

Children & Young People Select Committee

A meeting of Children & Young People Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 9th October, 2019.

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

Officers: Dave Willingham, Ian Caley (CS), Judy Trainer, Peter Mennear, Marianne Sleeman (MD)

Also in attendance: Neil Gittins (Egglescliffe School)

Apologies: Cllr Marilyn Surtees

CYP 15/19 **Evacuation Procedure**

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

CYP 16/19 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared.

CYP 17/19 **Scrutiny Review of Careers Provision**

Members received information regarding the Scrutiny Review of Careers Provision from Neil Gittins, Deputy Headteacher of Egglescliffe School which included:

- Members were informed Egglescliffe School wanted to be compliant as quickly as possible with regard to the Gatsby Benchmarks, to do this they employed a dedicated schools careers adviser. Careers were taught from year 7 to year 13 with specific lessons provided during PHSE.
- Every pupil would receive a Career Passport which would follow them throughout their school life and would enable them to reflect on their choices and intentions each year.
- Parents would receive a weekly email on current market labour trends and this was felt to be of great benefit. The information was at the Tees Valley level and helped to widen horizons.
- Students with additional support would be identified early in year 7 and would be targeted so they would not become NEET.
- The school has a scholar programme where ex-pupils were invited to talk to pupils. Gatsby Benchmark 4 was difficult to evidence but the school also ensured core subjects had career champions.
- An annual Careers School fair proves successful, every student in the

school has access to this. Mock interview days by business who work closely with the school were also held. Students spoke positively about their mock experiences and how they had helped. The school provide an Enterprise Zone which allows students to raise money for charities.

- All year 10 students would go on work experience. A small number of students did not take part, but the school actively targeted those at risk of NEET to find work placements.
- In year 12 more targeted work visits were encouraged. Apprenticeship days would be held for both lower and upper school to show pupils there are other ways to achieve.
- The school felt that Gatsby 7 – encounters with higher education was the most difficult to meet. All students gain at least one encounter with universities but it is organisationally difficult to achieve the preferred two visits for all.
- The school's provision was a mixture of in-hours and after school provision.
- Youth Directions attend the school one day a week and one to one careers advice is available, in addition a trained career advisor was on site full time.
- Members were informed the school believe the Gatsby benchmark provides a very rounded and holistic approach to careers for the students.
- The school published its careers programme on the website and there was a requirement for all schools to do this by 2020.

The main issues discussed were as follows:

- Members agreed it was positive that the school provide careers information that included access to alternative Further Education providers and so students were able to see the full range of post-16 options, including Egglecliffe's own Sixth Form.
- More information was offered regarding the Enterprise Zone and how students take part in Christmas markets, parents evenings etc. to earn money for chosen charities.
- Members were encouraged that parents receive email updates on the current labour market trends.
- Discussion took place regarding the cost of work experience, Egglecliffe have now taken all the health and safety checks on students in house to alleviate costs. The majority of the rest of the costs was linked to staff salaries.

Members received information regarding the Scrutiny Review of Careers Provision from Ian Caley, Early Help Guidance & Participation Manager, Stockton Borough Council which included:

- Members were informed the Gatsby Benchmark report informed Government thinking including current Guidance to schools and colleges.

- Members agreed it was positive that all members of Youth Direction were trained to level 6 or 7 in Careers Guidance as this improves transition between opportunities for students.
- Concerns were raised around not all schools were achieving the Gatsby Benchmarks. It was confirmed that Stockton Borough Council does not have ownership of this data but the Compass tool was provided to the schools to complete, and was hosted by the Careers & Enterprise Company, who are based with the Combined Authority.
- Currently the compass tool was a self-assessment but over the next couple of years increasing amounts of evidence would be required.
- It was noted that it was very difficult for the schools to achieve all of the Benchmarks for all the pupils but some schools had achieved in the Tees Valley or were very close and so it was possible.
- Generally speaking schools report Benchmarks 4, 5 and 6 the hardest to meet.
- Discussion took place regarding the expense of transporting students to and from work experience placements. Although not all schools blocked out weeks for work experience in the traditional way, some did which caused pressure in terms of trying to find places in local employers. This would be increased by the introduction of T-Levels which had a strong work placement element. Work experience was not centrally co-ordinated across Tees Valley.
- It was noted that the Council had improved its work experience offer and offered places for 60 pupils in the last academic year. There had been good feedback, particularly from those pupils who actively chose the area they wished to experience.
- Members were also provided with an overview of the importance of Benchmark 8 – impartial personal careers guidance. This was usually at least one 30 minute session and could not replace all the other Careers activity, but was key to bringing all the work together into focus for the pupil.
- It was acknowledged the best outcome would be for in-house careers co-ordinators to be in place in each school as this would meet the burden of a lot of the organisation.

AGREED

That the information be noted.

**CYP
18/19** **Select Committee Work Programme**

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

The following reports were added to the work programme:

Schools performance report
Response to SEND report
Six monthly performance report – Children’s Services

AGREED

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

**CYP
19/19**

Chairs Update

Continuing with the Domestic Abuse Task and Finish Group meetings. The final report will be brought back to this committee