for progress be confirmed.

A further update on progress be provided in one year.

The requested information be provided.

CYP **Select Committee Work Programme**

13/19

Consideration was given to the Children & Young People Select Committee Work Programme.

AGREED

That the Children & Young People Select Committee Work Programme be noted.

CYP **Chairs Update**

14/19

The Chair had nothing further to update